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## At What Age is Woman Most Beautiful?

In the eyes of most beautiful women nothing is more important than her own beauty. Beginning with the thrill of her earliest consciousness of it, she watches its development with increasing delight and observes its decadence with feelings akin to terror. At some point before decadence begins comes her hour of greatest beauty. At what age does that supreme hour of beauty strike?

Balzac, a consummate judge of womanly charm, declared that it is seldom at its height before thirty. Ninon d'Enclos, that prize beauty of the old French court and literary circles, who was so beautiful that she successfully defied the conventions during the greater part of her life, was still beautiful at ninety!

Our own peerless Lillian Russell at fifty—whisper it softly—is one of the most beautiful women in the world. To gaze upon her is enough—no one gives a thought to her age.

The beauty of Mrs. John Jacob Astor, mother of Vincent, the great heir of all the Astors, at forty, or thereabouts, is a beauty of world wide celebrity. If her hour of beauty has struck, and the decline has started, the latter circumstance does not seem to have been mentioned.

Mrs. Robert Golet, who was Miss Elsie Whelan, is another celebrated American beauty. At in the neighborhood of thirty all her beauty attributes seem to be still developing—which makes her a remarkably interesting demonstration of Balzac's theory. Perhaps if the author of the "Comedie Humaine" had lived till now he would have set the supreme hour of beauty still farther on, by ten or twenty years.

The instance of that other beautiful American, formerly Mrs. Dandridge Spotswood, now the wife of Count E. von Schonbrun Buckheim, of Hungary, is similar. Has her hour of beauty struck while

she hovers about the age of thirty, or are her charms—as portrayed by the Hungarian artist, Jozsa Koppay, still on the increase?

Portraits of the English beauty, Miss Marjorie Manners, taken at the age of sixteen seemed to show perfections that years could not add to. Would artists or other connoisseurs say that she is more or less beautiful now?

On this page four recognized experts discuss the question of woman's hour of beauty in more or less detail—Gutzon Borglum, the celebrated sculptor; Harrison Fisher, the distinguished illustrator; Lillian Russell and Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Their views will be read with interest not only in this country but in Europe, where the subject is being discussed.

One newspaper, which put the matter to the test of a popular vote, received ballots naming all the years from fifteen to thirty-five. A working woman, who never had taken time to consider whether she was beautiful or not, believed that any woman, "if she loves, and lives her dream, and if she waits in hope, can remain attractive until she is fifty-five."

At the age of ninety-three the landscape painter, Harpignes, says:

"No man while still young can yet appreciate what is admirable, intangible and unique in youth. He allows himself to be captured by the artificial and extremely questionable beauty of women who are made up and by the attraction of what is called the charm given by experience. Later he learns the difference, the abyss that separates the sham from the true. The sovereignty of human beauty lies in its simplicity, in its limpid perfection that can endure no inroad by years, anxieties, disappointments or ill health."

"The only beauty that can be accentuated by time is the beauty of things of nature, such as the old

oak tree, whose bosses and crinkles are as beautiful as the tender shoots of the young sapling. Women has therefore her hour of beauty during youth from, say, 16 to 20."

Says Mr. Gabriel Ferrer, member of the French Institute and a master of the Paris School of Fine Arts:

"The hour of beauty is by nature the hour of love, for in my opinion beauty must be the creator of love, although happily love is not always the offspring of beauty. Once upon a time it lasted some fifteen years and the saying was current, 'A woman's beauty is like a fine fruit, it must not be picked too late,' and Musset wrote, 'Woman has from nineteen to twenty-five to be loved, from twenty-five to thirty to love for herself and the rest of her life to God.'"

"Since Musset's days the hour of beauty has been modified and prolonged, thanks to dressmakers and modistes and to the ever increasing experience of women. I think I can truly say that in our days, when women have become masters



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Ninon d'Enclos, Who Was a Beauty at Ninety.



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Mrs. Ava Willing Astor, Who is Most Beautiful at Forty-five.



The American Countess von Schonbrun Buckheim, Who Was Mrs. Dandridge Spotswood—Fairest at Thirty.



Miss Gladys Deacon, Who Lost Her Beauty After She Was Twenty-two.



The Marchioness of Anglesey Who Was Miss Marjorie Manners, and Prettiest at Sixteen.

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The Large Picture is That of Mrs. Robert Golet, Whose Loveliness Is Now at Its Height at 28 Years.

### How Living Examples Force Experts Here and Abroad to Admit That "Beauty's Hour" May Strike at ANY AGE from Sixteen to Sixty

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Photo by HARRISON FISHER, LONDON.

Photo by LALLIE CHARLES, LONDON.

### "There Are Even Beautiful Century Plants"

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX (America's Foremost Woman Poet)

The age of beauty, varies with the type of woman studied. Some young girls of fourteen are exquisitely beautiful. We look upon them with wonder and admiration, and think how remarkable they will be at sixteen or twenty-two.

Then, at sixteen, their beauty begins to vanish; they grow commonplace, and the delicate lustre of the skin disappears, and the whole appearance changes. The rare pastel tints look like a cheap chromo or a faded photograph; and the rare beauty of fourteen is an ordinary girl at seventeen. This type of woman does not regain her charm at a later period, but rather becomes more and more commonplace with each passing year.

Again, the very plain girl of sixteen sometimes blooms into amazing beauty at twenty-five, and even at a much later period.

A woman of fifty, who attracted the eyes of every beholder and who was always the compelling personality in every room she graced, was said to be only a healthy and over-robust type of girl in her youth. It was not until after forty-five that her beauty developed. The white hair softened her complexion; the too round face grew oval; experience and joys and sorrows had given a deeper expression to her eyes and refined her features. She was sought after by painters, who wanted to put her face on canvas; while no painter would have dared to have her sit for him in her earlier years.

Love and maternity are beauty developers for a certain type of woman; and they destroy the beauty of other types.

The phlegmatic woman, who is beautiful by

right of classic features and brilliant coloring at eighteen, grows heavy and pallid after becoming a mother at twenty; while the emotional girl of the anemic order flames into radiant splendor after wifehood and motherhood have crowned her life.

Twenty-eight has always seemed to me the ideal age for woman beauty; for then the girl still retains her youthful contour and her natural bloom, while the woman adds the charm of culture and experience to the physical attractions.

But no age can be stated as the ideal age of woman's beauty; for women are as varied as the flowers of a garden, and one is a morning glory, looking its best before high noon, and another is a four o'clock and another a night blooming Cereus.

And still another is a Century Plant!

### Most Beautiful at Thirty-Five.

By LILLIAN RUSSELL.

We have the very best authority for believing that a woman is not at her most beautiful hour until she has reached thirty-five. That authority is the Venus de Medici, the greatest model of beauty in the world.

The sculpture is of a woman at an age when the body is fully developed and mature, when hair is at its greatest quantity, when eye and brow and all the upper part of the face are fullest, when the bust is at its greatest roundness and firmness, and when the general contour of the figure proved that the woman had reached the point of maturity.

The height of the chest proves that a deep breath had been taken, and the expression of the eye shows the intelligence which dictates deep breathing.

A woman's hour of beauty begins at thirty-five and lasts just so long as her intelligence directs the right regimen of exercise and diet.

### "Two Ages of Loveliness."

By HARRISON FISHER, the Distinguished American Illustrator.

There are two ages at which feminine loveliness is at its best, because there are two distinct types of beauty as the years govern it. One is the girl type whose beauty wanes when it passes into years of womanhood. This, which I call the school girl type, is loveliest at seventeen. The other, the kind of beauty that is most striking in maturity, is best at twenty-nine.

If you prefer the girl type, very well, I shan't quarrel with you about it. Personally my preference is quite the opposite. A bouquet of buds would capture only my casual glance. A full blown rose would hold me captivated by its beauty and fragrance. Character, which is only a short way of saying "strength of character," has always seemed to me an essential of beauty, the one indispensable quality. This no mere girl can have.

### Electrical Mountains to Provide Energy for the World?

The Chilean Government, acting with those of Bolivia and Peru, have appointed a commission of scientists to investigate a strange light which is flashing from the Andes in Chile. The light is visible within a radius of 500 miles from the main ridges of the range and is believed to be electrical in origin. It emanates directly from the mountains themselves. The three governments are anxious to see whether the enormous energy which is manifested can be harnessed and be made a source of power to irrigate the deserts on the Pacific slopes of the Andes and tame the wilderness west of the Cordilleras.

A suggestion has been made that the light may not be electrical at all; that it may be emanations from gigantic beds of radio-active substances, perhaps radium itself, which become visible under certain atmospheric conditions. If this latter theory is correct the Chilean Cordilleras hold a hoard which will change the destinies of the world.

Dr. Pedro Santelme, one of the commission selected, writing of the extraordinary phenomenon, says: "The light is ordinarily of a glistening appearance and has the shape of a bold curve. It appears to have fixed points of issue and changes only in the frequency of its discharge and in its extent. The most vivid flashes come from a very definite point, and the radiation sometimes reaches far above the zenith and away from the extraordinary phenomenon can be seen with greatest ease when the sky is clear."

"The flashing begins late in Spring and lasts until early Winter. Toward the south then the light ceases almost altogether. But in northern and central Chile, in Peru and Bolivia the flashes are intermittent throughout the Winter."

"We owe all of our present knowledge of the light

to a distinguished naturalist, who recently, during a journey through a valley of the main Cordillera, observed this phenomenon with exactness. One evening, about 9 o'clock, while studying an unusual and frequent discharge, he was able to ascertain that its point of issue was an elevation of the Cordillera along which he was roaming. Moving constantly around this peak was a band snapped like a segment of one or two degrees in height and somewhat similar to the zodiacal light in brightness.

"During the present season the light has glistened as usual, but with much greater strength, and especially above the discharge, into which the glistening has disappeared after a moderate interval. The naturalist believes that this flashing of the Andes is due to profuse electric discharges in certain districts of their Chilean section, and particularly among the greater peaks. The predominant popular view is that this light is a reflection of the molten lava in volcanic craters. Such a view is erroneous, however. It is not improbable that the number of the points at which these discharges occur changes; and it is possible, too, that during the great earthquake of August, 1906, discharges occurred along the whole crest, for, if we may accept an authoritative statement, the sky everywhere in Central Chile then flashed with a quivering fire, such as was never seen either previously or thereafter."

"Observation leads to the conclusion that this seemingly radiance of the Andes is the result of a copious issue of electricity. How these discharges, which are noiseless and produce no sparks, may be designated is not quite clear."

"It is probable that in the Andes is a source of power such as the world has never known and which, if it can be harnessed, will be found capable of providing



Photographs Showing Lillian Russell at the Successive Ages of 20, 23, 33 and 50 Years. At Which Age Do You Think Her Most Beautiful?