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## AMERICAN ART NEWS.

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## BUREAU OF EXPERTIZING.

Advice as to the placing at public or private sale of are works of all kinds, pictures, sculptures, furniture, bibelots, etc., will be given at the office of the AMERICAN ART NEWS, and also counsel as to the value of art works and the obtaining of the best "expert" opinion on the same. For these services a nominal fee will be charged. Persons having art works and desirous of disposing or obtaining an idea of their value, will find our service on these lines a saving of time, and, in many instances, of unnecessary expense. It is guaranteed that any opinion given will be so given without regard to personal or commercial motives.

## A UNIQUE COLLECTOR.

The late George A. Hearn, whose death is sincerely and widely mourned by his fellow American collectors and art lovers, and especially by American artists, who, in him, have lost their most generous and sincere patron—was a unique collector. His broadmindedness influenced and compelled him to make a provision in his letter of 1910 donating pictures and monies to the Metropolitan Museum, of which he was a Trustee, to the effect that if, after his death, now unhappily arrived, any of his gifts should be judged as unauthentic or unworthy of the Museum, by competent authorities, these should be removed and replaced by authentic and better ones from funds he left for the purpose.

It is strange that in none of the many and lengthy press notices of Mr. Hearn's life and career, his collections and benefactions, has any allusion to this remarkable and exceptional action on his part been even alluded to. We called attention to this unique action at the time of Mr. Altman's recent death, at the same time republishing Mr. Hearn's strong and convincing argument, as to the keeping together of

individual art collections, made to the Metropolitan Trustees, when he made his gift.

What other Collector has thus been willing to admit the chance of error in his collecting, and to suggest a revision of his judgment? This action is alone a monument to the man!

## CURIOUS MUSEUM QUESTION.

We would call attention to the curious question now confronting the City Council of Memphis, and noticed elsewhere in this issue. It seems that a Mrs. Brooks, who has given \$100,000 for the building of an Art Museum in Memphis, as a memorial to her husband, has made the unusual provision that no painting shall be purchased for the said Museum, when completed, or exhibited in that building, which does not pass a Board of Censors composed of the artists, William M. Chase, and the Misses Kate Carl (Painter of the portrait of the late Empress of China) and Cecilia Beaux. The City Fathers argue that they might, perchance, like some day to purchase or exhibit pictures in the Museum, to be under their control, of which even these eminent artist censors might not approve, and hesitate, in consequence, to proceed with the Museum's building. Who shall untie this novel art knot?

## ANCIENT ART FROM THE SEA.

M. Merlin, in charge of the excavation of the ancient Greek ship sunk off the coast of Medina, Africa, has announced to the Academy of Inscription in Paris, so the cable reports, the recovery of a statue of Eros and other valuable relics from the wreck. The Eros is ascribed to Praxiteles. The hand of a master is said to be visible in every line of the figure. The piece is fifty-two inches high, and when it was found in the silt at the bottom of the sea the wings had been torn away. It was covered with a heavy saline deposit. The figure, in its original, probably carried a bow.

## TO PRESERVE MONUMENTS.

A law for the protection of historical monuments was passed last week by the French Chamber of Deputies, according to a special cable to the New York "Times." The new law gives the Government greater power of control over the national treasures and has been passed with the object of preventing private individuals and public companies from deriving profit by charging admission to places of historic interest, of which they are merely temporary proprietors.

It is decreed that an inventory of all historical monuments and buildings in France shall be taken during the next three years with the view of discovering those in need of restoration. The law also decrees that private owners shall be held responsible for their upkeep.

## MONA LISA CONDEMNED.

In a lecture at the University of London recently, Kane S. Smith called the "Mona Lisa" of Leonardo da Vinci "one of the most actively evil pictures ever painted." Commenting upon this astounding dictum, the New York "Times" says of Smith:

"The microbe of evil is in his own perverted mind, as the microbe of grip or malaria lurks in the body of its victim until another microbe from without quickens it to action. The quickening bug in this case is the dangerous bacillus of notoriety."

## GUELPH FAMILY TREASURE.

It has become known in Vienna that the famous family treasure of the Guelphs will shortly be removed from Gmunden to the residence of the new Duke of Brunswick. Part of this collection dates back to a Turkish origin as early as 1172. Besides an immensely valuable service of gold plate the collection includes wonderful specimens of ecclesiastical art and precious stones.

## CHINESE CAVE TEMPLES.

Fom Peking, China, the discovery of fifth century cave-temples in Manchuria has been reported to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington by Langdon Warner, assistant curator of the Boston Museum.

## Obituary

## George Browne Post.

George Browne Post, the eminent architect, died at Bernardsville, N. J., Nov. 27, aged 76.

Practically all of his long life was devoted to his chosen art, save for the period of the Civil War, when, entering the Union army as a captain in the 22nd New York volunteers, he rose to the rank of Colonel. Returning to New York at the close of the war, Col. Post resumed the practice of his profession, with Charles D. Gamble as his associate. In later years the firm was styled George B. Post & Sons. He executed many notable commissions such as the New York Stock Exchange, the College of the City of New York, the old Equitable Building, burned down three years ago; the Produce and Cotton Exchanges, etc.

Col. Post long was prominent in the public aspects of his profession. Among the institutions with which he was affiliated or which conferred honors upon him, were the Commission for the Lafayette Monument in the Louvre in Paris, the Board of Commissioners of the St. Louis Exposition, the World's Congress of Architects in London, and the International Congress of Architects, The Municipal Art and Nat'l Sculpture Societies, the Fine Arts Federation of New York.

Col. Post received the highest distinction conferred on an architect in this country on Dec. 14, 1911, when a gold medal for distinguished services in architecture was awarded to him by the American Institute of Architects.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Didn't Pronounce Opinion.

Editor AMERICAN ART NEWS.

Dear Sir:

I am informed that there appeared in your issue of Nov. 1st, a paragraph, reprinted from the London "Evening News," respecting a picture lately on exhibition at the "Evening News" Stall at Olympia, London.

It states that Sir Charles L. Eastlake and I had pronounced this picture a genuine Gainsborough. I have not pronounced an opinion on it, nor have I seen it by daylight. Sir Charles L. Eastlake, P. R. A., and Director of the National Gallery, died about 20 years ago.

Mr. Charles L. Eastlake, J. P., evidently confused with Sir Charles in this instance, has never been connected with the National Gallery, nor professionally with art at all. I wrote to the "Evening News" denying the statement—also to the "Times."

As a purchaser might be forthcoming on this misstatement of guarantee, may I ask you to publish this letter in your next issue?

Yours very truly,

Norman Hirsh.

Langport, Somerset, England,

Nov. 19, 1913.

## Art As a Fashion.

Editor AMERICAN ART NEWS.

Dear Sir:

Have you heard of the woman who asked, as she entered the exhibition of the Watercolor Club, which closed Sunday last at the Fine Arts Galleries in West 57 St.—"Where are Mrs. Woodrow Wilson's pictures?" and on being told they were not there and obtaining the information as to their place of exhibition said: "Would you mind returning the 25 cents I paid for admission to this show? I only came to see Mrs. Wilson's pictures."

This incident emphasizes your editorial comment on "Art As a Fashion" in last week's issue, and has vastly amused several artists, and especially the members of the Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, whose recent exhibition was unprecedentedly popular and financially successful, only through the fact, it is to be feared, that Mrs. Wilson sent five landscapes to be shown in it.

Yours very truly,

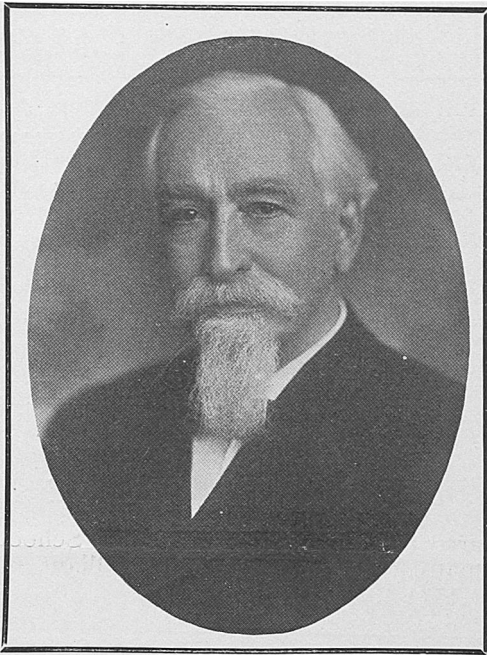
A. P.

New York, Dec. 3, 1913.

## RICHMOND'S DAVIS' TABLET.

A bronze tablet to Jefferson Davis, whose name was chiseled off Cabin John Bridge in Washington, by Federal authority, but later restored, has been placed in the wall of the Federal building at Richmond, Va., with the consent of the national government to mark the location of Davis's offices as President of the Confederate States.

Bertram Dobell, the London bookseller and poet, has offered to the Library of Congress at Washington, a collection of 1,500 privately printed books and pamphlets, which has been dispatched to America. The collection represents the labor of forty



GEORGE ARNOLD HEARN.

George Arnold Hearn, art collector and lover, philanthropist and eminent merchant, died Monday evening last at his New York residence, aged 78, of pleurisy. His funeral took place on Thursday morning last and he was interred in Woodlawn.

The death of Mr. Hearn, which follows all too soon that of his fellow merchant and art collector, Benjamin Altman, removes another eminent collector from the too small number of American art collectors and connoisseurs of the first rank. It removes also the oldest and most generous and consistent friend that the cause of modern American painting has ever had, and from the American art world and institutions, a devoted and consistent friend and advisor. The loss of such a man as Mr. Hearn truly brings widespread and sincere sorrow and regret, and his place cannot and will not be filled for many years to come. Differing from other collectors of American pictures and sculptures, who have passed or who survive him, there was no trace or suspicion of commercial motives in his purchasing, especially of American art works, and he was, also differing from others of his fellows, broad minded and comparatively free from narrow prejudices and vindictiveness of spirit.

His high and fine character and liberality of mind and conduct made him, not only a most successful collector, but also a successful merchant, and in other affairs of life, notably as Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum, a most valuable and beloved personality.

Mr. Hearn is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Laura Hoppock, three daughters, Mes. Herbert Spencer Greims, Clarkson Cowl and George E. Schrank, and two grandsons, Donald and Arthur Cowl. His only son, Arthur Hoppock Hearn, died in 1911, and a fourth daughter, Mrs. Wheeler, some years ago.

## Mr. Hearn's Life History.

George A. Hearn was the son of James A. Hearn, founder of the firm of James A. Hearn & Son, previously known as Arnold & Hearn, established in 1827 by Aaron Arnold and his nephew, George Arnold Hearn. Another nephew, James Arnold Hearn, in 1834, was taken in the firm and then became Arnold, Hearn & Co. The firm of Hearn Brothers, composed of George A. Hearn and James A. Hearn, was established at 425 Broadway in 1842. The brothers separated in 1856, and James A. Hearn moved to 775 Broadway. In 1860 George Arnold Hearn was admitted to partnership with his father under the name of James A. Hearn & Son.

The firm moved to the present store in West Fourteenth St. in 1879. Arthur Hoppock Hearn was admitted in 1884. James A. Hearn died in 1886, but the firm name was continued. The sons-in-law of George A. Hearn were admitted in the business,

(Continued Page 5)