Trace Shorthand Notes to the Ancient Romans

The cute little symbols which American shorthand writers scribble on their pads are of ancient Roman and not American origin, archeological study has revealed.

As a matter of fact, Romans were widely using a uniform system of shorthand writing 200 years before Christ. After the fall of the empire the use of abbreviated writing fell into decay until modern American business methods revived the need.

Such are the declarations in a scholarly investigation of Gino Massano, Italian savant. His studies have brought to light the full alphabet of ancient Roman shorthand writers, and, curiously enough, the symbols are much similar to those employed today. The basic idea is the same.

Several centuries before Christ, when Rome was extending her provinces into every part of the world, the need for speed brought forth several forms of abbreviated writing by symbols, which were swiftly adopted by commercial enterprises. Ancient records show most of the accounts and letters of Roman firms were written in shorthand without transcribing, as the recipient was perfectly familiar with the code employed.

Men and Monkeys Alike in Baldness "Patterns"

Men grow bald and their hair turns gray because they have to follow certain fundamental "patterns" in the great primate family to which the human race belongs. This is the conclusion of Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., curator of the division of mammals of the Smithsonian institution, after a study extending over several years. When the male of the human species begins to lose his hair, the study shows, the spread of baldness tends to follow certain definite patterns similar to patterns characteristic in bald chimpanzees, Celebes black apes, macaques, South American monkeys and other primates. The process of turning gray, the anthropologist says, affords even more striking likenesses running through the primate family. But the "patterns" of baldness and gray hair common to men and apes, he explains, do not mean the two groups are closely related. They show only that the "patterns" are not characteristic of man alone but of a large branch of the animal kingdom.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Fewer Fur Animals

Farmers and trappers are trapping fewer fur animals each year, says the bureau of biological survey. Some of the causes of this are: Overtrapping for many years in reduced breeding areas, low prices for raw furs in the last few years, and the drought of 1930, which reduced the number of fur animals. The floods of 1927 also destroyed many fur animals in the Mississippi basin and New England. The numbers of foxes, martens, minks, fishers, and beavers reaching the market are decreasing, says the bureau, but there are still many skunks, opossums, raccoons, and muskrats. The muskrat, which breeds often and raises large families, is one of the biggest fur producers.

Eagle Held in Honor

From ancient times the eagle has been universally regarded as the emblem of might and courage, and like the lion, it has been fancifully invested with other attributes of greatness, such as men thought to harmonize with these. Its extraordinary powers of vision, the vast height to which it soars in the sky, the wild grandeur of the scenery in which it abides, and perhaps also its longevity, have concurred to recommend it to poetic regard. It was associated with Jupiter in the Roman mythology, and its figure on the standards of certain Roman legions has descended to the national ensigns of several modern nations.

Would Be Long Session

Murmuring, "I'll teach her who's boss," the little man pushed open his gate and after knocking at the front door gained admittance to his home. Almost immediately sounds of conflict came from behind the closed door.

Presently the door flew open and the little man, no longer aggressive, tumbled down the front steps, propelled by an arm which closely resembled a shoulder of mutton.

Picking himself up, he scowled at the owner of the hefty arm.

"I'll teach her who's boss," he murmured, "but she's going to take a lot of teaching."—LondonTit-Bit.

Effect of Hot Bread

The public health service says that as to which is considered the harder to digest, hot or cold bread, is a point upon which scientists disagree. Many contend that hot breads are injurious, while others point to the fact that many persons eat hot bread throughout their entire lifetime without ill results. There are, no doubt, many factors entering into the matter—the health of the individual concerned, the character of the bread and perhaps the occupation of the individual or his activities.—Washington Star.

Natural Laws

Water always seeks its own level—and so does man. Life's pull is ever downward, the same as that of gravity. This is why it requires strength, courage, and will power to reach higher ideals. But wise is the man who makes the effort.—Grit.

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HEALTH NOTES

TUBERCULOSIS DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN

Beginnig in April, tuberculosis organizations throughout this country will conduct their 5th annual campaign in the interest of the "Early Discovery —Early Recovery" of tuberculosis. Maryland will have a part in the nation-wide activities and in addition to the clinics held regularly every month, there will be special meetings and clinics held regularly every month there will be special meetings and clinics, particularly in connection with Negro Health Week, in order that measures for the prevention or control of the disease may be put into effect promptly, an effort will be made to reach persons— children, young people, or others—who have been in contact with the disease or who are rundown and underweight and show a tendency toward it.

"Every doctor and every health officer knows," Dr. R. H. Riley, Director of the State Department of Health said, in announcing the plans for these special activities, "that tuberculosis doesn't just happen. It always is picked up, in some way, from other cases. People, in general, know this too, but they forget it and need to be reminded about the precautions they should take to protect themselves and others from the disease.

"Fifty years ago, in March, 1882, Robert Koch announced his discovery of the germ that causes tuberculosis. All over the world today, people are honoring his memory. Before Dr. Koch made his discovery, people knew very litle about the way in which tuberculosis spreads, or about the means by which it can be brought under control. Everybody knows now, that it spreads from case to case and they know that the best weapons to use, not only in the fight against tuberculosis, but against all communicable diseases as well, are sunshine, fresh air, plenty of sleep, nourishing food, living in general, in such a way that the powers of resistance to disease may be kept at their best.

"Maryland was among the first states in this country to engage in an organized fight against tuberculosis. Dispensaries, hospitals, and sanatoria have been established throughout the State for the care of those who are ill with the disease, and the means of prevention have been taught to those who are well. And for the children and young people who have been in contact with the diease, but who have not developed it, we now have a Preventorium—the name gives the key note to what it stands for—where they have a chance to overcome the dangers from exposure to the infection by building up their powers of resistance to disease.

"The results of all of these activities have been shown in a very great decrease in sickness and deaths from tuberculosis in this State. But we still have far too much sickness and too many deaths from the disease, so it is very fitting that we observe the Koch anniversary by joining with all other fighters of the disease in a special effort to bring this dragon of suffering and ill health under control."

War Divided Indians

In the French and Indian war, had all the native tribes thrown their weight to either side, the other side would doubtless have been defeated. But it happened that they were divided. The majority of the Indians, however, were with the French. Nearly all the Algonquin tribes were French in their sympathies. But the very notable exception is found in the fierce, warlike Six Nations, or Iroquois, of northern New York, who cast their lot with the English.

"Westward Ho" Names

The place, Loja, mentioned in Charles Kingsley's "Westward Ho," is in the province of that name in Ecuador. It has now a population of about one hundred thousand. The capital is a city of the same name. "Maypures," in "Westward Ho," is not a fictitious name. It is a village of Colombia on the Orinoco, and it gives its name to cataracts on the river. The usual spelling today is Maipures.

Smile at Failure

Failure is fatal only insofar as we permit it to discourage us. For after all failure is merely a mistake, and mistakes often come our way so that we may learn something. It seldom hurts you to fall—unless you refuse to get up.—Grit.

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Resurrection



Flowers Ever in Men's Minds at Eastertide



Easter is the oldest festival known to mankind. It was instituted by Nature, herself, and was originally celebrated in honor of the spring. Primitive man could not fathom the spring miracle, but he could appreciate it, and celebrate this joyous "Festival of breeking bud and scented breath."

Every nation had its own name and legend for spring—the resurrection of life. Each year, when Nature lived and blossomed anew, the tender beauty of the flowers stirred the human mind to wonder and deep speculation. Literature is rich in beautiful legends of the flowers, which tradition says first bloomed in Heaven.

When the evil angels were driven from Heaven they snatched their arms full of flowers and carried them away. But God would not permit his celestial blossoms to be taken to Hades, so he caused the wicked angels to become tired, and, one by one, they dropped the flowers over the earth before they reached their destination. Another old legend which accounts for the beginning of the flowers states that Venus sprinkled nectar into the blood of the wounded Adonis and flowers sprang up. The word flower itself comes from Flora, goddess of flowers.

ALTHOUGH the flowers were originally connected with pagan customs and beliefs, most of them are now closely woven, by Christian traditions, to the event of the resurrection of Christ.

In all ages and lands the white lily has been closely associated with the two greatest mysteries of human life—birth and death. Juno, the queen of the Roman gods, chose the lily as her symbol, and the classics tell us of feasts given among the lilies. Joan of Arc was crowned with white lilies to typify the purity and sacredness of her mission.

The first lily used as a symbol of the resurrection was the Madonna, or Annunciation lily in their pictures of saints, angels and the Madonna. In the Madonna pictures there are frequently three lilies on a stem to represent the trinity, or the annunciation, conception and birth of the Savior. A pot of these lilies over doors and windows is symbolical of the Virgin in ecclesiastical art and architecture, but lily pillars, or columns, typify the resurrection.

IN MODERN times the Easter lily has taken the place of the Madonna lily both in America and Europe, because it is a hardier plant. The Easter lily, or Bermuda lily, was originally a native of Japan. More than 200 years ago a pirate sea captain brought some of the bulbs to Bermuda, where it grew larger and more beautiful than in the Orient. It became known as the Bermuda lily, and for generations its care and cultivation were handed down from father to son, until it became one of the household gods of the island planter. Until very recent years America was entirely dependent upon China, Japan and Bermuda for bulbs of the Easter lily, but through painstaking experiments the United States government has learned to produce our own bulb supply.

Not only the Christians, but all other religions of the world have used the lily to typify consolation and hope. The lotus lily is sacred to the Buddhists, and to it they dedicate ceaseless prayers which are printed on parchment and fastened to constantly revolving cylinders in the great temples of Thibet. From Egypt to China superstitions and great love abounds for the sacred lotus. Tradition also relates that Judith, the Israelite heroine of the Apochrypha, wore a crown of lotus lilies when she went upon her mission to destroy Holofernes. And all the world knows that Cleopatra wore lotus blooms in her hair.

THERE is a legend old as Christianity, which says that the Virgin spilled a few drops of her milk on the ground, and from these drops sprang the dainty little lily of the valley, those "fairy bells that bring incense to the spring." But in some of the old English country villages this precious little flower is called the "Ladder of Heaven." The ancient Druids believed that it symbolized future happiness, and they used it at weddings to insure wedded bliss to the bride and bridegroom. In the old days all marriages were celebrated in the spring. Few modern brides realize that they follow an ancient pagan custom when they carry a bridal bouquet of lilies of the valley.

In the days of dim antiquity all flowers were divided into two general classes. The bell-shaped blossoms were called lilies and all the others were roses. This is said to account for some flowers being called roses which do not belong to our present rose family. The rose of Jericho is one of these. It is not a rose at all, but a sort of vegetable. This plant is sometimes used as a symbol of the resurrection because it is usually found in a shriveled, dried-up condition, but it is immediately revived or resurrected by a little moisture. However, the rose of Jericho is more commonly called the rose of Mary because tradition says that it grew to mark every resting place of the Holy Family during the journey to Egypt.

ANOTHER flower of the Easter season, the primrose, is likewise not a rose. Its old generic name is primula —or first—and since it was not bell-shaped it was called a rose. This flower blooms so early that it has become the symbolical flower of the month of January:

Primroses, the spring may love them,
Summer knows but little of them.

The briar-rose, according to ancient Christian tradition, grew from the drops of blood that fell to the earth from the Savior's brow when it was pierced by the crown of thorns on the cross. But there is another legend which says that Christ's crown of thorns was made of the white briar-rose itself, and the red rose sprang from these blood-stained roses:

Men pierced his brow with thorns, but
Angels stanched his blood with roses.

To this day the faithful in some parts of Russia will never suffer a red rose to lie on the ground. The red rose is usually considered an emblem of the crucifixion, but the white rose belongs to Mary. She dried her mourning veil on a rose bush and the bush bore white roses ever after.

CUPID gave Hipprocrates, the god of silence, a rose, and that flower has since become the symbol of silence. When the Greeks wished the conversations at their feast tables to be kept secret a freshly-gathered rose was hung from the ceiling just above the head of the table. It was considered dishonorable and even criminal to reveal anything said "sub rosa," (under the rose). But the mythical blue rose is symbolic of heavenly bliss and unattainable earthly ideals. The passion flower got its name from the fancied resemblance of certain parts of the flower to the instruments of the crucifixion. It is also a symbol of faith.

The evil mandrake which is found in southern Europe, North Africa and Asia Minor is also bound by tradition to Easter. Only at Eastertime does the devil lose his power over this herb. —Washington Star.

Easter Day

"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say,
Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring,
All fresh gifts returned with her returning King:
Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,
Speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now.
Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today.
—From an old Latin Poem.

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WORTON

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor spent Friday with relatives at Grasonville.

Mr. and Mrs. John Money and little son, of Kennedyville, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Rasin.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Rouse, of Philadelphia, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williams last week end.

Mr. and Mrs. McCall Rasin, of Cambridge, visited his mother, Mrs. Henrietta Rasin last Sunday.

Mrs. Harvey Brice and children, of Rock Hall, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray Hadaway.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hadaway visited her brother, Mr. Edward F. Lambert at Easton Hospital Sunday.

Mr. Lawrence Lee, of Wilmington, was the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lee, last week end.

Mr. George T. Williams, 3rd, of Baltimore, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Williams last week end.

The Ladies Aid will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Harris Thursday afternoon, April 7th.

Miss Bernice Carter entertained a few friends at a card party Wednesday evening.

Miss Clara Matthews, of Wilmington, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Matthews.

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