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Easter Customs in Other Lands

Easter day, the only church festival, according to an authority, that is sanctioned by the Bible, yet takes its name from the heathen goddess, Eostre. In every part of the world, almost, this joyous season in which we celebrate the greatest event in history, the Resurrection of Our Lord, is marked by many picturesque customs, many of which, unhappily, are gradually falling into disuse.

In Russia. One cannot help speculating how Easter will be observed this year in this land, where Terror still reigns supreme. In prewar days it was the outstanding event in the year in the lives



Russian Peasants Salute Each Other on Easter Sunday, Saying: "Christ is Risen!"

of countless peasants. For months beforehand they scurped and saved every kopeck, so that they might provide themselves with at least one new garment to wear for the first time on Easter day. If they could afford it they bought themselves an entirely new outfit.

Men and women meeting each other, change the customary salutation of "Good morning" to "Christ is risen," to which response is promptly made, "He is risen, indeed."

The Easter dinner was a most elaborate meal, and in many places the festivities were continued for a whole week.

In France. During this season in the south of France crowds of young men in holiday attire, and of merry men, parade the streets, carrying chairs lined with white silk and decorated in a lovely fashion with spring flowers and gay



In the South of France Pretty Girls Are Chaired Through the Streets.

ribbons. The first girl they come across is captured, placed in the vehicle and borne away in triumph amid shouts of laughter. The ransom of a kiss is demanded before the captive maiden is released by her kidnapers.

This well-known practice is no deterrent, for instead of keeping girls indoors, there appear to be more of them about in the streets than usual, so it must be presumed that they are by no means averse from the old custom, the origin of which is difficult to determine.

Among the Cherry Blossoms. The great white festival of Shinto is held at Eastertide in Japan, as it heralds the resurrection of Nature from the white-shrouded tomb of winter. Then all Japan goes out rickshaw riding to view the cherry trees, which are laden with lovely blossoms. They line the roadways for miles; no house is too poor to possess several in the tiny garden, and as the sweet spring



Easter is the Feast of Cherry Blossoms in Japan.

breezes shake the boughs a constant pink snowstorm prevails throughout the day. The sweetly tinted petals fall until they are an inch deep on the ground, and then the children, daintily dressed in their kimonos, disport themselves and roll about amongst the fallen blossoms. Laughter and song ring through the land, for three days the temples are thrown wide open, and there is an entire cessation of work for that period.



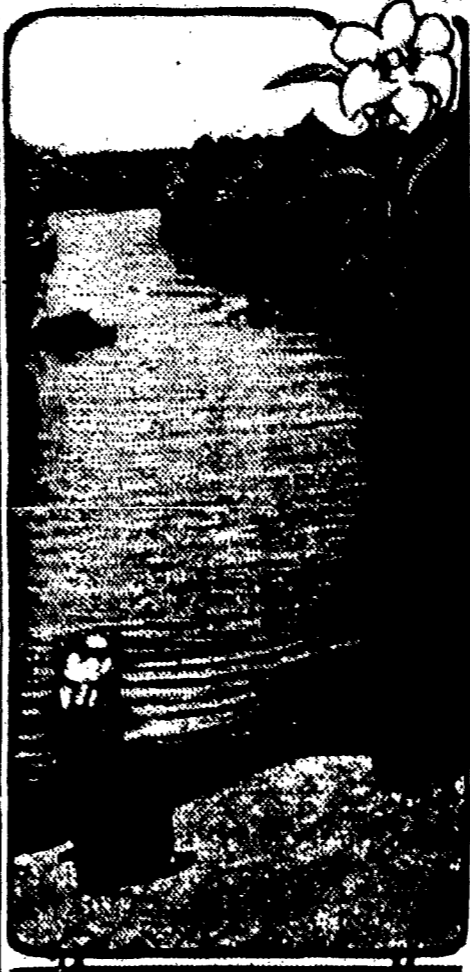
Easter Eggs

The one who gets a golden egg will plenty have and never beg.
 The one who gets an egg of blue will find a sweetheart fond and true.
 The one who gets an egg of green will jealous be and not serene.
 The one who gets an egg of black bad luck and troubles near will lack.
 The one who gets an egg of white in life shall find supreme delight.
 The one who gets an egg of red will many tears of sorrow shed.
 Who gets an egg of purple shade will die a bachelor or maid.
 A silver egg will bring much joy and happiness without alloy.
 A lucky one the egg of pink.
 The owner ne'er see danger's brink.
 The one who gets an egg of brown will have an establishment in town.
 The one who speckled egg obtains will go through life by country lanes.
 A striped egg bodes care and strife.
 A sullen man or scolding wife,
 The one who gets an egg of plaid, His heart is good but luck is bad.

CLEANSED FROM SIN IN JORDAN

Thousands of Russian Pilgrims Bathe in the River at Eastertide.

Jews are not the only people who regard the Holy city as their Mecca. Every year a little before Easter a long line of Russian pilgrims may be seen tramping their way from Jaffa, where they left their steamer, bound for Jerusalem. During Holy week the city is filled to overflowing with these peasants who participate in the various ceremonies, afterward traveling to the River-Jordan to bathe in its cleansing waters in the firm belief that they will be washed of their sins. It is a curious sight to watch these pilgrims from the time they leave the boat at Jaffa until they finally reach the Holy city. Young men and women, old men and women have hoarded



The Winding Jordan.

their pitiful earnings all through the year in order to make this trip and receive the blessing of Russian priests in Jerusalem.

When they reach the Via Dolorosa, or Road of Sorrows, that threads its way like a white ribbon between the city bulwarks and the dusty hills of the Mount of Olives, they pause and shout their hosannas, for was it not over this very road which Christ passed on his way to Gethsemane?

While Holy week with its holy fire and other big celebrations is a memorable occasion to them, frequently the one event of their lifetime, it is the visit to the River Jordan that is marked on the calendar of their days ever thereafter. While the men are being baptized in the holy waters, the women roll their skirts to their knees, remove their shoes and stockings and wade in the mud along the shore, eager for contact with the river which is bound to wash away their sins. When all the men have been immersed the women take their turn, the Russian priests officiating the same as for the men folk.

Easter Beliefs



It is lucky to receive an unexpected gift of an Eastern egg.

It is bad luck to paint a cross on Easter eggs and good luck to paint flowers on them.

A tiny lamb or a rabbit presented you on Easter Sunday insures you good luck for the rest of the year.

It is said to insure luck for the rest of the year if you wear a sprig of green on your clothes on Easter day.

If you were born on Easter day, you are the luckiest child of all and in addition you brought good luck to your parents.

The custom of wearing a new bonnet on Easter day began in England centuries back as it was supposed to bring good luck.

It brings good luck to a house, it is said, if a friend brings an infant into the house for the first time on Easter morning.

It is an Irish superstition that the sun dances for joy on Easter morn. "It gave three skips just as it came over the hill, for I saw it with my own eyes," said an Irish woman.

Did you ever wonder at the origin of the egg-rolling custom on Easter day? It used to be practiced with the idea that the farm lands over which the eggs were rolled would be sure to yield abundantly at harvest time.

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An illustration of a woman in a dress, part of the Lu Nette Shop advertisement.

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