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Appropriate Pictures for the Home

By AMANDA JACOBSON, Applied Art Department

FORTY THOUSAND years ago, the cave men, of France and Spain, painted ed excellent realistic pictures of animals on the walls of their caves. Since that time ideas of art and beauty have undergone many changes, but the desire for beauty still remains. It is possible that many primitive people believed in the "magic of art". They, therefore, used pictures in their homes, to ward off danger. The Egyptians placed pictures on the walls of their temples and tombs for the guidance and instruction of the soul in its journey to Abahdos, where it would appear before Osiris, presider of the West. More often, possibly, the pictures were put on the walls to take the place of offerings of food. Many of them represented scenes in the everyday life of the deceased. The Assyrians placed pictures on the walls of their palaces not for religious purposes, but to commemorate the deeds of valor and other events of their rulers and their everyday activities.

The Greeks placed pictures on their walls to commemorate the deeds of valor of their gods and heroes. They, however, never lost sight of the decorative value of art. Roman wall decoration was very similar to the Greek decoration. We can see very well-preserved wall decorations at Pompeii. The pictures are frescoes, that is, they were painted directly on the wall. They could be used as a record of a glorious war, and the power of the mighty rulers and their everyday activities.

The portrait has always been popular. During the Renaissance and after, wall paintings began to take the place of the tapestries. The frame was invented, and gradually the framed easel pictures came into general use. That is the kind of pictures we use on our walls today.

It might be interesting to stop and think about some of the reasons why we use pictures in our homes. Possibly religion plays some part in the choice of our pictures. Our fathers and forefathers used pictures in their homes. Unconsciously we are bound by tradition. It is interesting to think that the use of pictures on walls has been popular for forty thousand years, and as a consequence they have become part of the heritage of the race. Not only tradition, but education, also, plays an important part in our choice of subjects. The majority of people prefer the familiar theme. That has been true in all ages. Possibly religion plays some part in the choice of our pictures, and possibly design and composition are considered as abstract elements. Man is born with the aesthetic instinct and he enjoys at least some types of decoration, but good taste and fine discrimination must be developed.

When we choose pictures it might be possible to give some consideration to personal preference and to the pictures we wish to use as part of the decorative scheme. In the first place, pictures should be in keeping with the other interior decoration of a room, and they should harmonize with the furniture and accessories, and they will bring color and cheer into the home.

When we choose pictures for our homes, we must consider the theme or subject even as man has done in all ages. We may begin with the religious motive and consider the beautiful Madonna of Christianity to art. These pictures can be used in any rooms in the house. A majestic subject like Raphael's "Sistine Madonna" may be useful, or the more intimate "Madonna of the Chair", or "Dürer's Madonna" may be used, or the more intimate "Temple of Luxor" are desirable if one enjoys the stately mysterious temples of the Pharaohs. One might enjoy a sepiacolored copy of "My Mother" by Sully, or the "Old English Cottage" of Torn by Whistler. The old English cottage, with its gay flower garden, makes a charming subject, and many of our American portrait painters have done charming pictures—"Allee" by Chase, "The True Ivy good in a Living room. Some of these are Whistler's picture, "My Mother", Titian's "Man with a Glove", and Holbein's "Brassman". Many portraits by the Dutch masters, such as Rembrandt, Franz Hals, and Van Dyke are good types.

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There are many impersonal portraits that fine in composition and good in color. Many types of pictures are charming subjects. The majority of people prefer a picture with a deep meaning. The "Gibbons" of Muir's "Mellon Eaters" shows the joy and beauty of a home, while the "Dance of the Nymphs" of Ingres shows the joy of the Pharaoh's. The portraits of the children of the royal family. These depict pompo and dignity, also the conservative atmosphere which has been imposed upon many children. In England, Van Dyke painted the children of Charles I, while Rasburn and Gainsborough painted the child of the middle classes. Animal life plays an important part in the life of children. If they are fond of any particular animal, they may enjoy a photograph of that animal. If they were to photograph a tree that looks like any of Corot's trees, he painted the tree to fit into a whole picture. His soft green tones can be compared to this type of composition—"The Angelus." His pictures stand out as some of the most beautiful landscape pictures.

Seascape pictures may be used in the home. However, they are not as desirable a picture as the landscapes. On the whole, it seems that pictures that portray the struggle of the elements on land or sea are the most effective. Once a扔sworked his way into the picture. "The Wave" by Ivan Aycouuske, the Russian, and some by Dougherty, the American painter, might be successfully used in the home. The old oil landscapes of European painters—"The Pool", "Duke", or Diiver's "Battes Bliage" gives a splendid vision of the then disappearing woods and forests of this kind in early. The sea is calm, and the effect of motion has not entered into the composition. It would, therefore, be considered a very good picture for the home.

Genre painting represents everyday life in the home, and we may be numbered among the artists who have a sympathetic feeling for rustic life. There are only the lyric side of human life, while Millais made the modern and see the nihility of nature. He went to nature for his inspiration, but he never copied. He despised with all that was useless in his composition—"The Angels." In the great field of landscape painting, Corot's pictures stand out as some of the most popular. He is called a romanticist, and he can perhaps be compared to the lyric poet. He went to nature for his inspiration, but the interpretation was his own. No one has ever been able to photograph a tree that looks like any of Corot's trees. He painted the tree to fit into a whole picture. "The Towry" by Chase and Emile Carlsen are very good. The old English cottage, with its gay flower garden, makes a charming subject, and many of our American portrait painters have done charming pictures—"Alice" by Chase, "The True Ivy good in a Living room. Many of these are Whistler's picture, "My Mother", Titian's "Man with a Glove", and Holbein's "Brassman". Many portraits by the Dutch masters, such as Rembrandt, Franz Hals, and Van Dyke are good types.

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keep a swimming pool and tennis court in some sort of logical ratio.

We find in the study of psychology, that the process of learning is made easier if accompanied by appropriate work with the hands. Thus this kind of sand play can be a real aid in the child's education, in history, geography—almost any course. If too much emphasis is laid on the technique of such work, its usefulness for fixing the main idea is negligible. The central aim should never be smothered in bothersome detail.

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or a narrow frame. The color of the mat must be harmonious with the color of the print. It must be light in value, but not white. Hokusai and Hiroshige, Japanese artists, are ranked among the great landscape painters of the world.

Fine old engravings are very valuable. They should be mounted on a mat and a narrow frame should be used. Etchings by men like Rembrandt, Whistler, Goya and Zurn are almost priceless. There are many fine modern etchers. Mr. Pennell's work is perhaps best known. The colored etchings are decorative and very beautiful. These are classed among the most popular pictures for the home at present. They are, of course, more expensive than the colored print.

The oil paintings are not so popular at present as they were formerly. Possibly people realize that a poor oil painting is an abomination. The oil paintings done by an artist of ability will, however, always be desirable in a home. They are possibly better for the pretentious home than the modest cottage.

Above all, pictures become dear to us by constant association, and they also become a powerful influence in our lives. When we hear martial music we are stirred. I believe that pictures of a war-like theme stir one in the same way. We join the ranks, fall in line, and are swayed by the rhythm of line and mass, even as we are by the rhythm of martial music. It is important, therefore, to choose one's pictures with care even as one wishes to choose one's friends. Whether one follows tradition, precedent, or religious considerations, pictures will always be one of the big things in one's life and home which will need due consideration.

### The Individual Scarf

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"Do you always start with white materials?"

"No, it isn't necessary to use white, but it is easiest. You can use any light color, but you will have to consider how the color already in the material will affect your dyes; for instance, if you dipped light blue material in yellow dye, you would have a light green color as a result. A light grey background would simply grey all your colors a little."

Mary Ellen worked a little longer, then she took some paper and a piece of charcoal and began to combine a flower form of circles, a palm design to suggest leaves, and enough line design (made by over-casting) to hold it together nicely. Finally, both girls were satisfied with the design.