

Isle of Romance



Street Scene in Rhodes.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

RHODES, off the southwestern point of Asia Minor, has the true flavor of the Levant. But neither books nor photographs can prepare one for the island. Arrival there is a shock of delight. As one is rowed ashore from the ship's side to the island, it is as if some one had rubbed the magic ring. Today's business fades out and a dream envelops the traveler, a dream of the armored and bannered Fifteenth century and the rich centuries that went before.

What Wisby was to the Baltic in the Thirteenth century A. D., Rhodes was to the Mediterranean about 300 B. C. Owing to its favorable location on the great highway between Egypt and Greece, the island early rose to commercial importance. Its first settlers were the Dorians. The people were thrifty and skilled in handiwork, and they soon built up an extensive fleet, which not only enabled them to gain important possessions along the adjacent coast of Caria, on the mainland of Asia Minor, but also put them in a position to become the masters of the eastern Mediterranean as well. There were important schools of philosophy, art and oratory, the latter having been attended by Cicero and Caesar.

With the advent of the Knights of St. John an interesting period began for Rhodes. This order was founded in Jerusalem in the Eleventh century and after many hardships finally found a home at Rhodes, where it assumed the name of the Knights of Rhodes. The power of the order was also gradually extended over a large number of the smaller neighboring islands, as well as the coast of the mainland.

As one's boat moves toward the wharves, he sees a seaward-stretching tongue of rubble surmounted by a round fort which is the mole that once sheltered the knights' fleet of galleys and may have borne, a thousand years earlier, the famous bronze statue of Helios, known as the Colossus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Earlier still, Rhodes, as a great sea power, framed the first code of maritime law. There was to be profit-sharing between captains and their crews, compensation for the widows of lost mariners, penalties for wreck-plundering. So decreed those fore-runners of the bronze Helios. Its very name suggests a heliograph station, and perhaps the mirror which, some writers aver, was set in its chest flashed messages to relay ships.

Earthquake overthrew the Colossus, and centuries later its remains were ignominiously auctioned off as 1,000 camel loads of scrap to a Jewish junk dealer.

Relics of the Olden Time.

The visitor's skiff enters the narrow harbor mouth, flanked by a tower bearing the fleur-de-lis and by the ruined base of what was once the tower of Grand Master de Naillac. But no longer does a stretched chain bar the way. That is in Constantinople as a trophy of one of the various sieges which Rhodes sustained.

Every night the harbor was closed by those massive links, and the merchant man who arrived too late was ordered by the captain of the Three Towers to anchor outside.

Those three windmills on the mole alone remain of the navy which the Rhodian churches owned and operated for profit. The windmill of the Virgin, the windmill of St. Catherine, and others, must have been rich sources of revenue, especially whenever a siege was expected; for then the grand master of the Knights Hospitalliers of St. John of Jerusalem commandeered the entire island's grain, its oil and wine, storing away a year's provision for his six hundred knights and for the civilian hosts that eagerly sought

refuge within the mighty fortifications.

The Rhodian burghers waxed rich by the presence of this deep-pursed order, so nobody grumbled against its military regulation which prohibited the exportation of foodstuffs and horses.

They were young, these Knights of St. John, aspirants being admitted on probation at the age of fourteen and receiving full privileges four years later; but whether classed as full knight, chaplain, or serving brother (i. e., fighting squire), a man rarely outlasted the hazardous life beyond forty years of age. It was indeed a League of Youth, vowed under papal sanction to poverty and chastity, to the honor of pilgrims, and to the defense of the Holy Sepulcher. Throughout Europe the order spread its religious-military appeal, recruiting celebrities and attracting wealth.

Captured by the Turks.

Four times, under the knights, Rhodes stood siege. When the Turks made their second attack, they arrived with 100 ships and 70,000 men, employed lighted arrows and floating bridges and prepared eight thousand stakes for impaling the defenders. They lost one-third of their army. But in 1522, six hundred knights and a mere handful of soldiers, after maintaining an unparalleled defense of the stronghold for six months against a fleet of 300 ships and nearly a quarter of a million Turks, capitulated on honorable terms.

Rhodes today presents the aspect of a huge medieval fortress whose keeps, magazines—yes, its very dungeons—have been remodeled into quaint shops and dwellings.

At the call of the food peddler, housewife, let down baskets on strings from upper windows where the knights' prisoners once peered forth from behind bars. The town pasture lies within the ramparts which once inclosed the grand master's palace, and here sheep nibble among mounds of the stone cannon balls which were flung into the city by Turkish bombardments.

Sponges from Kos are piled in the knights' parade ground; acres of vegetable gardens, making green the once-grim moats, spring from the mingled dust of Christian and infidel who fell there, while around the massive barbicans, slit with cruciform loopholes, cluster masses of pomegranate and oleander blossoms.

Here and there, against the ever-present background of brown fortifications, rise lance-like minarets. In the cobbled courtyards are Rhodian women at their washboards, men at carpenter's or cobbler's bench, dark-eyed children shouldering water jugs the picture being framed by some massive buttress connecting two medieval hospices. Yonder is a housewife preparing the noontide spaghetti inside a Gothic doorway over which is carved a row of knightly shields.

The women's street costume includes a curious black bonnet with two long, black ribbons streaming down behind. The men go about in scarlet-and-gold waistcoats and in baggy trousers whose sacklike seat hangs almost to the heels of their Rhodian boots.

Of all humiliations, it was Christmas day, 1522, which beheld the yelling thrush of loot-maddened Turks. A week later de l'Isle d'Adam and his shattered knights evacuated, being boui for the barren island of Malta.

One way of orienting Rhodes geographically is to describe it as the largest of the Dodecanese islands. It is the most eastward of the great group of isles and islets that peppers the Aegean sea. Farther eastward in the Mediterranean lie only tiny constant islets, like Kastelozio, and the one big island, Cyprus. Of all the islands east of the Grecian peninsula only Cyprus and Crete exceed Rhodes in size.

New Pajama Suit

A delightful new pajama suit is made of rose-colored glove silk, with triangular applique of velvet of the same shade. The coat is of the same transparent velvet, untrimmed.

Moleskin Sports Coat

jaunty and youthful is a sports coat of mole which has raglan shoulders, a stock collar with buckle, matching buckle at wrists and belt and snug straight silhouette.

Striped Linen Belt

One of the important things this season is the belt, that appears in what seems to be countless fabric mediums and various widths. A rather unusual one is made of striped linen

New Tweed Coats

Tweed is the best liked of the materials. A most delightful separate coat, which has had much success abroad, is made of violet tweed with a collar of gray fox.

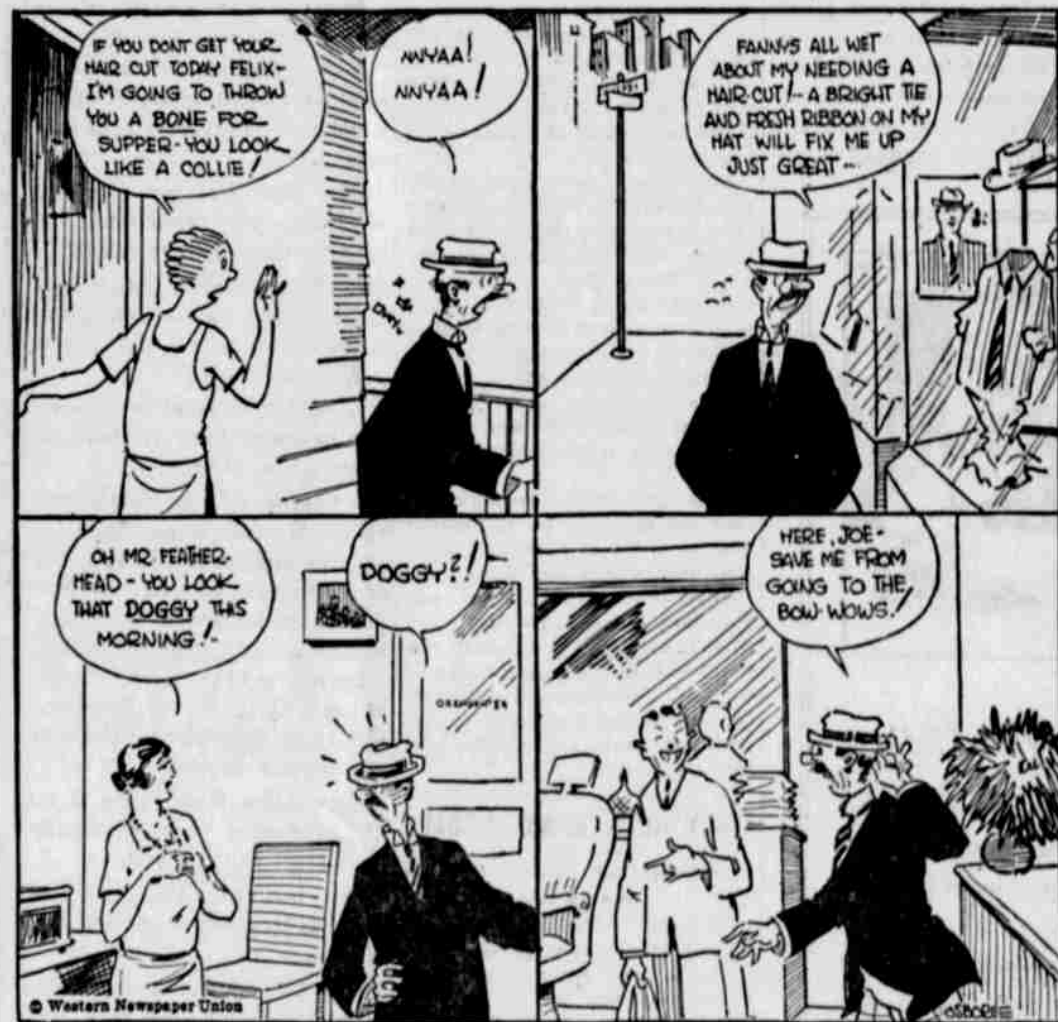
OUR COMIC SECTION

Events in the Lives of Little Men



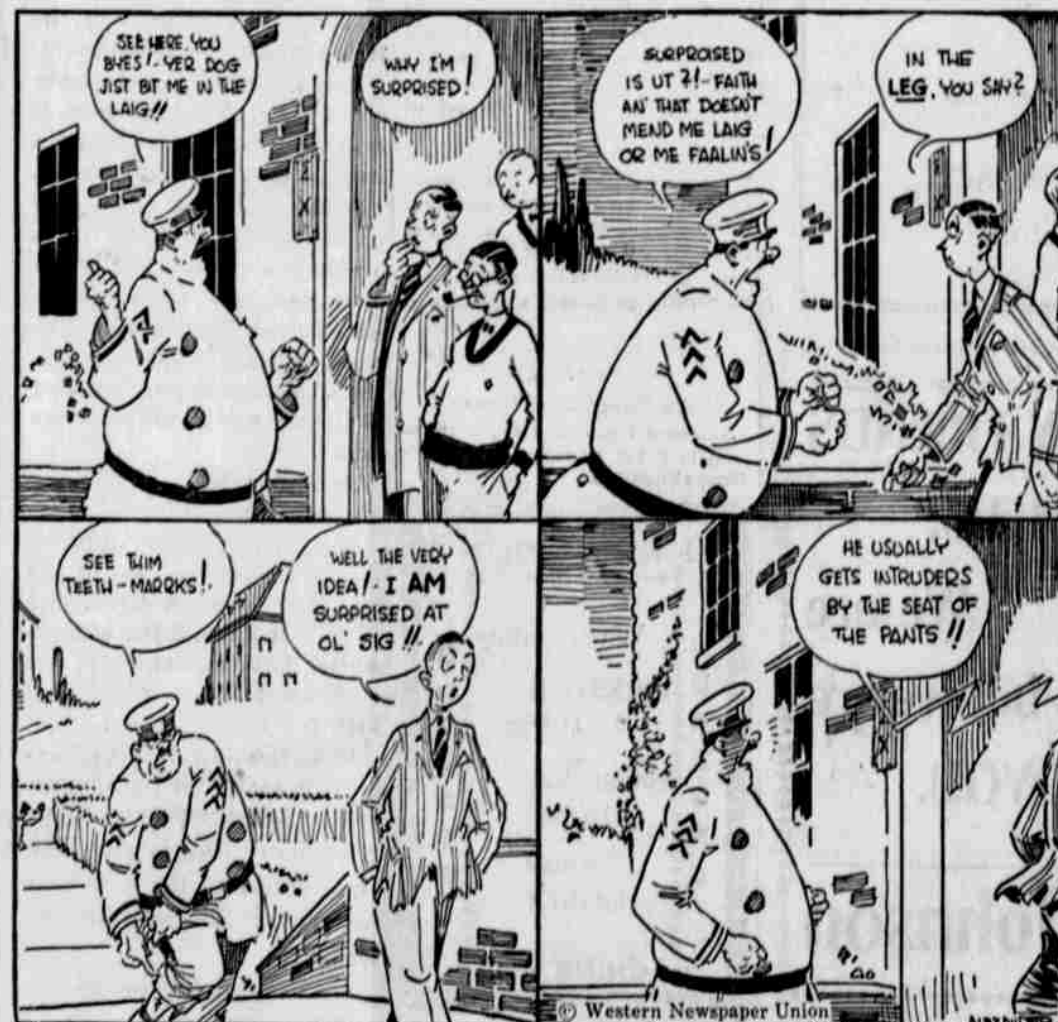
THE FEATHERHEADS

Felix Gives In



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

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Joint-Ease

The Legless Days
A generation ago legs were unknown except on tables and chairs, although limbs were very plentiful, even though thought to be a trifle indecent. All women then were good except maybe one that grandmother had heard about in her younger days, and this one was mentioned in whispers. Then a divorce suit attracted the attention of the whole county for an entire year and a bath was something not to be mentioned except to an intimate friend, for it not only was an unfit topic for general conversation, but was so rare as not to be discussed lightly.—Capper's Weekly.

Cupid is the manager of a two-ring circus—the engagement and wedding rings.

CAN'T PRAISE IT ENOUGH

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Helped Her So Much

Kingston, Mo.—"I have not taken anything but Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for 18 months and I cannot praise it enough. I weighed about 100 pounds and was not able to do any kind of work. My housework was done by my mother and my out-of-door work was not done. I have taken four bottles of the Vegetable Compound and now I am well and strong and feel fine. I got my sister-in-law to take it after her last baby came and she is stronger now. I cannot praise it enough."—Mrs. HATTIE V. EASTIN, R. 1, Kingston, Missouri.

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