

JOHANN HOCH WAS HANGED
(Continued from Page One.)

en hair, tinged with white threads. His nose was long and aquiline; his lips thick, wide and sensuous, masking irregular, carefully-kept teeth. A blonde mustache ornamented his upper lip. The remainder of his face was clean shaven. His head, neck and shoulders were lean. His features had a Jewish cast; his manner was courteous, deferential and always seemingly considerate for others. He received those who approached him with a smile and confidential nod, and usually a handclasp. He studied to establish confidential relations by whispering something of no consequence, as if imparting an important secret. If encouraged he put his hand upon the knee or shoulder of the person he came in contact with, and patted him "affectionately." He was gentle as a woman; in fact, his movements suggested a femininity, as if he were an obsessed woman. His manners and nature were like a tiger's foot—soft and velvety, but sheathing talons.

When Hoch met middle-aged German widows he adopted the reserve of a refined German tradesman. He manifested courteous consideration for them while planning to get their money and kill them by poison. He sought externally to realize the ideal of a husband in the mind of the average German illiterate woman who had toiled for years and saved money. He forgot his reserve long enough to boast of his wealth. This was the most enticing bait he offered. The majority of his victims married him in the hope that they would escape a life of drudgery and become mistresses of a rich man's home.

When he asked the hand of a victim he declared he wanted to "provide her a good home." When she became ill from arsenic he gave her the summoned medical aid, sat by the bedside, held her hand and called her "sweetheart."

When Judge Kresten passed sentence upon him Hoch was asked if he had anything to say. As if willing to sacrifice his life merely to conform to the court's idea of propriety he replied: "Judge, if you think I am guilty I am willing to lose my life." After his conviction in the solitude of his cell he was borne up by his egotism. He spoke of himself as of a third person of interest and importance. He said: "Johann will die

like a man. If Johann had money he would show you what he would do."

Hoch denied making the confession which was used as evidence in his trial, but would not take the stand to disprove it. His last utterance to a visitor was in keeping with his hypocrisy toward the judge and the wife he robbed. He said: "Death is better than this confinement, but I have given my word of honor to the jailer that I would not leave, even though I found the doors open."

Hoch claimed to be a great grandson of Marshal Ney, who went to St. Helena with Napoleon, and the scion of a prominent family of Strassbourg. He said his father was a retired minister in Toulon, ignorant of the fate of his son. Two of Hoch's brothers are ministers. He said: "My great grandfather, Marshal Ney, was one of the heroes of Napoleon's army, and I, as his descendant, shall die as a soldier. I am going before my Maker, Jesus Christ, my Savior. I believe in God, and I believe I shall meet in the life beyond those who were near and dear to me here. How could I stand before the judgment seat with a lie on my soul?" On the next day he denied having told this story.

Information that led to the arrest of Hoch was given the police by Mrs. Emma Fischer, his last wife. She married him January 18, 1905, a few days after the funeral of her sister, who had been her immediate predecessor as Mrs. Hoch. On December 10 of 1904 Hoch married Mrs. Marie Welker and took her to his house, when she died on January 12 after a short illness, and when Hoch was alone with her. Preceding her death he obtained from her all her money, as he had done in his previous marriages.

Three days after her death he married Mrs. Fisher, and the day following the wedding he obtained from her \$750 to be used, he said, in paying a mortgage on the furniture and house. A day or two later he disappeared.

The search for Hoch extended to New York, where he was arrested. Suspecting that he would seek concealment in Germany, his former home, the police kept watch on outward bound vessels.

A complete list of Hoch's "speculations" in matrimony would be difficult to compile. So far as can be learned he was born in Germany 40 years ago, studied medicine and in Vienna married Anna Hoch in 1881. Two years later he emigrated with her

to America. Several years later she died.

His next wife (No. 2) he obtained in Chicago in May, 189. Her name is not known, but it is known that he rented a flat under the name of C. A. Mayer. That wife died three weeks after the marriage.

The next month Hoch rented another flat in the name of H. Irick. A month later his wife (No. 3), name also unknown, died there and Hoch, or "Irick," disappeared.

In 1894 he lived for two months with another wife (No. 4), when she died. In June of the same year he married Mrs. Julia Steinbrecher (No. 5). Two months later she died, leaving Hoch property valued at \$4000. Before her death she accused Hoch in the presence of a stepdaughter of poisoning her. Her funeral was stopped by the coroner, but was permitted to proceed when Hoch produced a burial certificate.

After Mrs. Steinbrecher-Hoch's death Hoch married Mrs. Mary Rankan (No. 6). After several unsuccessful efforts to get possession of her savings he left her. In the same year he married Miss Martha Herfeldt (No. 7), gained possession of \$1800 and deserted her. Mrs. Herfeldt-Hoch now lives in Pasadena, Cal.

In 1896 Hoch was arrested under the name of C. A. Calford and charged by Mrs. Janet Spencer (No. 8) with having married and deserted her, after taking her money. He was acquitted, but a year later was arrested again under the name of DeWitt C. Cudney on complaint of Callie Charlotte Andrews (No. 9), who said he had married her and deserted her two hours after the ceremony, taking \$500 of her money. The police then identified him as the abductor of little Hulda Stevens, and accused him of participating in a diamond robbery, but he escaped prosecution.

In 1896, under the name of Jacob Huss, he married a woman in Wheeling, W. Va. This woman died suddenly three months afterward, leaving "Huss" property worth \$2500. Immediately after the funeral Hoch left Wheeling. In 1897 he reappeared in Chicago with a woman supposed to be wife No. 11, and installed her in a flat under the name of Martin Dotz.

In June his wife died. Hoch was arrested and sent to the Bridewell for swindling Simon Strauss, a furniture dealer who furnished the flat. He went to Cincinnati and there married Clara Bartell, widow of a saloon-keeper. Mrs. Bartell-Hoch (No. 12) died within three months of supposed

nephritis. Hoch married Julia Doess (No. 13) in Hamilton, O., in January, 1897. He soon departed with \$600 obtained from Mrs. Doess-Hoch and \$400 realized on Mrs. Bartell's effects. On April 29, 1898, he was arrested in Chicago for having sold mortgaged furniture. He was sent to the house of correction, was released July 31, 1899, and immediately rearrested on a similar charge and sent to the same institution.

Hoch, in 1900, married a sister (No. 14) of Mrs. J. H. Schwartzmann in Milwaukee. She died three weeks later, leaving him \$1200. The next year he married Mrs. Mary Schultz (No. 15) in Argos, Ind. They came to Chicago with Mrs. Schultz's 15-year-old daughter. Nothing has been heard of Mrs. Schultz-Hoch or her daughter since. Hoch made \$2500 out of this venture.

Within a month Hoch proposed marriage to Mrs. Nathalie Peterson, of Chicago. Mrs. Peterson had almost succumbed to the "fascinating man" when she was warned that Hoch was "not straight."

In 1901 Hoch married Mrs. Mary Becker (No. 16) in St. Louis, under the name of Jacob Schultz. In a few months she died under circumstances that aroused the suspicions of the attending physician. In December of the same year Mrs. Elizabeth Goerk (No. 17) "took in" a boarder in answer to an advertisement in a German newspaper. The man called himself Jacob Schmidt and after a few weeks' courtship married her. He attempted to persuade her to turn her property over to him, but without success. He disappeared within a week. Mrs. Goerk declares Schmidt and Hoch are the same.

Hoch went to Milwaukee again in 1903 and in January married Mrs. T. O'Connor (No. 19), calling himself Edward Gerald James. He deserted her on January 1, 1904, taking \$200 of her savings.

In 1904 he married Mrs. Anna Henderson (No. 20) in Chicago, secured \$1000 from her and deserted her. The following June in Milwaukee he married Mrs. Lena Hoch (No. 21), who died in three weeks, leaving him \$1500. In October he married Mrs. Caroline Schaefer (No. 22) in Philadelphia, deserting her a week later, taking her savings, amounting to \$1800.

Returning to Chicago in December, 1904, Hoch married Mrs. Marie Welker (No. 23). She died on January 11, 1905, leaving him \$250. Her body was exhumed and examined for

traces of poison. The analysis disclosed arsenic.

January 16, 1905, Hoch married Mrs. Emelia Fischer (No. 24), the sister of Mrs. Welker-Hoch, and disappeared with \$750 of her money. Mrs. Fischer's complaint first directed the attention of the police to Hoch's record.

The arch-bigamist was courting Mrs. August Praxmerer in New York January 21, when the woman saw his picture and an account of his crimes in a newspaper. She straightway wrote a letter informing the Chicago police of Hoch's whereabouts. He was arrested and returned to Chicago for trial.

He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, but received a number of stays of execution. Through the efforts of two wealthy women his case was taken to the supreme court, which refused to reverse the decision of the lower court.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

Washington, February 16, 1906.

Whereas, by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that "The First National Bank of Eugene," in the city of Eugene, in the county of Lane, and state of Oregon, has complied with all the provisions of the "Act of congress to enable National Banking Associations to extend their corporate existence and for other purposes," approved July 12, 1882.

Now therefore I, Thomas P. Kane, deputy and acting comptroller of the currency, do hereby certify that "The First National Bank of Eugene," in the city of Eugene, in the county of Lane and state of Oregon, is authorized to have succession for the period specified in its amended articles of association, namely, until close of business on February 16, 1926.

In testimony whereof witness my hand and seal of office this sixteenth day of February, 1906.

(Seal.) T. P. KANE,
Deputy and Acting
Comptroller of the Currency.
No. 3548. 2 21 5w

Letter List

Eugene, Feb. 22

Blueaker, Mr.
Brasel, T. W.
Broderick, Coleman.
Brown, A. J. W., 3.
Hanley, Mrs. Matt.
Heeson, C. E.
Laseky, Roy.
Lewis, A. J.
Livesley, M. A.
McAllister, Mrs. J. A.
McQuinn, R. E.
Matts, Mrs. Pete.
Murry, Charles.
O'Brien, Thomas.
Porter, John.
Smith, Miss Grace.
Thompson, Ernest Lester.
Warren, O. A.

J. L. PAGE, P. M.

For those wishing the best, C. L. Winter is in charge of the Winter Photo Co. Studio and guarantees results. Chambers Block. Phone Red 1321.

All dancers get your old togs out for the poverty ball.

**POVERTY BALL
HELD LAST NIGHT**

Company C's poverty ball, given in the armory last night, was not so well attended as expected, but was enjoyed by those in attendance. The music was excellent and the floor in good condition. The usual poverty costumes were worn, affording much amusement to the spectators. A committee of three traveling men awarded the following prizes:

To the most poverty-stricken lady, pair of shoes, Miss Ella Hendershott; most poverty-stricken gentleman, briar pipe, Robert Biddle; most poverty-stricken couple, oyster supper, N. C. Smith and wife; best waltzing couple, gentleman fountain pen, lady pair of gloves, John George and Miss Marie Masterson.

**HOWARD CATLIN
DROWNED AT SALEM**

Howard Catlin, who attended the Eugene high school last year and who was prominent in all school affairs, was drowned in the Willamette at Salem yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock. He was in a canoe with a companion when the craft upset. Both were good swimmers, but Young Catlin sank before he could reach shore. He was aged 20 years.

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