

SALEM MAN MAY HAVE MADONNA OF FLORENTINE ART

Colonel E. Hofer Has Canvas Which May Be Original of Famous Artist of 16th Century.

Portland's growing importance as an art center has been enhanced of late by the conviction on the part of Colonel E. Hofer of Salem that he possesses an original "Madonna," painted by Sassoferrato, an Italian artist of the Florentine school, who lived from 1605 to 1685. This painting, considered remarkable for its composition and coloring, was exhibited by Colonel Hofer at the Art museum during the holidays.

During the period of exhibition the owner had it insured for \$10,000 against possible damage or theft.

GREAT AGE ATTESTED

Its great age is attested by the picture itself, showing where the canvas has been patched and where age has eaten fine needle holes through the pigment, but not affecting the composition, which is in a perfect state of preservation, but mellowed and ripened by two and a half centuries of time. The figure of the Madonna is life size, a bust on a deep invisible blue background, the head shrouded in a creamy white scarf and the shoulders awarded in a deep ultramarine wrap. Compared with photographs of all the most famous Madonnas, this picture gains in purity and sweetness of expression over the works of all the masters.

Reproductions of photographs of the two Sassoferrato originals in the National gallery, London, compared with the one brought from Europe recently, indicate that all are by the same hand. One of the National gallery pictures is known as the blue Madonna—that without the child. The pictures undoubtedly disclose identity of the artist and model, the Oregon picture probably being the oldest.

PROOF IS LACKING

Colonel Hofer admits that absolute proof that the painting is an original is lacking, as in many instances of acknowledged great works of art; but in the opinion of prominent collectors and judges of antiques in Great Britain it is believed to be an original, and even they were surprised at the identity disclosed after seeing camera copies of the two Sassoferrato Madonnas in London. David Gray of Inverness, Scotland, himself owner of originals from the Florentine school, and who was trying to buy the picture, declares it to be undoubtedly an original, as well established as most such works of art.

The painting was one of a collection of 15 canvases sold to an antique dealer during the war and probably was taken across the channel to Inverness by a refugee family from the Netherlands, invaded by German forces who ravaged the old homes and destroyed art collections, that had been gathered for generations.

ENIGMA FINDS IT

This Madonna was discovered and brought to Oregon by Ensign L. A. Hofer, serving with the minelaying division, U. S. navy, base 18, with headquarters at Inverness, a metropolis of culture for the Scotch highlands, where wealthy families for centuries have rivaled Edinburgh and other art centers with their collections. Some of the greatest art treasures have been unearthed in this city and the castles of the highlands, directly across the channel from the Netherlands, so rich in production of masterpieces and great galleries.

Little is known of Salvi of Sassoferrato, but his paintings have been collected and are preserved in the village of Sassoferrato, his fame as an artist having availed that of the community where he lived and worked. But few of his paintings are owned outside his home city, where they are the objective of tourist pilgrimages from all over the world. He was of the Florentine school and was the subject of discussion in the Horace Walpole letters, where a curious reference is made to him in the Doran edition.

WOMAN IN CASE

Mrs. Horace Walpole, a stout lady of some years, had become infatuated with an Italian tenor and pursued him to his home city of Florence. To keep tab on her, the then premier of England, who had fish of his own to fry, sent his personal friend, Horace Mann, to be resident ambassador of the Florentine republic and, incidentally, to keep an eye on Mrs. Walpole and report her indiscretions to the husband at home. He

WHY HOFER THINKS MADONNA ORIGINAL



Above pictures are photographic copies of known originals in London. At left is famous "Blue Madonna." Lower picture is reproduction of Colonel Hofer's Madonna, which, from comparison with others in group, he believes was painted by the same artist, with the same model posing for all three.

was also commissioned to purchase a Madonna for the Walpole collection, which he did, and wrote November 8, 1742: "I must not conceal to you a strong suspicion of the Domenicity of your Madonna! Not for the beauty, for nothing can exceed it, but on my unpacking I found wrote on the back 'Sassoferrato,' whose name is not to be found in the Abecedario Pittorico or in any lives of the painters that I have seen, but I find his name is well known in Florence as a famous painter of Madonnas. Nunziato Baldoci has one, Marquis Corsi another. Nobody can tell me where or when he lived, but there is a little place somewhere in Italy called Sassoferrato. February 18: I have scratched out the odious name (Sassoferrato) on the back of the (alleged) Domenichino myself so well that nobody can have the least suspicion, so that on this account you may be quite at peace." The engraver may prove this to be the painting Horace Mann tampered with, accounting for the patching.

ART IDEALS HIGHEST
All art critics unite in conceding to this artist the highest ideals in his conception of his art. He has painted

many Madonnas without the usual accessories of the Divine Mother of our Savior. In some the child is swaddled almost out of sight, and in most of them it is sleeping and later he painted his most beautiful pictures without the child, omitting the halo, kneeling figures of popes, attendant angels and cherubs, so often used to surround the mother and child in the interest of religious propaganda.

LIPS HOLD SECRET
"The gaze resting on the perfectly modeled purity of the lips gives the impressions that they have secrets to

LURE OF HIGH SALARY IN OTHER SCHOOLS IS THREATENING O. A. C.

Funds Are Deficient to Meet Additional Costs and Unprecedented Enrollment This Term

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Jan. 10.—That due to increased cost of maintenance and to the lure of larger salaries offered Oregon Agricultural college professors by eastern institutions, the college is now in a critical condition, is pointed out by President W. J. Kerr. The unprecedented increase in student enrollment—86 per cent this year—has taxed the institution to the limit. While the college now ranks second among colleges of its kind in the country in point of enrollment, funds available are much less than is provided for other institutions of this type. Standards maintained are as high as the highest in the country.

An enormous increase in cost is noted at the institution. In 1915, \$4000 was expended for janitorial services—four years later \$22,000. The cost of heat four years ago was \$14,500. This year it is \$39,000. Telephone and telegraph expenses were \$1220 and this year it will be \$6600. With this increase in cost has come the enormous increase in enrollment.

From last June to October 35 new staff members were employed and some instructors have been added since that time. Commercial concerns are offering instructors in chemistry and other technical lines as high as four times the amount educational institutions can afford to pay, and consequently broad-minded teachers are hard to find. Eastern institutions with large incomes are offering big inducements to Oregon Agricultural college professors to leave, and therefore the college is up against a serious problem.

whisper about the mystery of the incarnation. That the painter was a student of the works of Leonardo da Vinci, the master of a previous century, is evident from its likeness to that most famous head of Christ where he is depicted with a sweet beardless face in which the feminine elements of sympathy and patience are emphasized by the great Leonardo. The two thirds length of hands folded in prayer are almost a replica of the most beautiful hands in the world—those of Da Vinci's Mona Lisa. The hair is deep rusty red, reflecting gold tints, but repressed as far as possible from carnal beauty. In the scarf over the head is a sharp catch or angle, a trick of the artist to emphasize and bring out the perfect oval of the face. Without concealing the Jewish origin of the mother of the Savior, the racial traits are merged in the perfect contour and spiritualized expression, adding to its beauty.

"The model was not a woman from the peasant class, nor from the nobility, as was the common practice of many great painters, but a pure type selected for the single purpose of expressing most perfectly the Madonna ideal. The greatest achievement of the artist is in minimizing the sensual. The shoulders disappear, or as it is expressed in the jargon of the movies, they are faded out in the deep blues of the wrappings and the background. The bust is eliminated, and the only suggestion of the flesh is in the faintest depression just below where what we call the Adam's apple appears, and in the anatomy of the studio, the sacred index of motherhood. There is utter failure of words to convey the subtle charm of this painting, probably the only original by a master of the Florentine school on the Pacific coast. Its influence upon the understanding beholder reaches into eternity, and the vision will be carried in the heart and soul to the end of time, beyond the boundaries of this troublesome life on earth."

Wife's Property Is Sold to Pay Bail of Missing Foster Son

Walla Walla, Wash., Jan. 10.—Henry Strohm is selling his wife's property here to pay H. W. Broome's bail. Broome, \$500 forfeited when his foster-son was not brought into court at the appointed time to answer a burglary charge. The son, 16 years old, confessed to robbing a local store on Christmas night. The mother, it is said, worked on Brooks' sympathies and he procured the required cash bail. The mother and son departed for parts unknown, leaving a love note to Strohm, the husband and foster-parent.

EMPLOYEES' UNION BRINGS CONTENT AT WOOLEN MILLS

Harmonious Spirit Prevailing at Portland Plant Brings Wage Increase, Shorter Workday.

We are all just children grown up, and a great industrial concern with hundreds of employees is no more complex to handle than a big family, with its little squabbles and good times mingling together in the problems of its daily life. This is the simple theory to which E. L. Thompson, secretary and general manager of the Portland Woolen mills, attributes the contentment which pervades the plant.

The Portland Woolen mills finds the quality of its product simply a manifestation of contented minds which find ready response from willing hands to carry on their work according to the standards subconsciously instilled into the lives of those working under ideal conditions. "Get things right; then keep them right," is the motto the employees carry to their tasks.

Believing that the best results are accomplished by individual development of talents, the heads of this organization have dwelt on the independence of the employee—development of the individual. And in the development of individual skill comes the development of earnings.

The question of wages has never been an insurmountable difficulty, because, like everything else in the plan of operation, there is perfect cooperation between employer and employee, resulting in a fair "give and take" proposition. Only recently the question of a 48 hour week came up, where previously 51 hours had been the working schedule. The question was brought before the employees and a vote taken upon it. In some cases the heads of the plant found it necessary to urge the adoption of this measure, piece workers fearing a reduction of their wages. It was finally agreed upon to adopt the 48 hour schedule, with all wages placed on a piece work basis.

There has never been a strike in the history of the company and as further evidence of the results which the company's policy is achieving, the labor turnover in 1918 was less than 20 per cent as compared with 256 per cent, which was the average in the United States during that year.

CLUB ORGANIZED

A feature which Mr. Thompson has introduced into the plant and which is a monument to the spirit of cooperation, is the employees' clubhouse, constructed in 1918-19 and simply "grown up with the family." The history of this club goes back to a time when four or five workmen used to gather at noon lunch daily. Now a noonday meal is served to 300 or 400 employees in a large, orderly, sunny room or on glassed porches, at absolute cost. A plate lunch is served for 15 cents which includes a hot meal, pot and a vegetable. Coffee is 2 cents, bread and butter 3 cents. The price of a hearty lunch averages 25 cents. The workers come from their homes and other machines sit together at long white tables, in a neat, quiet, cheerful atmosphere and their lunch hour brings to them relaxation and rest.

The clubhouse contains rooms for both women and men. Down stairs is a library, a bowling alley, a large living room for the men and a well equipped dressing room for the women. The men's clubroom is built for comfort and use. Cards and billiard tables are part of the equipment, all of which sees hard daily usage. Clothes driers are provided that workmen may have warm, dry garments to don at the end of the day.

The bowling alley, clubrooms and library are used both night and day, for there are a part of the community life of the membership. Each employee is a member of the club and holds a membership card to the Portland clubhouse. Regulations and activities are carried out entirely on a club plan by the employees.

ROOM FOR WOMEN

The women have a large, airy room all their own in a corner of the building upstairs, where they too may gather about a big, warm fireplace, enjoy the comfort and daintiness of white sweater furniture or dance on the smooth floor while the phonograph plays lively music. In a spotless white lavatory off this room is a complete medical department for the care of minor injuries.

Entertainments and meetings are held from time to time in the assembly hall. A moving picture projector is only part of the equipment for this side of the life. The plant has its own orchestra, under the leadership of Elmer Smeed. The social and employment work is in charge of Miss Hammond, industrial secretary.

Portland Woolen mills plant covers 5½ acres of ground. Each factory room has windows on practically all sides and darkness is a negative quantity in the lives of the workers. Tennis courts and gardens are a part of the landscaping of the sloping lawns. Behind it all lies the personality of E. L. Thompson, whose philosophy of life has wrought in industrial furniture which stands defiant before radical, destructive, revolutionary doctrines which are threatening industry. With opportunity goes responsibility, according to Mr. Thompson's conception, and in that sense of responsibility to his fellow workers he has been able to bring into their lives the growth of an ideal upon which is built the contentment of the industry.

Damages Sustained By Fruit Trees to Be Tested by O. A. C.

The Dalles, Jan. 10.—Twigs, parts of limbs and portions of trunks of Wasco county fruit trees have been requested by the Oregon Agricultural college for determination of the exact amount of damage done by the extremely severe and cold weather of December. Samples will be sent from all parts of the county by A. W. Fuharty, local county agent. The data will be kept by the state for future reference and information.

A new community building will be erected in the near future by the members of the Columbia grange of Tygh valley. Each grange member is pledged to buy \$100 worth of stock to help finance the structure. Officers elected were: J. F. Hillman, president; A. R. Chase, vice president; George Obarr, secretary; H. M. Hoffman, conductor, and M. H. Wagonblast, doorkeeper.

TRIANGULAR DEBATE WON



The two victorious debating teams of the Oregon Agricultural college. Above, left to right—W. P. Black, affirmative; Ted Landes, negative. Below—Harold Readen, affirmative; Carl Emmett, negative.

MAINTENANCE COST GRAVE PROBLEM UP TO O. A. C. REGENTS

Special Legislative Session Said to Be Without Power to Relieve Situation.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Jan. 10.—How to meet advanced maintenance cost due to the heaviest influx of students in the history of the institution is the unsolved problem before the board of regents. The present situation is considered by members of

the board as being perhaps the most serious in the history of the institution. Immediate relief is out of question, it is stated, as a special session of the legislature because of the tax limitation amendment is without power to grant it. Any action in the way of assistance must come from the people through popular vote and this involves delay.

With nearly 3300 students on the campus today and every available classroom and laboratory over-crowded, the regents consider the situation grave. Telephone and telegraph service this year will require an expenditure of \$6600, while in 1915 the price was \$1220. Janitorial service will cost \$21,800 as compared with \$11,399 in 1915. Cost of heating has soared from \$14,908 in 1915 to \$38,000 this year. Cost of light and power is doubled and sharp increases are noted in fact, in all departments.

An inventor has patented a simple boiler and condenser to enable automobile owners to get their own distilled water at trifling cost.

O. A. C. DEBATERS WIN UNANIMOUS VICTORY IN TRIANGULAR MEET

Reed College Takes Second Place and University of Oregon Gains but One Point.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Jan. 10.—By unanimous decision over Reed college and the University of Oregon Friday night, the college debating teams won the triangular debate. W. P. Black of Corvallis and Harold Readen of Ontario formed the affirmative team which met the Reed college negative team, Howard Smyth and Irving Goodwin, here. The debate was on the question of excluding immigration for five years.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Jan. 10.—The University of Oregon debating teams took third place in the triangular contest with Reed college and the Oregon Agricultural college Friday night, winning but one point. The local affirmative team, Elmer Rendell of Warrenton, N. Y., and Kenneth Armstrong of Portland, lost by unanimous decision to the O. A. C. negative team, Carl Emmett of Mosier and Ted Landes of Mosier, Wash.

Effective rebuttal by Lewis Jones and Herbert Sweet gave Reed college second place in the state debate league Friday evening, when the Reed men scored against Remy Cox and Ernest Crockett, representing the University of Oregon. Reed scored its local victory by showing the danger of admitting foreign agitators and the impossibility of excluding one class of undesirables without excluding all. The decision was two to one.

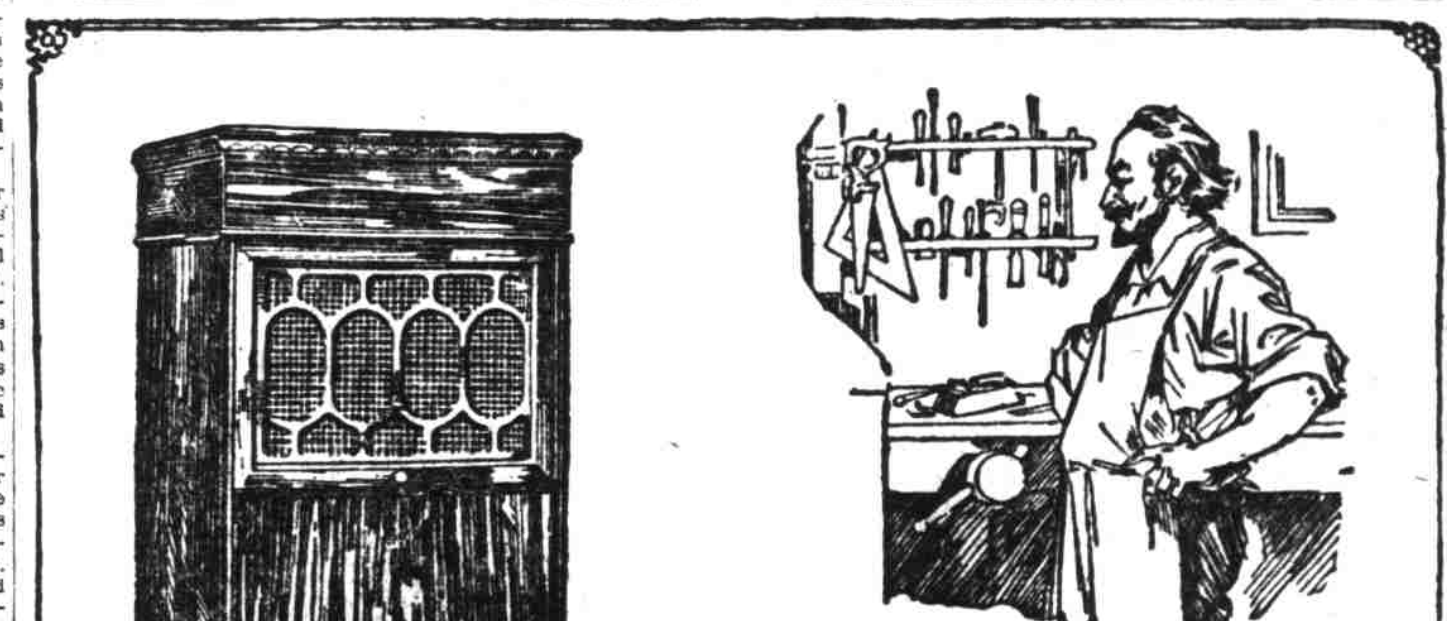
Professor Hudson B. Hastings of the Reed economics department presided, and judges were Bishop W. T. Sumner, Judge Wallace McCann and Hopkin Jenkins, principal of Jefferson high school.

Following the Reed victory, Sweet and Jones were escorted from the platform by their fellows, and the audience joined in an informal dance, awaiting results from the Corvallis contest.

Reward Paid Baker Police Chief; Stolen Auto Is Recovered

Baker, Jan. 10.—Chief of Police Culbertson has received a check for \$8.32 as his share of the \$25 reward offered by P. J. Russell of Meridian, Idaho, for the recovery of a stolen car here two weeks ago. L. J. Hale, local garage man, and the chief of police at Ontario received equal shares. According to the chief of police and sheriff, not one automobile has been taken from Baker by thieves during the last year.

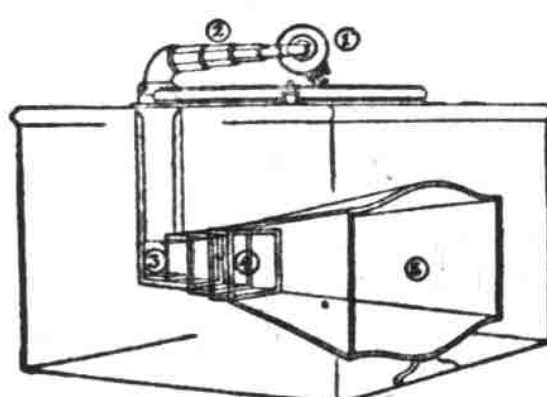
The receipt of \$50 from J. P. Lottidge, manager of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company, and a similar amount from W. J. Burke, local laundryman, has been acknowledged by Frank H. Grabner, chief of the fire department. The money was in the form of gifts in recognition of services and has been added to the firemen's relief fund.



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