

BULL AND BEAR BAITING IN ENGLAND WAS ENCOURAGED BY ROYALTY IN THE OLD DAYS

The opening of the fox hunting season in England decried in some quarters as a season of cruel "blood sport," because the owner finds the pressure coincides with the erection of a giant power house on a site in the Southwark area of London where bull and bear baiting, certainly a savage form of "blood sport," was long encouraged by royalty, especially by Elizabeth and James I. Subjects of the present sovereign who resent the Prince of Wales appearance in the hunting field are reminded that a day in the saddle in pursuit of Reynard is a far more edifying pastime for royalty than was attending at a bear baiting bout, along with a large company of courtiers, smell and a mob of proletarians thirsting for the blood of bear or bull.

Of course there is little popular sympathy for the idea that fox hunting is a savage sport, although there is widespread opposition to stag hunting, especially when, as sometimes happens, the stag bolts into river or sea and is dispatched with a knife. It is significant that the Prince takes no part in such stag hunts, which seem to be confined principally to certain districts in the west of England.

While there is no public disapproval of fox hunting, that type of diversion has suffered considerably since the war as a result of high taxation and more lately through the economic depression. The reduction of incomes has thinned out the membership even of some of the oldest and most famous

hunts. From time to time a fine pack of hounds comes into the market because the owner finds the pressure of taxation too great to continue active interest in a form of sport which for centuries had kept a close grip on his ancestors. In fact it is surprising to many observant Britons how well fox hunting has weathered times of depression.

Baiting Stopped

The baiting of animals in this country was finally stopped about a century ago. But even back as far as the middle of the twelfth century it was a popular recreation or spectacle. It was during the reign of the Tudors and the early days of the Stuarts that such revolting exhibitions are said to have reached their greatest popularity. The Corporation of London frowned upon them but they prospered because of royal support. In 1642 the big shows were stopped but many smaller ones were held clandestinely. At the Restoration, in 1660, both bull and bear baiting were again permitted, and Samuel Pepys was an occasional visitor to the arena in Southwark on whose site the power house is now being erected. He professed to be somewhat disgusted by the brutality of the shows, but nevertheless took his wife and Mercer to the Bear Garden on August 14, 1666, and at other times went there to witness prize fighting with swords. In the reign of William and Mary the principal baiting shows

were removed from Southwark to Hockley-in-the-Hole, near Clerkenwell Green, where Preston, the keeper, is said to have been killed and almost devoured by his bears. The pastime continued to flourish during the reign of Anne and the Georges. Under the Georges the principal bear garden was in Tuttle Fields, Westminster, on the site of the present Westminster School playing fields.

Sunday Shows

In Elizabeth's day the big shows were generally held on Sunday. The two principal rings in Southwark were known as the Paris Garden and the Bear-Baiting. The Bear Garden, erected in 1526, held fully 1,000 spectators. It was supposed to be a theatre for the exhibition of animals, but bear-baiting became a feature. The "fans" paid an entrance fee of only a penny, and the best seats could be had for two pence. At the bear-baiting the show included both bear and bull baiting. During the reigns of Elizabeth and James I royal studs of bulls and bears were kept, and the person who had charge of them was known as Master of Her (or His) Majesty's Beares, Bulls and Dogs. Alleyn, the actor, who was founder of Dulwich College, held the post under James I. and James Davies under Charles II. Elizabeth usually took new ambassadors to such shows in Southwark, and it was the custom to name the royal bears.

One famous battler, Sackerson is mentioned in Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor." Three other favorites with the populace were Ned of Canterbury, Don Jon and Blind Robin. To draw patronage it was the custom to parade the streets with the contestants before the show was held. The

bears, bulls and dogs followed a band of minstrels with monkeys on their backs. In the arena the bulls or bears were fastened by a chain to a ring in the ground and then strong dogs of the bulldog strain let loose at them. When dogs were killed they were carried off and fresh ones brought in. A particularly popular item of some of these shows was a contest between a blind and chained bear and five or six men equipped with whips. The chain was long enough to permit the infuriated animal to chase about considerably after his unseen lashers who frequently were blocked out or mauled in the cruel contest.

NEWEST PIANO HAS 325 KEYS AND 39 TONES

New York soon will hear demonstrations of the newest of musical theories—a scale in which the traditional octave, normally made up of the tones represented by twelve consecutive black and white keys of the piano, is divided into thirty-seven tones, says The Associated Press.

The system, devised by a young Californian, Harry Partch, actually contains two more auxiliary tones to the octave, or thirty-nine in all.

Instead of the usual eighty-eight keys, Partch's piano, therefore, would have approximately 325. The keyboard he has devised looks like the keyboards of half a dozen typewriters set side by side in an arc. The keys are in five or six colors.

The apparently complicated system has been derived, its inventor explains, from existing systems which run back through history to Pythagoras and farther.

It is designed to eliminate for one thing the disadvantage that under present conditions no piano is precisely in tune, the twelve-tone scale being merely a compromise adopted so that instruments can be made and tuned together.

The difficulty of hearing such small differences is much less a demonstration indicates than the difficulty of producing them.

So far the only instrument actually built to care for the new system is a viola which has a twenty-inch string length, and the fingerboard, instead of being smooth ebony, is marked with numerous brass dots to aid the player.

The inventor of the system wishes, he says, to unite words and music on "a more rational basis."

"Therefore spoken inflections are duplicated as nearly as possible on the adapted viola and the results notated," he explains. Afterward harmonies are added.

The usual stave has too few lines to care for all the intervals, so a complicated appearing system of numbers is used to indicate on the music sheet the pitch of the tone.

"The idea is not only practical for myself but has been mastered by singers who have not made an exhaustive study of the scientific basis of music," says Mr. Partch. "Rudolphine Radil of Oakland Calif., and Calista Rogers of Pasadena, both have learned to intone the songs, singing thirty-seven intervals to the octave."

He says his experiments indicate that the average ear distinguishes readily the tones of his new scale, although the "distance" between tones is less than a third the usual interval.

A LOVE STORY

(Philadelphia Bulletin)

Edna Walker Malcoskey, novelist told a love story at an American dinner party in Deauville.

"Once upon a time," she said, "a pretty girl was courted by a young millionaire and a struggling dry-goods clerk."

"The millionaire showered rare gifts on her and entertained her lavishly with yachting parties, house parties and box parties. The drygoods clerk could give her nothing, nothing but his devotion, for that was all he had."

"Still devotion is a beautiful thing. It touched the girl's heart, and she fell madly in love with the poor clerk."

"She married, of course, the millionaire."

A collegiate periodical reports that an inquiry made at Harvard revealed that male students carry on their persons an average of twenty-two cents. The fact must have been discovered by somebody seeking a loan.

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BANANA TARTS

Make pie crust and cut out in oblongs just large enough to enclose a small banana. Roll each banana in sugar and cinnamon. Squeeze a drop or two of lemon on each. Enclose in the pie crust and pinch edges together firmly. Put in pie pan and bake to a delicate brown. Serve if you wish with whipping cream on top and slices of bananas pressed a little overlapping, down the top.

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