

UNDERWORLD COURIER

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² It was really and truly started on the 19th, but the City Editor was called off on other matters. We hope it will get into the mail today (safer not to mention the actual date)

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Personal Notes. The collective heart of the Underworld was broken by missing Mrs. Bliss' telephone call on Monday. It was the beauty of the blossoms, an iridescent foam, that drew all of us out of doors when the clock struck five. We were sad when we learned what we had missed.

B.S. Returned for a few moments this morning. She showed very few traces of the accident and looked rested and young. Her mental climat appears to be calm and peaceful, and her philosophy, wise.

M. Focillon continues to improve. He hopes to be allowed to come downstairs - in the lift, naturally - next week. A recent "mot" while watching the squirrels and rabbits dashing across the brilliantly green lawn - esteeming the latter above the former: "Ils" (the rabbits) "font des choses males avec innocence; tandis que les autres ..."

Mr. Thacher's return with direct news from California made Wednesday a red-letter day.

E. Bland, pinch-hitting for B.S., has been escorting visitors through the museum with her accustomed sweet dignity.

M. Rathbone's lovely hair looks particularly bright above a pervanche blue blouse and a dusty pink tweed skirt.

N. Scheffer is happy and "orthodox" over the Easter ceremonies and rituals. She has been granted Monday off, and glows with anticipation.

M. Diehl is eagerly absorbing rare book lore (intermittently, to be sure, between telephone calls and other interruptions. "Golly!" ... "When" ... "Where" ... "Which book is that" ... and other excited ejaculations.

E.B.C., as usual, only more so (be that good or ill) because J. Thacher gave her his Siposs hours while he was away.

Use of the Library. The following pages, which we hope you will find of interest, are a copy of those that have been lightly and most agreeably bound in pamphlet form and placed on the study desks of both libraries. (The form may prove useful in planning the fascicle bindings for D.O. monographs later. Parenthetically, the new librarian for the National library-to-be (a former cataloguer in the Patent Office) has sent out a cry for help in organizing an art library. She will have an appointment with M. Rathbone shortly.

Gallery

USE OF THE LIBRARY

When taking books from any part of the library for prolonged use, will the borrower kindly fill out Book Cards which are to be found in olive green tin boxes scattered about the library. These cards are to be left with Mrs. Scheffer in the Lower Library, and with Miss Rathbone in the Upper Library.

If at any time a student desires a book, and there is no one to help him, will he kindly fill out a Book Card and leave it in the box marked BOOKS WANTED. There is one on Mrs. Scheffer's desk in the Lower Library and another on Miss Rathbone's desk in the Upper Library.

Whenever a student transfers books from one room to another, will he notify either Mrs. Scheffer or Miss Rathbone of the change, so that they will always know where these books are.

Whenever a student finishes using a book will he leave it on the book truck marked BOOKS TO BE SHELVED. There is one in the Upper Library and another in the Lower Library.

If a student desires books from the Library of Congress, will he leave his requests on Miss Rathbone's desk some time before Tuesday or Friday noon. One of the messengers will go there on those afternoons if any books are wanted. Books from the Library of Congress should be kept not longer than two weeks, and should be returned to Miss Rathbone's desk.

HOURS

The Library is open Daily and Sunday from 8 A.M. to 10:30 P.M. On Sundays, will students please use the Music Room entrance, and will they please refrain from opening windows before 12 o'clock when the watchman comes on duty.

DISPOSITION OF BOOKS

In UPPER LIBRARY (New Wing):

Current periodicals
General reference books
Catalogues of museums and private collections
Art & archaeology, Ancient & medieval

Index of Christian Art
Dumbarton Oaks Census

In STUDY B:

Iconography (Temporary)

In LOWER LIBRARY (Basement of main house)

Periodicals (Corridor & small extension)
Museum bulletins & reports (Corridor)
Sales catalogues (Small extension)
Ancient, Medieval & Byzantine history (Large reading room)
Language & literature (Large reading room)
Religion & mythology (Large reading room)
Byzantine music (Large reading room)
Slavic books and periodicals (Large reading room)
Far Eastern art (Large reading room)
Museum catalogues of paintings (Large reading room)

General photograph collection (Large reading room)
Pamphlet file (Large reading room)
Microfilm reader & films (Small extension)
Rare books (Mrs. Clark's room)

In FIRST-FLOOR LIBRARY (Mrs. Sessions' office)

European architecture, sculpture & painting - Post-Medieval
Drawing
Engraving
Minor arts of periods later than Medieval

In MUSIC ROOM

Pre-Columbian art & archaeology (Book-case at West end of South wall)
Music, General (Book-case at East end)

Bibliographical works are divided between the Lower Library and Mrs. Sessions' office.

In the Upper Library (New wing), the books have had to be divided into three sizes. Oversized folios will be found lying horizontally on the shelves and these will be designated by blue dots on the catalogue cards. The medium sized books will be found on the bottom shelves under the sections to which they belong and will eventually be designated by red dots.

CATALOGUES

The author and subject catalogues and the index of sales catalogues in the Lower Library are duplicates of the catalogues in the Upper Library. In the Upper Library there is a catalogue of Greek books and analytics of Greek periodicals, also supplementary cards for the microfilm of the Hyvernat collection at Catholic University.

The author catalogue contains buff and white cards. The buff cards represent temporary cataloguing and the white ones more complete cataloguing done four years ago. Complete cataloguing was abandoned because of the increased quantity of books which we felt should at least have author cards.

Exhibition and museum catalogues are listed under place, except for the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert. These will be found in the Bs and the Vs respectively according to the Library of Congress system. Private collections are listed under the names of the collector, and Festschriften are catalogued under the name of the person.

The Slavic material (Russian, Serbian, Bulgarian, Polish) is catalogued (1) in the language of the original, (2) in transliteration, (3) in English translation. English cards and transliterated cards for books are filed in the general card catalogue.

The special Slavic Catalogue is divided into four groups of cards labelled as (1) Russian cards, (2) Russian subject headings, (3) English subject headings, (4) Russian periodicals - English cards. The first group is composed of cards in the language of the original and includes books, periodicals, and periodical analytics. The second and third groups are composed of subject cards for books and periodicals, the subjects being indicated on yellow guide cards, and subdivisions of these on blue guide cards. The fourth group contains author and subject cards for Russian periodicals in English. Russian cards are filed according to the Russian alphabet. Information about museums, palaces, churches, institutions, collections, etc. is printed on blue and yellow guide cards and precedes the subject.

WIEGAND HANDAPPARAT

The Wiegand Handapparat is now in the process of being catalogued. For the time being, there will be two files of cards for these off-prints in the Upper Library. One is an author list, and the other is a subject list showing the way in which this material has been filed away temporarily in the drawers at the bottom of the Dumbarton Oaks Census file.

Dumbarton Oaks Park. There were such crowds on the first (Easter) Sunday that one could hardly walk along R Street. The cherry trees and forsythia were at their supreme moment and from the hill near Catalogue House, one could see the constant stream of men, women and children walking along the branch and looking up at the pink and gold glory pouring down the slope. The following Saturday and Sunday were equally crowded, we are told

Visitors. The largest group - and perhaps they should hardly be called "visitors" - was the Overseers and their wives on Friday. A beautiful day. They began to arrive at 10.30, and by a series of relay guides posted at strategic places, were conducted in orderly fashion through the house from South to North; to the museum via the North vista and bosquet; through the museum and last, through the gardens. Back to lunch at 12. (And pretty much on time, too) Their delight and appreciation was constantly evident. In spite of all they must have heard, the actual reality of D.O. took them unprepared. There is no question at all about that. Lunch was very pleasant; a seated table, three sides of an open square. Mr. Adams made a short speech, then Mr. Sachs outlined the aims of D.O., - its past and its anticipated future; and the Sec'y., Mr. Green added a few words of directions for the rest of the tour. Everyone spoke of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss and missed them.

The next largest group was the Maryland Institute of Architects and their wives. (also several children) They went through the house, the museum and the gardens, asked many, many questions and appeared to be deeply impressed.

We had also H.E. the Canadian Minister; Prof. Wether of Ann Arbor; Mrs. Wilkie, brought by Mrs. Bacon who sent all kinds of messages to you both; our Minister to Canada and Mrs. Moffat, who also sent messages; and many others too numerous to mention separately.

Music Notes. Mlle Boulanger gave an inspired lecture on Bach's Passion according to St. Matthew. To one listener, her interpretation with one piano and one voice was as moving - perhaps more so - than the brilliant performance given a few days later by the Philadelphia orchestra and Stokowski. Mlle Boulanger asked tenderly after Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, and came to see M. Focillon the next morning

Weather Report. Full summer. No change, day after day, in the blue sky and warmth of the sun. (Of course, it will not last)

Extract from letter to Mrs. Moffett from Mrs. Clarence Webster

"...thank you for the clippings about the official opening of the Dumbarton Oaks Collection. It was a grand gesture on the part of Mildred and Robert and I was naturally thrilled. Two weeks later I found an invitation to the party which had been addressed to the Museum, and was touched by this token of enduring friendship. I doubt whether anyone who has not been confronted by museum problems, would realize the perfection of detail which characterizes this achievement of the Blisses - the result of careful planning and flawless taste....I hope that Mrs. Sessions and Mrs. Clark will be there as links to the pleasant past. Please tell Mrs. Clark how much I appreciated the contributions which I received from time to time - I think she would be surprised herself, to see how many cards in the shelf-list of pictures had "Dumbarton Oaks" typed under donor. We are indebted to her for some exceedingly interesting items which would not in the ordinary course of events, have found their way into our collection."

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE



MUSICAL GEOLOGIST—Dr. Edward L. Troxell at his xylophone made of Connecticut rock fragments

Geologist Tunes Array of Rocks Into a Harmonious Xylophone

Dr. Troxell, of Trinity, Chips 100 Pieces of Lava, Found in Connecticut, Into an Instrument Comparable in Tone to Wooden Variety

Special to the Herald Tribune
HARTFORD, Conn., April 5—Dr. Edward L. Troxell, head of the geology department at Trinity College here and State Geologist of Connecticut, is searching, as opportunity serves, for rocks with which to fill gaps in a xylophone he constructed wholly of rocks collected by him on Connecticut field trips. Already he has acquired some 100 rocks in which he has made a xylophone having a scale of more than one octave ranging above and below middle C. It is the half-tones that remain to be supplied.

In the Shenandoah mountains in Virginia gave Professor Troxell the idea for his xylophone. He noted the sound produced when he struck a stalactite, and read other types of stone also might produce resonance. When he returned to Hartford, he chipped long pieces of rock from a lava formation near Trinity campus, and discovered when struck with a hammer did produce tones. But as these rocks of rock lacked sufficient weight, Professor Troxell searched for and on Avon Mountain, near Avon, Conn., he found rock

columns three feet long at a place where formations had split. Gathering numbers of these columns, he arranged them according to pitch, using a pitch pipe in the process. In tuning his xylophone Professor Troxell chips a small piece off the end of a rock column when he wants to raise the pitch. He chips pieces off the sides when he desires a lower pitch.

To play the instrument the stones are struck with a rubber xylophone hammer. To provide for vibration at the middle and ends each "key" is supported at its "nodes." A table on which the instrument rests has two rails shod with strips of sponge rubber. These rails come together at one end for short columns and spread gradually for longer columns. The tone produced is mellow and true like a wooden instrument's.

The rocks used were once molten lava, which cooled and solidified. Such rocks, under the name of trap rock, are utilized for road making. Their column formation is the result of cracking on the upper surfaces. These cracks continue downward. It was such action that produced the Hudson River Palisades,

Hittite Language Reconstructed From Broken Silver Seal

Lawrence of Arabia Laid Cornerstone for Knowledge of Ancients

By THOMAS R. HENRY.

CHICAGO, April 16.—The mystery of the silver seal was described here today.

It is one of the most thrilling detective stories of the age with Arab bandits, the late Col. T. E. Lawrence, one of the great empires of the ancient world, and the origin of the English language mixed together in a strange hodgepodge.

The tale goes back about 6,000 years—before the first stones were laid in Egypt's pyramids. There were three mighty world empires. Along the Nile stretched Egypt. In Mesopotamia was opulent Babylonia. But covering what is now Asiatic Turkey was perhaps the greatest of all motherland of humane law, of art and poetry, of the common speech of modern Europe, an empire that loved peace but could fight well as Egyptians and Babylonians learned to their sorrow. This was the land of the Hittites.

Lawrence Started Work.

The empire disintegrated and was forgotten. About the beginning of the 20th century a few scholars became interested in it. It had, as did Egypt a hieroglyphic writing. This was incised on seals, on walls and monuments. One of the few Hittite archeologists was the late Lawrence of Arabia and the source material which he gathered before the first World War, laboring with pick and shovel under the hot Turkish sun remains a cornerstone of the structure which has been erected.

Nearly 50 years ago an English archeologist picked up a fragment of a silver seal, used by one of the Hittite kings, and without realizing that it had any significance, had it photographed. Very shortly thereafter, it appears, the seal was stolen.

Writings Unreadable.

Now Hittite writings were completely unreadable. There was absolutely no clue to the language. Scholars labored for 50 years without even getting a start. They tried to compare it with Egyptian, Chinese, Peruvian, Tibetan.

The nearest to a clue were the photographs of this missing silver seal, the great seal of Tarkondemos, King of Mesopotamia. Around its border was an inscription in the cuneiform writing of Babylonia, which had been deciphered. Inside were Hittite hieroglyphics. From a comparison of the two one symbol could be interpreted—a triangle with cross-bars standing for "city."

A few years ago it was revealed today by Dr. I. J. Gelb of the University of Chicago, one of the three men in the world who can actually read Hittite, the lost seal turned up in the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. It had come in entirely unrecognized, in a miscellaneous collection of Near East antiquities.

Since then, Dr. Gelb said, syllable by syllable, Hittite has been reconstructed.

Symbol Aids Scholars.

It was known that on Egyptian and Babylonian seals a symbol for "city" usually was followed by the name of the city. The name of the town which had stood near where this seal was found could be found from other records. That put the scholars in possession of two or three Hittite letters. These in turn, when fitted into words, revealed other letters.

This work has been in progress