

Around Hollywood

Hollywood — (UP) — Perle Mesta, "the hostess-with-the-mostest," has finished her first whirl of Hollywood parties with the conclusion: Less food, less foreigners and less hats than at Washington parties.

Miss Mesta, the former ambassador to Luxembourg who was immortalized in "Call Me Madam," stopped here for a week on her first visit to the movie colony.

Since the wealthy widow also is a famed Washington hostess and may surpass Elsa Maxwell for tossing parties, I cornered her before she took off for Washington to find out what she thought of the Hollywood variety.

Miss Mesta smiled. "Oh, parties are alike the world over." But on second thought she came up with a few differences.

Foreigners Appear

"You see many more foreigners at Washington parties," she said. "And much more food. Oh, those foreigners love to eat! I've seen parties in Europe where the buffet table was loaded with food and there was a special table for sweets."

At one Hollywood party I noticed Miss Mesta was one of the few women wearing hats.

"Yes, they dress differently here than we do in the East," continued the motherly-looking hostess. "Clothes are lighter in color here, more informal. Not many hats. They dress here like Americans in Hong Kong."

Miss Mesta attended "at least two or three parties" a day during her week in Hollywood. When I saw her in her hotel lobby she was enroute to party No. 22 and holding up rather well.

She also visited the Mocambo nightclub and got in on the closed set of "Teahouse of the August Moon," something the press can't do to meet Marlo Brando.

"The movie people are lovely and very interesting," she said. "I love people who do things. And they have lovely homes."

"However," she added, "I don't care for modern. My Washington home is in 15th Century French."

Miss Mesta has a recipe for successful hostesses, in Hollywood and elsewhere. Her ingredients: "First a guest list, interesting people. Then the warmth of the hostess. The food. Always have music. And see that everyone there always is taken care of and has a good time. Decor is important, too."

Hand-Made Paintings Of Originals on Sale

New York — (UP)—The latest "collector's items" coming from France are mass-produced water colors. Though hand-painted, they cost less than a tenth of the originals.

This novelty has been introduced here by Franke H. Morini, a Frenchman who settled in the United States a few years ago.

The procedure which makes it possible to sell a high quality hand-made product at the price of a print is secret and world copyrighted of course.

While prints and engravings can be reproduced in limited numbers only, there is no such limitation for hand-made water-colors.

The paintings Morini sells are based on originals by the French artist Herbelot. They consist of 36 views of France, Paris and Italy. The hand-made copies are framed in New York and sold in retail stores at prices from \$10.50 to \$17.50, depending upon the frame and the shop.

Morini started this new business last fall and estimates that he will sell in the United States and Canada some 30,000 paintings during the first business year.

"Americans want to own hand-made paintings," he said. "All I do is to sell them these at the price of prints."

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