Aermican Union

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ANTIQUITY OF DECORATIVE ART

Strange Sources From Which Pigments Used by Modern Painters Are Derived.

PRESERVATION OF SURFACES.

Crude but Effective Processes Employed by the Egyptians and Greeks of Pliny's Day—Noah Prudently Waterproofed the Ark.

Whether paint was invented in answer to a need for a preservative or to meet a desire for beauty is a question fully as knotty as the ancient one about the relative time of arrival of the chicken or the egg. It was invented, though, and it serves both purposes equally; so whether it is an offspring of mother necessity or an adopted son of beauty remains forever a disputed question.

The first men, cowering under the fierce and glaring suns of the biblical countries, constructed rude huts of wood to shelter them. The perishable nature of these structures caused rapid decay, and it is probable that the occupants, seeking some artificial means of preservation, hit upon the pigments of the earth in their search. It is perhaps natural to suppose that it was the instinct of preservation that led men to the search, although the glories of the sunsets and the beauties of the rainbow may have created a desire to imitate those wonders in their own dwellings.

The earliest record of the application of a preservative to a wooden structure dates from the ark, which was, according to the Bible, "pitched within and without." The pitch was a triumph of preservation whatever it lacked as a thing of beauty.

Decoration applied to buildings first comes to light with ancient Babylon, whose walls were covered with representations of hunting scenes and of combat. These were done in red and the method followed was to paint the scene on the bricks at the time of manufacture, assuring permanence by baking. Strictly speaking, this was not painting so much as it was the earliest manifestation of our own familiar kalsomining.

The first Hebrew to mention painting is Moses. In the thirty-third chapter of the book of Numbers he instructs the Israelites, "When ye have passed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then shall ye drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their pictures. . . ."

At later periods the Jews adopted many customs of the peoples who successively obtained power over them and in the apocryphal book of the Maccabees is found this allusion to the art of decorating, "For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building, but he that undertaketh to set it out and paint it, must seek out things for the adorning thereof."

Although Homer gives credit to a Greek for the discovery of paint, the allusions to it in the books of Moses, the painted mummy cases of the Egyptians and the decorated walls of Babylon and Thebes fix its origin at a period long antecedent to the Grecian era. The walls of Thebes were painted 1,900 years before the coming of Christ and 996 years before "'Omer smote his bloomin' lyre."

The Greeks recognized the value of paint as a preservative and made use of something akin to it on their ships. Pliny writes of the mode of boiling wax and painting ships with it, after which, he continues, "neither the sea, nor the wind, nor the sun can destroy the wood thus protected."

The Romans, being essentially a warlike people, never brought the decoration of buildings to the high plane it had reached with the Greeks. For all that the ruins of Pompeii show many structures whose mural decorations are in fair shape today. The colors used were glaring. A black background was the usual one and the combinations worked thereon red, yellow and blue.

In the early Christian era the use of mosaics for churches somewhat supplanted mural painting. Still, during the reign of Justinian the Church of Saint Sophia was built at Constantinople and its walls were adorned with paintings.

In modern times the uses of paint have come to be as numerous as its myriad shades and tints. Paint is unique in that its name has no synonym and for it there is no substitute material. Bread is the staff of life, but paint is the life of the staff.

No one thinks of the exterior of a wooden building now except in terms of paint coated. Interiors, too, from painted walls and stained furniture down to the lowliest kitchen utensil, all receive their protective covering. Steel, so often associated with cement re-enforcing, is painted before it goes to give solidity to the manufactured stone. The huge girders of the skyscrapers are daubed an ugly but efficient red underneath the surface coat of black. Perhaps the best example of the value of paint on steel is found in the venerable Brooklyn bridge, on which a gang of painters is kept going continually. It is scarce possible to think of a single manufactured article which does not meet paint somewhere in the course of its construction. So has paint grown into the very marrow of our lives.

CHATAUQUA

THE LEAGUE OF NEIGHBORS

A "PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION" PROGRAM

AT DENTON, MARYLAND
June 10-16, 1919

TOO PRECIOUS TO DIVULGE

If Man Ever Really Learns How to Manage a Wife He Selfishly Keeps It to Himself.

It has come to be almost a tradition that men give advice, not take it. A pleasant novelty appears in Good Housekeeping in the shape of pungent philosophy on the marriage question, written by Dorothy Dix.

"De papers is full of heart-to-heart talks to wives 'bout how to keep young an' willowy, so as to retain deir husbands' affection, but dere ain't a word in 'em, from kiver to kiver, to men 'bout how to keep de hair on dair haids an' from gittin' to look lak beer kegs on skids in order to preserve deir wives' love.

"An' when a gal is gwine to git married, her ma, an' her married sisters, an' her cousins, an' her aunts takes her off to one side an' des fills her up wid useful hints 'bout gittin' off on de right foot, and' strikin' her husban' for his pay envelop befo' he gits well enough acquainted wid her to dast to refuse her, an' drawin' de line at mo' dan one evenin' out a week, an' de odder matters dat helps a woman be de fust finger in her house.

"But you never heah of a father, nor a brother, nor a friend whut's passed through de tribulations of matrimony hangin' up any red lanterns as danger signals for any odder man dat's about to start on de matermonial 'scursion. Nawm, ef a man ever finds out how to manage a wife he keeps de snap to hisself an' leaves ev'y odder man to work out his own salvation de best he can."

GROW FAR ABOVE SEA LEVEL

Cedars Flourish in Full Vigor at Altitudes Surpassing Height of Most Mountain Peaks.

Eleven thousand one hundred feet altitude above sea level is some distance above the clouds for the habitat of a species of a great tree which attains a circumference of 16 and even 18 feet. The tree is the western mountain cedar, and it is found growing in full vigor at elevations of from 8,000 to over 11,000 feet in the southern portion of the Sierra Nevada and where this huge mountain chain merges over into the Sierra Madre, running down into Mexico. In most of the mountain regions of the United States 11,000 feet is at or above timber line, but in these southern Sierras are many genial high valleys and pockets where huge trees are found at altitudes which surpass the height of most mountain peaks. The snow covers the peaks and slopes for a great portion of the year, but with the earliest melting the trees start growing and in the case of the mountain cedars make an even greater annual growth than many of the lowland trees where the want of water compels a short growing season. These huge mountain cedars are close cousins to the great cedars of Lebanon from the timbers of which the temple at Jerusalem was built. The American cedars, however, are more upright in growth than the cedars of the Old World.

DO YOU THINK IN PICTURES?

According to Men Who Have Studied the Subject, Most of Us Unconsciously Have That Habit.

A writer says: "A good many men and a larger number of women and children think in pictures without knowing it. If some one speaks of a tree, an oak or an elm, or a pine—do you see a composite tree of your own design, or a particular tree you knew, perhaps, in childhood? Do you see it bare or in full leaf? If you are one of those who think in pictures, you will find that you always see the same picture for the same words." Prof. Francis Galton, F. R. S., is the expounder of this belief, and after all, is it not merely a return to the very origin of our written language, the hieroglyphs of Egypt? In that primitive time it is possible that a word brought so clearly to mind a mental vision of an object or an action that it could easily be summarized into an ideagraph. In our more complex life we have, of course, lost sight of the facts and no longer realize that the word "tree" means to us a well-defined object probably fixed in the brain by one of the minute lesions—or its cicatrix—which science tells us are the sources of memory.

We unconsciously assemble these various memories and unconsciously form of them pictures which, if we are suddenly brought to ourselves, we might still retain on the mind's retina for a time, just as we retain dream images vividly on suddenly awakening.

Average Life Nearly Doubled.

From 1348 to 1350, 25,000,000 deaths from the plague or "black death," occurred, which was one-fourth of the entire population of the world at that time. In 1761, 50 per cent of the English nation died before reaching the age of 20 years.

The average length of life in the sixteenth century was only 21 years, while in this, the twentieth century, the average life is 45 years. In India, however, the average life today is only 24 years.

We are enabled to see what the science of medicine is accomplishing in our more civilized countries, where ignorance and superstition do not prevail to any very great extent.

THE
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland.

ENRRANCE EXAMINATIONS

State Scholarships In Engineering Courses.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS for the Department of Engineering, as well as for the College of Arts and Sciences, will be held in Gilman Hall, Homewood, Monday-Saturday, June 16-21, 1919, beginning at 9 A. M. each day, under the auspices of the College Entrance Examination Board.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING, established under the provisions of the Laws of Maryland, Chapter 90, 1912, will now be received. If there is more than one applicant for a particular scholarship, a competitive examination must be taken Friday, September 19, 1919, beginning at 9 A. M. Appointments will be made soon thereafter.

Each Legislative District of Baltimore City and each County of the State, with the exception of Harford, Queen Anne's, and Somerset counties, will be entitled to one or more scholarships for the year 1919-1920, in addition to those which have already been assigned. In the four counties mentioned above, all the available scholarships have been awarded.

Under the provisions of the Act of Assembly, the County and City Scholarships in the Department of Engineering are awarded only to deserving students whose financial circumstances are such that they are unable to obtain an education in Engineering unless free tuition be granted to them. The scholarships entitle the holders to free tuition, free use of text-books, and exemption from all regular fees. One of the scholarships in each County and each Legislative District of the City carries also the sum of $200. The expense of attendance for those who do not receive scholarships is not greater than at other Maryland institutions.

Scholarships may be awarded to graduates of Loyola College, St. John's College, Washington College, Western Maryland College, Maryland Agricultural College, Mt. St. Mary's College, Rock Hill College.

One scholarship will be awarded "At Large."

Applicants should address The Registrar, The Johns Hopkins University, for blank forms of application and for catalogues giving information as to examinations, award of scholarships, and courses of instruction. The next session begins Tuesday, September 30, 1919. 5-15, 4t]

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NOTICE TO
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On June 10th, 1919, the names of all persons owing taxes for the year 1918 will be passed over to the County Commissioners for advertising. If you are among the delinquents, this is to notify you that you must settle on or before the above date, otherwise your name will appear in the delinquent list in one of the newspapers printed and published in Caroline county. I hope, however, that you will settle your 1918 tax account at once and save me from the trouble of advertising your name, also you from further costs.

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