

Would Experts Call 'El Greco' a Fake?

New York — Was El Greco ever hailed before the Spanish Inquisition for "theological inaccuracies" in his paintings? Should objection be made to a film which, in late 1966, unnecessarily revives one of the embarrassing periods of Church history?

These questions were put before reviewers of the national

Holiday Deadline

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday the Catholic Courier Journal goes to press one day earlier for Friday delivery. All copy must reach this office by Friday, today, to assure publication. Copy arriving on Monday will be processed as it arrives.

Catholic film offices as they prepared to help classify "El Greco," believed to be the first major film ever to center on the Inquisition. Starring Mel Ferrer as Domenico Theotocopulos, the 16th Century painter from Crete who was nicknamed "The Greek" (El Greco) by fellow art students in Rome, the film recently had its American premiere in Toledo, Ohio, following its world premiere in Toledo, Spain, where the picture was made.

The moral rating given to the film by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures was A-3 (morally unobjectionable for adults) even though NCOMP research found that El Greco was never brought before the Inquisition — which would make the film's main storyline inaccurate. A lesser rating — A-4, B or even C — reasoned the acting head of NCOMP, Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J., "would make it appear we were saying that the Inquisition was not that bad, no matter how we worded our observation."

In the film, El Greco arrives in Toledo in 1576, commissioned to do an altarpiece, "The Adoration of the Shepherds," in the Church of Santo Domingo el Antiguo. Among the very first lines of dialogue, as El Greco and a companion make their way through Toledo's narrow, twisting streets is reference to the ever-present eyes and ears of the Holy Office. "Keep out of the clutches of the Church's claw," El Greco is warned, a reference to the Inquisitor General, Cardinal de Guevara. (An actual portrait of him by El Greco, seen in the film, bears an uncanny resemblance to the actor — Mario Feliciani—who plays the cardinal.)

As El Greco's fame grows, he receives more important commissions in Toledo—one scene features an unveiling of an El Greco work for King Philip II in the 750-year-old Cathedral of Toledo — but when he falls in love with the daughter of a nobleman, the storyline goes, he creates bitter enemies who

framed him for witchcraft and El Greco is soon brought before the Spanish Inquisition, where he must defend his paintings from—among other things—charges of "inaccuracies of color."

Despite the lack of evidence to prove El Greco was ever brought before the Spanish Inquisition (records show that he once appeared as an interpreter on behalf of a Greek friend, however), one of the NCOMP consultants reasoned:

"The calling of El Greco before the Inquisition is complete fabrication so far as all available research shows, but the film does contain some truth in that El Greco seems to be representing everyone who was ever called before it. The film may be following the method of El Greco and other artists who condense and distort reality in order to present a truth more forcefully."

Besides, argued another, the film is "not specifically anti-Church — there is so much

more they could have put in to make the Church look worse." Also, it was observed, El Greco is acquitted by the Inquisition, which bows to the artist's insistence that creative vision must not be hampered by rigid rules. At the time, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "The Christian artist was surrounded by a strict network of prohibitions and prescriptions. . . . The slightest error bordered on heresy. To alter anything in the garments of the saints or the Blessed Virgin . . . were all serious matters."

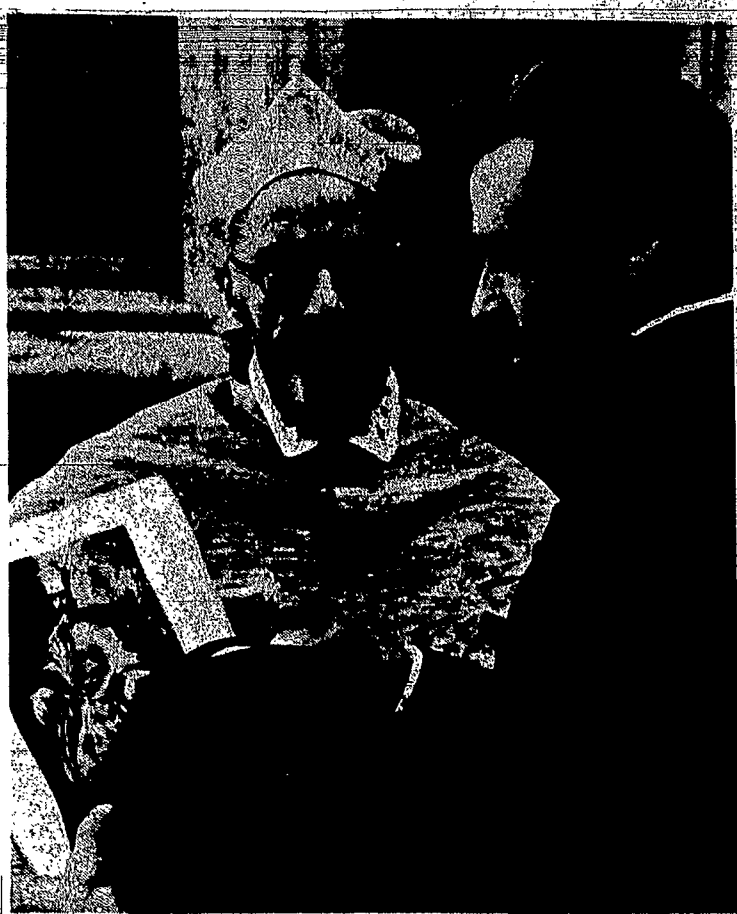
The research required of the NCOMP consultants turned up some intriguing facts and theories about El Greco himself, among them: that he was sent to Toledo by the Pope as "an instrument of the Counter-Reformation," according to one art history. In one of his paintings of Christ, called "The Espolio," Christ is pictured standing at the foot of the Cross and off in one corner are three likenesses of His mother — as a way of countering the

de-emphasis on Mary at the time. The controversy over the "three Marys" constitute part of the film.

Nevertheless, there were strong objections registered by some NCOMP reviewers, especially against the "falsifying of history" and because "in its efforts to castigate the prejudices of 16th century Spain, it breathes the prejudices of 20th century small-town America."

Fr. Sullivan himself found it "so poorly done we didn't want to give it the 'class' of an A-4 rating," but a high-school teaching Brother observed:

"One of the most timely conflicts in our society is the dash between creative freedom and institutional law. The presence of this conflict in 'El Greco' makes the film relevant to the contemporary viewer." —Catholic Press Features



Mel Ferrer as El Greco examines a painting of the 16th century Inquisitor General, Cardinal Guevara, who is played—with remarkable similarity in appearance—by Mario Feliciani.

Plastic Totems Aid Indians

By MONICA REEVES

In an area of our nation where its citizens live in mud-covered shacks, and where electricity and plumbing are considered luxuries, a former Rochester woman attempts to create an oasis of hope for its 3,000 Cheyenne Indian residents.

Miss Ruth Rogers, former organist at St. John's of Greece and founder of the catechetical school at Blessed Sacrament, is presently working at the St. Labre Indian School, 125 miles southeast of Billings, Montana.

The school tries to alleviate the social and economic problems of a people whose way of life was established almost 80 years ago as a result of a series of broken treaties which confined these hapless people to a strip of land 40 miles long and 20 miles wide. The problems confronted are many and varied: unemployment, appalling living conditions, and alcoholism being just a few.

To meet the challenge of these ground was broken last May for desperately needed elementary and high schools.

An eastern plastic manufacturing company has been induced to establish a factory on the reservation. The project is for 100 Cheyenne men. It is here that the plastic totems and other tribal symbols are made which are sent out when St. Labre's makes its appeal for much needed financial support. St. Labre's is helping to sponsor a low cost housing project to replace the squalid shacks that serve as homes for the Cheyennes at present.

Acceptance of these white people whose ancestors help to create the conditions in which alcoholism flourishes because it seems the only way out of a seemingly futile way of life, is the chief problem faced by the volunteers at St. Labre.

But the most effective way to correct these problems is through the children, the school has found. After being fed three nourishing meals a day, and being given a spacious, well-lighted place in which to play on many days and clean sheets between which to sleep at night,

Miss Rogers and her co-workers have discovered that almost any Cheyenne child is receptive to new ideas about how to live better lives — both physically and spiritually.

It is, in Miss Rogers' words, a problem of acceptance. "We must be accepted before we can accomplish anything here. This is so necessary to help them overcome the 'apathy' toward 'everything.'"

Because their parents must devote all their time to maintain even a subsistence level of existence, the children are often in need of personal attention and care. Miss Rogers and her fellow workers are often the source of this, as is illustrated by this story reported by Miss Rogers:

A couple of weeks ago I heard an urgent type of knocking on my door at 3 a.m., so I dragged myself out of bed and hastily tried to don robe and slippers. When I finally made it to the door, there stood a tiny first-grader staring up at me and asked, "Mrs. Rogers, can I go to the bathroom?" Well, you can imagine my reaction! (I thought, quite naturally from the rapid pounding on the door, that she was ill). As though that wasn't enough, the next night I had another rapid knocking on my door. This time I didn't even bother to put on a robe. I opened the door and there stood a third-grader looking at me and said, "Mrs. Rogers' (between sobs), "I'm lonesome." Well, guess what I did! I took her to bed with me but since we were a bit crowded in my single bed I took her into the dormitory and put her to bed with her best girl friend.

First Friday Circle

The First Friday Circle, a group which rolls bandages to be distributed through the Catholic Medical Mission Board to world missions, is in need of used sheets and pillow cases so that it might continue its work. Arrangements may be made to pick up any donations by calling Mrs. Howard Nichols at BU 8-5456 or Mrs. Mae Stordant at BU 8-8028.

OF VALUES



DECORATED COCKTAIL SHAKER AND MIXER
With Aluminum Cover...
Spout and Cap
77¢

Decorated With Colorful Parisian Scenes

SUPER DELUXE SEVEN TRANSISTOR RADIO OUTFIT
BUILT FOR LONG DISTANCE RECEPTION — QUALITY TONE —
No Finesse... Quality of...
DAW'S Low Price **5.99**

Complete With: Earphone, Battery, and Carry Case

Kleenex DESIGNER NAPKINS
Fine-Quality CHOICE OF COLORS
Reg. 29¢ **23¢**
Pkg. of 75

WORLD'S FASTEST, FINEST FOOD PREPARATION APPLIANCE
VEG-O-MATIC FOOD CHOPPER
Slices, Dices... Makes French Fries
Slice Tomatoes, Dice Carrots, Makes Perfect French Fries... You'll Be Delighted With It's Hundreds of Uses...
Veg-O-Matic Saves You Hundreds of Food Preparation Hours
7.77
AS SEEN ON TV

AUTOMATIC BATTERY OPERATED CARD SHUFFLER
Complete With Battery
DAW'S Low Price **6.88**
Shuffles Cards... QUICKLY... THOROUGHLY
Gives Cards a Fast, Thorough Shuffle Everytime

Jewel Boxes 2.00
Finishes in Gilt, Silver, Silver Antique, Gilt/Enamel
All Exquisitely Designed... All Velvet Lined

Punch Bowl Set
Large Gracelac Punch Bowl and 12 Matching Cups
Terrific Value **1.77**
Or Buy Individually...
Bowl... 98¢
Cups... 98¢

Chip 'n Dip ENSEMBLE
Crystal CLEAR with Brass Fixtures
Packed in Sturdy Carton
1.55

Colgate new SUPER SIZE TOOTH PASTE
FREE REUSABLE ROLL-UP KEY!
Reg. \$1.19 Value **77¢**
Limit Two

Lanolin-Plus HAIR SPRAY
— All-Types —
Reg. 99¢ **56¢**
Limit Two

Gillette POWER SPRAY RIGHT GUARD DEODORANT
Reg. \$2.29 **1.27**
Jumbo 13-oz.
Gives 24 Hour Protection... for the Whole Family
Limit Two

Vitalis
With V-7 Keeps Hair-Neat All Day Without Grease
Reg. \$1.09 Value **66¢**

Pepto-Bismol
...for UPSET Stomach
Reg. 63¢ 4-oz. Size
Regular 98¢ Size... 63¢

reef MOUTHWASH
14-oz. Size
Reg. \$1.09 Value **57¢**

Pepsodent ADULT STRAIGHT LINE DESIGN TOOTH BRUSHES
SOFT, MEDIUM or HARD
Reg. 69¢ **33¢**

DAW'S COUPON NESTLE'S QUIK
A Delicious Chocolate Mix Rich in Vitamin C & Iron... Mixes Instantly
Reg. 45¢ 1-lb. Tin **33¢**
(Limit Two)
COUPON EXPIRES WED. NIGHT NOV. 23rd

GRAY PLASTIC BOOT CADDY
25" x 16" x 11"
Protect Your Fine Floors
HOLDS BOOTS, PROVIDES DRIP TRAY FOR UMBRELLAS
Value **47¢**

DAW'S COUPON HALF and HALF or RALEIGH PIPE TOBACCO
Reg. 20¢ Each **2 for 29¢**
Limit 1 Pipe
COUPON EXPIRES WED. NIGHT NOV. 23rd

DuPont Cellulose SELF-WRINGING SPONGE MOP
Choice of: CORAL, YELLOW TURQUOISE
With Long Hand
DAW'S Low Price **98¢**
— Fast-Cleaning — Long-Lasting
The Easy Modern Way to Clean and Wax

LAP or BED TRAY
Enjoy... AIRLINE SERVING COMFORT at HOME
Beautifully Decorated, Enameled Trays... on Brass Legs
69¢

7-in. Roller and Paint Tray
Complete With Ladder Hooks
The Easy Modern Way to Cover Walls...
79¢

Glass Fibre Furnace Filters
AIR
• 16" x 20" x 16" x 25"
• 20" x 20" x 20" x 25"
Your Choice **47¢**
For Cleaner Air... for All the Heat You Pay For



Join the parade to:
The smoothest whisky ever to come out of Canada!

4.00