

Marie Antoinette's Harp

The harp that once Queen Marie Antoinette played to admiring audiences of courtiers and again to while away the weary hours when she was a prisoner of state in Conciergie, is in Brooklyn. Miss Dagmar Langenberg, a young Swedish woman, in this country scarce a year, is its owner.

There is no doubt as to the harp's authenticity; it has descended to Miss Langenberg through a long line of ancestors. To those who might question her, Miss Langenberg exhibits the certificate which proves as far as any document can prove that the harp was really once the treasured property of "La Belle Austrienne."

It is a beautiful instrument, the finest work of that great maker of harps, Henri Naderman, of Vienna, who fashioned it in 1720. All but the sounding board is of the finest mahogany. It has never been polished as modern instruments are—the friction of the hand and a little sandpaper were the only tools used in those bygone days. Not a bit of varnish ever brightened its venerable surface.

When Marie Antoinette became the bride of Louis XVI she took this beautiful harp from its resting place in the music room of the royal house of Austria and brought it with her to Paris.

The people of France rebelled against

their king—largely, history tells, because of their hatred of the beautiful queen. The royal palace was sacked; both the harps were taken with the other priceless loot. King and queen were flung into prison.

King Louis was guillotined on Jan. 21, 1793, in the Place de la Revolution. The "Widow Capet," as afterward the mob called the former queen, was kept alive a few months longer. She pined for the harp, companion of her earlier and happier days when she was a girl princess in Austria. Some jailer, kinder hearted than the rest, got it back for her.

On Oct. 16, 1793, Marie Antoinette followed her royal husband to the guillotine. Then the harp disappeared and was so recorded in the national archives. But a description of it was kept which has since made possible its identification.

A family that lived in Asnieres, near Paris, really secured the harp and hid it in their garret for years. They were the Flauzuets—loyalists. In 1804 a Swedish count, Ulrich von Cronstedt, discovered the harp lying among the garret rubbish. Fifteen years later, in 1819, he took it to Sweden with him. From that day to this there is no doubt that the harp has been carefully preserved—it is the same harp that Count Ulrich secured in Paris so many years ago.

Miss Langenberg brought the harp to this country in the original oaken box in which it was found in France and from there conveyed to Sweden by Count Ulrich. She is now staying at No. 360A Tompkins avenue, and there, in the drawing room, rests the harp in a position of honor at last, after its century of vicissitudes.

The certificate remains in Sweden, the property of the Langenbergs, who are descendants of the Cronstedt family. But Miss Langenberg has an English translation, duly certified by a notary, which gives the history of the harp from the day of its manufacture until it fell into her possession. —New York World.

An Heroic Effort

The Des Moines Register and Leader under date of New York, Dec. 13, says:

Buried under ten tons of coal, with life sustained by means of a gas pipe forced through the heavy mass, while his comrades worked heroically to rescue him, was the experience of Hugh Kelly, 40 years old, and employe of the Hudson Coal company. Kelly is now in the Jersey City hospital, bruised and injured internally. Physicians there say he cannot live.

Kelly was at work on top of a thirty-foot trestle, up which big steel cars, each carrying fifty tons of coal, are run from the barges. His duty was to secure the cars before they were emptied into the chute. Kelly was on a car fastening the brakes when another employe, Thomas Haggerty, pulled the lever which releases the coal from the bottom of the car. Kelly fell with the coal thirty feet and was in an instant buried under tons of it.

Kelly's fatal plunge was seen by Haggerty, but his cries for help brought other employes, headed by Alderman Holmes, superintendent of the yard, to the scene. A long piece of gas pipe was shoved down through the coal and fortunately reached the entombed man, who was thus saved from suffocation.

Then followed a brave fight against death. Armed with shovels, the band of rescuers delved and dug with frantic haste to rescue their comrade.

Occasionally one would shout encouragingly through the pipe to the unfortunate man. Haggerty, a life-long friend of Kelly, through whose mistake the accident occurred, was among the foremost in the work of

rescue, and when the last lump of coal had been removed, and anxious hands raised Kelly to the platform, he was unconscious. His teeth were clenched like a vise on the end of the gas pipe.

An ambulance had been summoned in the meantime, and Kelly was taken to the hospital, where an examination by the physicians proved that his injuries were fatal.

When his friend, Haggerty, who insisted on going to the hospital with him, learned that there was no hope of saving his friend's life, he broke down and cried like a child.

A Strange Freak Explained

Specialists in skin diseases and prominent local physicians held a clinic in the Clark street museum yesterday over the mysterious marks resembling the crucifixion which are imprinted on the back of Abbott Parker of Charlestown, Mass., said to have resulted from a stroke of lightning at Morristown, N. J., on August 5 this year.

Dr. Dunne of Rockford, Ill., a specialist in skin diseases, gave a lecture. "Cases have been known where images of objects near at hand have been reproduced on the bodies of people struck by lightning," he said. "The electrolytic descriptions of the inorganic salts in the body into ions, the units of electricity, takes place when lightning strikes.

"These ions place the skin, as it were, into a negative plate ready to take a picture when exposed, as is the case in the exposure of a camera. This is done when the lightning tears the clothing off the body.

"The electrical current turns the sodium chloride in a body to a sodium positive and chlorine negative. The hydrochloric acid, being disintegrated into chlorine and hydrogen, will remain so until the body is exposed to the light when the actinic rays will cause them to reunite and form hydrochloric acid again. This is what

I think has happened in the Morristown case.

"Parker's skin was made photographically sensitive by the lightning. He was brought to the hospital, and when his clothing was removed the photograph of the crucifix hanging on the wall, or perhaps that suspended from the rosary hanging by the side of the Sisters in attendance, was transferred to his skin."—Chicago Chronicle.

His Idea

President Harper of the Chicago university says the world has a mistaken idea about Santa Claus. President Harper's idea of Santa Claus is probably a bald-headed, smooth-shaven man, whose portrait has been pen painted by Miss Ida Tarbell.—Washington Post.

A Genuine American Woman

"We did not believe," Mrs. W. L. Douglas said on the day after election, "that Mr. Douglas would be elected. The people must have known that he would do the best he could for them. He has always done right, and I know that he will do the best he can always. I feel, in a measure, as though I had lost something. It will take a year away from me. I have always had my husband. He has not been a club man; he has been a home man. We must not consider ourselves too much, though. We are glad he carried Brockton. That was really all we cared for. I never wanted to be the governor's wife. I just wanted to be Mrs. Douglas." We have become so accustomed to silly, priggish talk from women whose husbands attain high public places that the genuinely American note struck in this simple, modest utterance is as refreshing as a noonday shower. It carries us back to Abigail Adams, Martha Washington and the other real women who did as much as the men of their day to stamp out folly and frivolity and make this the great, wholesome, unpretentious republic it became.—Harper's Weekly.

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