

The Passion Play on Post Cards

Never before has anything been offered to the American People to equal the fifty magnificent views of the Passion Play herewith described. Each is from an actual photograph from scenes in the play. All in magnificent colors. See our offer



A SUBLIME, WONDERFUL PLAY

A little village of 1,400, situated in the Bavarian highlands has made preparations to care for fifty thousand American visitors, and other thousands from all over the world. Every Wednesday and Sunday, from May till October, will find this little town with three to four visitors to every resident, and an eager multitude will be knocking at the doors.

In the Middle Ages, when few people could read, and when the services of the church were in Latin, there were three agencies that helped to a popular knowledge of the Bible. One was the organization of companies of preaching friars, who journeyed about preaching as they went. Another was the pictures which adorned the walls of the churches. A third was the dramatic representation of the Passion of Christ. Very many communities played the Passion Play. But it grew to be a gross and irreverent performance. Judas was a clown, to provoke the laughter of the crowd; and the play was attended with great abuses, so that both the church and state combined to crush it out.

In one single community, however, it still lingers. In Oberammergau a solemn vow was made in a time of pestilence that in return for the mercy of God in sparing the lives of the people, after some hundreds of them had died, they would perform once in ten years this drama in memory of the Passion of Christ. To the people of Oberammergau it became a sacramental obligation. To them, the voice of Jesus seemed to apply, "This in remembrance of me."

And so it comes about that once in ten years the world turns its gaze on Oberammergau, and people who yesterday were peasants are known by name and face throughout the world.

The whole community lives for this play. No girl can have greater honor than to be chosen as Mary, the mother of Jesus; no man can have an honor comparable with that of acting the part of Jesus. This is what Oberammergau believes, and what it lives for. For five years after a Passion Play, they talk of nothing but the play that has passed, comparing it with other plays, and the traditions of former years. Then for five years they talk of nothing but the next Passion Play, and who shall be Christus, and who shall be Peter, and who shall be Judas, and who shall lead the chorus. And the women get out their sheets that have been packed away for nine years, and inspect their table linen, and the men provide places for the family to sleep in the barn or shed, so that all the beds may be given up to tourists.

GIVEN ONLY ONCE IN TEN YEARS

You are perhaps aware that the Passion Play is repeated only once in ten years. This is the year. At enormous expense, we have been able to secure original photographs taken from scenes in the Passion Play and have had them reproduced in many beautiful colors. There are fifty views in all, regular post card size, packed in a neat cardboard box all ready for mailing. Every civilized country in the world will have its representative party at this play during the summer. It is estimated that at least 50,000 people will visit the little village of Oberammergau during the rendering of this wonderful drama. There will be hundreds of thousands of people who would like to see this play, but cannot attend. It is surely the most wonderful production of its kind in the history of the world.

50 Beautiful and Striking Views in Natural Colors

For those who can not attend this play in person, our magnificent set of 50 photographic views of the most striking scenes of this play will be immensely valuable and interesting, and sure to create profound interest in the most wonderful production the world has ever known. These same pictures are used by noted lecturers for stereopticon views in illustrating the Passion Play lectures. These marvelous scenes

will be of surpassing interest to every follower of The Christ, no matter to which denomination they may belong.

These cards are put up in a neat card board case. All are in rich and beautiful colors. All different. On each card is a short description of the scene, so that one may sit down and go through the entire play by the use of these cards, and it will be most realistic.



A Set of These Cards Given to Every Commoner Reader

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The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

Enclosed herewith find \$1.00 to pay for one year's subscription to The Commoner. For securing this new subscription to The Commoner, you are to send to address given below, FREE and all carriage charges prepaid, one complete set of 50 Beautiful "Passion Play" Post Cards.

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To any one who sends one NEW subscriber to The Commoner for one year at \$1.00, we will send, as a reward for their interest, one complete set of 50 Passion Play Post Cards in a neat case FREE and all charges paid to their address.

This offer is limited to a short time, and is for the purpose of stimulating an active interest among the readers and friends of The Commoner in the work of doubling The Commoner's circulation and influence. It will be a very easy matter to do this if every one will take hold and ask at least one friend to subscribe. There are a great many in your community who only need to be asked to subscribe, and will be glad to have you send in a subscription for them. Ask them today and secure a handsome set of cards for your kindness. If you do not wish the cards for yourself, you may have them sent to any address you desire, or you can offer them along with The Commoner to the subscriber to help you in securing a new subscription. Will you do your part, like thousands of other loyal friends are doing, in placing The Commoner into the hands of at least one new reader for the coming important national congressional campaign? The attached coupon must be used in sending in this offer. Fill out and return as soon as possible and the cards will be promptly mailed free and all charges prepaid, to address given on coupon.

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