

The Shape of Things

Early Years Shape Albrecht Durer

By RICHARD HIRSCH
Director Allentown
Art Museum

Albrecht Durer, born in 1471, spent his childhood in a goldsmith's shop.

The Nurnberg of his time was the most prosperous city of the many German principalities. It was also rich in ideas and ready, when the time came, to adopt the Re-

form of Martin Luther.

The new art of printing flourished brilliantly in Durer's Nurnberg where, as a little boy, he early learned to read and write. Before he was 10 he went to work full time in his father's shop. There, also, he learned.

The elaborateness of the goldsmith's craft in those times has probably never

been equalled in the West. The Gothic is dying in a fire-works of design, in swirling forms which only a bold yet painstaking craft of enormous patience could accomplish.

Shape His Career

These early years will shape all of Durer's career, making of him the greatest of German artists in the most

singular way.

In his childhood he shapes gold and silver into intricate ornament. Thus prepared, his maturity finds him engraving copper with a mastery no one will surpass. By all standards he will remain Germany's greatest artist. Nevertheless, he is not Germany's greatest painter. First and foremost, Durer is an engraver, splendidly subduing the metal plate to the grandeur of his ideas, mastering it with the marvelous intelligence of his craftsman's hand.

At 13, his self-portrait shows us a youngster in full control of silverpoint. He is apprenticed to a publisher of illustrated books, Michael Wohlgemuth, where he suffers from the pranks of a rowdy crowd of other apprentices. But he learns much, the art of the woodcut, the art of tell-

ing intricate stories within small rectangles of printed lines.

Giant's Travel

At 19 he starts his four years of travel as a journeyman. He works in Basel where, 20 years later, Holbein will shift and become famous. Durer apparently crosses the Alps for a short while and discovers Italy in the headiness of the Renaissance.

He returns with copies of things he has seen there, disturbed by the new ideas which have taken hold in Italy. Clearly the Gothic world to which Durer belongs has been dying although Nurnberg had not known it.

Over the years Durer will bridge the two great periods, masterfully blending the vigor of the Gothic and the harmonies of the "New Learning." So masterful was he in

this respect that the proud Italians will borrow from his engravings, will copy him outright both in their prints and in many paintings where both his compositions and backgrounds were used extensively.

Receives Distinction

Durer, alone of all German artists, received this distinction from the Italian artists who were creating in a ferment of intellectual pride, the Renaissance and the Golden Age of painting.

Strangely, Durer's influence on painters was that of a thinker. What we find borrowed from him are concepts rather than things. These concepts Durer best expressed in superlative line, creating "color" solely by black and white, the pure language of the engraver of fine prints.

There is a riddle here and also a paradox. The paradox is the grandeur of size which the viewer intuitively feels in any of Durer's compositions, although the copper plate on which he worked may have been no longer than the page of a popular novel.

The riddle is in the fascination of the world which Durer, a man of the Gothic age, created for all of us who follow him in time. It is a world in which we are at home, in which we enter with a twinge of awe, as unaccustomed as we are to this emotion.

Creates World

Durer creates a world where sunlight and shadow have intimations of mystery under the crystalline clarity of form. It is also a sane world, unlike that of a visionary Blake or a haunted Goya. It has depth but it leads to no nether ones.

In his own time Durer, on the sole strength of his prints, woodcuts and engravings, was received as a prince in foreign lands. He was the friend of philosophers and of Martin Luther. He had the friendship and respect of artists and of princes.

But, by some mystery, he was more, much more than a man of his single time. Fortified by the craft of the goldsmith, his hand was superbly endowed to make us the heirs of a vision both timeless and universal.

He deserves your study. (Copyright 1961, General Features Corp.)



GREAT ENGRAVING — "The Legend of St. Eustace," one of Albrecht Durer's great engravings, from an impression made before 1520, in the Rosenwald Collection of the National Gallery of Art. Durer gave many copies of this print to kings and princes of his time in recognition of the esteem in which he was held as philosopher-artist whose many messages remain alive even in our day.

Sewage Treatment To Receive More Study at College

Corvallis — More efficient methods for treating sewage and industrial wastes — a growing problem with growing U.S. populations — will be studied by Oregon State college during the coming two years with a new \$29,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Improved waste treatment methods are a "must" if water resources are to be preserved from pollution in years to come, it was pointed out. Complex new types of industrial wastes are posing new problems too.

The OSC research will provide fundamental understanding of the basic physical and biochemical factors that influence efficient treatment of various wastes. Development of new tests for measurement of pollution and treatment efficiency also will be emphasized.

Joint Project

The research is a joint project of the school of engineering and the department of bacteriology. Project leaders are Fred J. Burgess, civil engineering, and C. M. Gilmour, bacteriology. Working with them are Fred Merryfield and Martin E. Northercraft of the engineering staff, and J. K. Carswell, graduate research assistant in sanitary engineering.

Cooperating in the studies are the Oregon state sanitary authority, the city of Corvallis, and the new OSC water resources institute.

The \$29,000 grant is a continuation and expansion of research started in March, 1959, on trickling filters used in sewage disposal. Trickling filters are beds of stones or other packing over which the sewage "trickles" during the final disposal process. Microbial action helps oxidize the sewage to make it less innoxious.

Determining Filter Media

That work is designed to determine the effect of the filter media on the final oxidation of the liquid portion of the sewage before it is ready to be emptied into streams and carried away. It is believed the trickling filters may have special value for use in areas where canneries and other food plant wastes upset the normal operations of sewage treat-

Court Records

DISTRICT COURT
Richard H. Zimmerman, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Douglas W. Coffman, failure to stop, \$15.
Chester Ernst, overweight load, \$15.Jerry L. Golden Jr., false statement of residence on license application, \$15.
Martha D. Brooks, no operator's license, \$5.
Jesse H. Patterson, failure to dim lights, \$7.50.Walter A. Emerson, disobeyed stop sign, \$15.
Carl R. Morris, excessive noise, \$10.
Nolan R. Clark, no lights, \$7.50.James H. Corwin, insufficient hindlers, \$15.
Clyde A. Severnson, 324 South 1st, driving while license suspended, \$150.Robert W. Dittsworth, speed contest, \$50.
Gerald E. Olson, no lights, \$5.
Porter W. Allen, improper lights, \$10.William L. Jones, disobeyed stop sign, \$15.
Myrtle H. Marsten, improper lights, \$10.
Eleanor R. Williams, no lights, \$10.Mildred F. Haler, no operator's license, \$5.
Bill Kitchel, no operator's license, \$5.
Robert Walker, 2413 Lyman ave., illegal possession of liquor, \$30, and a violation of basic rule, \$20.Hugh F. Vandiver, no public utility license, \$15.
Michael W. Barber, no muffler, \$10.**CIRCUIT COURT**
Audrey Ann Logan vs. George Elbert Logan, divorce complaint.**MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**
James Noah Allison, 314 West Pine St., Medford, and Claudia E. Davis, box 408, Ashland, Canal Zone, Panama.

Plans Being Made For Safety Event

Plans are being completed for the annual Medford Safety Council awards banquet, according to Russ Jamison, publicity chairman for the council.

Capt. Clyde Fichtner, Medford police department, has been named general chairman of the event, and urged local Council members to plan to attend Friday, Jan. 20.

Fichtner stated that the meeting will be held at the Rogue Valley Country club. Tickets will go on sale next week.

Awards to be presented will be saved-alive awards, outstanding citizen in safety, special traffic safety awards and the industrial safety plaque.

At least two saved-alive recommendations have been received by the awards committee, Fichtner said. He reminded civic clubs and organizations to submit additional recommendations at the next regular meeting of the Safe Council Friday noon, Jan. 13, at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Slide Rule May Be Needed To Add Bills

Berkeley, Calif. (AP) — The Harley Pedersen of Berkeley may have to buy a slide rule to add up their diaper bills. Mrs. Pedersen, 23, gave birth to her second set of twins within a year (AP). The latest twins are girls. The Pedersens' twin boys were born Dec. 2, 1959.

Oregon AFL-CIO Sets Discussion On Legislation

Salem — (AP) — The Oregon AFL-CIO will hold a pre-legislative conference here Saturday to discuss proposed legislation backed by labor and priorities on several measures.

George Brown of Portland, executive director of the AFL-CIO Political Education Committee, said labor's agenda includes:

—Improvements in workmen's compensation.

—Opposition to the "three-way" workmen's compensation bill, giving employers the

option of insuring their employees privately instead of with the State Industrial Accident Commission.

—Elimination of the "20-20" provision of the state unemployment insurance law, an eligibility requirement of 20 weeks of work per year with earnings of at least \$20 per week.

Calls For Committee

—Opposition to Oregon's proposed "little Landrum-Griffin" bill.

—Collective bargaining for public employees with cre-

ation of an interim committee to study retirement, health and welfare and working conditions of public workers.

—Amendment of the liquor law providing fines instead of closure of businesses for violation.

—Opposition to gross income tax and cigarette tax proposals of the Interim Committee on Taxation.

—Improvements in the state community college laws to remove existing roadblocks.

—Require licensing of contractors.

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