

ANTIQUITY OF DECORATIVE ART

Strange Sources From Which Pigments Used by Modern Painters Are Derived.

PRESERVATION OF SURFACES.

Crude but Effective Processes Employed by the Egyptians and Greeks of Pliny's Day—Noah Prudently Waterproofed the Ark.

Whether paint was invented in answer to a need for a preservative or to meet a desire for beauty is a question fully as knotty as the ancient one about the relative time of arrival of the chicken or the egg. It was invented, though, and it serves both purposes equally; so whether it is an offspring of mother necessity or an adopted son of beauty remains forever a disputed question.

The first men, cowering under the fierce and glaring suns of the biblical countries, constructed rude huts of wood to shelter them. The perishable nature of these structures caused rapid decay, and it is probable that the occupants, seeking some artificial means of preservation, hit upon the pigments of the earth in their search. It is perhaps natural to suppose that it was the instinct of preservation that led men to the search, although the glories of the sunsets and the beauties of the rainbow may have created a desire to imitate those wonders in their own dwellings.

The earliest record of the application of a preservative to a wooden structure dates from the ark, which was, according to the Bible, "pitched within and without." The pitch was a triumph of preservation whatever it lacked as a thing of beauty.

Decoration applied to buildings first comes to light with ancient Babylon, whose walls were covered with representations of hunting scenes and of combat. These were done in red and the method followed was to paint the scene on the bricks at the time of manufacture, assuring permanence by baking. Strictly speaking, this was not painting so much as it was the earliest manifestation of our own familiar kaleidoscoping.

The first Hebrew to mention painting is Moses. In the thirty-third chapter of the book of Numbers he instructs the Israelites, "When ye have passed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then shall ye drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their pictures."

At later periods the Jews adopted many customs of the peoples who successively obtained power over them and in the apocryphal book of the Maccabees is found this allusion to the art of decorating, "For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building, but he that undertaketh to set it out and paint it, must seek out things for the adorning thereof."

Although Homer gives credit to a Greek for the discovery of paint, the allusions to it in the books of Moses, the painted mummy cases of the Egyptians and the decorated walls of Babylon and Thebes fix its origin at a period long antecedent to the Grecian era. The walls of Thebes were painted 1,900 years before the coming of Christ and 900 years before "Querzote his bloomin' lyre."

The Greeks recognized the value of paint as a preservative and made use of something akin to it on their ships. Pliny writes of the mode of boiling wax and painting ships with it, after which, he continues, "neither the sea, nor the wind, nor the sun can destroy the wood thus protected."

The Romans, being essentially a warlike people, never brought the decoration of buildings to the high plane it had reached with the Greeks. For all that the ruins of Pompeii show many structures whose mural decorations are in fair shape today. The colors used were glaring. A black background was the usual one and the combinations worked thereon red, yellow and blue.

In the early Christian era the use of mosaics for churches somewhat supplanted mural painting. Still, during the reign of Justinian the Church of Saint Sophia was built at Constantinople and its walls were adorned with paintings.

In modern times the uses of paint have come to be as numerous as its myriad shades and tints. Paint is unique in that its name has no synonym and for it there is no substitute material. Bread is the staff of life, but paint is the life of the staff.

No one thinks of the exterior of a wooden building now except in terms of paint coated. Interiors, too, from painted walls and stained furniture down to the lowliest kitchen utensil, all receive their protective covering. Steel, so often associated with cement re-enforcing, is painted before it goes to give solidity to the manufactured stone. The huge girders of the skyscrapers are dished an ugly but efficient red underneath the surface coat of black. Perhaps the best example of the value of paint on steel is found in the venerable Brooklyn bridge, on which a gang of painters is kept going continually. It is scarce possible to think of a single manufactured article which does not meet paint somewhere in the course of its construction. So has paint grown into the very marrow of our lives.

PAINT AS AN ASSET.

Bankers Say They Lend More Money on Property When Buildings Are Well Painted.

AN INDICATION OF THRIFT.

One Concern Advances 25 Per Cent. More if Repainting Is Done Every Five Years.

Does it pay to paint carefully farm buildings? Does it add to the selling value of a farm when buildings are properly kept up and regularly painted? A careful inquiry of a number of leading bankers in the Mississippi valley, including such states as Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri, reveals the fact that in nearly every case the bankers did not hesitate to say that they would lend all the way from 5 to 50 per cent. more on land where farm buildings were well painted and kept in good condition. They maintain that well kept-up and well painted buildings and fences are an indication of thrift and that the thrifty farmer is a good client, and to him money can be safely loaned. An average of the returns from these bankers shows that the increased loan value because of painted buildings is around 22 per cent.

Some of these bankers make interesting comment. A Michigan concern says that, while not especially prepared to advise definitely in response to this inquiry, the officers would loan more money on farms where buildings were painted than where they were not so treated. This bank also finds that where houses, barns and fences are well taken care of the farm is a profitable proposition, and bankers in general consider the farmer a good client. Another Michigan bank says "farm buildings out of repair and needing paint indicate that the owner is slow pay." Such farms are rated at about one-third of the assessed value for loans. Where the farm buildings are in good shape the rating is one-half. The president of a middle western bank says that when real estate loans are considered, painted buildings are always taken into consideration in making an estimate. The general appearance of the property surrounding the house and barn and also the fields and fences would be carefully observed. He further says that he has no hesitancy in saying that he would absolutely refuse a loan on farms where the buildings were not kept up and well painted. In his judgment, unpainted farm buildings would reduce the loan value at least 25 per cent.

A Minnesota banker says that he is much more willing to loan money where the buildings are well painted. In his particular case he believes that he would loan 20 per cent. more than if the buildings were not properly taken care of. A farmer who will keep his buildings painted takes a much deeper interest in his work than one who does not. Another Minnesota banker says that well painted buildings have resulted in securing from his bank sometimes as high as 25 per cent. more money than where the buildings are not painted. An Ohio concern says that it will loan 25 per cent. more money on a well kept farm where buildings are painted at least once every five years. A southern Illinois bank says that it has no fixed rule about this, but it does make a decided difference when owners of farm lands apply for loans. If the buildings are well painted and thus well preserved the loan rate would not only be cheaper, but the amount of money borrowed would be larger. A northern Illinois bank does not hesitate to say that it would loan fully 50 per cent. more on a farm where buildings were well painted and in good order than where they were not. The vice president, who answers the inquiry, goes on to say: "There probably are many farmers good financially and morally who permit their buildings to remain unpainted, but as a rule the most substantial people who live in the country keep their buildings well painted."

An Iowa bank, through its vice president, states that it would make a difference of at least 25 per cent. in favor of the farm with painted buildings. Another Iowa concern says that it would make a difference of at least 20 per cent.

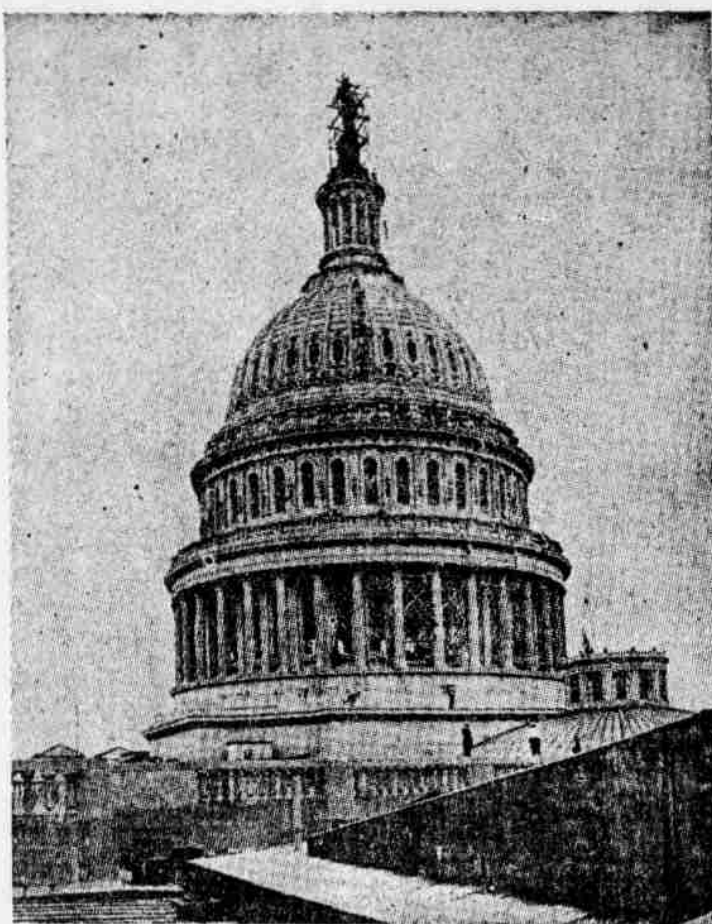
All this being true, it is perfectly evident that it is a good business proposition to keep the farm buildings well painted. They not only look better and are more pleasing to the owner, but the farm would sell to better advantage, the loan value of the property would be greatly increased, and the buildings themselves would last much longer and need less repair.—The American Agriculturist.

PAINT AND ILLITERACY.

Curious Fact Comes to Light That Colored Lead Using Books Avoid Paint Also.

Washington, D. C.—A curious fact has been brought to light by the Educational Bureau and the Bureau of Industrial Research here. It is that in the states where illiteracy is most prevalent paint is least used. The paint referred to is the common or barn variety, of course, for the backwoods countries have no need, for the finer pigments or facial adornments. It is true, though, that in the sections of all states where white illiteracy is highest painted homes are rare and painted outbuildings and barns are practically unknown. Probably the illiterates do not use paint on their buildings because they do not understand its value as a preservative.

Uncle Sam Sets a Good Example



VIEW OF U. S. CAPITOL DURING PAINTING.

The dome of the United States Capitol at Washington is kept in excellent condition by painting it every few years. For this work forty painters are steadily employed for three months' time. Over five thousand gallons of paint are required for one coat. The reason for painting the Capitol dome at regular intervals is to prevent disintegration of metallic surface.

THE COSMETIC OF THE INANIMATE.

- ¶I am the saver of surfaces.
- ¶I am the world-old preserver.
- ¶Noah knew me, for he pitched the ark within and without.
- ¶The Pharaohs sought me as an adornment for their tombs— their mummies endure because I conserve.
- ¶I am the woad of the ancient Britons: their blue battle hue.
- ¶Because of me the treasures of the Sistine Chapel defy effacement.
- ¶I am the keeper of the antique.
- ¶I am the servant of progress.
- ¶Columbus found me bedecking the savages who watched him plant Ferdinand's banner on the shores of New Spain; and the very sails of his caravels resisted the elements of the West through my aid.
- ¶The pioneers westward wending their way daubed the prairie schooners with my protection.
- ¶I am the royal robes of civilization's monarchs, Steel and Lumber.
- ¶The taut wings of the airplane gleam under my protective veneer.
- ¶The sullen dreadnaught and the homing transport plow the seas impervious to corrosion because of me.
- ¶I waterproofed your agents of destruction, the bullet and the shell.
- ¶Then I drew the mercy of my concealing camouflage over your hospitals.
- ¶I glisten on the homes, and on the barns, and on the cement surfaces.
- ¶Where life is, I am alive.
- ¶Where death and decay set in my absence hastens them.
- ¶And my mission is to preserve.
- ¶Saver of Surface, I am PAINT!

NOTICE TO TRESPASSERS

Notice is hereby given that hunting, fishing or other trespassing is forbidden on my ranch situated on Willow creek and Balm fork and adjoining the city of Heppner. All trespassers on my property from and after the publication of this notice will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

FRANK MONOHAN,

Heppner, Oregon, March 25, 1919.

47-50

BLACK LEG LOSSES SURELY PREVENTED by CUTTER'S BLACKLEG PILLS

Low priced, fresh, reliable, preferred by men, because they protect where other vaccines fail.

Write for booklet and testimonials.

10-Cent pkg. Blackleg Pills, \$1.00
50-Cent pkg. Blackleg Pills, \$4.00

The quality of Cutter's products is due to over 25 years of specializing in VACCINES AND SERUMS ONLY. ISSUED BY CUTTER'S, 2150 KENNESAW, Berkeley, California.

The Cutter Laboratory, Berkeley, California.

The Paint Season

This is the time of the year when the spirit of cleaning gets everybody and the first thing that should come into your mind is the value of painting up your premises.

We are exclusive agents in Heppner for the famous

Bass-Heuter Paints

—these paints are recognized as the very best that can be bought and we offer you them in every tint and shade.

We also carry a full line of KYANIZE in all shades. This varnish is made for the particular housekeeper who wishes to touch up the little places around the house that are not sufficiently large to call in a painter. And for retouching the furniture where it has become marred. Let us demonstrate them to you.

We would be glad to talk over your paint needs with you.

PEOPLES HARDWARE COMPANY

PAINTS!!

With the approach of Spring everybody feels that they should get busy and clean up around home—and one of the most essential things to do at this time of the year is to give your house a thorough overhauling in the painting line.

We have a fine line of Heath & Milligan House, Barn and Roof Paints on hand and would be glad to discuss your paint needs with you.

With house cleaning time we call attention to the ladies of the many uses of

Sunshine Varnishes

A preparation that does not require the services of an expert painter but can be applied with success by any lady and it will work wonders around the house. We have it in all colors.

Creolite Floor Paint preserves the floors and makes the work of floor cleaning much less severe. All colors.

MINOR & CO.

Preserve Your Buildings

Do you know that a new coat of paint will add nearly 25 percent to the life of your building?

—That if you repaint your buildings every five years financial men would consider your building better security for a loan than your neighbor who never takes the trouble to have his buildings repainted?

—That if there was no value in the effect of Painting the United States Government would not spend thousands of dollars every few years in repainting the capitol and other government buildings.

And yet there is another and equally important value to the repainting of your buildings and that is Your Own Satisfaction in knowing that you are doing your share in beautifying the community in which you live—and that you are doing full justice to your own investment.

Let me submit plans and estimates for repainting your house this spring.

JOHN. H. LOCK

PAINTER AND DECORATOR, HEPPNER

Spring Time is Paint Time

Say Mr. House Owner isn't this weather getting into your system and making you long to see the old home shine again like it did when it was new? Don't you realize that a new coat of paint would bring back all its freshness—that it would again have that new appearance of which you were so proud when you first built it? This is the time of the year to start at work—and you know how badly it needs it.

We wish merely to call your attention to the fact that we have a full line of standard paints—every color or tint that you possibly could think of. Besides every thing needed for the interior decoration of your home.

Of Interest to the Ladies

We have a complete line of Chamel for touching up and refinishing those old pieces of furniture that you prize so highly—and this work will come right along with the spring house cleaning. These varnishes are prepared so that they do not require the services of a painter—and you've no idea the amount of good you can do in one room with a few of these colors. We've every one you could want.

Gilliam & Bisbee

COME IN AND LET US TALK PAINT TO YOU