



June Bugs

NEXT Wednesday is the first of June, and therefore all the June bugs should appear promptly Tuesday midnight. In most places the June bugs do not know proper etiquette, and have been on hand for some time already. June beetles they should by rights be called, rather than June bugs, for they are of course beetles, and close kin to the most ancient and royal of their tribe, the sacred scarab of the Egyptians.

The Egyptian scarab was undoubtedly a better-behaved insect than the modern June bug, or he would never have had monuments erected in his honor, or slept in the tombs of Pharaohs. The June bug, for all his good-natured, blundering ways as an adult, is as a youth a most unholy terror. The clumsy, sluggish, thick-bodied white grubs or grubworms that you find when you are working your garden are the children of the June bug. Left in the ground as eggs, they spend a long and peaceful grubhood in the soil, migrating when it pleases them, loafing when they like. All very nice for the grubs, no doubt; but they feed mainly on the roots of grass, which is not nearly so nice for the owner of the lawn or golf course. And if they are numerous enough in a potato field they will ruin the crop with apparently neither remorse nor indignation.

After a time as grubs they pupate, or pass into a chrysalis condition of almost death-like dormancy, during which the almost magical change from the long, soft, wingless white grub to the round, hard, winged brown beetle takes place. Then they emerge as full-fledged June bugs, ready to begin the cycle over again.

Science News Letter, May 28, 1932

ARCHAEOLOGY

Ruins of Early Church Adorned With Bible Scenes

Astonishing Discovery of Art Treasures Represents Both Old and New Testament

PAINTINGS of Christ healing the sick, Adam and Eve, the resurrection, and other Bible themes from the brush of a second century artist are a discovery of major interest by archaeologists, announced by Prof. Michael I. Rostovtzeff, of Yale University.

The paintings, of the greatest importance to Bible scholars, were found in ruins of a Christian church in Dura, Syria, where the expedition from Yale and the French Academy of Inscriptions has been excavating. Prof. Clark Hopkins of Yale, field director of the expedition, was astonished to find the Christian church, and more astonished at its art treasures.

The church had been buried under a strong mud-brick wall which the Romans built in haste when they were strengthening the frontier-fortress of Dura against the Persians.

Archaeologists who uncovered the ruins found that walls and the apse of the little early Christian church were painted from top to bottom with scenes from the Old and New Testament, Prof. Rostovtzeff announced.

"Inside the concha of the apse-baptismal font, stands the Good Shepherd with His twelve sheep, and beneath this scene Adam and Eve near the tree," he stated.

David Triumphant

"On the entrance door the worshipper saw young David raising triumphantly his sword over the enormous prostrate body of Goliath, the two names being written near the corresponding figures.

"Finally, to the right of the niche or apse of the church, one sees Christ healing the sick man who is represented first in his bed and afterwards running away with his bed on his shoulders, and near it, a very striking composition showing the miracle of the lake. This shows the disciples of Christ in their boat looking in amazement on what is happening on the surface of the water, that is Christ slowly moving to the left and stretching His right hand towards

Peter who is sinking and imploring for help.

"The most interesting and chief scene of the painted decoration, however, shows the story of the resurrection: the majestic front of the grave with two shining stars above it and the procession of the myrrhophores, the three Marys with their companions moving slowly and solemnly towards the grave with lighted torches and bowls full of myrrh in their hands. It is a beautiful composition painted with a gorgeous display of colors."

The paintings throw new light on the Gospels as they existed in very early Christian history, Prof. Rostovtzeff pointed out.

Science News Letter, May 28, 1932

The famous Sudbury field in Ontario, a tiny area of the globe, has yielded half a billion dollars in nickel, platinum, and other metals.

Italy pays as much attention to scientific silkworm breeding as some nations do to horse breeding, says a writer in a geographic journal.

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The Science Service radio address next week will be on the subject,
WHAT DO YOU WEIGH TODAY?
R. W. Smith
Chief of the section of weights and measures laws and administration of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, will speak
FRIDAY, JUNE 3
at 2:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time
Over Stations of
The Columbia Broadcasting System