

# The Star of Bethlehem

**T**HE story of the star of Bethlehem has ever been a favorite one with painters and poets and has been a subject of serious study by theologians and scientists. Many astronomers have asserted that the heavenly visitor was a comet and have even sought to identify it with some of the comets now known. Churchmen, on the other hand, have combated these attempts to ascribe a natural cause to the phenomenon and have contended that the gospel text shows the star to have been sent by a miracle to guide the wise men to the Christ Child. One of the favorite theo-

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Nineteen hundred years have passed and the Child has become the leader of the nations. Only three important countries are now outside of Christian rule. Of these Turkey is being dismembered. Japan is seriously considering the inclusion of a large part of Christianity in her state religion, and China has gone through a revolution many of the leaders of which were Christian converts and which resulted in establishing a republic after the model of our own.

Not only is the whole earth being brought under Christian domination, but the Christian nations themselves are finding new depths of meaning in the Master's utterances, and new cults are springing into life to carry into effect some of his neglected teachings. Never in history has there been found a word so vital that important new movements for humanity were found



MADONNA FROM PAINTING BY ROSENHAUSEN

# The Madonna

By WALTON WILLIAMS  
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**W**ITH the painters of the middle ages the Madonna was the most popular subject. This was especially true of that supremely great school that flourished during the Italian renaissance period. In earlier Christian art the Virgin did not so largely figure. It was only with the council of Ephesus and its glorification of Mary as the "mother of God" and the development of the doctrine of the immaculate conception—not only as to the birth of Jesus, but as to that of Mary herself—that the ascendancy of the Virgin both in the church and in church art was established.

It was not till the wonderful renaissance era in Italy, the golden age of art, however, that the Madonna became the favorite theme of painters. The vogues started with Fra Angelico, Fra Bartolommeo and others of the first painters of the era and reached its height under Raphael. The three great figures of the renaissance period in art were Raphael himself, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. Angelo painted a few Madonnas, some of them unfinished, but they do not rank with most of his work. Da Vinci has one or two Madonnas that are up to his other great paintings. But it was Raphael, the prince of painters of all ages, whose Madonnas, both in number and quality, outweigh those of any other painter, ancient or modern.

Raphael's "Sixtine Madonna" is not only his own masterpiece, but by universal consent ranks as the greatest painting in the world. Only less famous than this is his "Madonna of the Chair," while his "La Jardiniere," "Madonna of the Finger" and many more are celebrated.

Raphael Sanzio or Santi was born in 1483 and died of a fever at Rome when thirty-seven. He was the son of a painter and studied at one time under Perugino. His first work to become famous was "The Coronation of the Virgin," which appeared in 1503. The "Marriage of the Virgin" was painted the next year, shortly after which Raphael went to live in Florence, where most of his Madonnas were finished. His fame had now become so great that he was called to Rome to decorate the Vatican. It was not till toward the end of his life that Raphael developed his own style and did his greatest work, the "Sixtine Madonna" being his last great painting. He was also an architect and was appointed the chief architect of St. Peter's in Rome.

Another Madonna, a reproduction of which is here shown, is a detail of the painting by Hans Holbein the younger, known as the "Madonna of the Meyer Family." It represents the Virgin and the child Jesus being worshipped by Burgomaster Meyer. His two wives (one deceased) and some of his children. Just why Burgomaster Meyer, his two wives and children should be immortalized in this holy company is not apparent. The burgomaster paid for the picture. Members of the family are omitted in the reproduction.

There were two Hans Holbeins, father and son, both painters. The younger was practically a contemporary of Raphael, being born in Bavaria in 1497. One of his best known portraits is that of Erasmus. Several of his religious pictures are also celebrated.

The painting of the "Madonna and Child" by G. von Bodenhausen, here shown, is more modern.

# The Time Table

The time table was invented in many ways when the railways had so many faults that something had to be done to divert attention of the public.

The ordinary one road time table is confusing enough, but the sort that affects to offer information as to the running of trams or connecting lines are the ones that cause strong men to leap from the clutch of their keepers and race chee-chooling hither and yon.

You are going to take No. 8 from Oopsequah to Ippending on the O. G. and N. E. You find that to do this you leave No. 8 at Gonofat and connect with No. 32 on the P. L. and O. G. for Wibbleville, where you catch No. 17. The man who sells you the ticket makes this plain to you. But when you try to unravel the time card you discover that you are also governed by Note B and three or four references. At Wibbleville you learn that No. 17, according to Note Q, runs only on Thursdays when it is raining and you will have to wait until 9:22 p. m. and take No. 15.

The simplest way to use a time table is to add the figures in any one column, divide the sum by the amount of your fare and stay at home.

Ignatius Donnelly cherished a theory that Bacon also wrote the time tables. —Chicago Post.

**Parades in Burma.**  
Eight or nine miles below Mandalay in Burma, the right bank of the Irrawaddy is hilly, and in the neighborhood of the old Burmese town of Bagging the hills are dotted all over with pagodas. These are not temples, says a writer in the Wide World Magazine, but are built by pious people as offerings to the supreme power, if being generally believed that such acts of devotion count to the builders' credit in the next world. The pagodas are of all kinds, according to the means of the builders, from primitive white-washed structures to ornate erections with grotesque gilded lions. The lions have various meanings, but stand chiefly as a reminder of selfish devotion. An ancient Burmese legend, taught to all Burmese children, is that of a homeless woman who nursed and guarded the baby son of a king and who died of a broken heart when the prince grew up and went away.

**Cigars and Income.**  
Editorial query: Are the author's data correct? Check yourself and see.  
A dollar a day man smokes three for 5 cents cigars  
Two dollar a day man smokes five cent cigars.  
Four dollar a day man smokes ten cent cigars.  
Eight dollar a day man smokes three for 50 cents cigars.  
Sixteen dollar a day man smokes twenty-five cent cigars.  
Thirty-two dollar a day man smokes three for 50 cents cigars.  
Sixty-four dollar a day man smokes ten cent cigars.  
On hundred and twenty-eight dollar a day man smokes five-cent cigars.  
Two hundred and fifty-six dollar a day man smokes three for 5 cents cigars.

Editorial query No. 2: If the author's data are correct what's the answer? —New York World.

**Japan's Anthem.**  
The Japanese national anthem is the most poetically worded in the world, with the possible exception of the Norwegian, "Ja, vi elsker," written by Bjornstjerne Bjornson. That is, of course, a matter of opinion, but the Japanese anthem is commendably short and makes, in its English form, an eminently pleasing poem. Its ten lines are as follows:

Until this grain of sand,  
Tossed by each wavelet's freak,  
Grow to a cloud gilt peak,  
Towering above the land;  
Until the dewy fountains  
Beside this blossom's gold  
Swell to a mighty lake—  
Joy to us open untold,  
Add for our brethren's sake,  
—London Chronicle.

**Panorama.**  
The panorama was invented by one Robert Barker of Scotland as far back as 1786. In 1788 Barker exhibited at Edinburgh a view of that city painted around the walls of a circular building, the first picture of its kind ever seen. He then commenced similar exhibitions in London, having adopted the name "panorama." He later on built commodious quarters in Leicester square for his exhibitions. Barker died in 1806, leaving his well nigh perfected art to be continued by others.

**A Useless Question.**  
Aunt Eliza came up the walk and said to her small nephew:  
"Good morning, Willie. Is your mother in?"  
"Sure she's in," replied Willie truthfully. "Do you suppose I'd be working in the garden on Saturday morning if she wasn't?"

**Believed Him.**  
Blinks—Do you save much?  
Winks—No. As soon as I save a dollar—my wife saves ten cents more by spending it for something that's marked down.—New York Globe.

**Her Method.**  
Blinks—Do you save much?  
Winks—No. As soon as I save a dollar—my wife saves ten cents more by spending it for something that's marked down.—New York Globe.

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# For the Children

The Happy Boy Who Had a Dog Named Peto.



**I've got a dog.** The other boys have quantities of toys and toys and heaps of things that I ain't seen (Ain't saw, I mean).  
**I know a feller that has a dog.** And, gee, you ought to see him drive! But I've  
**Got a dog!**

**I've got a dog.** His name is Peto. The other children on our street have lots of things that I ain't got (I mean have not).  
**I know a boy that's got a gun.** I don't see why they have such fun playing with things that ain't alive. But I've  
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# Milady's Mirror

How to Get Thin.

"I have often thought," says a woman in France in a recent issue of Woman's World, "that the women who are thin but two-thirds as plump as those that want to get thin. These are ever most a person who would be perfectly satisfied with his weight."

"Of the overcast and overcast women, perhaps the overcast are the most to be pitied. At least they seem to be. They are. It is always possible that thin person to pad himself out to a plumper, but it is extremely difficult for the heavy person to disengage his firmity. A good correct of overcast for dark and quiet color in dress and strict avoidance of horizontal stripes will do much to improve the appearance of her figure, but even these are of little avail if she does not exercise the line between plumpness and thinness."

"Like other beauty tips, however, the superstitious must be taken into account. No heavy woman will be plump and steadily gaining in weight from month to month and from year to year until some day they wake up with the terrible realization that they are fat. Then a frightful war goes on and the victim begins to entertain a morbidly wild idea of becoming a 'faded beauty' and to answer 'selfish' advertisements and write pathetic letters to beauty editors."

"While it is possible for a really thin person to reduce her weight, it usually only be done by unusual physical and excessive and often painful exertion, whereas a very moderate amount of self denial and exercise in time might have kept her from ever becoming an unsightly person."

"In the vast majority of cases, however, every case, I believe, in which the fat is due to actual disease—obesity—such a patient by too much dieting will do little good. This may mean, however, to the doctor, that the patient should not eat more than she needs, but she might as well begin by eating less in the first place."

"Therefore the woman that thinks she is putting on flesh at an alarming rate should start out to regulate her diet. She is almost sure to find that she is eating more than she needs, and this is the first step to the solution of her problem."

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# MADONNA OF THE MEYER FAMILY.



ries in the early days of the church, was that a luminous angel shining like a star led the magi on their way. Another explanation was that the Holy Spirit took the form of a star, as he descended like that of a dove at the baptism of Jesus by John.

The beautiful tale of the star of Bethlehem is contained in the second chapter of Matthew:

"Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judaea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to worship him."

"Saying, Where is he that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him."

Herod is troubled on hearing this and calls in his chief priests and scribes to learn where Christ should be born. They told him in Bethlehem. The account goes on:

"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared."

"And he sent them into Bethlehem and said, Go and search diligently for the young child, and when ye have found him bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

"When they had heard the king they departed, and lo, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."

"When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

They did not return to Herod, however, being warned in a dream.

Another story of the Nativity that has made an equal appeal to artists is that of the shepherds. This occurs in the second chapter of Luke:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid."

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

"For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: