WORLD'S OLDEST SYMBOL: THE SWASTIKA

America's Newest Fad is a Good Luck Sign Used Thousands of Years Before the Christian Era

BY JOHN ELFRE A WATKINS. HE "swastika" fad, which lately

started in France, is now sweeping over America from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Everywhere we are seeing this oldest of known symbols and now, after a hiatus of countless millenniums, it agains takes the the lead in human prefercence.

Although this prehistoric symbol is now seen overywhere in the land and is being worn by hundreds of thousands of people. only a small percentage of its beholders or of its wearers, even, can so much as name it. As to its origin, no one knows that-not even the archaeologists who have spent lifetimes in endeavoring to fathom its mysteries. It was invented long before history dawned and had reached the new world long before Columbus, or even Lief Ericsson, had put foot

Universal Good Luck Sign.

The swastika is a cross whose four arms of equal length, are bent at right angles and in the same direction, right or left. Although the symbol has been called by many names in many lands, nearly all countries have now accepted for it the ancient Sanskrit name "swastika," a word which illustrated the sounds of the letter A in Sanskrit grammar. In the estimation of various writers it has been respectively the emblem of the sun, rain, sky and fire gods of various primitive peoples; of Zeus, the ruling god of the Greeks, and, in some primitive religions, of the great God, the Maker and Ruler of the universe. It has also been variously held to symbolize light, the forked lightning and water. It is believed by some to be the oldest symbol of the Aryan peoples, while in the estimation of others it rep-resents Brahma. It appears in the footprints of Buddha, engraved upon the solid rock on the mountains of India. It was also used in connection with Juliter, the ruling god of the Romans, and with the Scandinavian delty, Thor. But at all times the swastika appears to have been a charm or amulet, a sign of benediction, bleasing, long life, good fortune or good

what is known about the swastika today the world is chiefly indebted to Dr. Thomas Wilson, of Washington, who, until his recent death was curator of pre-historic anthropology in the United States National Museum. He made an exhaus-tive study of its migrations, and before mounced his results, not even the "Swastika" appeared in either Webster's or Worcester's dictionaries, while but one of our popular encyclopedias had a reference to it, and that was erroneous. Wilson found the insigna in the an-sities of Persia and Egypt, of the predistoric bronze age in Europe, and of all the countries of the extreme Orient. From these most ancient habitations of man he traced it into Africa and America.

Was on the Breast of Buddha.

In Japan it was found on statues of Buddha, one of which had eight such emblems upon its bronze pedestal. He also found that the Japanese employed it on their porcelains and bronzes. He discov-ered it on articles from Korea, China, Thibet and India. During a visit to the Chinese legation in Washington he found it on the state robes of one of the attaches and was told that in the Chinese language it indicated "many," a great mound on Fains Islanguage it indicated "many," agreat out of the state robes of one of the attaches and was told that in the Chinese industries and its mound on Fains Islanguage it indicated "many," agreat out of the sent of our ancient moundbuilders, found it on a shell ornament is inclosed by a circle and Dr. Wilson was the first to recognize it as in a series of essays by M. Gustave Chinese works on the origin of the emblem in China. Among these was the work of an ancient Buddhist priest de-

I scribing the original Buddha as having the Swaatika mark on his breast. He re-ceived, through the legation, a series of India ink drawings illustrating the symbol used in this way, also as a sign for the sun, etc. According to this data it was the practice of the ancient Chinese on scarfpins, hatpins, belt buckles, pocketbooks, embroideries, pottery and what not. In the revival of this mysterious design history is oddly repeating fiself. It was the fad of the primitive decorators of the bronze and iron ages in Europe, Asia, Africa and America long before history dawned. America long before history dawned, any purpose. Perhaps a swastika factor a pow after a history dawned, then rampant in China, got on this Em peror's nerves.

Prevents the Evil Eye.

That it is common for the people of Thibet to tattoo the swastika on their hands Dr. Wilson learned through W. W. Rockhill, our present Minister to China, who visited Thibet some years ago. It was learned also that the Thibetan was learned also that the Thibetan women ornament their petticoats in this way and that it is also placed on the breasts of their dead. The symbol was found, too, upon Thibetan statues of Buddha. Besides appearing upon the carved footprints of Buddha, in India, this sign was found on ancient Buddhist medals of the same empire. Today in certain parts of India parents of young children liable to the "avil eye" draw it on their walls, bethe "evil eye" draw it on their walls, beside their doorposts or paint it upon the
shaven heads of their little ones when
there is a wedding in the family. In
Persia the symbol is found on ancient
coins and modern rugs. On a bas relief
left by the Hittles it forms a border of the robe of a king or priest offering a sacrifice to a god. It was used also in the Caucasus as early as the first age of iron and is still used there in modern times for the branding of Circassian horses

Many specimens of the awastika were dug out of the ruins of ancient Troy by Henry Schliemann. Some were found even among the remains of the first or oldest of the seven cities excavated. In this land of the fair Helen the ancient symbol was mostly used to decorate stone spindle whoris, although it was found also on pottery, balls, idols and vases of the Trojans.

Used in 3000 B. C.

Swastikas dating back to three millen-iums before Christ have been found on pottery dug up in ancient Egypt. Others are found on the art works of the later Egyptians, down through the dynasties of Greek influence. They have been discovered on objects of pottery, bronze and gold belonging to the ancient Greeks, and it is remarkable that the Greek vases and it is remarkable that the Greek vases on which the swastika appears in largest proportion are the oldest—those belonging to what antiquarians call the archaeld period. The ancients of Cyprus put the sign even on some of their statues, including one of Aphrodite and another of a centaur. It was employed in Italy through all the epochs of the Etruscan and Roman and into the Christian period. It was used in France during the bronze and iron ages and after the occupation of Gaul by Julius Caesar. The tribes of ancient Scandinavia and Britain punched it into their bronzes and the "triskelon" which formed the armorial emblem of the Island of Sicily and also of the Isle of Man formed the armorial emblem of the Isl-and of Sicily and also of the Isle of Man gether, soles uppermost. It has a slim

Used by Our Moundbuilders.

But that the swastika found its way to But that the swastika found its way to
America in prehistoric times is much
more remarkable than the fact that it
was so widely scattered over the Old
World, with its connected grand divis
World, with its connected grand divis-



of the ruins of one of the famous Ohio moundbuilders—the Hopewell mound, at Chillicothe.

The Indians Used It.

Our moundbuilders having made the swastika it is by no means remarkable that many such symbols have been found among their descendants, the Indians, as the white man has known them. The Kansas Indian warriors, who removed the hearts of slain foes and put them in

BUDDHA AND

PAINTING

THE SWASTIKA-

FROM A CHINESE

the cross, was a design simple enough to have been invented independently by many primitive tribes-to have originated in many places by designers ignorant of the fact that others had designed it else-where. Dr. Wilson, after assembling all of the data above abstracted, concluded that the swastika was not simple enough to have come to the minds of many persons. He found that it was almost un-known among Christian peoples; that it was not included in any of the modern European or American decorative designs or works on decoration. He discovered that its use in modern times has been confined principally to oriental and Scanconfined principally to oriental and Scan-dinavian countries—countries which hold close relations with antiquity; in Western Europe where the swastika was most frequent in ancient times it has become ex-tinct in the last 1000 or 2000 years. He found it used on the same style of ob-ject in Europe, Asia and America. He came to the conclusion that the distribution of the swastika was due to migra-tion contact or communication between tion, contact or communication between the peoples of the old and new world as early as the time of the moundbuilders, the oldest civilization in America, who flourished prior to any historic knowledge which we have of communication be-tween the two hemispheres; that some immigrants from the old world brought this symbol to America long before the days of Lief Ericsson, who is alleged to have landed here about A. D. 1000. As to the swastika's migrations in the old world it has been held that the Phoenicians, finding it in the Orient, brought it across the Persian Gulf to Asia Minor and Cyprus, other peoples bringing it by the overland route from Central Asia and Asia Minor.

Is One Form of the Cross.

"I have come to regard the swastiks merely one form of the cross, the distinction being merely one of detail," said Professor W. H. Holmes, chief of the bureau of ethnology, when I asked him for his theory as to the origin of the symbol. "The cross as a religious symbol, in one form or another, came into exist-ence long before the beginning of the Christian era-so far beyond the begin-nings of history, indeed, that there is not the least possibility of obtaining defi-nite knowledge of its earliest origin. The cross was in very general use in America at the time of the discovery. In nearly all branches of art in which surface ornament is an important factor signs are rectangles, circles and ovals or are borders or zones divided into squares or parallelograms for ready treatment. When simple figures are duced in fours, thus filling the spaces evenly and symmetrically. This quadru-ple arrangement in a multitude of cases

Secret Marks on United State's Postage Stamps

Secret marks long undiscovered and other peculiarities give exceptional value to many of the United States postage stamps lesued from 1870 to 1875.

The stamps of 1870 were printed by the National Bank Note Company and were stamps of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue, at \$1.50, and the stamp of the 1870-71 lesue. National Bank Note Company and were all embossed in relief on the back. They consisted of 11 denominations-one-cent, ultramarine, with the portrait of Franklin; three-cent, green, portrait of Washweven-cent, vermillon, Stanton; ten-cent, brown, Jefferson; twelve-cent, violet, fifteen-cent, orange, Webster; twenty-four-cent, purple, Scott; thirtycent, black, Hamilton, and ninety-cent,

In 1873 the Continental Bank Note Company, of New York, got the contract for printing the stamps, and while it used the identical plates of the former company its engravers added to each denomination a secret mark, almost undiscoverable by the layman, that the two issues might be distinguished. The stamps were of the same general colors as the 1870

private mark was found on the twelvecent stamp, and afterward mark after nominations were found to have secret marks except the 24, 30 and 90-cent stamps. These were distinguished by other peculiarities

The stamps of the 1870-75 period can be divided into five general classes: Those of 1870-71, with embossing on the back; those of 1870-71, without embossing; the Continental Company's stamps of 1873; the stamps specially printed for sale to collectors in 1875, and, lastly, the regular issue of 1875, of which the two denomina-

tions were specially printed.

The rarest one-cent stamp of this series is that of the special printing of 1875, which can be recognized by the fact that it is printed on hard, white, woven paper instead of the regular paper of the 1873 issue. Lake the regular one-cent stamp of 1873 it bears a secret mark, which consists of a small crescent drawn. which consists of a small crescent drawn inside the first small white ball to the left of the large figure "1." This stamp unused is valued at \$50. A stamp with the same mark but on the regular paper is worth \$1, and that without any mark, the regular stamp of 1870-71, with embossing, is valued at \$7.50.

with embossing, which does not show the mark at \$5.

The three-cent, blue-green special printing stamp is valued at \$50. The secret mark consists of the lower part of the tall in the heavy shading of the left ribbon. The stamps on regular paper with the secret mark and that without it are both valued at \$1. On the six-cent dull rose stamp on the

hard white paper the first four vertical lines of the shading in the lower part of the left ribbon have been strengthened as a means of identification. This stamp, unused and in perfect condition, is valued at \$50. The same design on regular paper is quoted at \$1.75, while the one without the private mark is valued at \$15, if embossed.

The vermillon colored 7-cent stamp of the special series of 1875, is valued at \$40.

the special series of 1875 is valued at \$40. The characteristics which distinguish it consist of two small semicircles drawn around the ends of the line which outlines the ball in the lower right-hand cor ner. The same stamp printed on the regular paper is quoted at \$5, and the one without the mark and embossed on the back at \$15, both of these quotations being

for unused and perfect specimens.

The 10-cent pale brown stamp on hard, white woven paper has a private mark in the form of a tiny crescent in the white ball at the right end of the upper label. In unused state it is valued at \$50, the same design or results appear being valued at \$5. design on regular paper being valued at \$5. This denomination of the 1870-71 issue, without mark, but showing a plain white ball at the end of the label, is also fairly rare, and is quoted at \$35 in unused and mint condition with embossing.

The rarest of the 12-cent stamps is that of the color of the 12-cent stamps is that

of the color of dull violet of the 1870-71 issue. But three specimens of this stamp are known in unused condition, and the last one sold brought \$25, which is considered below its value today.

sidered below its value today.

This stamp was used on letters forwarded to Australia, and as there were no remainders left when the issue was discontinued the number of unused copies is remarkably small. Even in used condition it is scarce, and a fine specimen is quoted at \$75.

bossing, is valued at \$7.50.

The two-cent stamp of the special printing series is also the rarest of the denomination of the period mentioned. The stamp is dark brown, is printed on the same paper as the one-cent and the same paper as the one-cent and the stamp is dark brown, is printed on the stamp of this series to bear a secret mark was that of 15 cents. In this the two lines forming a "V" in the label of Representatives.

is quoted at \$25 in the same condition while the stamp bearing the secret mark

vicinity, yet parts of its style are

ent from other images of the North American aborigines. The figure squats

waist, winged arms, long feet, broad toes and triple lines of garters or anklets, all showing different characteristics of physique and dress from those of the

but on regular paper is valued at \$7.50. The rarest of the whole series is the 24-The rarest of the whole series is the 24-cent purple stamp of 1870-71, with Scott's portrait and embossing on the back. There is only one specimen known in unused condition, and this is valued at from \$1500 up to any premium a collector may choose to offer. In used and perfect condition it is valued at \$100. It is remarkable that this stamp is so rare in unused condition, as the records show that a total of \$51.075 as the records show that a total of 651.073

were printed in 1870 and 1871.
Probably the next in rarity is the 24 cent dull purple stamp of the specia cent duil purple stamp of the special printing, which is valued at \$40. There are two varieties of the 34-cent stamp without embossing, but it has not been definitely settled which company printed thers.

The 30-cent stamp of the special printing, greenish black in color, is quoted at \$50. The one printed in plain black of the

1870-71 issue with embossing is held to be worth \$25, and the green black stamp of 1873 is valued at \$10. 1873 is valued at \$10.

The last denomination of the entire series is the 90-cent stamp, which, violet carmine in color and on hard white, woven paper, is now quoted when unused at \$50. The unused carmine stamp of the same denomination of the 1870-71 issue is

valued at \$25 with embossing, and the rose carmine stamp of 1873 on regular paper at \$5 when unused. at 8 when unused.

The regular issue of 1875 consisted of but two denominations, the 2-cent vermilion, with the portrait of Jackson, and the 5-cent blue stamp, bearing the bust of Taylor. These are quite common, being quoted respectively at \$1.25 and \$2.50 in unused condition, but special printing specimens of the two denominations are very soarce. Of the latter the 2-cent carmine vermillon stamp on hard, white paper is valued at \$30, while the bright blue 5-cent stamp on the same paper is valued at the

Paradox of the Tariff.

Henry Litchfield West in the Forum The Republican party is already pledged to conduct its next campaign upon the promise that after the election the tariff will be revised. The Democratic party does not question the sincerity of this promise, but it does doubt the thoroughness of the proposed revision. On the very threshold of the contest, at \$15.

The next in rarity of this denomination is the one of special printing which is distinguished from the first by a secret mark consisting of two small crescents in the figure "I' instead of round balls as on the others. The stamp, unused, is valued at \$40. This stamp printed on regular paper when unused is quoted at \$12.

This stamp printed on regular paper when unused is quoted at \$12.

only fail to secure any revision, but it will fasten the present schedules upon the country for the next four years. This paradox is explained by the fact that the Senate is not only Republican will continue beyond peradventure to be Republican until 1912. Out of the 20 members of the Senate, only 32 are Democrats, and only a political revolution of the most remarkable mature will materially increase this number during the next four years. This Re-publican Senate will stand as a bulwark against any legislation emanat-ing from a politically hostile House.

An Ibsen Girl. Hedds lived up in a region More or less unknown to fame Both, however, were Norwegian Gabler was her other name.

She had, so it seems, a father Upon whom she had relied For provisions; but who rather Infelicitously died.

All he had he left in care of Hedds. It consisted of All the Gabler pride, a pair of Fistols, and his fondest love. Hedda, having wept what pearly Little fears she could afford. Rose, next morning, rather early, Rather surly, rather bored;

For it seemed she simply had to Set her bonnet, as it were, For a man who would be glad to Marry and provide for her.

That she found a poor assortment Proved to be her sorry lot; Men of, morals and deportment Rarely frequented the spot. Of the few who did impress her Mrs. Grundy would indorse Nons—except a poor professor. Hedda, she was bored, of course.

Still, as he was well respected. He was presently selected, Married and, when prudent, pecked.

For it was against her wishes To have household duties—such As the laundering of dishes; Dishes bored her very much! And as bridge and modern motor-Cars were not, as yet, in view— Having nothing to devote her Time and inclination to;

Lovely Hedda would disparage Everything;—as if to lead One to think the bond of marriage Bored her very much indeed. Happliy, a friend, a writer— Cared no longer to exist; Thinking that it would excite her, Hedda offered to assist;

Asked the writer would be care to Use one of the pistols that. She had lately fallen heir to; She would gladly place it at

His disgosal—would be promise To observe the rules of Art. He agreed and thanked her from his Somewhat sorrow-laden heart,

Promising to do it nicely
And with vine-leaves in his hair.
This he didn't do, precicely;
And, when she became aware
Of his consequent disorder.
She took one departing breath
As the other pistol bored her—
Bored her, as it were, to death.
James Finnesen, Jr., in Harper's Weekly.

Was Accomplished With a Washtub

something, was the son of a ing and living. washerwoman, a widow who earned a living for herself and her two chil-dren and gave them both a college education and a profession by means of her washtub and flatiron. Mrs. Blank is now living with her son and daughter in her home, a pretty cot-tage in a suburb of Boston. Her son is a lawyer with a thriving practice and her daughter, besides being the organist of a church in Boston, is a

teacher in a music school.
"Both my husband and I were born and brought up on farms here in New England and on marrying we went out to live on a farm in the north-western part of Michigan," Mrs. Blank told the reporter, who found her watering the pot plants on the plazza of her home. "When my daughter was eight and my son six my husband died and I faced the world alone with no capital except good health and a mort-

capital except good health and a mortgaged farm.

"The question, as I put it to myself,
was whether I should remain in Michigan and work and pay off the mortgage, allowing the children to go
without a proper education, but to
have the farm free of debt on their
coming of age, or to sell out and take
the money left after paying off the
mortgage and bring them East, where
they could get an education.

"After two weeks' thought I decided to sell out and come back to the East. I selected Boston, because it was large enough to get work in and because I knew that a good education was to be had for both my son and daughter at a nominal cost, if not en-

tirely free.
"After everything was settled and my railroad tickets were bought there was less than \$100 left. But I had good health and had been accustomed to hard work all my life, so the small amount in my pocketbook didn't worry

"On the train I put another ques-

"On the train I put another question to myseif. I was confident that I could make a living in two ways, as a cook or as a washerwoman. Which should it be?

"That was the question that kept my brain busy on that long trip from the West. If I went out as a cook, while I would have my meals and quarters furnished I would be compelled to put my children in an institution. On the other hand I could keep them with me and have a little home of our own if I took in washing. That decided me in favor of becoming a

"My first care after arriving in Bos-ton was to get shelter. It was two small rooms in a cheap but decent part who are working their way through

O NE of the honor men at Harvard, of Boston. One room was for wash-class of nineteen hundred and ing and cooking, the other for sleep-

"The second day I entered my chil-dren in the public schools and set out to hunt washing. I appealed first at a large school, the very music school in which my daughter now teaches. I came away with washing from four "I worked for the students exclusive-

ly for two years. Then, having saved up enough money to rent larger quarters I bired an assistant and began to take lace curtains and fine starch clothes. In less than three months I had more work than I and my assistant could do properly, so I hired another woman to do the plain things, while we did the fancy work.

"When my daughter was 15 years old she finished her course in the public schools and announced her intention of staying at home and helping as Africant of the staying at home and helping as the staying at helping as the staying at home and helping as the staying at home and helping as the staying at helping as the staying at helping

staying at home and helping me. After much talking and reasoning I found out that besides wishing to help me she had been twitted by her schoolshe had been twitted by her school-mates with being the daughter of a washerwoman. When she told me that I knew that the moment had come for

I knew that the moment had come for her to learn one of the most important lessons of her life.

"I made her get her things ready and I took her right out and entered her as a pupil in a woman's college near Boston. In the child's presence I explained to the president of that college just what my work was and all about it. I didn't intend to allow a child of mine to feel that she had the slightest occasion to be ashamed of her mother for doing honest work. work.
"The president of the college must have

understood my motives. In any event she could not have been more polite and courteous to the first lady of the land

than she was to me.

"That was a lesson to me, and thereafter I took the greatest pains to let the teachers of both my son and daughter know about my work. It was a good move financially, so it proved, for soon I had washing from them all.

"Whenever I had occasion to right my

had washing from them all.

"Whenever I had occasion to visit my daughter or to see the teacher of my son I always brought it around so that I could ask about the wash I had just sent home. Did it please? I was always glad to get more: My main object was to let my children see that they had no reason to be ashamed and also to dissipate any false delicacy that might be hovering in the mind of the teacher.

"Didn't I allow my children to help me? Indeed I did, all they could. My son carried home the wash and after he entered Harvard often called for it Monday mornings."

of our own if I took in washing. That decided me in favor of becoming a lings.

"If he ever was snubbed he never told the but I fancy that never hap-

Harvard do so many things that people have become accustomed to seeing them work. Then, too, boys are not as a rule so mean to one another as girls, and my daughter as a child was inclined to be supersensitive.
"When the time came for her to grad-

uate and devote herself to music I had such a flourishing business that I had taken an entire house and employed 12 assistants regularly besides calling in as many more on special occasions. I never called myself a laundress or my place a laundry. It was washing and ironing with a few stitches of mending thrown in with a few stitches of mending thrown in for good measure, on the students' wash.
"It was those few stitches as much as my good work that made me popular with the students. I think I never charged extra or referred to it as anything unusual. When I saw a garment needed a few stitches I took them, but if I suspected that worn garments or stockings with large holes were sent me on purpose I let them pass.

I let them pass.
"As for trouble with my workers I did not have very much. Of course, some of them had to be taught, and several who remained with me for years always needed watching. Even when washers and ironers were hard to get in the best laundries, I had

ittle or no trouble.

"Whenever we had to work on a holiday I always gave them some surprise for their dinner, and as a rule it took the form of ice cream. You see, I was a working oman myself, and I realized how grateful one is for a good men!

"When the giving up time came—that is, when my son finished his law course and my daugter was well established as a teacher of the organ— I turned over my work to the two women who had been longest in my employ. Both of them had saved money and had enough between them to buy me out. Now I have this little home and a few hundreds in bank against a rainy day.

against a rainy day.
"Am I proud of my work? I am certainly proud of my children and of the position they are earning for

of the position they are themselves in the world. "Of course, we can never tell for a certainty what would have happened the certainty what would have happened certainty what would have happened under different circumstances, but I have never regretted leaving the West, giving up the farm for the sake of educating my son and daughter. Each year a good education becomes more and more necessary for a map or a woman's success in this country. "Long ago, when few people were educated it didn't count so much, but now, from my observations, I would

now, from my observations. I would advise that if 'you can't give your child an education and also leave him