

ART FORGERIES IN PARIS

An Account of the Traffic in Spurious Paintings

AMERICA THE MARKET

Methods of a Secret Syndicate of Dealers Exposed—Factories That Turn Out Fraudulent Pictures—Many Shipped to This Country—Tricks to Give Aged Appearance.

A curious and instructive account of the traffic in spurious works of art as conducted by the most expert and practiced hands in Paris, is contained in M. Ch. Franche in a recent issue of the Revue Internationale des Fabrications.

As the article deals largely with the so-called dealer expert, a few words concerning the qualities and functions of that important personage may be necessary to elucidate the facts gathered by M. Franche and make their significance clear to American readers. To begin with, it must be understood that the government does not, as many are apt to believe, hold itself responsible for the authenticity of the articles sold at the Hotel Drouot.

The official auctioneer (commissaire-priseur) may be, and frequently is, ignorant of art and all things related to it, nor does he concern himself with the appraisal and putting of the goods sold; that task falls to the lot of the expert who is chosen by the seller for his own benefit and the protection of the bidders. It is the expert who compiles the catalogue, presides at the sale and estimates the value of the various articles.

The discoverers of M. Franche show that there exists and has existed for many years a kind of secret syndicate of the more profitable dealer experts, whose object is to monopolize the trade in works of art and not only to countenance, but actively to encourage the production and propagation of fraudulent imitations to serve their own ends.

"Controlling every event at the Hotel Drouot, the 'dealer experts,'" says M. Franche, "are in a position which enables them to instigate the seizure of pictures by pronouncing their spurious, and so they declare their vigilance by discrediting such as do not bear their stamp, thus achieving by ingenious if ignoble means a practical control of the sale of the works of art."

There is a typical example of the methods employed by the dealers in spurious goods:

The proprietor of a shop in Paris having procured four landscapes by Delacroix, Daubigny, Diaz and Th. Rousseau hired a good copyist, who, in return for a comfortable lodging in the country with a salary of \$200 a month, undertook to make twenty-five copies with slight modifications of each of the four canvases. In ten months the task was finished to the satisfaction of the employer and the hundred pictures were sent to this country and sold at a high price as originals from one noted collector to another.

An important consideration in such cases is the necessity of imitating the patina of old pictures with artificial cracklings and so forth. Various methods are employed with this end in view.

Saffron bliste, black coffee and licorice are favorite applications as a preliminary to varnishing. Some add a fatty oil to the varnish, or a mixture of bitumen, yellow lake and red ochre, which gives it something the appearance of old varnish.

In doctored paintings which are wholly modern, the following process is held to be efficacious: The painting is first varnished with white of egg and then powdered over lightly with very fine coffee grounds; on this preparation is spread a thick coating of paste, which is dried before a hot fire, and then superimposed by a second and finally a third coating.

After an hour or two the canvas is cleaned with a sponge, and an excellent result is often revealed, though failures are not by any means uncommon. In successful cases the white of egg produces an excellent imitation of the crackling of old varnish; the coffee stains resemble the damage done by flies, and the action of the paste on the pigments is not unlike that of time and exposure.

The application of a little yellow varnish qualifies the canvas under treatment to the rank of an Old Master and in eight or ten months time it will be in a fit state for admission to the Hotel Drouot. It should be mentioned, by the way, that experienced dealers always employ old canvas and old stretchers.—New York Sun.

Too Much Perfume.

The fastidious woman with an acute sense of smell came out of the telephone booth gasping for breath. "You surely ought to get some fresh air or a disinfectant in there," she remarked to the drug clerk; "your last patron was a very highly perfumed person. That odor of white rose made me quite ill."

"No, that's not exactly it," explained the clerk; "you see somebody spilled some awful smelling stuff in there this morning and the only thing we could think of was to scatter some perfume around."

"I see," said the fastidious lady, but on the way out she couldn't help observing to herself, "just like a man, of course; a woman would have washed the place out and used a disinfectant."

TRINIDAD'S ASPHALT LAKE.

Queer Mining Carried on in West Indian Island.

This Trinidad lake of pitch and the Bermudez lake in Venezuela supply the bulk of the asphalt of commerce, says a writer in the New York Sun.

Brighton has no claim to existence aside from the bituminous pitch that nature here sends bubbling up from the bowels of the earth. The lake is about a quarter of a mile from the steamship pier. Nearby are quarters for two hundred native workmen, a refining plant, offices and quarters for the half dozen Americans representing the company, and that is all, except for the fierce tropical sun eternally beating down, and the sharks that play in the harbor.

But as a natural curiosity and as a commercial enterprise the lake is of absorbing interest. Imagine a huge asphalt plaza of more than a hundred acres, softened by the sun, overgrown in spots with weeds, covered after a rain with pools of water, and you have the famous pitch lake—a big black semi-solid pond of asphalt, with a surface fairly firm and apparently placid, but in reality treacherous and eternally in motion.

Around the edges runs a tramway with an endless cable hauling the loaded cars to the refinery and bringing the empty ones back again. Along this line, where the pitch is hardest, all the mining of the product is done—the black workmen digging it out with pick and shovel.

It is necessary to shift the scene of operation only along the line, never toward the center, as in two days time the slowly moving viscous mass of pitch continually flowing from the center has refilled the excavations and made them ready for the workmen again. Every day the rails of the little tramway are lifted and the slowly sinking ties moved a few inches one way or the other in order that the railway may not entirely disappear in the bottomless ooze.

Bottomless it may well be called, for soundings have been made until with no bottom at 140 feet the pipes and sounding apparatus have been crushed and swallowed up, to be disgorged months later. The mining of the product is lowering the level of the lake at the rate of about six inches a year.

The center of this huge volcanic crater is the source of supply. Here we see the pitch, boiling up in almost a purely liquid state, spreading out over the lake in dozens of streams, gradually hardening and imperceptibly flowing toward the boundaries in an attempt to find a level.

It is horrible to contemplate the thought of being caught by this awful black quicksand and relentlessly entombed in its depths. Not long ago a negro workman heroically offered himself for an experiment designed to ascertain how long it would take for a man to become engulfed in the pitch. For more than an hour he slowly sank until only the upper part of his body remained in sight and then his companions, in a burst of cruel humor, made as if to leave him to his fate. His vociferous appeals for mercy melted their hearts. Planks were thrown out over the pitch, as they are used in rescuing a skater who has broken through the ice, and after an hour's hard work the victim was once more free and happy.

The lake is a valuable source of revenue to the island government. An export duty of \$1.25 a ton and a royalty of 40 cents a ton, by the terms of the concession, put nearly a quarter of a million dollars a year into the island treasury. The entire concession is about 2,000 acres, and asphalt is found throughout the whole locality. The land is fertile and some of it is now being used with success for the cultivation of fruit.

The possibility of exhaustion seems remote—the Venezuelan lake, although ten times the area, is but thirty feet deep. Its surface is submerged in water, rendering the extraction of the product more difficult, and a forty mile haul to the seacoast adds much to its cost.

For the preparation of paving and roofing materials the Trinidad variety has been found the better adapted, but the purer Venezuelan article is used largely in the preparation of varnish. Danger attends the shipping of the Bermudez pitch in bulk in the holds of the steamers, as the slightest list to one side or the other tends to cause a disastrous flow of the pitch to that side.

Phone Mouthpiece Abolished.

Consul Mahin of Nottingham reports that the suggested transmission of disease by telephone mouthpieces has led the British General Electric Company to devise an instrument in which all danger is avoided by simply abolishing the mouthpiece. The receiving and transmitting apparatus is combined in a small metal case, shaped like a watch, which is held continuously to the ear both in speaking and listening, the transmitting microphone being made so sensitive that it becomes unnecessary to concentrate the sound waves on it by the aid of any mouthpiece such as is ordinarily used. Mounted on a handle, with a speaking key, the new arrangement is exactly similar to the combined receiver and transmitter, except that there is no mouthpiece, and the speaker, as it were, addresses himself to the world at large, instead of talking into a trumpet-shaped orifice.

CUSTOMS OF THE RUSSIANS.

Few Important Changes Have Taken Place in Twenty-Five Years.

The Russia of thirty years ago, with all its primitive ways and traditions, is the Russia of to-day. It is true that there has been progress, but it has been on the old lines. There has been a continuity and evolution, but nowhere radical changes and new departures.

"The marriages of the Russia peasantry are arranged under the influence of economic rather than sentimental considerations," says Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace. "In this, as in other respects, the Russian peasantry are, as a class, extremely practical and matter-of-fact in their conceptions and habits, and are not inclined to indulge in sublime, ethereal sentiments of any kind. The wife is taken as a helpmate, or in plain language a worker, rather than a companion, and the mother-in-law leaves her but very little time for idle dreaming.

"In the primitive system of agriculture in Russia, the natural labor unit consists of a man, a woman and a horse. Therefore, when a boy becomes an able-bodied laborer, he ought to be provided with the two accessories necessary to complete the labor unit. To procure the horse is the duty of the head of the house, and it is the duty of the 'female big one' to secure the wife.

"When a youth arrives at the age of 18 he is informed that he should marry at once and a wife is selected for him. The horses and brides are not selected because of their beauty, but for their physical strength and capacity for work. The bride takes nothing with her as a dowry except her trousseau, but she brings with her a pair of strong arms.

"As a rule the peasants do not respect the priests. While they have a great reverence for the religious ceremonies, they do not respect the priests. This is due to the fact that many of the priests extort money from the peasants, refusing to perform the rites, baptism or burial. One can hear them saying: 'The priest takes from the living and the dead.'

"The peasant household is a primitive labor association, of which the members have all things in common. When a home is broken all the adult male members share equally.

"The Mir, or Village Community, is very much as the peasant household—a labor association—on a larger scale. In both cases there is a common responsibility—in one case for all the debts, and in the other for all the taxes and communal obligations. There is a Village Elder, who is the ruler, and all important communal affairs are regulated by the Village Assembly. The households composing a commune farm independently pay into the common treasury certain fixed sums.

"They cannot mow hay or plow the field until the Village Assembly has passed a resolution on the subject. If a peasant becomes a drunkard, every family in the village has a right to complain. A peasant cannot permanently leave the village without the consent of the Commune, and this consent will not be given until the applicant gives satisfactory security for his actual and future liabilities, which includes taxes and dues for passport while he is away. If a peasant wishes to go away to work he cannot do so until he has permission, which serves as a passport during his absence, and he may be recalled at any moment by communal decree.

"Until in 1903 there was a common responsibility for taxes, but this was abolished by the Emperor on the advice of M. Witte. The allotment of land is one of the most important events in the Commune, and often the allotment proves to be a burden. Instead of a blessing, because it entails responsibilities and obligations.

"Woman, as woman, does not receive much consideration among the peasants, but a particular woman, such as the head of a household, is entitled to speak, and speak freely on all subjects directly affecting the household under her care.

"The towns of Russia, as a rule, are insignificant. This is to be attributed mainly to two causes—the abundance of land tended to prevent the development of industry, and the peasants who learn trades are not permitted to settle in towns permanently.

"Russian commercial morality is carried on very much on the same principle as English horse trading. If a man wishes to buy or sell he must trust his own knowledge and acuteness, and if he gets the worst of a bargain or lets himself be deceived he has no one but himself to blame.

"The majority of the people of Russia belong to the Russian Orthodox Church. It has played an important part in the national history in relation to the Orthodox Church, as a whole, the Emperor of Russia is nothing more than a member, and can no more interfere with its dogmas or ceremonial than the King of Italy could modify the Roman Catholic theology.

King Edward's Lucky Number.

King Edward's lucky number is 9. Both his parents were born in 1819; he was born on the 5th; his marriage took place in the year '63, which numbers added the one to the other make 9; his reign commenced in 1901; he was to have been crowned on the 27th, which figures added together make 9; and he was actually crowned on August 9.—London Tatler.

CURING TUBERCULOSIS.

Hopes Entertained for Professor Von Behring's Theory.

At the International Congress for the Cure and Prevention of Tuberculosis, three new remedies were proposed. The remedy of Professor Von Behring based upon "the impregnation of the living cell of the organism with a substance" which he calls "T. C.," obtained from the virus of tuberculosis, found the most favor among the most prominent members of the congress.

The substance "T. C." is neither a serum nor a vaccine. Professor von Behring proposes to keep the ingredients of his now famous "T. C." a secret for some years, but he is ready to explain his method to everybody, as he has already done to Dr. Roux and Professor Metchnikoff, of the Pasteur Institute, and will leave it to specialists to apply it, without, however, disclosing the elements. Professor von Behring expressly states that he was misrepresented as saying that the motive for his keeping secret the formula of his remedy was in order to profit pecuniarily by it. "Such an idea," declares Professor von Behring, "is absolutely without foundation. It would be premature and it would be the cause of untold mischief were I now to disclose the formula of the 'T. C.' which has not yet been experimented with in the case of human beings, but only with lower animals.



Professor von Behring.

The younger physicians and scientists are enthusiastic in their convictions that the German professor will fulfill the predictions made in behalf of the "T. C." Doctor Albert Robin believes that "a portion at least of Professor von Behring's remedy comes from the milk of cows rendered immune against tuberculosis by means of long treatment in an artificial culture medium."

In regard to the prevention of tuberculosis, two distinct currents of opinion manifested themselves in the congress—the German idea of making the sanatorium almost the exclusive weapon against the malady, and the French plan, based upon prophylactic methods of preservation by means of healthful dwellings, salubrious schools and wholesome conditions of life. The trend of feeling in the congress was that, although the sanatorium remains for well to do classes the best means of treatment, yet the expense of organizing and maintaining these establishments is too great, and the same amount of money might be more effectively expended in other ways. It is with this view that M. Cassimir Perler and M. Leon Bourgeois submitted to the congress a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, urging the legislative bodies of all countries to authorize the sanitary boards of cities of more than 20,000 inhabitants to arbitrarily expropriate dwelling houses or buildings that in the unanimous opinion of the boards are dangerous to the health of the inmates.

Lanterns Made of Fish.

The puffer or swell fish has the power to distend itself with air into the shape of a globe. Japanese diving in the Hawaiian Islands make of the skin of the big puffer found in Hawaiian waters an odd and grotesque lantern. When the skin of the big puffer has been first removed, while it is still soft, it is stuffed out to its full size, in globe shape, and so left to dry. The skin is not much thicker than paper and translucent, brown on the upper part and gray below. The fins are preserved and dried sticking out from the fish, the tail being perked up at an angle. A circular opening is made in the back of this distended fish skin, through which the light can be placed, and in which is set horizontally a hoop or rim by which the lantern can be suspended. Such a lantern made of a big puffer's skin may be a foot in diameter crosswise and fifteen inches in length.

New Source of Starch.

In a bulletin of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture H. H. Cousins, the government chemist, states that the high percentage of starch in the cassava makes the latter more valuable than the potato as a source of this substance. The cassava is also not subject to the fungoid diseases prevalent in the German potato fields, from which a large proportion of the starch now sold in Great Britain is derived. The cassava season is unrestricted, and this gives a further important advantage over the one crop a year potato. Mr. Cousins apparently believes that the manufacture of starch from the cassava can be done so cheaply that the German potato starch will be driven from the English market within a very short time.

Advertisement for Castoria, featuring a bottle image and text: 'Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS & CHILDREN. Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC. A Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP. EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.'

Advertisement for Castoria, featuring a signature and text: 'CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Hutchins. In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.'

Advertisement for McClure's Magazine, featuring text: 'Why Buy McClure's? McClure's Magazine is bought and read in homes not because it is a magazine, but because it is the magazine. Why? FIRST—THE PRICE. It costs but one dollar a year, or less than ten cents a number, for over thirteen hundred two-column pages of reading matter. SECOND—QUALITY. The reading matter is written by America's leading writers—the best short story writers, the best writers on timely articles, the best writers of important serials, such as Schurz's Reminiscences or Baker's Railroad articles. THIRD—TIMELINESS. The reading matter in McClure's is not only good; it is not only entertaining, amusing, instructive and inspiring—it is also about the subjects in which you and all Americans are most interested at the time. FOURTH—ITS CHARACTER. McClure's Magazine is not edited for children, but at the same time, there is never a line in it that any young girl might not read. It advertising pages are as clean as its editorial pages. McClure's Magazine in your home is intended to work only for good. Send \$1.00 to-day for one year's subscription, or leave an order at your book-store. December free with new subscriptions for 1906. S. S. McCLURE COMPANY, 47 East 23rd Street, New York. You can earn a good income by taking up the business of securing subscribers for McClure's. It is clean and self-respecting—a publication any man or woman would like to represent. The pay is 25 cents for each \$1.00 subscription, in addition to big cash prizes for the best work. Write to-day for full particulars.'

Advertisement for Revivo, featuring text: 'Cody's Horse All Killed Wild West Chargers Destroyed to Prevent Spread of Disease. All the horses belonging to the Wild West show of Colonel William F. Cody were killed at Marseilles, France, last Thursday. Although the government veterinaries had certified that glanders had been entirely eradicated from the stud, Col. Cody and his partner, James A. Bailey, decided on the radical measure in order to ally the fears of the farmers regarding the spread of the disease. The saddles, bridles and other articles of the equipment, as well as the clothing of the stablemen, were burned and the railroad cars belonging to the show disinfected. Colonel Cody is now in the United States engaged in purchasing a fresh stud. Boy Wanted. A boy sixteen years old with fair common school education is wanted at this office to learn the printing trade. Full particulars as to work and pay will be given on application. That Little Pain in Your Back threatens your Kidneys. If allowed to go on a little while you will suffer throughout the entire system. Take at once Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy. It is the most certain cure known for the treatment of all diseases of the Kidneys, Liver and Blood. Write Dr. David Kennedy's Sons, Roundout, N. Y., for free sample bottle and medical booklet. All druggists \$1.00. CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR SENSES? When two of them, taste and smell, having been impaired if not utterly destroyed by Nasal Catarrh, are fully restored by Ely's Cream Balm, can you doubt that this remedy deserves all that has been said of it by the thousands whom it has cured? It is applied directly to the sin-passages and begins its healing work at once. Why not get it to-day? All druggists or mailed by Ely Bros., 56 Warren Street, New York, on receipt of 50 cents. REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY Made a Well Man of Me. THE GREAT FRENCH REMEDY produces the above results in 30 days. It is powerful and quick. Cures when all others fail. Young men will regain their lost manhood, and old men will recover their youthful vigor by using REVIVO. It quickly and surely restores Nervousness, Lost Vitality, Impotency, Nightly Emissions, Lost Power, Falling Memory, Wasting Diseases, and all effects of self-abuse or excessive indulgence, which unite one for study, business or marriage. It not only cures by starting at the seat of disease, but its great nerve tonic and blood builder, brings back the pink glow to pale cheeks and restores the fire of youth. It wards off insanity and consumption. Insist on having REVIVO—no other. It can be carried in vest pocket. By mail \$1.00 per package, or six for \$5.00, with a post-free written guarantee to cure or return the money. Book and notice free. A circular. ROYAL MEDICINE CO., CHICAGO, ILL. For Sale by Meyer Bros., Bloomsburg, Pa.'