1935

Art Series Presents... Romance of the Renaissance

Helen Clemons
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Clemons, Helen (1935) 'Art Series Presents... Romance of the Renaissance,' The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 15 : No. 1 , Article 8.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol15/iss1/8
Art Series Presents . . .

Romance of the Renaissance

by Helen Clemons

Museum pieces may not be good—artistically, but historical value places a huge price on them. Such an example is one of Palissy's platters (he was a medieval craftsman) which was large enough to cover a man-size desk—snakes, snails and reptiles ran around its rim.

One discovered that Wedgwood does not confine itself to white, cameo-like figures on blue backgrounds, but may be a white ware; that the Japanese and Chinese are skillful in blending colors and making graceful shapes; that England's contribution was bone china, of which beef bone is the chief ingredient! This china gives a green cast when held to the light. Hard porcelains give a blue light; and that modern artists are successfully combining utility with beauty in the ceramic art of today.

P. H. Elwood, head of the Landscape Architecture Department, explains gardening as the art which "provides a setting for great buildings, great philosophy and great literature."

ONE turns to Italy for "the most perfect unity in sculpture, architecture, and landscape architecture of the Renaissance period." The Italians were adept in the use of water, unified composition and perfect scale.

Then there was a Pompejanian courtyard garden filled with statuary, formal Chinese domestic gardens in close conjunction with picturesque red one-story houses, the hillside gardens of Italy, a Moorish garden in Spain with a staircase and rail set in to allow grouping of potted plants at the side, the great horizontal formal French gardens where water is extravagantly used, and a charming English cottage

Campus Renaissance

In the new academic turrets ornate decorative

Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper"
Name the Gown
(Begins on page 3)

well to open the album and read the weather forecast. To shiver on rainy days or to look smothered on sultry evenings are major tragedies. One way to avert such mishaps is to own one or two all-quarter costumes.

There are several distinct types of all-quarter dresses. One is the dark colored sheer; it is not too frail for early spring, and later it looks deliciously cool. Then there is the pastel or cruise-colored wool which, with navy or brown accessories looks snug in April, but which, with white shoes and felt hat becomes ideal for June. A third choice is the short-sleeved coat dress, another, the print with white lingerie trim.

So many choices do the shops offer this spring that a wardrobe can be appropriate for the climate, one's social needs, her purse and her personality all at once.

Wife to an Artist
(Begins on page 5)

for divorce. Mrs. Petersen opposes that idea, drawing conclusions from her own experience for that has been the habit in their home with harmony prevailing.

Another hint for successful wives: Don't let your housework be of prime importance. The artist's wife must be ready to drop her work to go with her husband at any time. A new idea might be developing, "which must never be hindered by a few silly dishes," warned Mrs. Petersen.

An incident in the life of this artist's wife came to her mind at this moment. They were living in Chicago and the time was 11:30 at night. Mr. Petersen suggested going for a walk. For an hour they strolled, arm in arm. Suddenly he turned to her, exclaiming, "Do you hear what I hear?—the constant sound of cars, of roaring water—I think I hear something!"

It was 1 a.m. when they returned to the apartment. The sculptor, lest his mood go uninterpreted, grabbed a lump of clay. For two hours he modelled his idea into form. His wife stayed by, having hot coffee ready. Between sips of black coffee the picture in the clay was translated.

Such an instance fills the story of the life of an artist's wife. In the artist's home there are no real home plans, no schedules, no permanence, but there must be atmosphere whether the abode be a one-room apartment or an eight-room house.

Mrs. Petersen declares that enthusiasm is a great asset in the life of an artist; imbued by the inspiration of his companion-wife. A good wife cannot be disappointed nor show disappoint-

pointment—she must always welcome a new venture with enthusiasm.

Nearly every afternoon finds Mrs. Petersen at the library reading the latest in news in the art world. She does all the heavy reading to recite to her busy husband in their evenings together. She saves clippings and sketches pertaining to art and files them for future reference. When her artist-husband mentions an idea she knows just where she has catalogued an inspiration to guide him in a specific idea.

When asked what her own hobby was, she laughingly remarked, "Well, I think poetry and drama. We're both fond of the theater and music. When Mr. Petersen wants to work out something, we first go to the show for relaxation. After a hard day, he enjoys silly stuff."

In the summer they spend a great deal of time out-of-doors. Mr. Petersen doesn't want to be inside—walls disturb him. All day long finds them enjoying the summer's sun while the artist's eye glean the landscape which takes form on canvas.

This happy couple enjoys indoors long enough to produce some favorite dish; for the body craves nourishment as well as the soul. Pie is the sculptor's favorite food with cheese as a close second. Roquefort cheese dressing on salads is a delectable dish for anyone.

Thus Mrs. Petersen proves that an artist is quite the usual husband and considers this a virtue for it makes them happy and happiness she feels is the greatest of all virtues.

Renaissance
(Begins on page 9)

bronze pieces, ranging from large trays to a blue-enamelled Austrian bowl. They were brought in strong relief by a heavy blue curtain background. Yes, one could see how the useful may be beautiful, too.

Constructive design controls the size and shape, while decorative design may be part of the constructive design or applied on the surface.

Modern designers . . . George Jensen, Walter Teague, Donald Deskey . . . emphasize geometric form and simplicity. Triple candlesticks by Teague (designer of the stream line train which made the 1934 cross-country "flight") and table silver by George Jensen were too beautiful to describe.

---

**MEMORIAL UNION BEAUTY SHOP**

**Expert care of hands, face and hair is essential these spring days**

**SECURE THE BEST AT YOUR**

**THE BET Memoral Union**