

SPLENDID MEMORIAL TOMB TO COLUMBUS IS PROPOSED

Movement Begun for Erection of a Mausoleum, Topped by a Great Light, on the Caribbean Sea at Santo Domingo, to be Built by Subscriptions from the Twenty-one American Republics and Canada.

A MOVEMENT has been begun to get the peoples of the United States, of the 20 other Republics of North, Central and South America and of Canada, to erect by popular subscription a splendid Pan-American tomb and memorial for Christopher Columbus in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where his remains are declared now to rest.

It is proposed that \$500,000 be raised, and, if more detailed study makes this seem feasible, to limit each subscription to 50 cents, so that the memorial may represent a great number of the sons and daughters of that new world found by the Genoese.

The Dominican Republic itself launched a plan about 20 years ago to build a huge tomb and monument, and dedicated a superb site in the southern part of the city of Santo Domingo, on the coral coast of the Caribbean sea, which today is a park known as the Plaza Columbrina. A system of taxation was devised to defray the cost of the intended memorial, but the plan was abandoned owing to internal political differences. Instead, a marble mausoleum was erected in the cathedral in Santo Domingo, in which, in the opinion of numerous historical authorities, the remains of Columbus now repose.

The Plaza Columbrina is still available, and it is proposed to raise on this the Pan-American memorial. The plan is to construct a massive tomb for the base, something like the Grant Tomb, and then to sweep into the air with a superstructure, on the top of which will be placed one of the most powerful lights in the world, to be known as Columbus Light. The plan further provides for an endowment fund for the perpetual maintenance of the light.

The Plaza Columbrina faces the open Caribbean, and those one looks southward toward the far-distant main coast of South America and southwest toward Colon, the Atlantic entrance to the Panama canal. Many ships in the West India trade lay their courses so that the crews would see the rays of Columbus Light.

The campaign for the Pan-American memorial was begun one year ago by William E. Pulliam, at that time general receiver of Dominican customs, a post which he occupied for six years, having been appointed by President Roosevelt. During his residence in Santo Domingo Mr. Pulliam became greatly interested in the controversy which has been waged at various times over the resting place of the remains of Columbus. Both Santo Domingo and Spain claim to have the remains. After detailed investigation and study of the many authorities, Mr. Pulliam became convinced that those numerous experts are correct who hold that the remains are in Santo Domingo. He then conceived the idea of the Columbus Light.

Mr. Pulliam laid his plan before President Jose Bordas, and the Dominican chief executive in reply expressed keen interest.

Widespread Interest in Project

Mr. Pulliam also wrote fully about the project to John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American union at Washington. Mr. Barrett has not officially gone on record as to his views, but in reply to Mr. Pulliam did express his personal interest. In an address delivered by Mr. Barrett in 1912 in Washington before the Knights of Columbus he emphasized the necessity of a proper memorial to the discoverer of the western hemisphere.

There is to be a Pan-American conference at Santiago, Chile, this fall, and there is a possibility that Mr. Pulliam's plan may be introduced. Former Pan-American conferences have considered in general the idea of erecting some form of a memorial to Columbus.

Mr. Pulliam has further discussed the proposal with American business men, capitalists, and steamship representatives, all of whom he has found warmly in favor of his idea. Besides President Bordas, prominent Dominicans who have welcomed the plan are Senor Francisco J. Peynado, formerly minister of his country at Washington, and Don Emiliano Tejera, ex-minister of foreign relations, for many years one of the leading men of his land, and an authority on Columbus. Dominican newspapers have reviewed the plan in a friendly spirit.

Mr. Pulliam's letters outlining the plan to President Bordas and Mr. Barrett were largely similar. To Mr. Barrett he wrote as follows:

During my residence in Santo Domingo I have often thought that at this late date there should no longer be any question as to the identity and final resting place of the bones of Columbus, the discoverer of the new world, and this leads to a suggestion which I respectfully present for the consideration of the Pan-American union, assuming it to be a matter in which the governing board of that organization would be interested.

From my personal investigation of the subject, and as the result of reading several articles that have been written thereon, it seems to me that the opinion is unanimous on the part of disinterested investigators that the remains of Columbus are in Santo Domingo, where they have lain honorably since brought from Spain about 1537. Spain, I understand, disputes the contention.

Mr. William E. Curtis, the first director of the Pan-American union and a well-known newspaper writer, investigated the facts, which were reported by him in a syndicated press letter in the first part of 1908, and appeared in the Chicago Record. The Dominican satisfaction with the claims of Santo Domingo, Mr. Frederick A. Schuchman, writer of the book "The West Indies," also has expressed himself to the same effect, and presents the facts in one of his volumes.

About 20 years ago, or at the time of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, and the Colombian exposition at Chicago, the Dominican government caused to be set aside and vested in a Junta Columbrina the tract of land on the heart of the city, abutting the Caribbean sea, for the purpose of erecting thereon a mausoleum in which would be placed the remains of Columbus.

The location is ideal and peculiarly appropriate. It is perhaps the open roadstead of the sea so often traveled by Columbus on his voyages of discovery, and from the site one may

look out upon the anchorage where the humiliated and degraded admiral, I assure you that I will study the plans which you have indicated to me bearing upon this subject, and I am in hopes that your very beautiful idea may be brought to a realization. I will give you advice in due time as to whatever the government may determine to do in this affair.

From the conversations which I have had with men of importance both in the United States and in Santo Domingo," said Mr. Pulliam, "I am convinced that widespread popular enthusiasm, both in this country and in Latin America, will greet the plan for honoring the man who gave to us of the western hemisphere the lands which are now our homes. I believe that if the maximum subscription were kept at a very low figure, say 50 cents, the money needed would be raised in a surprisingly short time. It seems a reproach to us citizens of the New World that there is no memorial truly worthy of so commanding a world figure as Columbus.

Bones in Unsealed Casket
"In the proposed Pan-American memorial the bones of Columbus would at last be at rest, for they are not at rest in the mausoleum in the cathedral in Santo Domingo. By this statement I mean that the bones are being handled by the curious several times a year. I myself have handled the bones. The casket in which they repose has not been sealed, the result being that visiting officials and persons of prominence are allowed to touch the sacred remains of the great

Every school child is taught that it was the dying wish of Columbus that his mortal remains be carried to and laid away in the country he discovered, and by what might seem a prophetic intervention his wish has been respected through the centuries that have passed, notwithstanding the liberate plan of the Spanish authorities in 1795 to remove the remains to Havana at the time Santo Domingo was ceded to France.

I have often thought, and I assume there will be no difference of opinion among the many visiting officials and persons of prominence who are allowed to touch the sacred remains of the great

admiral. Mr. Knox, when secretary of state, and Mr. Stimson, when secretary of war, and their parties were among the American visitors who were permitted to inspect and handle the bones.

"Of course, there has been a controversy as to whether Santo Domingo or Spain has the bones of Columbus. But any disinterested man who will take the trouble to study the question will find that there cannot be a shadow of doubt as to the remains in Santo Domingo being the true remains.

"Briefly, the facts are these: In accordance with the testamentary wish of Columbus, who died in 1506 in Spain, his remains were interred in the cathedral in Santo Domingo about the year 1537. The remains of his son, Diego, and his grandson, Luis, were also brought from Europe and interred in the cathedral. The island remained Spanish until 1795, when it was ceded to France. The Spanish authorities insisted upon taking away the remains of Columbus, and in that year they exhumed what they believed were the remains. They took these to Cuba and buried them in Havana.

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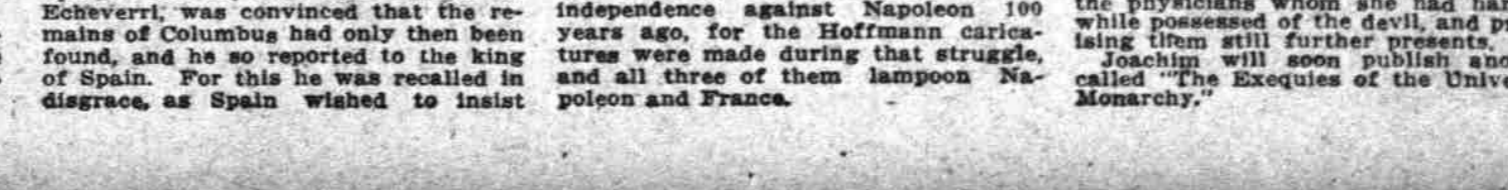
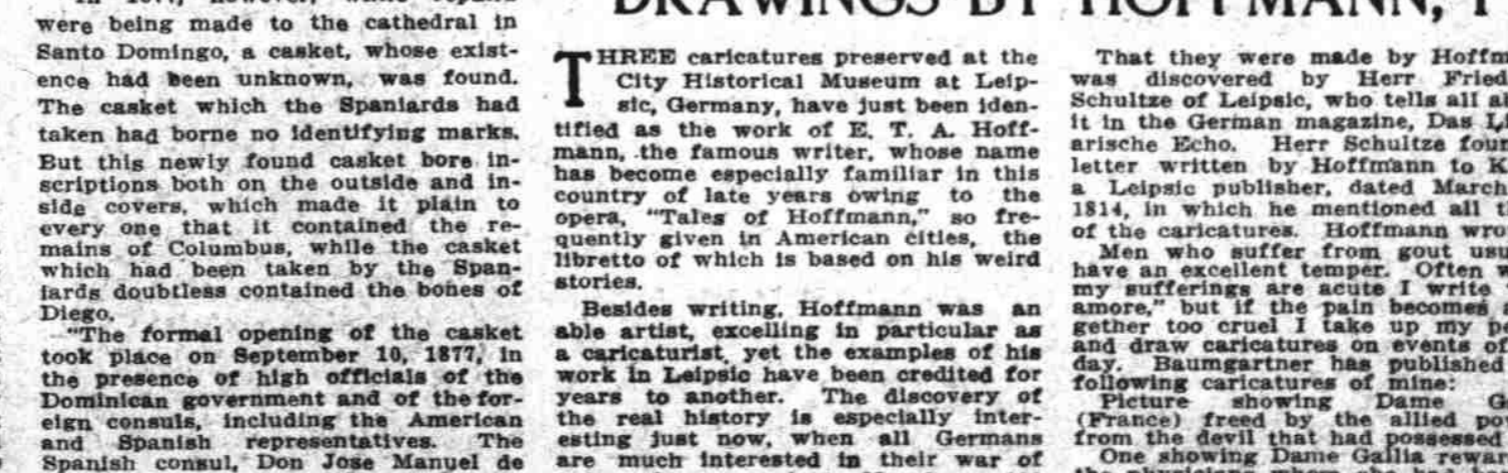
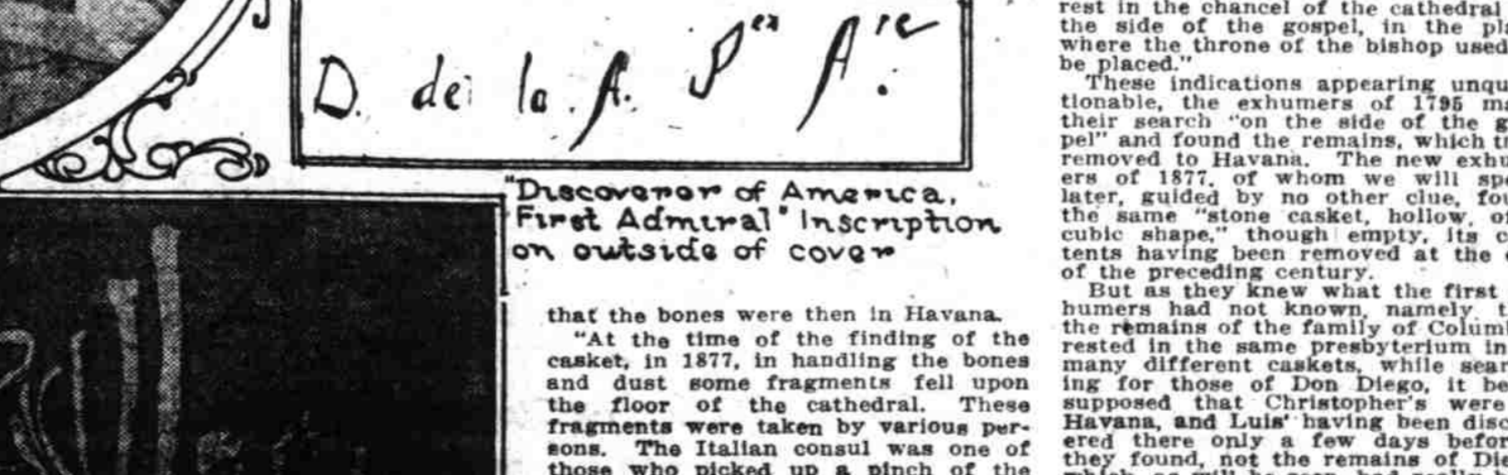
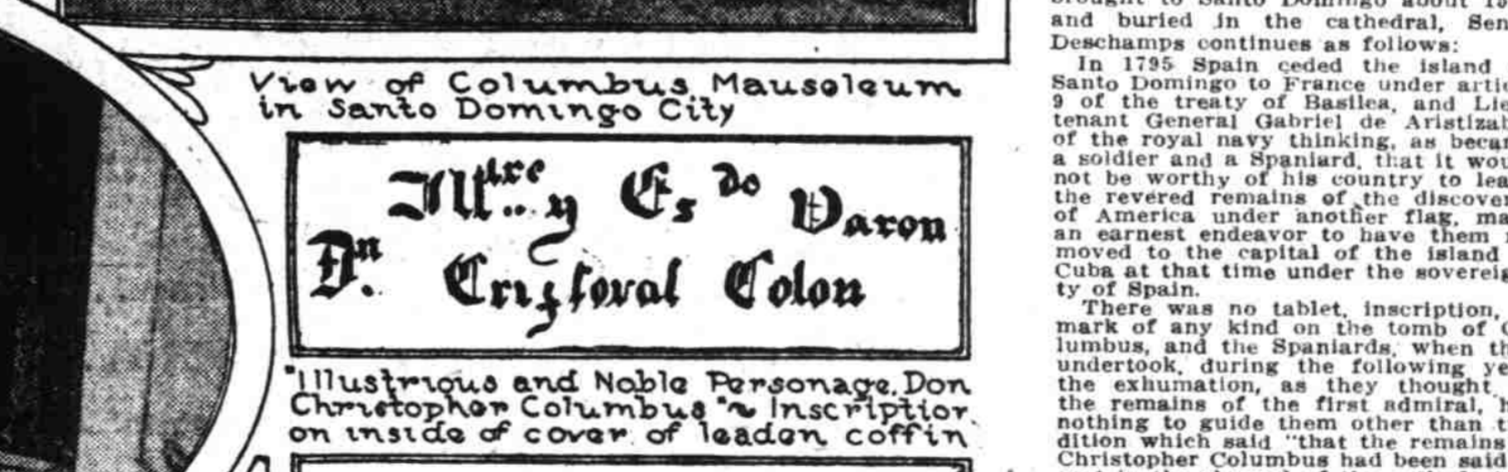
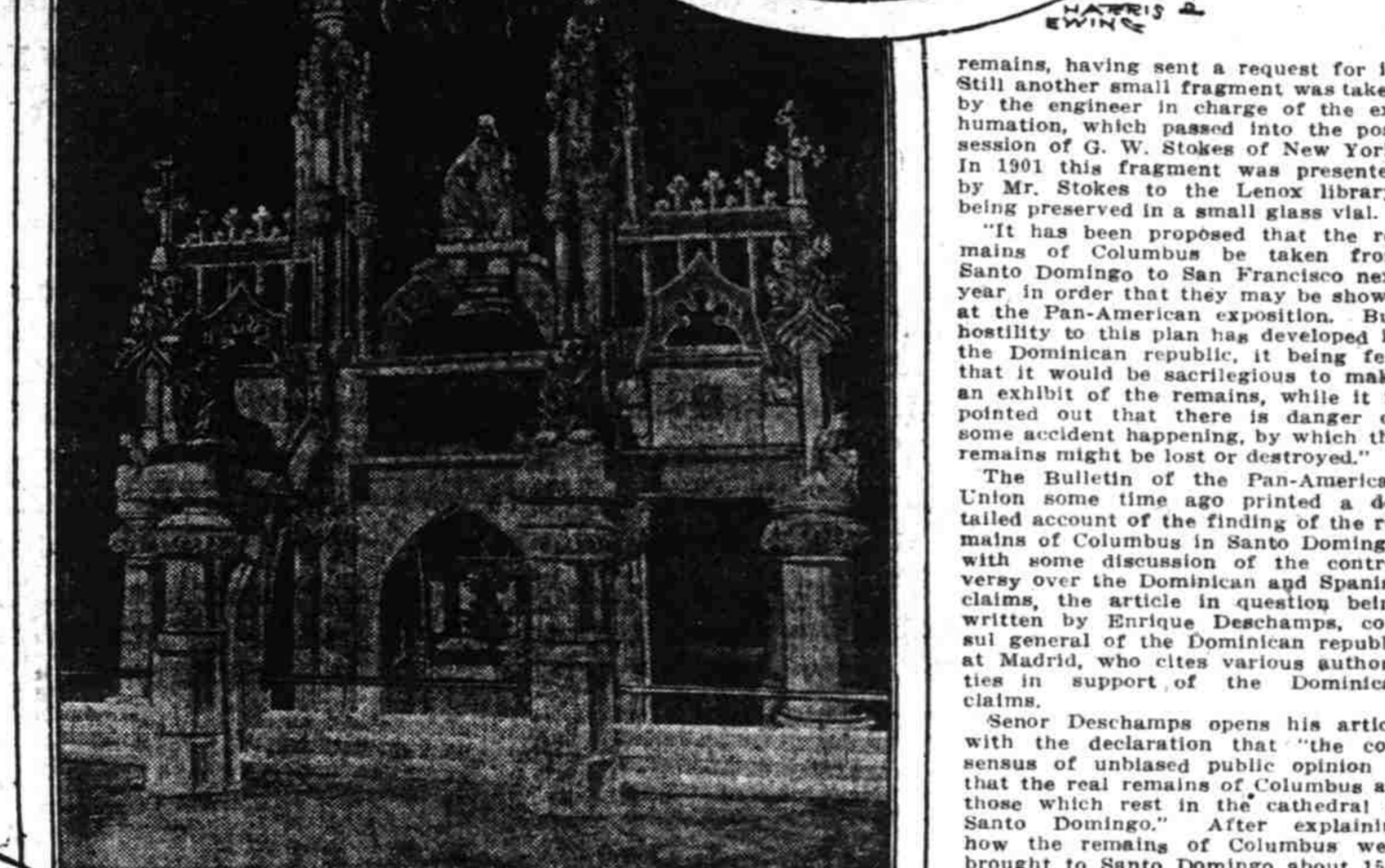
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"On December 20, 1795, a casket was opened situated on the presbytery of the cathedral, beside the gothic in the main wall and step before the principal altar, about one cubic yard in size, and therein were found some plates about a third of a yard long, of lead, indicating that it had contained a box of solid metal, and some sections of human bones and a number of other parts of a deceased person, which were gathered up on each tray, and were all the earth contained in the same, which, from fragments mixed therewith, were recognized as parts of solid gold. Therefore, according to the record, there were exhumed the remains of "some deceased person," supposed to have been those of Christopher Columbus, this supposition being based solely on tradition, which had it that the remains of the first admiral rested on that side and in that part of the presbytery.

As was very natural at that historical moment, no protest whatever respecting said removal was heard in Santo Domingo. In its place, however, a vague and uncertain rumor gained circulation in the capital to the effect that the remains of Columbus were still in the presbytery of the cathedral.

The enlightened people of the country paid no attention to the unfounded rumor, basing their incredulity on the fact that on the right side of the presbytery of the cathedral the only remains were those of Christopher Columbus, and that the act of his exhumation having been made public and solemn there could be no doubt that they had been removed to Havana.

In the face of all this skepticism, the traditional rumor persisted year after year, though vaguely there being no one interested in affirming or denying it. To that rumor, then, is due in part the find of September 10, 1877.

Senor Deschamps explains that on April 27, 1877, repair work was begun in the cathedral. All the work was done under the immediate supervision of Canon Billini. On May 14 a metallic coffin was found containing human remains, the remains being visible from the outside. Without opening the coffin, Canon Billini ordered work suspended until the arrival of the archbishop, then traveling in the interior.

In June, Canon Ximenes, a Dominican historical authority, was permitted by the canon to examine the casket. Senor Nouel found a plate bearing this inscription: "The Admiral Luis Columbus, Duke of Veragua, Marquis of Jamaica." On September 1, the archbishop invited the civil and military authorities and the consular corps to be present at the opening of the casket of Luis Columbus.

On this occasion it was decided that advantage should be taken of the opportunity to explore the cathedral further, attention being called to the ancient rumor that the bones of Christopher Columbus were still in the cathedral. Accordingly, on September 8, under supervision of Canon Billini, further excavations were undertaken.

Two days later the excavation work disclosed the end of a box. Canon Billini again suspended operations, while the archbishop, minister of the interior and Italian consul general, were summoned. On their arrival the hole was enlarged and the box came plainly to view. Its top was covered with the dust of centuries, but the words, "First Admiral," abbreviated, forming part of an inscription, could be read.

The examination was again suspended, while the cabinet ministers, municipal council, consular corps and other officials were summoned. In the presence of these officials, in the afternoon of that day, Senor Deschamps explains, the box, which proved to be a leaden casket, was taken from its long resting place and opened. The remains were inside, while inscriptions, both on the outside and inside of the cover, proved to the satisfaction of those present, that these were the bones of Columbus.

On the outside of the cover, in abbreviation, were the words: "Discoverer of America—The First Admiral." On the inside of the cover, in abbreviation, except the name, were the words: "Illustrious and Noble Personage Don Christopher Columbus." Among the remains was a silver plate bearing the words "Christopher Columbus." On the sides of the casket were the initials "C. C. A." supposed to stand for "Christopher Columbus, Admiral."

Strong Body of Evidence
Among the authorities from whom Senor Deschamps quotes in support of the Dominican claim is the Liguria Society of Genoese History, which investigated the Columbus controversy, its secretary reporting in 1878 as follows:

With the evidence now available, the remains which were discovered in the cathedral of Santo Domingo on September 10, 1877, must be considered as the true mortal remains of Columbus, but not those others which were removed to Havana in December of 1795.

Senor Deschamps quotes Adolfo Cronau, the historian, as follows: "Both the author of this work and the witnesses left the place convinced that the venerable remains of the discoverer rest in the cathedral of Santo Domingo."

The Spanish writer, Dona Emilia Serrano, is quoted by Senor Deschamps thus: "The remains of the immortal navigator which have given rise to such controversy, are in the cathedral of Santo Domingo, its most precious jewel, and to this shrine future generations will repair to render homage to Columbus, the man who represented in his day and age the greatest and best type of universal man of the earth."

Count Rosely de Lorges, historian, is quoted as follows: "These subsequent discoveries leave no room for further doubt. These are finally the true relics of him who revealed to us the immensity and manifold wonders of the earth."

The late Thomas C. Dawson, who was American minister to the Dominican Republic, Chile, Colombia and Brazil, is quoted thus by Senor Deschamps: "As regards the remains of Christopher Columbus, there can be no doubt that they still rest in the little and ancient Dominican city."

DRAWINGS BY HOFFMANN, FAMOUS WRITER

THREE caricatures preserved at the City Historical Museum at Leipzig, Germany, have just been identified as the work of E. T. A. Hoffmann, the famous writer, whose name has become especially familiar in this country of late years owing to the opera, "Tales of Hoffmann," so frequently given in American cities, the libretto of which is based on his weird stories.

Besides writing, Hoffmann was an able artist, excelling in particular as a caricaturist, yet the examples of his work in Leipzig have been credited for years to another. The discovery of the real history is especially interesting just now, when all Germans are much interested in their war of independence against Napoleon 100 years ago, for the Hoffmann caricatures were made during that struggle, and all three of them lampoon Napoleon and France.

That they were made by Hoffmann was discovered by Herr Friedrich Schultze of Leipzig, who tells all about it in the German magazine, Das Literarische Echo. Herr Schultze found a letter written by Hoffmann to Kunst, a Leipzig publisher, dated March 24, 1814, in which he mentioned all three of the caricatures. Hoffmann usually wrote "Men who suffer from gout usually have an excellent temper. Often when my sufferings are acute I write 'con amore,' but if the pain becomes altogether too cruel I put my pen down and draw caricatures on events of the day. Baumgartner has published the following caricatures of mine: 'Picture showing Dame Gallia (France) freed by the allied powers from the devil that had possessed her.' One showing Dame Gallia rewarding the physicians whom she had harmed while possessed of the devil, and promising them still further presents. Joachim will soon publish another, called 'The Equinox of the Universal Monarchy.'

In the first named of the three the "devil" is none other than Napoleon, who is shown flying away from the lady, just out of reach of the bayonets of the "physicians." In the second caricature the presents which grateful France is handing out to her deliverers are territories formerly occupied by Napoleon. Thus, Austria is shown receiving a basket in which are packages labeled "Trieste," "Fiume," etc., Prussia getting another supposed to contain Danzig and Westphalia, while England is demanding free trade.

The third, representing the burial of Napoleon's universal monarchy, is the most elaborate of the three. It was made by Hoffmann for distribution in England, for which reason the artist wrote out the title in English below the picture. It shows "universal monarchs" on a hearse being borne to the grave, followed by Napoleon as chief mourner.