

## ART FORGERIES IN PARIS

An Account of the Traffic in Spurious Paintings

### AMERICA THE MARKET

Methods of a Secret Syndicate of Dealers Exposed—Factories That Turn Out Fraudulent Pictures—Many Shipped to This Country—Tricks to Give Aged Appearance.

A curious and instructive account of the traffic in spurious works of art, as conducted by the most expert and practiced hands in Paris, is contributed by M. Ch. Franche in a recent issue of the Revue Internationale des Fabrications.

As the article deals largely with the so-called dealer expert, a few words concerning the qualities and functions of that important personage may be necessary to elucidate the facts gathered by M. Franche and make their significance clear to American readers. To begin with, it must be understood that the government does not, as many are apt to believe, hold itself responsible for the authenticity of the articles sold at the Hotel Drouot.

The official auctioneer (commissaire-priseur) may be, and frequently is, ignorant of art and all things related to it, nor does he concern himself with the appraisal and puffing of the goods sold; that task falls to the lot of the expert who is chosen by the seller for his own benefit and the protection of the bidders. It is the expert who completes the catalogue, presides at the sale and estimates the value of the various articles.

The discoveries of M. Franche show that there exists and has existed for many years a kind of secret syndicate of the more profitable dealer experts, whose object is to monopolize the trade in works of art and not only to countenance, but actively to encourage the production and propagation of fraudulent imitations to serve their own ends.

"Controlling every event at the Hotel Drouot, the 'dealer experts,'" says M. Franche, "are in a position which enables them to instigate the seizure of pictures by pronouncing their vigilance by discrediting such as do not bear their stamp, thus achieving by ingenious if ignominious means a practical control of the sale of the works of art."

Here is a typical example of the methods employed by the dealers in spurious goods:

The proprietor of a shop in Paris having procured four landscapes by Corot, Daubigny, Diaz and Th. Rousseau hired a good copyist, who, in return for a comfortable lodging in the country with a salary of \$200 a month, undertook to make twenty-five copies with slight modifications of each of the four canvases. In ten months the task was finished to the satisfaction of the employer and the hundred pictures were sent to this country and sold at a high price as originals from one noted collector or another.

An important consideration in such cases is the necessity of imitating the patina of old pictures with artificial cracklings and so forth. Various methods are employed with this end in view.

Saffron tincture, black coffee and licorice are favorite applications as a preliminary to varnishing. Some add a fatty oil to the varnish, or a mixture of bitumen, yellow lake and red ochre, which gives it something the appearance of old varnish.

In doctoring paintings which are wholly modern, the following process is held to be efficacious: The painting is first varnished with white of egg and then powdered over lightly with very fine coffee grounds; on this preparation is spread a thick coating of paste, which is dried before a hot fire, and then superimposed by a second and finally a third coating.

After an hour or two the canvas is cleaned with a sponge, and an excellent result is often revealed, though failures are not by any means uncommon. In successful cases the white of egg produces an excellent imitation of the crackling of old varnish; the coffee stains resemble the damage done by flies, and the action of the paste on the pigments is not unlike that of time and exposure.

The application of a little yellow varnish qualifies the canvas under treatment to the rank of an Old Master and in eight or ten months time it will be in a fit state for admission to the Hotel Drouot. It should be mentioned, by the way, that experienced dealers always employ old canvas and old stretchers.

—New York Sun.

**Too Much Perfume.**  
The fastidious woman with an acute sense of smell came out of the telephone booth gasping for breath. "You surely ought to get some fresh air or a disinfectant in there," she remarked to the drug clerk; "your last patron was a very highly perfumed person. That odor of white roses made me quite ill."

"No, that's not exactly it," explained the clerk; "you see somebody spilled some awful-smelling stuff in there this morning and the only thing we could think of was to counteract some perfume around."

"I see," said the fastidious lady, "but the way but she couldn't help observing to herself, 'Just like a man, of course; a woman would never wash the place out and used perfume.'"

### NATIONS DEEP IN DEBT.

Latin-America Swamped by Foreign Loans—Columbia's 4 Cent Dollar.

The foreign debt of Columbia has been in existence for eighty-three years, says the Monthly Review, during approximately forty-seven of which no interest was paid. The corresponding figures for Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela respectively are seventy-eight and forty-eight, seventy-eight and seventy-two, and eighty-three and forty-one.

Costa Rica and Nicaragua have benefited by intervals during which they owed nothing to the foreign bondholder. Nevertheless the external debt of the first has been its default for thirty years out of forty-seven, while Nicaragua paid nothing for forty-nine years out of sixty-six.

Salvador neglected her share of the old debt of the Central American Federation from 1827 to 1864. With the exception of a single lapse her subsequent record is good, and she now occupies the happy position of having no regular foreign debt.

Santo Domingo began her financial connection with the outside world by a loan issued in 1869. She has since then off and on been in default for about twenty-two years.

Some two years ago Columbia issued from a protest civil war. She has since then Panama, while the expenses of the war were met by the short-sighted expedient of issuing foreign currency. As a result she now finds herself saddled with a debt in excess of the enormous total of nearly \$50,000,000.

At one time the rate of exchange for the paper dollar touched 25 per cent. But by legislative enactment the parity between gold and paper was fixed not long ago. In respect of Government transactions at the relatively moderate figure of 100 per cent.

Even this means that Columbia's dollar represents only 24, or 4 cents, and the brain whirls at the thought of the equivalent in currency of the \$1,000 which she will in future have to pay each year for the service of her foreign debt.

**South's Rapid Growth.**  
In very large measure these days fortune favors are going to the South. Though the North's cotton mills consumed seven times as many bales in 1880 as the South, the latter went to the front in 1905, and as they have the advantage of nearness to the source of supply, and the almost equally important advantages of cheap land and cheap labor, they are likely not only to keep ahead hereafter, but to increase their lead. The consumption of 221,000 bales by the South's mills in 1880 went up to 2,163,000 in 1905. The capital invested in cotton mills in that region increased from \$21,000,000 in the earlier year to \$235,000,000 in the later one. In that quarter of a century the South's annual pig iron and coal output was each multiplied by ten, and its lumber product was multiplied by seven.

The South is making tremendous strides in manufacturing. The capital of \$267,000,000 invested in mills and factories in 1880 had increased to \$1,600,000,000 in 1905. The value of its products of manufactures grew from \$467,000,000 in the former year to \$1,750,000,000 in the latter. The value of its exports of all sorts, which was \$261,000,000 in 1880, was \$555,000,000 in 1905. But, of course, most of its products are consumed in the United States, and do not count in these figures. Its railway mileage in the quarter of a century has jumped from 20,000 to 60,000 miles, its farm products from \$600,000,000 to \$1,150,000,000, and the assessed value of its property from \$3,000,000,000 to \$6,500,000,000.

**Marble Quarries of Italy.**  
Nowhere in the world is there so remarkable a town as Carrara (the center of the marble working industry), which lies thirty miles northwest of Leghorn, near the mouth of the Arno River; from the port of Arzena, three miles distant, the marble is shipped. Carrara lives on marble, for there are some 400 quarries in the vicinity of the town (the principal is that of Torano, but most of the others are small), and in addition to the quarrymen, hundreds of marble cutters earn a living there, and not a few sculptors are to be found in and about the town. Some 5,000 men are regularly employed in the quarries, which have been worked for over two thousand years. The Apennine range, on the sides of which the marble is quarried, here varies from 500 to 3,500 feet in height; and from a distance the sight of the jagged hills glittering in the sunshine, which seldom seems to forsake Carrara, is most beautiful. Some improvements have recently been effected in the method of blasting and quarrying the Jurassic limestone which is known as Carrara marble; but even now there is a remarkable wastage, due to the primitive appliances in use, and nearly three times as much stone is quarried as finally is used, the disastings often resulting only in the production of pieces too small to be of much value. The United States annually import Carrara marble in large quantities, and it is famous all the world over for its purity and texture. It is quarried only by the marble quarried at Carrara. There is a college of the art at Carrara.

Book of Deeds—The history.

### BRIDAL BOUQUETS.

Those Carried by the Brides of To-Day Are Works of Art.

The bouquets, of course, depend largely on the bride's gown. If an early Victorian costume is worn, as was done recently at several fashionable marriages, a sweet posy of your favorite blossom is more appropriate for a bride than a shower bouquet.

But what a wide difference between the posy of to-day and that of fifty years ago! That carried by a bride today is an exquisite work of art, in which each bloom and piece of foliage receives careful treatment, and the whole giving the charming effect of a natural cluster of lovely flowers.

The bouquets representing the floral taste in the time of our grandmothers appear as a rule, to judge from pictures, to have been absolutely symmetrical globes of flowers cruelly crushed together, the stems gathered and "tight-laced" into a bundle of pointed cardboard basketware, or chased silver, not infrequently embellished with paper lace frills more or less ornate and carried preferably upside down.

Some of the present-day bouquets are made of roses that are set off only by the green of their foliage and two flowing strands of broad satin ribbon in pink.

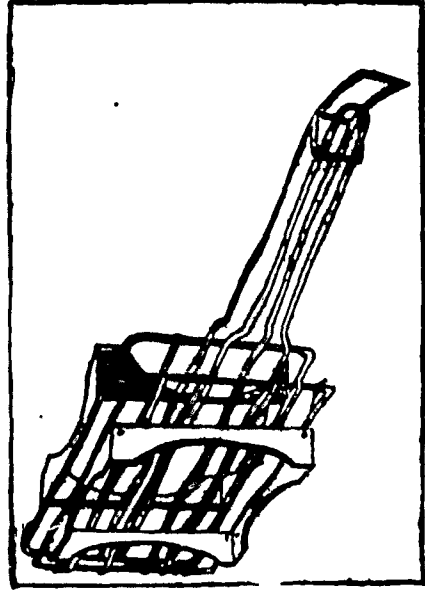
In the olden days such a floral posy was not known. The bridesmaids bouquets are just as elaborate as that of the bride, and they all go far toward making a wedding a most beautiful ceremony.

A pretty change from the bouquet is the floral staff, which has found considerable favor at weddings. In a recent instance white enameled staves were decorated with branches of a cherry tree, to which bunches of the most natural looking artificial cherries were attached, the staves being decked with narrow ribbon in several shades of red, arranged in ever so many loops and loose ends.

The effect was most impressive as the eight bridesmaids raised their gaily decorated staves and formed a brightly-colored archway, under which the bride and groom passed, down the aisle. The bride on this occasion carried a large bouquet of roses and lilies of the valley.

### TOASTER AND BROILER.

In the illustration below is shown a toaster or broiler, which contains a simple attachment to make the broiling of meats or the toasting of bread an easy matter. In fact, the



IMPROVED BROILER.

broiling can be readily done on a gas stove as on a coal fire. Attached to each side of the frame of this broiler are supports which prevent it from coming in direct contact with the top of the stove. When placed over the circular opening in the stove the supports keep the frame and its contents extended from the fire. By placing the supports on each side the broiler can be reversed as occasion demands. Every housewife knows that broiling a steak or other piece of meat is the most difficult branch of the cooking art, and success is seldom assured. With the aid of this broiler she would undoubtedly find the feat easy of accomplishment.

### In Good Taste.

Satin shoes for evening gowns exactly matching the color of the gown and with silk stockings perfectly matched in color.

Pleated skirts with bias bands set on to stimulate hems.

Big cameo pins at throat or to fasten belts. One set seen recently worn by a woman with shell pinkskin showed delicate sprays of lilies of the valley on a dark pinkish-red background. They were set in gold and looked ages old.

Big corsage bouquets of pink roses showered with lilies of the valley.

Quaint, Frenchy ruffled jabots of pleated lawn and lace.

Buckskin gloves scrupulously clean. Pale gray hats of softest felt with the white breast of some soft bird on one side.

Hair puffed in fascinating curls as soft as silk and natural—not bought in strings and pinned in place.

Long, loose evening cloaks of Honiton lace over slips of varying colors. Evening gowns of cloth-or-gold.

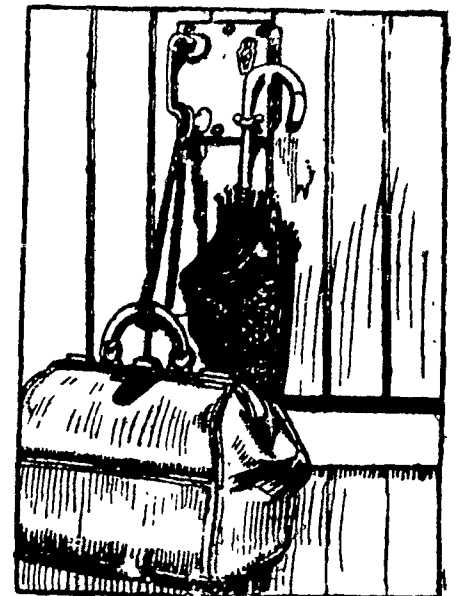
Strings of coral, pearls, silver or gold, set with precious stones.

It is estimated that \$5,000,000 is spent each summer by American tourists in Canada. Kingston is almost daily visited by hundreds of American excursionists, adding a considerable sum each season to the income of the merchants, hotels, steamboats and railroads of that district.

### HANGER AND LOCK.

Articles Safely Clamped to Prevent Removal by the Unauthorized.

"Watch your hat and coat," is a sign that adorns the walls of all restaurants and quick lunch cafes. The owner of the garments can generally do the watching in the smaller restaurants, but in the larger cafes the garments are entrusted to an attendant. In a great many cases he finds it impossible to guard them all and some marauder gets off with a few. To prevent such thefts a Philadelphia has invented a garment hanger and lock that insures the



SAFE FROM THEFT.

safe delivery of all articles entrusted to his care. It comprises a plate on which are mounted a hook to hold a coat and hat, together with a chain whereby to hang a bag. Also a clamping device for umbrellas and canes. By means of a locking mechanism all the articles can be simultaneously clamped to the plate. The key is then delivered to the owner of the articles and the latter returned on delivery of the key. A peculiar feature of the mechanism is that when the receivers are unlocked the key cannot be withdrawn.

### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Ink spots should be soaked in warm milk.

Milk spots disappear when cold water is used. Hot water fixes the stain.

Tea spots can be removed if you pour boiling water on them from a height.

Paint stains vanish when rubbed with clean flannel dipped in benzine or turpentine.

Perspiration stains are treated the same as for scorches: Warm soapsuds and sunshine.

Wine stains must be thickly covered with salt, then rinsed in boiling water, resalted and rinsed again.

### Women Successful Explorers.

That at least seven out of ten women have the ability to become explorers, and that practically all women, even chorous girls, have a latent love of the wilderness stored away somewhere in their consciousness, is the rather startling theory of Dr. Charles H. Shaw, the biologist, who has recently returned from an exploring expedition into the Selkirk Mountains of Canada.

Dr. Shaw went into the mountains at the head of a large party, which included four women, and he asserts that practically every one of them did a man's work and withstood the hardships splendidly. And they were totally untrained women, too, so far as woods life goes; notably one of them, and she distinguished herself by spending a whole night trying to kill a bear. This is not the only occasion on which Dr. Shaw has observed how well women withstand woods life, for he has conducted many parties and says he has found the members of the so-called weaker sex equally as intrepid as the men.

"It is my experience," said the doctor, "that the average woman can tramp as far in the course of a day as a man. She cannot, of course, carry as heavy a pack, but she can carry a light one, and when she gets into camp, no matter what the weather conditions may be, she is apt to be in far better spirits than the men."

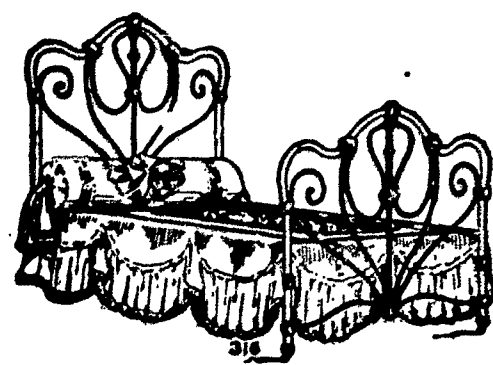
"To cite a concrete illustration of a woman's pluck and endurance," he continued, "Miss Charlotte Walker, a University of Michigan girl stayed out of camp all of one night last summer simply to get a shot at a bear. She tramped all day, and just at nightfall, when she was about seven miles from camp, she came upon a bear. The animal disappeared, but she had an idea that he had not gone far and that she would be able to kill him the next day, so she remained on the spot."

"Those of us in camp were well nigh crazy with anxiety throughout the night, and in the morning prepared to search for her. But before we started she came wearily into camp and told us the story of the bear."

"Now, the chances are that a man would have had better judgment with regard to the bear's habits, but no man could have been pluckier than she."

Dr. Shaw's 4-year-old son, Harland, went a part of the way on the last trip, and at one time the child was 50 miles from the railroad. "We carried the little chap through his paces," said his father proudly.

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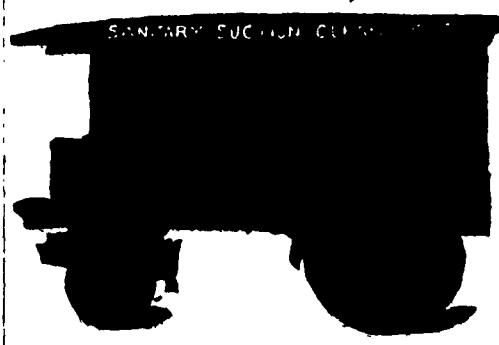
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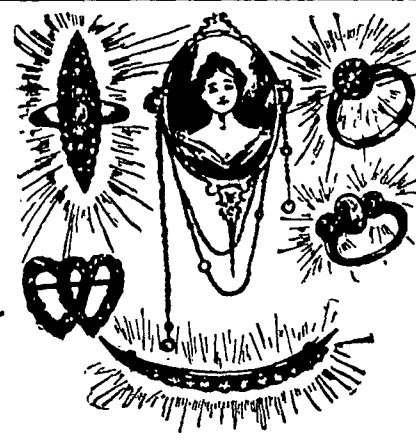
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