

PRICELESS BOOKS KEPT 1400 YEARS BY ITALIAN MONK

MONTECASSINO, Italy (AP)—Telegrams to the world congress of librarians at Rome, including many of the leading librarians of the United States, saw some of the most wonderful books on earth when they visited here the monastery founded by St. Benedict, just 1400 years ago.

During the dark middle ages, when barbarians were sacking libraries and internal feuds were in progress, the Benedictine monks of Montecassino patiently copied immortal works and thus preserved for today priceless books that would otherwise have been lost forever. Among them are "The Golden Age" and the "Metamorphoses" of Apollonius; the History and Annals of Tacitus; Cicero's oration "Pro Cluentio" and his essays, "Republica" and "About the Laws," "The Nature of the Gods," and Ovid's "Fasti."

The oldest grammar in history was also preserved intact by the Benedictines. This was Varro's "Latin Language." Montecassino kept unharmed the only original copy. Upon this all grammars, down to the English grammar taught in American schools, have in part been based.

The work of the Benedictine monks in preserving priceless books of the church has been even more remarkable. Original works of St. Jerome, St. Augustine, St. Cyril and St. Ambrose; the most ancient papal decree, that of John VIII; the oldest text of a decree by Gratian, famous codifier of laws, have all been saved from the depredations of time and of men by the Benedictine brethren.

Among the visiting Americans were Herbert Putnam, librarian of congress; Andrew Keogh, librarian of Yale university and president of the American Library association; and William W. Bishop, librarian of the University of Michigan.

MANY CHANGES THIS YEAR IN POLITICAL MAKE-UP OF NATION

By Francis M. Stephenson (Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON (AP)—A year's play of politics has brought some startling switches in the lineups of the national parties.

Herbert Hoover has ascended the party throne to find his former enemies his friends and his friends the opponents today.

It was Senator Watson of Indiana and Vice-President Curtis who led the stout-hearted drive of the coalition against the Hoover presidency candidacy in the party battle last year. Today the President counts them as his two trustworthy advisers.

Senator Borah of Idaho and Senator Brookhart of Iowa waged the valiant Hoover campaign in the doubtful farm areas of the middle west and south last fall. But they were the first to break with the President and they "broke" on the all-important issue of farm relief.

Over in the democratic ranks, the outstanding candidates for the presidency in that party's futile campaign—Alfred E. Smith, of New York and James A. Reed of Missouri—have retired to the sidelines of private life, temporarily, at least.

Senator Joe Robinson of Arkansas, democratic leader in the senate last year, has taken up the task of uniting the minority band for the four-year contest with the Hoover administration. He led with considerable success, too, in the first test as he twice had the senate insist upon the export de-licence principle of farm relief over the strong opposition of Herbert Hoover.

The surprising changes lead to the question of what the new years will bring. Are the rifts between President Hoover and Borah and Brookhart politically serious? Will Senator Robinson's leadership in the senate be a significant point when the democrats cast about for presidential timbers?

Borah and Brookhart are in dead earnest for the export de-licence farm relief proposition, which Mr. Hoover was successful in having eliminated from the agricultural measure passed in the extra session. They are going on with their fight to have the de-licence added to the pending tariff bill. Brookhart has called for a presidential candidate who will support the de-licence.

Vice-President Curtis and Senator Watson are of the school of the "regulars." Once they were defeated at the republican national convention last year, they were among the first to offer their services in the party's campaign. They are practical politicians, and are among those who contend that the party must stand four years hence on its record of this administration.

The rupture in the democratic fold resulting from the Smith candidacy is declared by the hard working party leaders to be responding to treatment. Although a running mate of Governor Smith for democracy last year, Senator Robinson was unchallenged as his party's leader in the senate by those southerners who did not halt the Smith candidacy.

So there are some of those who are given to long-time prophecies who see in the southern senator the possibility of a link between the warring Smith factions of the north and the resulting demerits of the southland.

Walking Around Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (AP)—What is probably the world's most remarkable three-mile walk has been completed.

The British have rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Today they run the circuit of the city which is holy to Christians, Moslems and Jews.

The golden-yellow limestone of Jerusalem's walls gleams in the sun. Every one of the 34 towers stands guard, staunch and ironclad, as when Saladin the Magnificent built them on the ruins of older walls. In places layers of rock representing three civilizations rise one above the other, like rock strata: Jewish beveled stones, Roman cut stones, and finally the Mohammedan blocks.

Embossures for archers and crossbowmen feet, the wall like teeth in a gear. The National Geographic society describes Jerusalem as a nine-foot pile of strange elements set within this scalloped-limestone crust.

Walking a round Jerusalem is like walking around a falconized middle west farm. The walls in close about 200 acres of land. They stand about three stories high. Eight gates pierce the wall—or did. The golden gate in the east wall of the temple area, the gate through which Jesus is said to have come into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, has been closed for centuries. It will never be opened, according to the Moslems who control the temple area, until judgment day.

OXFORD, England (AP)—Modern poets suffer for lack of direct criticism, said John Massfield in giving a reading of his poems here. "What poets need is the dead cat thrown by a disatisfied member of the audience," he explained.

Sport Is Tonic, Says Roosevelt

One of the most beneficial and invigorating tonics to both body and mind is an active interest in some branch of sport, thinks Colonel Roosevelt, written in the current issue of Liberty Magazine.

"From the time we were knee-high to grasshoppers we were brought up to be sportsmen. "Even if we did not become experts with the rifle or champion swimmers, we got the right spirit, which is what counts. I won't go as far as to say that I never shot a bird sitting or caught a trout on a worm, but when I did I was ashamed of myself."

"Any family that lives in the country can have sport of some type. There are places where rifle ranges can be improvised, and there is generally water for bathing and fishing of some sort near by. Whether it be fishing or shooting, tennis or horse-back riding, I am sure that, for young or old, sport, to quote from Dame Juliana Berners, 'is good for the soul as well as the body.'"

TOKYO (AP)—Hugh Kenleyside, who recently came here as Canadian charge d'affaires, made an early diplomatic record. He umpired a baseball game between the staff of the United States embassy and high officials of the Japanese foreign office and did it to the satisfaction of both teams and the crowd.

Looking to the skies for law enforcement, O. W. Wilson, chief of police in Wichita, Kans., learned to "solo" with six hours' instruction.

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QUADERO, Italy (AP)—The province agricultural experts are engaged on a reclamation project to drain the Pontine marshes to stamp out malaria. The project involves the swamp land to produce 4,000 of them stock. Pedes-take anything.

When Istanbul, Turkey, taxicab drivers were ordered to cut their initial fare from 20 cents to 10 cents, the drivers finally were glad to get under way. At the same time, the drivers were so glad to walk safely in the narrow streets that the drivers finally were glad to take anything.



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