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Interest to Women

FRENCH WOMAN MARVELS AT U. S. SPENDING HABITS

Husbands of Paris Quite Stingy in Comparison, Declares Artist

(By Sally MacDougall)

Compared with the average American husband on a small salary, the Frenchman of the same class is a penny-pinching miser who never would think of giving his wife money to spend on trifles. Alicia Halicka observed. Mme. Halicka, who came over from Paris with her shreds and patches pictures that will be exhibited next week in the Julian Levy gallery, said that on every visit to New York she is surprised all over again at the rows of pretty young women she sees perched on high chairs at soda fountain counters and sipping cocktails in smart bars.

When New York was new to her a few years ago she used to imagine that all these women were rich. Now she knows. Only in this country, she is sure, does money trickle so freely through feminine hands.

Except in the wealthy classes, the prevailing ambition of young couples in France is to save their centimes, work and scrimp until they are 50, then retire, the men to go fishing, the women to devote more time to needlepoint and other sewing. That is how they look to the Polish-Parisian artist who goes about the world with wide open eyes, looking for subjects that might be caricatured in her fantastic pictures.

Because the same custom of thrift has come down through generations, because aunts and uncles, grandpapas and others also scrimped and because many of them die too soon to spend their pittance, nearly every middle class family and many in the laboring class have unearned incomes the artist explained. She thinks that exercising little frugalities to swell the savings affords a pleasure as keen as what New Yorkers might get from splurging.

"Many couples don't even have children, because babies are expensive," the artist went on. "A shrug and a cynical smile is the French woman's answer when reminded that the government offers a substantial prize to the mother of a large family. Even wealthy couples have few children. Childless homes seem to be gaining in fashion, perhaps because they are not too sure of the future."

Mme. Halicka blames Leftist and Rightist men in politics for withholding from women the right to vote. "The Leftists are afraid the women would follow the advice of priests and ministers and swell the conservative vote, and the Rightists, being conservative, take the attitude that woman's place is in the home. Most French women, she is sure, agree. They adore their homes and their needlework," she said.

Most spectacles have their absurd side to this artist, as her pictures prove. Pictures in which patches of tweed or lame, striped and patterned silks and satins are combined with paint to make pretentious subjects look amusing in a subtle way. She caricatures anyone, from circus riders to politicians, and since she sees almost everyone in France as a politician of some size, she thinks the most absurd fear in the world is the idea that the country could ever become regimented enough to go Fascist.

"Every other sentence in a Frenchman's conversation has some reference to his 'stupid government,' no matter what the government may be, she said. 'Nobody could ever get these people to admire one system. The women are as critical as the men even if they are only finding fault with their families. But this is all quite gay, a sort of boiling over of brilliant imagination and the extreme individualism that will save them and probably save others from going the German way.'

Although she has been the wife of the French cubist artist, Louis Marcoussis, since before she was 20, and has long been of the intellectual art set in Paris, Mme. Halicka still sees her adopted land through the eyes of her native Poland. She remembers her childhood home in Warsaw as a gloomy, orderly house, with heavy plush curtains that shut out the sun. At 17 she was on her own in a Left Bank studio and had won fame for illustrating Zangwill's novels. Now her friends in the world's most famous dressmaking houses send her patches of exquisite materials for the upholstered pictures that tell what she thinks of the world. "It is quite as well not to take art too seriously," she said.

VALENTINES TO SUIT ANY MOOD, SOPHISTICATED OR SENTIMENTAL

Timid souls who yearn to say 'I love you,' but haven't nerve enough to murmur it by themselves, may find all sorts of assistance in the new valentines that shoppers were exploring in the stores today. Whether one aims to be sophisticated or sentimental, modern or old-fashioned there are valentines to suit the mood, dainty hearts done up in ruffled lace, frank declarations against metallic backgrounds.

The idea according to a spokesman who helped design them, is that 'love is as tender and warm as ever, but some like to smother the declaration under lace and flowers, while certain types of moderns prefer to be forthright, even while saying the most thrilling words in the language.'

Valentines, as usual, come right out with them, brave and unbraving. 'To My Valentine,' 'I Love You,' 'To a Wonderful Sweetheart,' 'To My Darling on Valentine's Day,' 'Somebody Loves You.' There are special ones from wife to husband, from husband to wife, from children to parents. But the sweetheart missives are most numerous. This is a typical rhyme:

There is something about you
That sets you apart
From the rest of the folks
Who've a place in my heart;
A very dear something
That leads me to say

Here's all of my love
On this Valentine Day!

Men getting that one might wonder whether Leap Year had come again.

An innovation in this year's ready-made love letters is that the hearts in their centres come in surprising colors. Besides the good old red ones there are hearts of blue, silver, rose, gray, violet. One scrambles the shades in an adapted Scotch plaid with primrose border.

There are tender, practical avowals that a girl could carry for months. At the edge of a sizable satin heart is a spring with a mirror behind it and a compact for powder and rouge. Some have frames of flowers. Posies run the gamut from blooms as homely as daisies and buttercups to roses, violets, orchids.

Winged cupids and even cooing doves come in lace borders for quaint shoppers whose tastes run that way. At the other extreme is a 'Strike for Dates' missive. A picketing lad carries a banner, 'Unfair to Love,' the complaint being directed to a girl in the background typing her own valentine. The animal category has missives from one Scottie to another; and, of course, there are the comics, some amusing, some pretty terrible. February 14 is the day and it comes on a Monday.

PSYCHOLOGY IS ADAPTED TO GAMES

Query and Answer Stunts Can Pep up Your Home Parties

(By Cynthia Proctor)

Do you like the kind of games that stimulates your mind and are properly classified as amateur psychology? If you do you'll love the stunt Anne Stodder of Brookline told us about. We'd heard about it through a friend of hers and quite brazenly called her up to get the details. She was charming about it, and also told us one or two other stunts that are great party games.

The amateur psychology game is to be played this way. Gather the guests around and supply them with pencil and paper. Then ask them these questions:

- 1.—What would you rather do?
- 2.—What would you rather eat?
- 3.—What would you rather see?
- 4.—What would you rather feel?
- 5.—If you had to be a bird all your life, what bird would you rather be?
- 6.—If you had to be an animal all your life, what animal would you rather be?

Now, then, it would take a student of psychology to analyze these answers as an indication of character, but the answers are sometimes revealing of several sides of your nature. So, it's best to just do your own speculating about the answers and let it go at that.

Another stunt along the same lines is one used by Henry Erath in teaching the psychology of advertising. It shows 99 times out of 100 that we

are really pretty much alike in our reactions after all. Ask each person present to write down the first thought that clicks when you ask them these questions:

1. Think of a furious animal.
2. Think of a carpenter's tool.
3. Think of a piece of furniture.
4. Think of a flower.
5. Think of a color.

We won't tell you the probable answers, just gather up the papers and see how similar they are. This also proves something, but for us at party times it's just good fun.

Old Fashioned Box Party

Ann Stodder also told us about a stunt for raising money at a club or church gathering. She first saw it tried in New York at a private home in the interests of charity.

Each girl packs a lunch, as attractively as she knows how, brings it to the 'social' and the boxes are auctioned off. It's a real old-fashioned box party which used to be the greatest way of mixing up the boys and girls. The men do the buying of the supper lunches and then claim the girl who packed it as a partner and they go off to twosome over the stuffed eggs and chocolate cake.

There's only one precaution to take. Make sure the lunches are dainty enough to suit the iris, hearty enough to suit the men who have to buy them, and completely digestible for both!

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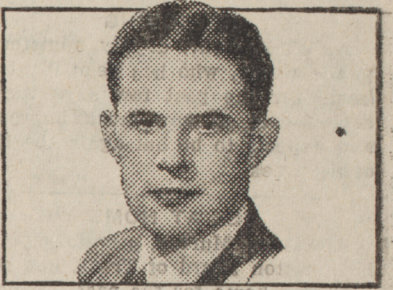
Don't consider yourself less fortunate than the movie stars because you haven't a personal hairdresser to give you new ringlets every day. As a matter of fact, here's a little secret if you can stand the shock. Some of the girls who can well afford the luxury of having someone do all the work of keeping them beautiful, simply won't hear of such a thing.

There is Anna Neagle, for example, who looks more ravishing than ever in her new production for Gaumont, 'Look Out For Love.' She loathes that 'just out of the beauty parlor' look, and for the most part—hold your breath—even washes her own hair. More than anything else she dislikes sitting under a hot dryer and whenever it is possible, allows her hair to dry naturally.

Anna wears her hair long—almost shoulder length—and it is sleek and smooth except for the ends which curl loosely. Five cent curlers are the actress' chief implements, and these she always has handy so that no straggly end can get away with it for long.

"I prefer doing my own hair because I can best achieve that perfectly natural look. I insist on keeping my hair scrupulously clean and well-brushed. As a matter of fact I spend more time brushing my hair than on any other feature of my toilette. I use the regulation curlers for a few minutes before going out—I generally moisten the curler instead of the hair and that gives me as much curl as I ever want. Occasionally I have my hair 'done,' and then I gen-

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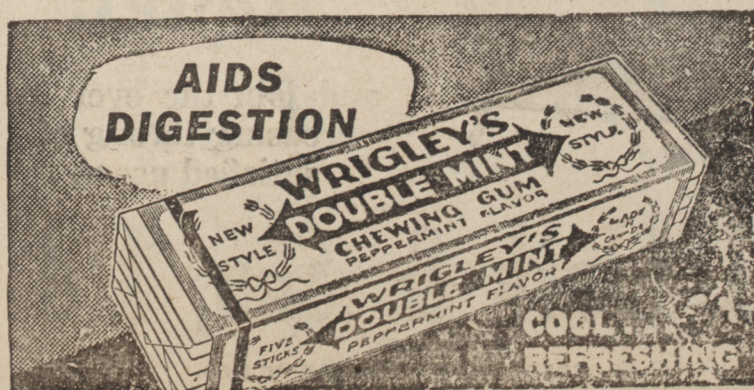
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