

# The Ghost Who Changed His Mind

*"Marry Mr. Cochran!" the Spirit of Mme. Walska's Late Husband Commanded, and She Did; But Now, She Declares, the Phantom Is Urging a Divorce.*



*Ganna Walska, The Beautiful Prima Donna.*

**T**HE ghost of Dr. Joseph Frankel changed its mind, and the spirited marital voyage of Alexander Smith Cochran, richest American bachelor before his marriage to the beautiful Ganna Walska, is about to end on the rocks by reason of the wireless direction from Spiritland countermarching the original order upon which the romance was founded.

Madame Walska—or Mrs. Cochran—is now in Paris, discussing the means of getting a divorce, while her mature husband, unable to comprehend the situation, stands ready to spend a fortune to retain the remarkable woman who would put him aside at the behest of the ghost of her former husband.

Walska is a ravishing Polish beauty, famed as an opera singer. Her first husband, Baron d'Elingore, was killed on the field of battle. She then married Dr. Joseph Frankel of New York, who died April 24, 1920.

Dr. Frankel was a noted psychologist. His life study dealt with the mind and its peculiar power and ramifications. During the short period of their married life the artistic woman undoubtedly absorbed much of the mystic side of what was a very material thing to the doctor. Her childhood had been passed in a land where the mysterious has the fullest sway, and the ancient traditions of the land are filled with remarkable instances of the occult and the supernatural.

So here was an impressionable mind upon which the experiments of the doctor-husband in the alchemy of the brain must needs have made a marked imprint. She learned many of the basic elements of the science, and there was small surprise when, after the period of mourning had passed, she emerged from a spirit conversation with the ghost of the doctor, carrying the message that she must marry Alexander Smith Cochran.

One must recall that elemental psychology lays down the principle that mind is the sum total of immediate experience. It takes account only in

the science of what has happened up to the date of the accounting and the ghost of the great psychologist found that time that Mr. Cochran had the elements required for successful matrimony.

### The Richest Bachelor Succumbs.

The marriage took place. Cochran had been considered the one bachelor in all America proof against the shafts of Cupid. No designing mamma had ever penetrated his innermost soul with the same accuracy as that developed by the ghost matchmaker.

But there is a branch of psychology utterly distinct from that which deals with the mind. It is known as behavioristic psychology and it takes its reasoning from the shades of conduct of the subject and likens animal life to the falling of a ball, which may be in one position now and present a different speed position and aspect at another time.

And the ghost of the second husband, taking the later view of the marriage after watching the degree of happiness developed by the union, has now come to the front with an absolute change of mind concerning the advisability of the whole affair and has, according to Madame Walska-Cochran, directed her to remedy the condition by procuring a divorce.

### Science Explains the Ghost.

Scientifically, the change of view on the part of the eminent ghost is to be classed under the head of perception, which is made up of groups of images and sensations, and in studying the question the eminent men of mystic lore call attention to one of the elementary principles of the science as a possible explanation of the weird reason behind the present attempt of the beautiful woman to leave her millionaire spouse.

"Perceptions that are often repeated," say the authorities, "tend to decay and become skeletons of their original form."

Did Walska's sensations and images as conveyed to her by the ghost in the days when the marriage was advised become so often repeated that they followed the well-known line of psychological science?

Did the dream images of a perfect marriage become only a series of mere



*Ganna Walska At The Time She Married And Alexander Smith Cochran The Husband A Ghost Picked For Her.*

things and there are two strong explanations of the present attitude of the beauty of Poland toward her adoring husband:

First—That the transmitted image or idea that prompted the marriage underwent change by being constantly repeated.

Second—That the ghost took stock skeletons by reason of frequent repetition? It is the logical course of such of the behavioristic factor subsequent

follows the dictation of a business man. In fact, the sense of the second form of communication is illustrated by her with that very simile.

The words that came to her from the departed husband are described as "echoes" of words—the very sort of an echo that the stenographer registers when her typing pencil puts on paper the sound of what started from the lips of the boss as a spoken word.

One has only to try the experiment to get the meaning of the singer. Write rapidly from dictation and try to recall what you have registered—a series of words, or the echoes of words.

So much for the science of the strange case. For pure fact one has the sudden recent appearance of the stage beauty at Paris. She was in conference at one of the leading Paris hotels with a lawyer, and the object of the conference was admittedly the means of procuring a divorce. By some coincidence she was at the French capital at the same time that Harold F. McCormick, Chicago millionaire and chief backer of the Chicago opera company, made his advent. They were together upon a number of occasions while the divorce was being discussed.

The preparations for the divorce fight went ahead at an astonishing pace. There is as yet the greatest secrecy as to the place at which the suit is to be filed, and the grounds upon which it will be sought. Dudley Field Malone, a leading lawyer of New York, who came to the front during the administration of President Wilson as a light that was fated to shine in politics, a difference over the suffrage question estranged the former president and his lieutenant was summoned to Paris.

He went over the ground with Walska and hastened back to New York with plans for her court campaign in formative stage.

By marriage, under the American law, the singer is a citizen of New York. She still has the prior claim to residence in Paris, with the ownership of a home in the French capital to stand behind the claim. In New York but one ground exists for divorce and an act of infidelity must be shown in that state to make divorce possible.

In France there are several grounds, the simple one of incompatibility being favored in many notable cases.

It is pointed out that in countries where the Napoleonic laws operative the rights of persons having any pole.

sort of claim to citizenship are carefully guarded, especially where property is at stake, and the grounds inclined to the Paris field of probable action as offering the easiest and best way for Walska.

Cochran's preparations for a contest have been just as rapidly pursued as have the plans of his wife. He has retained Samuel Untermyer, who happened to be taking a vacation in Europe, to represent him, and has fully acquainted him with the facts upon which the fight must be waged.

Persons close to Cochran insist that it is chiefly a question of property interest that absorbs the attention of the millionaire and his counsel. Literally, millions are at stake in the proceedings, and the proprietor of the millions seeks to guard them from a possible cloud resulting from the judgment of a French court.

All Paris knows that Cochran and his wife have not lived together since last spring, when Cochran left his home in the Rue de Lubec, which is one of the most elegantly appointed homes in all of the French capital, and went to Scotland for a tour. When he departed it was reported that they had reached the end of their marital journey.

Walska had been engaged for the Chicago opera, but she left the company on the eve of the announcement that she would have a leading role, and it became known that she had closed her engagement after a violent quarrel with the beautiful and temperamental Mary Garden, who had come to the management of the company in the dual role of singer and director all under the patronage of McCormick as chief financial sponsor.

And it was to McCormick, in far Paris, that the singer has now admitted that she is "tied for life to a living ghost."

This ghost found a most peculiar mark in Alexander Smith Cochran when he was selected as the husband of the pretty woman. Cochran was graduated from Yale in 1896. He had reached the age of 45 with the proud boast that he could thank his lucky stars that he was still a bachelor.

The vast carpet manufacturing business at Yonkers had fallen to him by inheritance and his wealth was counted at more than \$100,000,000. He was known as a modest and retiring man, with none of the parental vices and habits of the rich set. What surplus energy he possessed was worked off in sport, in which field he was one of the best-known patrons and to which he was a devotee of no mean ability.

His fortune was always at the command of the amateur sportsman, and he could mount a pony in his own possession and play polo. Almost exacting sportsman, he exacting game pony polo.