

## ANTIQUITY OF DECORATIVE ART

Strange Sources From Which Pigments Used by Modern Painters Are Derived.

### PRESERVATION OF SURFACES.

Crude but Effective Processes Employed by the Egyptians and Greeks of Pliny's Day—Noah Prudently Waterproofed the Ark.

Whether paint was invented in answer to a need for a preservative or to meet a desire for beauty is a question fully as knotty as the ancient one about the relative time of arrival of the chicken or the egg. It was invented, though, and it serves both purposes equally; so whether it is an offspring of mother necessity or an adopted son of beauty remains forever a disputed question.

The first men, covering under the fierce and glaring suns of the biblical countries, constructed rude huts of wood to shelter them. The perishable nature of these structures caused rapid decay, and it is probable that the occupants, seeking some artificial means of preservation, hit upon the pigments of the earth in their search. It is perhaps natural to suppose that it was the instinct of preservation that led men to the search, although the glories of the sunsets and the location of the rainbow may have created a desire to imitate those wonders in their own dwellings.

The earliest record of the application of a preservative to a wooden structure dates from the ark, which was, according to the Bible, "pitched within and without." The pitch was a triumph of preservation whatever it lacked as a thing of beauty.

Decoration applied to buildings first comes to light with ancient Babylon, whose walls were covered with representations of hunting scenes and of combat. These were done in red and the method followed was to paint the scene on the bricks at the time of manufacture, assuring permanence by baking. Strictly speaking, this was not painting so much as it was the earliest manifestation of our own familiar kalsomining.

The first Hebrew to mention painting is Moses. In the thirty-third chapter of the book of Numbers he instructs the Israelites, "When ye have passed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then shall ye drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their pictures."

At later periods the Jews adopted many customs of the peoples who successively obtained power over them and in the apocryphal book of the Maccabees is found this allusion to the art of decorating, "For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building, but he that undertaketh to set it out and paint it, must seek out things for the adorning thereof."

Although Homer gives credit to a Greek for the discovery of paint, the allusion to it in the books of Moses, the painted osunmy cases of the Egyptians and the decorated walls of Babylon and Thebes fix its origin at a period long antecedent to the Grecian era. The walls of Thebes were painted 1500 years before the coming of Christ and 1000 years before "Once more his blossom" laye.

The Greeks recognized the value of paint as a preservative and made use of something akin to it on their ships. Pliny writes of the mode of boiling wax and painting ships with it, after which, he continues, "neither the sea, nor the wind, nor the sun can destroy the wood thus protected."

The Romans, being essentially a warlike people, never brought the decoration of buildings to the high plane it had reached with the Greeks. For all that the ruins of Pompeii show many structures whose mural decorations are in fair shape to-day. The colors used were glaring. A black background was the usual one and the combinations worked therein red, yellow and blue.

In the early Christian era the use of mosaics for churches somewhat supplanted mural painting. Still, during the reign of Justinian the Church of Saint Sophia was built at Constantinople and its walls were adorned with paintings.

In modern times the uses of paint have come to be as numerous as its myriad shades and tints. Paint is unique in that its name has no synonym and for it there is no substitute material. Bread is the staff of life, but paint is the life of the staff.

No one thinks of the exterior of a wooden building now except in terms of paint needed. Interiors, too, from painted walls and stained furniture down to the loveliest kitchen utensil, all receive their protective covering. Steel, so often associated with cement re-enforcing, is painted before it goes to give solidity to the manufactured stone. The huge girders of the skyscrapers are dulled an ugly but efficient red underneath the surface coat of black. Perhaps the best example of the value of paint on steel is found in the venerable Brooklyn bridge, on which a gang of painters is kept going continually. It is scarce possible to think of a single manufactured article which does not meet paint somewhere in the course of its construction. So has paint grown into the very marrow of our lives.

### REVIEW'S LEGAL BLANKS

The following list of legal blanks are kept for sale at this office and others will be added as the demand arises:

Warranty deeds, Quit Claim Deeds, Realty and Chattel Mortgages, Satisfaction of Mortgages, Contracts for Sale of Realty, Bills of Sale, Leases.

## Uncle Sam Sets a Good Example



VIEW OF U. S. CAPITOL DURING PAINTING.

The dome of the United States Capitol at Washington is kept in excellent condition by painting it every few years. For this work forty painters are steadily employed for three months' time. Over five thousand gallons of paint are required for one coat. The reason for painting the Capitol dome at regular intervals is to prevent disintegration of metallic surface.

### THE COSMETIC OF THE INANIMATE.

- \*I am the savior of surfaces.
- \*I am the world-old preserver.
- \*Noah knew me, for he pitched the ark within and without.
- \*The Pharaohs sought me as an adornment for their tombs—their mummies endure because I conserve.
- \*I am the woad of the ancient Britons: their blue battle hue.
- \*Because of me the treasures of the Sistine Chapel defy effacement.
- \*I am the keeper of the antique.
- \*I am the servant of progress.
- \*Columbus found me bedecking the savages who watched him plant Ferdinand's banner on the shores of New Spain; and the very sails of his caravels resisted the elements of the West through my aid.
- \*The pioneers westward wending their way daubed the prairie schooners with my protection.
- \*I am the royal robes of civilization's monarchs, Steel and Lumber.
- \*The taut wings of the airplane gleam under my protective veneer.
- \*The sullen dreadnaught and the homing transport plow the seas impervious to corrosion because of me.
- \*I waterproofed your agents of destruction, the bullet and the shell.
- \*Then I drew the mercy of my concealing camouflage over your hospitals.
- \*I glisten on the homes, and on the barns, and on the cement surfaces.
- \*Where life is, I am alive.
- \*Where death and decay set in my absence hastens them.
- \*And my mission is to preserve.
- \*Saver of Surface, I am PAINT!



THE QUINCY MANSION, QUINCY, MASS., BUILT IN 1685.

America's classic example of a clapboard building preserved for over two hundred years by careful and frequent painting. It has secret panels, chimney staircase and hiding places, said to have been used by smugglers. Later the home of great statesmen and of the famous belle, Dorothy Quincy.

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| <p>*****<br/> <b>SAVE THE SURFACE.</b><br/>                 *****</p> <p>Save the surface and you save all. Disintegration and decay are conditions which usually start at the surface of any material. Protection against deterioration or rot of substances, therefore, should begin with care of the exterior. Provided a material does not curdy within itself the element of sure decay, proper surface protection will undoubtedly lengthen its life.</p> <p>*****</p> | <p>*****<br/> <b>THE PAINTER'S BEST FRIEND</b><br/>                 *****</p> <p>Of all the many liquid substances which can be used for the binding of paint or dry substances which when dissolved in water are used as vehicles for pigments none fulfills necessary conditions so well as linseed oil, the king of the fixed oils, and what is of enormous importance, does it as cheaply. It is the painter's best friend because it makes his work satisfactory.</p> <p>*****</p> |
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We are adding new and attractive lines to our large stock of Calendars, Wall Pockets and Pictures.

Residents of St. Johns having taxes and city liens to pay in Portland can make their payments without inconvenience by availing themselves of our services. We will pay same and secure your receipt without inconvenience to you. Fee, 25 cents. References: Any St. Johns Bank.—Peninsula Title, Abstract and Realty Co., by H. Henderson, Manager; 402 North Jersey street.

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## Easter Blouses

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## Men's Hats

Men as well as women get the "new hat" idea about this season of the year. We have the nifty ones: the Mallory Make. And Neckties and Collars: well, you should see them, their colors have the rainbow beaten a mile.



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L. E. ROSE, Mgr., Men's Dept.

### Seasonable Electrical Appliances

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### ELECTRIC STORE Electric Building

### Notice to Creditors

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Multnomah. In the matter of the estate of George Robertson, deceased. Notice is hereby given of the death of George Robertson, and that the undersigned has been duly appointed executrix of his estate by the County Judge of Multnomah County, Oregon, and has qualified. All persons having claims against the estate of said decedent are directed to present the same to the undersigned, duly verified, as by law required, at the office of her attorneys, Perkins & Bailey, 1117 Board of Trade Building, Portland, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit: Friday, March 7th, 1919. CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON, Executrix PERKINS & BAILEY, Attorneys for Executrix.

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### Knights and Ladies of Security St. Johns Council 2775

Regular Business meeting 1st and 3rd Mondays. Open meetings to the public and members 2nd and 4th Mondays. Visitors and members cordially invited to attend at Bickner Hall.  
 Frank C. Gasser, Pres.  
 Lester Teeling, Secretary.

**LAUREL LODGE**  
 No. 186 I. O. O. F  
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 H. F. Clark, Treas.

**DORIC LODGE NO. 132**  
 A. F. and A. M.  
 Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month in Bickner's Hall. Visitors welcome.  
 A. R. Davis, W. M.  
 A. W. Davis, Secretary.

**Minerva Chapter No. 105, O. E. S.**  
 Meets every First and Third Tuesday of each month in Bickner's Hall. Visitors welcome.  
 Dixie M. Lewis, W. M.  
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**St. Johns Camp No. 7546**  
 Modern Woodmen of America.  
 We heartily solicit the attendance of our members at our regular meetings every Thursday evening.  
 A. L. Marcy, Geo. Muhn, Clerk  
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 Meets every Friday night at 7:30 o'clock in BICKNER Hall. Visitors always welcome.  
 W. R. EVENS, C. C.

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**St. Johns Camp 773**  
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