

UNCONVENTIONALISM OF THE TRUE PARIS ARTIST

Work and Life Is Discussed by The Daily Mail's Paris Correspondent; the Tourists and French Currency

(By Melchior d'Aumont, British United Press)
(Special to The Daily Mail)

Paris, Jan. 24—The lot of an artist in almost invariably a hard one. Even during the post war "boom" era the young not-yet-established painter or sculptor who was able to lead a really comfortable existence was as fortunate as he was rare, whereas ever since the beginning of the much-bewailed crisis he has been practically non-existent. The majority struggled on for years without selling a single specimen of their work, their unhappy existence together with the necessary supply of canvases to keep them occupied being usually assured by occasional odd jobs offered them by some philanthropic restaurant-owner in the form of mural decorations and posters.

Then lately, things came to a head, for even the rare odd jobs began to vanish from their dark horizon. So moving once again the value of that old adage—necessity is the mother of invention—a group of half-starved artists held a conference in Paris to decide what was to be done. From the whirlpools of hopeful suggestions—each more fanciful and impossible than the preceding one—emerged a plan which, although typical of the unconventionalism of the true artist, has proved not only workable but also extremely successful.

The artists came to the conclusion that as a general lack of money appeared to be the main explanation for the reluctance of the public to buy their work, they would have to devise some method of dealing with the public without resorting to this commodity. The only answer to this was a system of exchange and the artists decided on its inauguration immediately.

A large exhibition hall was chartered on the outskirts of Paris and quickly filled with the hundreds of unsold canvases that had accumulated in the various studios in the past few years.

As soon as the public heard that no money was needed to make a purchase among this prodigious display of color, the hall was never empty. Moreover, Parisians were by no means the sole representatives of the French nation present, for crowds from the suburbs and even peasants from the country poured in an endless stream through the large doors of the hall. The success of the idea is obvious since the exhibition is still as crowded today as it was on its opening day a few weeks ago.

The scene inside is—to say the least—entertaining. In one corner, I watched an old peasant who was obviously up for the day from the country, having suddenly decided to become a patron of the arts. He was offering a year's supply of eggs for a small "nude" which would, he explained, "go very well over an ugly patch in the wall of the bedroom." Next to him a grocer was persuading a wiry-looking artist to accept a hundredweight of potatoes and a suspiciously strong-smelling leg of ham for a vividly-colored nature morte. In both cases the transaction was satisfactorily completed.

As I was leaving I noticed a small tailor nervously clutching a small statuette representing a modern interpretation of Venus. His contented smile seemed to indicate the successful disposal of a suit or overcoat which would, in the ordinary course of events, probably have stayed in a dark corner of his shop for years without finding a customer.

I understand that restaurant-owners are great favorites among the artists as they seem only too willing to promise a year's free meals in exchange for a future masterpiece while it appears that a number of barbers have been able to convince even the most barbarous looking of them of the necessity of a daily shave and a fortnightly hair-cut, the inevitable transaction ensuing.

In conclusion, it seems that these young men and women have not only solved their own difficulties but also

the problem of the respective merits of the gold and silver standards. Their system condemns both.

When will the rest of the world adopt the "Art Standard?"

With the notable exception of Switzerland, France is probably the European country which attracts the largest number of tourists. For the past few years, however, there has been a considerable decrease among these and notably in American and English visitors. The reasons for this are two-fold and obvious: the general world crisis and the fact that French currency with its gold backing is prohibitively expensive in terms of the silver-backed currencies of England and America.

French authorities have consequently been attempting to meet these difficulties for some time past, but with little success, the hotels were approached as their prices are always the first to be noticed by the prospective visitor and an agreement reached in most cases whereby the manager has lowered his prices by as much as one-third. The immediate result of this action was a certain reflux of foreign visitors, but even then their number compared very poorly with high average for the preceding years.

This being so, a new plan which is being discussed by the different authorities in Paris at the present moment is arousing considerable interest all over France. The scheme consists mainly in the issuing of a special "Tourist Currency" in order to increase the purchasing power of the pound and the dollar in this country.

Thus, if the normal exchange rate for transforming dollars into francs is at present approximately 15 francs to the dollar, when the new system is adopted, the same dollar will buy special notes to the value of 25 francs and thus have the same purchasing power in France as it had prior to 1933 when both countries were on the gold standard.

Incidentally, there is every likelihood of the scheme being adopted and put into practice by the summer of 1935. The amount of foreign money spent in France in normal times is so considerable that the French will try everything to regain it.

29 YEARS AGO TODAY

(FROM THE FILES OF THE DAILY HERALD)

A NOTARY PUBLIC

Mr. A. S. Murray, J. P., the well-known accountant, has been appointed a notary public.

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

Miss Gertrude McKinnon was taken to the Victoria Public Hospital on Sunday and was operated on for appendicitis by Dr. VanWart. Her condition today is favourable.

THE NEW RECTOR

At a meeting of the parishioners of St. Ann's Church last evening arrangements were made for a reception to Rev. J. DeWolfe Cowie, the new rector, to be held on the evening of February 7th.

CURLING NOTES

Six rinks from the Fredericton Curling Club left for Saint John this morning and this afternoon are playing a match with the Thistles. Tomorrow they are to play the St. Andrews Club. The skips are S. Dow Simmons, H. C. Rutter, Jas. Tibbitts, R. F. Randolph, J. H. Hawthorne, and L. C. Macnutt.

Fredericton will play the St. Stephen club here Saturday and the skips for that match are F. P. Hatt and J. H. Hawthorne, in place of T. L. Fowler and H. V. B. Bridges.

"It is when war is man against machinery that it becomes utterly horrible"—Sir Ian Hamilton.

"Parliament is ceasing to do the governing and permanent officials are taking its place"—The Archbishop of Birmingham (R.C.).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN GERMANY, BULGARIA

Compulsory System Under Hitler Regarded As Model, Exempting Agricultural and Domestic Workers

Washington, Jan. 24—The German system of unemployment insurance is regarded by many students as a model system. This is not surprising in view of the fact that Germany has been a leader in social legislation for half a century. It is likely that any American commission established to study the subject will pay particular attention to what has been done in Germany.

Developed by Reich

Starting under the auspices of labor union or social insurance organizations in the various localities, the system developed until there was action by the German Reich in 1927 to coordinate concentrate, and regulate the whole matter on a national basis. Still later in the Hitler regime, when what was called the United Labor Front was set up, there was further concentration. The lessons learned in the long experience of the unions and the local communes has not been overlooked by the Hitler leaders, however, and not a little of the old machinery has been converted into the latest scheme.

Starting on a voluntary basis under the unions, unemployment insurance now is—as one might suppose under Hitler—compulsory. The compulsion seems not to apply to persons between certain ages but to persons up to certain incomes. Thus, one is exempt from the compulsion when earning more than 3600 marks a year in the wage class and more than 8400 a year in the salary class. However, a person in the higher classes may, if he chooses, participate in the insurance up to the income limits named. Agricultural and domestic workers and certain other classes also are exempted.

The funds arise from contributions, in equal parts, from employer and employee. These parts together are to amount to 6 1/2 per cent of the amount of the wage or salary received. To this is added appropriations of the Reich and local governments. The last year's experience showed the total unemployment insurance fund was made up in the following proportions: the employer-employee contribution 35 per cent; the Reich appropriation, 28 per cent; local government appropriations 23 per cent; proceeds from the special crisis tax, 14 per cent. Thus a little comes from two sides of industry while the remainder comes from the public funds. The crisis tax referred to is a special income tax superimposed on the normal income tax and earmarked for unemployment.

Many Benefit Classifications

The benefit payment system, in somewhat characteristic German fashion is marked by the thoroughness of its detail. This detail is so thorough that it might appear cumbersome and indeed, some moves have been made toward simplification, but, after all, the German delights in detail and the plan seems to have worked well. Some idea of the extent of this detail can be gleaned from the statement that there are 231 classifications of beneficiaries. There are distinctions based on residence of the beneficiary in a large city, in a rural district, or in a town. There are all kinds of distinctions based on size of family. There are distinctions by trade and industry and by size of income.

This intense classification makes it difficult to explain the payment of benefits, but an illustration may be furnished based on a typical and, probably, the most numerous group. The beneficiary must have been employed for at least 52 weeks out of the two years preceding his application for benefit and have paid contributions for 26 weeks in the 12 months preceding. If the worker is without dependents he must wait 14 days after loss of his job before payments begin. As the number of dependents rises, the waiting time is cut, the briefest being as short as three days for a large, unemployed family.

As it is normal for several persons in a German family to be employed in anything like normal times, there are many sub-divisions and distinctions as to benefit amounts. But the base for the single man in the wage class

is 5.1 marks a week. This is about 1.20. A man with a salary running up to 300 marks could draw nearly \$3 a week. These payments may run, in ordinary course, for 39 weeks, but there are cases of exceptional distress in which a full years benefits will be paid.

The "means test" a thorough investigation to establish that a potential beneficiary has no one to care for him, is rigorously applied. It must be passed every 13 weeks. The same agencies administering the unemployment insurance also are constituted an employment agency and ceaseless effort is made to find jobs for insurance beneficiaries. The combined scheme has worked so well that the number of unemployed has declined from 5,722,000 in 1932 to 3,600,000 now. In 1932 only 1,394,000 were not insurance beneficiaries and now only 740,000 are not. The finances of the scheme are on a solvent basis.

Bulgaria's Compulsory Insurance

Bulgaria has had compulsory unemployment insurance since 1925. The law is fairly simple. Bulgaria is primarily a pastoral and agricultural country, and therefore the law covers farm workers. The only substantial class not included is composed of domestic servants. A tripartite system has been adopted for the raising of funds. Worker, employer and the state each pays 1 lev a week for each worker. The lev is worth about 1 cent. To be eligible for benefit payments, the worker must have worked 52 weeks in the course of two years previous to loss of work.

Within eight days after losing his job, the worker must apply for his benefit, and if, he qualifies, he is entitled to 10 leva a day, if single or, if head of a family, to 16 leva a day. This, however, is limited normally to 12 weeks in any one year. The system has worked well, financially, and the fund is solvent. In the last year collections amounted to 13,000,000 leva. This is only \$130,000 but Bulgaria is not a spendthrift nation. The expenditures for the year were only 12,500,000 leva. In addition to the regular expenditures, out of the insurance fund, there are special appropriations made by the state for emergency relief and these increase the total considerably.

Bulgaria has some of the most novel taxes to raise money for social insurance and relief purposes of any nation in Europe. There is a tax on foreigners who may not remain in the country without paying it. It ranges from 50 leva for laborers to 1000 leva for business executives. The proceeds of this impost go for "asylums and gardens for children of the unemployed." Another tax of 5 per cent is imposed on all foreign artists and sportsmen. The 5 per cent is on the gross receipts of these classes but the reports do not make it clear just what the receipts of sportsmen are considered.

WHERE LITERARY FORGERIES FAIL

New York, Jan. 24—Literary forgeries originating in America seem to me minor and comparatively unskilled nowadays. The business of forging whole books is, obviously, a labor worthy of the highest counterfeiting talents and requires a considerably greater outlay of time, effort and actual cash than the forging of a simple letter or document that may be written on one sheet with no greater expenditure than that necessary to procure the proper paper, the proper ink and the proper kind of a writing instrument, quill or steel pen.

The trained eye and the easy hand that can fashion letters after the famous dead is another requisite of the successful forger of documents. They the human components of the trickery, are often the surest. It was not so much the actual chirography that betrayed a clever series of Lincoln forgeries last winter as the mechanics of the business—the paper and the ink.

Of interest to the Women

The Way To Beauty

(By Helena Rubinstein, Noted Beauty Authority)

I am writing to you at present from a great distance—Europe, where I have come to spend a little leisure time in rest and relaxation. Brides-less-baths is a favorite watering place of mine, and I enjoy seeing the beautiful and fashionable women of the Continent finding their way back to health and beauty in this lovely spot.

Rest, for me, usually means a few weeks of very strict dieting. It does so much towards taking off superfluous flesh, and renewing that lithe, gay feeling of a body rid of poisons and fatigue. A diet must be considered from a health point of view as well as from its value as a reader.

I am going to tell you of a diet which is quite "the rage" just now. Women of fashionable Europe are following it closely. However, no one must attempt any kind of a diet without permission from her personal physician.

The diet I speak of is called the "peach diet". It means that you will eat for one meal, each day, just a pound of peaches . . . so that they are ripe and luscious, and filled with rich juices.

Then, for the other meal—dinner at night—you will eat meat and two vegetables, not, of course, including potatoes. I like cucumbers, boiled or raw, as one of these vegetables. But they may be changed for variety, and fish may be substituted for the meat now and again.

No water is drunk, but the thirst may be quenched with grape juice or lemon juice.

In three weeks you can take off a great many pounds. Some have taken off as much as twenty.

But avoid than wan look, which dieting is so apt to bring into the face, by providing nourishment for the skin of face and neck with a rich youthifying tissue cream. This is particularly important during dieting, so that the skin may be kept firm and smooth.

RELIGION SHOULD BOYCOTT WAR, SAYS CHICAGO CLERGYMAN

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 24—Religion should never again bless war but should form so strong a boycott against war as to make it impossible. Dr. Louis L. Mann, Chicago last night

The Lincoln forgeries came to light almost simultaneously in New York, New England and Chicago. All were legal documents supposed to have been written and signed by Lincoln either in his own name or that of one of his law firms. Boldly and with an eye to greater profits though at greater risk, for long autograph manuscripts are as a rule more valuable than short ones, the forger contrived documents of impressive length; one of them 700 words long and incorporating no less than three Lincoln signatures.

So cleverly were they written that they were compared with the best work of the notorious Robert Springer, the forger of Washington autographs about the time of the civil war. Long examination by our greatest experts in Lincolniana detected something uncertain about the signatures, something that didn't quite "click," but with the exception of a very few words and passages the text itself would have passed the most expert scrutiny.

Where the human eye may be deceived, the literary detective's measuring instruments are not to be tricked. The paper of those Lincoln documents was of the proper age; torn from old ledgers, it bore watermarks prior to the date of the document. But—it was slightly heavier than the paper Lincoln ordinarily employed for legal documents. Delicate balances confirmed the opinion of the expert's thumb and forefinger. Moreover, the ink, although brownish and "aged" in appearance, did not show through the paper, as it does in many authentically aged documents, and a certain evenness in color further betrayed it.

Nothing of the superlative cleverness of those Lincoln forgeries is known to be circulating in this country at the moment. During the spring some sadly incompetent forgeries of letters of John Marshall and of Richard Henry Lee, the latter a "Signer" from Virginia, came onto the market in New York by the usual medium of a salesman who "found them in an old book" or "in an old trunk in the attic." Generally they were offered for sale for very small sums, two or three dollars, and no one at all expert in autographs should have been, or was, deceived by them.

told a banquet of the U. S. National Committee on the Causes and Cure of War

"Commerce, education and science have all failed to abolish war", Dr. Mann said. "They have been utilized to further the purposes of war. It seems to me that religion, which over-rides the boundaries of nations and transcends the barriers of race, should take its stand of opposition to all war at all times.

"If religion—not one religion, and not in one country—but if religion everywhere would boycott war there could be no war. There should be no chaplain in any army. A chaplain is not there to comfort the dying and bury the dead. That is mere camouflage. He is there to give a divine sanction to the hellish business of human slaughter. Religion must never again bless war. The religion that, in the future, will ever bless war will thereby damn itself."

War, Dr. Mann said, is founded on falsehoods and propaganda. He said the strong win not those who are right.

"The old idea that God is on the side of the right is a superstition", he continued. "God has nothing to do with war."

Biologically war kills the potentially best fathers.

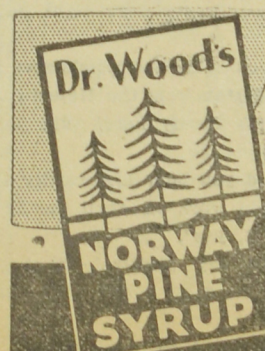
"The flower of every land marches forth to be mowed down like so many blades of grass and the weaklings remain behind to become the fathers of the next generation.

Sociologically war diverts money for sum clearance, health improvement and recreational centres to purposes of destruction; economically war expenditures grab 80 per cent. of all the revenues of the United States. "It cost \$30,000 to kill each man who was sent to his premature death in the last war.

"Intellectually war perverts science to systematized murder", he said.

"Most wars can be traced to economic causes, though these are camouflaged and idealized, since no mother would cheerfully send her son to his premature death for commercial aggrandizement and commercial supremacy", Dr. Mann said.

His address brought applause from the 1,000 women delegates, representing 11 national organizations, here to press on every possible peace front. The women were already well along in their campaign to see every Senator personally to urge passage this week of the measure for world court adherence.



If a Hacking Cough Nearly Chokes You

take Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Almost instantly you feel its penetrating effect. It oozes slowly through the inflamed membranes, loosens germ-laden phlegm, clears the bronchial tubes and brings relief, in severe coughs. Easy to take. Good for children.

STRIKES at the ROOT of COLDS and COUGHS