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Tragic Secrets Known to City Dealers in Art

One of the fascinating traditions of the art business—the buying and selling of paintings in particular—is that now and then old masters actually do turn up in second-hand shops and in auction sales, and are discovered and retrieved at a fraction of their real value.

But George W. Keeler, now retired, reveals another side of the business. He says:

"One learns to keep secrets in this business. The auctioneer often opens closets which hold old family skeletons. But he must not tell. I was alone in the store one afternoon when a poor old woman, aged—the wreck of womanhood—stumbled in. Dissipation had ruined once beautiful features. She was ragged and grimy from head to foot. She begged for a dime and as she did so her gaze fell upon a large old portrait of a beautiful girl dressed in the height of a long past fashion. She stood like a stone image for a second or two, then screamed like a mad thing. It was her own portrait she was gazing at, the picture of herself as a beautiful young girl, in a happy home, the center of a brilliant social life. She fainted and I called an ambulance and had her sent to a hospital. Before she died she told me her real name, and her family history, a family I knew a great deal about. That is one of the secrets I shall always keep."

Mark Twain's Reactions to Church Choir Music

Evidently my father, Mark Twain, attended church faithfully during the period of his engagement to my mother (Olivia Langdon), but not always with true religious feeling, as the following letter shows:

"Livy darling:

"I attended church this morning in a warm drizzling rain. It was the West and boyhood brought back again, vividly. It was as if 25 years had fallen away from me like a garment and I was a lad of eleven again in my Missouri village church of that ancient time.

"The choir hurled its soul into a 'voluntary'—one of those things where the melodeon pumps and strains and groans and wails a bit, and then the soprano pipes a reedy solo, the alto drops in a little after, then the bass bursts in, then the pealing tenor—then a grand discordant confusion that sets one's teeth on edge—and finally a triumphant 'Oh, praise the L-o-r-d!' in a unison of unutterable anguish—and the crime is consummated. It was Herod's slaughter of the babes set to music.

"The missionary appeal concluded, the sexton and the deacon went around, while the choir wailed, and collected 70 cents for the carrying of glad tidings of great joy to the lost souls of Father India."—Clara Clemens in the North American Review.

German Philosophy

The Spenglerian theory of nations refers to the philosophy developed by the German writer Oswald Spengler in his book, "The Decline of the West," written before the World war and appearing just after it. This book views civilization as the coming war would find it. It is a German philosophy which attempts the venture of predetermining history, of following the still unraveled stages in the destiny of a culture and specifically of the only culture of our time and on our planet which is actually in the phase of fulfillment—the west European-American. It also attempts to describe the comparative morphology of world history.

"Snuffing in the Shrubbery"

Freud in the garden of this world—this place that has moved poets to such hymns in praise of it that we echo their praises if only to give ourselves the grace of fittingness to the garden—Freud in this palace of natural delight where never a day breaks but the heavens burst into blossom and never a night falls but somewhere indescribable beauty greets the eyes of men—Freud, who has brought us keys to open fresh doors of the palace that stands in this garden, is himself like a creature going hideously on all fours, snuffing about amid the shrubbery.—Max Plowman in the Adelphi, London.

Heat Appeals to Fungi

Temperatures that ordinary animals and plants could not endure for more than short periods are built up and apparently enjoyed by the fungi that breed in piles of rotting straw. Experiments at the Rothamstead experimental station near London show that these organisms of decay thrive best at a temperature of about 130 degrees Fahrenheit, which is more than halfway from freezing to boiling point. These fungi, it has been found, do more than the bacteria often found associated with them toward the reduction of straw to a soil-enriching fertilizer resembling farmyard manure.

Ancient Worms

Completely mummified worms, millions of years older than the mummies at the Pharaohs, are on exhibit in the Feld museum, Chicago. Having been imbedded in shaley rock, it goes without saying that they existed when the rock was formed. Ordinarily softbodied creatures decompose quickly, so such ancient worm fossils are immensely interesting to zoologists. They reveal facts regarding times before backbones were developed.

LATEST EFFICIENCY WRINKLE

Jaywalker: "So many people are struck by autos while alighting from street cars."

Street Car Official: "Well, yes; but those people have paid their fares. It's this running over peole who are waiting to get on that makes me mad."

BOY WHO MADE GOOD

"Has Harry traveled much?"

"Has he! He's been to half the places on his suit case labels."

Rhode Island First to Curb Reckless Driver

The first speed law, or very nearly the first, in America was passed by the Colonial assembly of Rhode Island in 1678 after a child had been run down by an equestrian:

"Whereas there was very lately in the town of Newport on Rhode Island very great hurte done to a small childe by reason of exceeding fast and hard riding of horses in said town, this assembly takeing the matter into their serious consideration and being desirous for the future to prevent the like mischief, doe ordain, et cetera—that from and after the publication hereof, if any person or persons shall presume to ride on either horse, mare or gelding, a gallup or to run speed—in the streets of Newport—said person shall for his offense pay into the treasurer of said towne 5 shillings in money on demand; 2 shillings of which shall be paid to any person or persons that shall give information thereof and the other 3 shillings to remain for the use of said towne."—Detroit News.

Speed Made No Appeal to Hidebound Royalty

Members of the royal family were at first reluctant to travel by rail, writes a columnist in the Manchester Guardian. Queen Victoria did not make her first journey until June, 1842, when she traveled from London to Windsor in the "Royal Mail Road Carriage" constructed two years previously in a spirit of loyal anticipation.

The queen disliked high railway speeds, and on her journeys to Balmoral never exceeded 20 miles an hour. According to tradition, the prince consort was on one occasion know to request "Not quite so fast next time, Mr. Conductor, please."

In France it was even harder to induce royalty to travel by the newfangled method of conveyance. When Louis Philippe proposed to travel to Rouen by a special train in 1843 his ministers were struck with consternation and held a special cabinet meeting. They came to the conclusion that the railway was not safe enough for the transport of the royal person, and the king had recourse to post horses.

Wonderful Nimes Bridge

Visitors to the city of Nimes in the south of France make it a point to see the Pont du Grad and they are generally directed to make it a point to see the mighty span at twilight. Like all great Roman remains it belongs to the twilight. The gorge will fold itself into a strange silence and solitude at that hour. Three tiers high, the vast bridge seems to know that it is one of the greatest stone monuments in the world, a fellow of the Pyramid, or Stonehedge or with the mysteries of Easter island. It has a masculine beauty. There is nothing delicate about it, except the thought that its huge yellow blocks of conduit stones carried for centuries the silver liquor of two springs to the peoples of Nimes.

Beneficent Father Nile

When flood conditions are favorable, the retreating waters leave the whole valley of the Nile covered thickly with black rich mud. No plow is necessary, as a rule. Seed wheat is thrown on to the soft mud, trodden or raked in, and the warm tropical sun does the rest for the farmer. The grain grows and matures rapidly, clear from weeds, and easily harvested.

Thus Egypt is free from the menace of dry seasons—the curse of the East—and is, excepting in very rare circumstances, certain to have good crops. "Corn in Egypt," came to have a proverbial meaning through a wide section of semi-tropical country, when there was shortage of wheat elsewhere.

Dead City of Hoorn

Hoorn is one of the so-called "dead cities" of the Zuyder zee. All who visit the quaint old place should recall that in 1616, Willem Schouten, one of the greatest of old Dutch navigators, was the first to double Cape Horn, which is named after his native town. Hoorn is a quiet, out-of-the-way place and suggests little today of the enterprising and flourishing port it was in the days of Dutch sea power. The fine old Stadhuis, its guest houses, churches, orphanages all seem apparitions from the Seventeeth century.

Coloring Gold

The simplest way to produce the various colors of gold is to alloy it with other metals, copper giving a reddish tinge, silver a white tinge, while an alloy of gold, silver and copper may have a greenish tone. An alloy of three parts of gold to one part silver is green, while three parts gold to one part copper is red. In the same way, special alloying gives the popular white gold. The wearing quality depends on other factors besides the amount of gold in the alloy, as expressed in carats.

Depended on the Weather

A kindly but somewhat patronizing landlady inquired of the young bride how she and her husband proposed to spend their holiday.

"Our plans so far," replied the bride, a little distantly, "are tentative."

"Oh, how delightful!" exclaimed the landlady. "I'm sure you'll enjoy camping more than anything else you could do."—Border Cities Star.

MILD PROFANITY

Hubby: "You haven't mended my hose."

Wifey: "Did you buy that coat you promised?"

Hubby: "Well, no—"

Wifey: "Well, if you don't give a wrap, I don't give a darn."

CAN'T EAT JEWELRY

"You sometimes find a pearl in an oyster stew," remarked the waiter pleasantly.

But the customer only grunted, and then said, "I'm looking for oysters."

NEGRO HEALTH WEEK

Although rain prevented the holding of the parade of the negro schools which was scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 7 prior to the meeting at Janes M. E. Church, many of the schools displayed part of their exhibits at the church. Clever posters and other material made judging a difficult task for those who were on the committee. At the close of the program Dr. Paul E. Titsworth made the award to the Morgnec School whose teacher, Marie Frisby, accepted the very attractive cup for her school. The school consists of about 15 students. The winning poster showed a huge house-fly on a portion of screen with the words "A well-known screen star. Swat him!" The poster was done in red and white and was very striking in the way it drove home its lesson.

The first speaker was Dr. J. H. Mason Knox, Jr. Chief, Bureau of Child Hygiene, Maryland State Department of Health who had also held a children's clinic in the County during the day. It was through the efforts of Dr. Knox that Kent was given the services of one of the two colored State nurses in Maryland.

Dr. Joseph Franklin, Kent's first Deputy State Health Officer, addressed the audience, having made the trip from Cumberland where he is now located, for the purpose. Dr. Lucius Buller, a negro dental hygientist spoke on oral hygiene and asked all of his group who were present to take the message home to those who were not in attendance. He spoke strongly on the necessity of his group helping themselves. J. D. McVean, County Agent, spoke briefly on the advantage of keeping close to the soil and played upon the slogan which many posters bore "Make the dirt fly" by advising small or large gardens for home use and making the dirt fly from that point of view.

Miss Schellinger, Home Demonstration Agent, gave a little exhibit of kitchen utensils and their uses.

The speakers were introduced by Dr. R. G. Beachley, Kent's full-time Health Officer who also introduced the visitors who were present in the interest of the schools and the county public health work.

Interspersed among the speeches were entertaining features by the colored group. A negro spiritual was beautifully rendered which was followed by the presentation of the county objective for the year 1931 by Isabelle Duckett. Two recitations and a solo completed the program which marked the special group meeting in connection with the county celebration of National Negro Health Week.

Marjorie Forte, the capable colored nurse, is making every endeavor to win for Kent the cup awarded for the best rural and which was awarded to this County last year.

Clinics, motion pictures and clean-up campaigns are being featured throughout Kent for the entire week.

Crumpton Vicinity

Miss Emily Bitting, of Salisbury, is a guest of Mrs. Ida Milboune for a few days.

Our pastor, Rev. C. W. Strickland left for conference this week.

Visitors in town over the Easter holidays were: Mr. and Mrs. Reese Woodall, of Claymont, Del., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Biddle.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clew, of Coatsville, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Carney from Wilmington, visited Mr. and Mrs. Pere Lynch.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Nantz from Bedford, Va., were also visitors in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Hemmons, of Ardmore, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Harry Coleman, of Wilmington, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Heilbron and children, of Philadelphia, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Coleman.

Miss Margaret Tarbutton, of Baltimore, spent Easter at her parents' home, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Tarbutton.

Miss Edna Coleman motored to Pittsburgh, Pa., in company with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Powell, of Millington, over the holidays.

Mrs. Gilbert Brown will attend conference at Crisfield, as a delegate from the M. E. Church here.

Mr. George Holiday and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Vann, of Chester, Pa., visited Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Godwin this week end.

Mrs. Harry Coleman, of Wilmington, while visiting Mrs. Elwood Coleman last Sunday fell down stairs breaking her leg and spraining her ankle.

Miss Francis Green, of Baltimore, is the guest of her mother, Mrs. Elijah Green.

Mr. Thomas Bourne spent Easter with his family at the "Brown Farm," near town.

Mr. Leon Stack, of Baltimore, visited his brother, Dr. J. W. Stack, last Sunday, Dr. Stack has been quite sick, but is now improving.

Mr. Hopper Biddle, of Wilmington, spent Sunday with his father, Mr. Abel Biddle.

Mr. Wm. Goodhand and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goodhand and family, of Baltimore, spent Easter with their mother, Mrs. Wesley Skinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Skeats, of Baltimore, visited town Sunday.

READY FOR ANYTHING

Movie Director: "Now, here is where you jump off the cliff."

Nervous Actor: "Yeah, but suppose I get injured or killed?"

Movie Director: "Oh, that's all right. It's the last scene in the picture."

AH, the trials of youth. When the Only One calls up of an evening, and the entire family hangs smiling on every word, what wouldn't he give for an



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