

ARCHAEOLOGY

Art Treasures Unearthed

The marble head of a woman, with hair tinted auburn, found at Corinth, may have been a statue of the poet Sappho, according to Dr. T. Leslie Shear, of Princeton University. Dr. Shear, who has been excavating at Corinth for two seasons under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, found this statue in the ruins of the open-air theater of the ancient Greek city.

"The woman's features reveal a dreamy nature and subdued passion," says Dr. Shear. "Her hair on which are still many traces of its original deep red color, is arranged in an unusual way behind, where it is gathered in a folded veil. Because of the technical treatment of the hair and the sharply cut eyelids, the marble is obviously a copy from a bronze statue, and as it resembles a head of Sappho on a coin of Mytilene, perhaps the original was the famous bronze Sappho made by the sculptor Silanion in the fourth century B. C. The magnificent theater of Corinth would have been appropriately adorned by this superb statue of the auburn-haired Sappho, the tenth muse."

The theater in which the people of Corinth watched plays, athletic events, and gladiatorial contests, was a beautiful and colorful place, Dr. Shear's finds indicate. The scheme of decoration is different from anything that has been found in Roman or Greek theaters.

Besides marble figures of a woman and a man which guarded each side of

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HYGIENE

Most Time Loss from Colds

The common cold goes to the head of the list as a cause of lost time. In a survey of absences from work in a big industrial firm over a period of ten years, just completed by statisticians at the U. S. Public Health Service, it was found that colds caused a time loss equivalent to 1.4 days per year for every man on the pay roll, and 2.1 days per annum for every female employee. Colds were directly responsible for 39 per cent. of all the absences among the men and for 31 per cent among the women.

Diseases of the general type known as respiratory caused approximately half of all absences but were not so common among the women as the men. Women, it would appear from these records, are more liable to disablement from nervous disorders and

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ENTOMOLOGY

Insects Aid Australians

Insects are being used, apparently with great success, to save the great livestock ranges of Australia from the ravages of the prickly pear. A report of the sixth year of investigation has recently reached this country and indicates that this extraordinary experiment is about to be crowned with complete success, according to Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology.

The beneficial insects are a cochineal or mealy bug, a red spider, a moth larva from South America and another from Texas, and a sucking bug. In many cases the insects have succeeded in reducing the spiny plants to a state of utter collapse.

The fly in the ointment is the presence of a native ladybird beetle, the natural enemy of the cochineal insect. The danger from the ladybird beetle is at this time slight, however, according to E. Mortensen,

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Pollen Dates Relic

A woolen mantle, worn in Sweden when the early Pharaohs still reigned in Egypt, has had its age approximately determined by a curious combination of botanical and geological knowledge, through the researches of Dr. Lennart von Post of the Museum of National Antiquities here. The garment was found buried at a depth of several feet in a peat bed in the district of Västergötland, carefully folded up and weighted down with three stones, but with nothing about it to indicate how it got there.

Its similarity to Bronze Age garments from Denmark and elsewhere suggested its antiquity. The fact that it had evidently not been buried, but had lain in its hiding place while the moss grew over it to form about five feet of peat, was further evidence of great age. The acid water of the bog had preserved it from decay during the centuries.

Dr. von Post found the key to its age in the pollen grains that were thick in muddy particles clinging to the fabric. Most important among the species represented were oak, linden-elm forest was larger than it alder, and hazelnut as the principal shrub. Exact counts showed that the proportion of the pollen from the oak-linden-elm-forest was larger than it would be in a Swedish springtime "pollen rain" of today, indicating the existence of a milder climate in the

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PSYCHOLOGY

Analyzes Conversation

"American women talk predominantly about men and clothing. Englishwomen talk most frequently of other women or of themselves."

This is not a bright epigram from a fiction writer's notebook. It is the conclusion of an American psychologist who spent an afternoon and evening listening on a busy London street, and, as a result, carried away notes showing the subject matter of 200 British conversations. The conversations were carefully kept classified in order to show what English men or women say to each other and vice versa.

The psychologist, who is Dr. Carney Landis, of Wesleyan University, has compared his conversation samples with similar collections overheard in the streets of New York and Columbus.

When Englishman meets Englishman the chief topic of conversation is the same as between American men, namely, money and business, Dr.

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PHYSIOLOGY

Revives "Dead" Hearts

A "heart hormone," a physiologically powerful chemical compound secreted within the living heart and acting to keep it beating ceaselessly, has been discovered by Dr. Ludwig Haberlandt of the University of Innsbruck. It is to be classed with the secretions of the ductless glands, such as the thyroid in the throat and the adrenals near the kidneys, which have far-reaching effects in the lives of men and animals, and some of which are now widely used in medicine.

Prof. Haberlandt states that the existence of some such internal chemical stimulus to action had long been suspected, because frequently hearts removed from the bodies of animals kept on beating outside, which they would not have done had the stimulus been supplied by the nervous system alone. He found that extracts from a portion of the heart of the frog would act on the stilled heart removed from another frog, causing it to contract again. The extract was able to cause this reaction even in hearts that had been lying still in glass dishes for as much as three and one-half days.

A similar extract from the hearts of dogs, having comparable effects, has been obtained in Brussels by Dr. J. Demoor, and is cited by Prof.

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Analyzes Conversation

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Landis declares in a report to the *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*. But when an Englishman talks to a woman he does not talk shop or sports, as American men tend to do when talking to a woman. Instead, the Londoner seems to converse rather about women, clothes, or himself. The English woman's remarks to a man are apt to be along the same lines as if she were talking to another woman, that is, about women and about herself.

Dr. Landis concludes that "The limited sample of conversation obtained indicates that the Englishman adapts his conversations to the interests of his feminine companion, while American studies show that the American woman adapts her conversations to the interests of her masculine companion."

"There is a greater variety in the conversations heard in London streets than in those heard on American streets," Dr. Landis finds.

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Revives "Dead" Hearts

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Haberlandt as proof that his "heart hormone," as he has named the compound, is of general occurrence among vertebrates and of physiological importance to warm-blooded animals.

The Austrian physiologist is of the opinion that his newly discovered hormone may come to have considerable importance in medicine, as a stimulant to weak hearts. He points out that an abundant supply is easily available, in the hearts of animals killed for meat in the packing houses.

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Aviators refer to a dirigible as a "rubber cow".

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Insects Aid Australians

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an American assistant to the Australian Government. The ladybird beetle is feeding upon grass-eating mealy bugs and as yet has shown no interest in the mealy bugs that are being used against the prickly pear. By the time the ladybird beetle turns its attention to these helpful mealy bugs, it is hoped that the danger from prickly pear will be over.

This is only the second experiment of the kind ever tried. The first one was carried on in Hawaii against the Lantana weed. It was not a complete success, since one of the insects introduced to attack the Lantana weed has recently attacked a valuable related plant. The prickly pear experiment is safer, Dr. Howard said, because there is no cultivated plant related to this cactus that would be endangered by introduced insects.

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Pollen Dates Relic

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North at the time the mantle was laid away.

Such a mild climate is known from geological evidences to have followed shortly after the disappearance of the last patches of glacial ice in the south of Sweden, at about the time when the New Stone Age was giving way to the Age of Bronze in that country. It was followed by a period of severer climate, ushering in the Iron Age. This mild-climate pollen thus determines the former owner of the mantle, who so carefully folded it up and hid it under three stones in a ditch, as a man of the Early Bronze Age.

The careful workmanship of the weaver, who made the cloth out of a mixture of fine wool and the hair of game animals, probably deer, is described by Emelie von Walterstorff, and the possible romantic history of the garment, which has a number of dagger-holes jabbed through it, is hinted at by Sune Lundquist. Mr. Lundquist states also that the toga of the Romans was quite similar in shape to these elliptical Bronze Age mantles, though differing in size and manner of wearing. A shorter Roman cloak, the "trabea," worn largely by priests and soldiers, was even more nearly similar.

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The Hatteria, an animal found in New Zealand, has in its early life an eye in the back of its head, but this degenerates with maturity.

Art Treasures Unearthed

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the entrance, the orchestra was adorned with a number of fine statues. A sculptured frieze depicting a fierce battle between the Greeks and the Amazons was apparently a part of the stage wall.

The walls of the theater, buried for centuries under more than 25 feet of earth, are still covered with paintings in brilliant colors.

"One scene," says Dr. Shear, "represents an acrobat who is making a polevault over the back of a charging leopard. Both man and beast are caught for the picture at the moment when they are in the air. In another acrobatic scene the athlete, with hands on the ground and head raised, is about to take off for a handspring over the back of a huge lion that is rushing at him.

"The brilliance of the colors on the wall, the originality of the themes and the vivacity of the action indicate amazing skill and technique in the execution of decorative painting on a large scale at the beginning of the Christian era."

Coins and lamps dating from the fourth century A. D. are the most recent objects found at the ruins, and Dr. Shear concludes that the theater was destroyed when Alaric the Goth burned Corinth in 396 A. D.

The wall of the sanctuary to Athena, which archæologists have sought for a number of years, was discovered near the theater at the close of last season's work, but this important ruin has not yet been completely uncovered.

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Loss from Colds

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diseases of the throat and tonsils, but their disabling illnesses are shorter on the whole than the men's. This condition in favor of the so-called weaker sex is counterbalanced, however, by the fact that their absences were more numerous, totalling 14 calendar days apiece during the whole ten years, while that of the men reached only 8.9.

A high proportion of illnesses occurred among the younger employees, notably among the women. The statisticians suggest that this circumstance may be in part accounted for by the dropping out of the less healthy. The group representing the ages 30 to 35, they state, seems as a whole to have a greater resistance to colds, tonsillitis, and stomach disorders than the younger ages.

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