

# Woman's Section

## Oriental Superstitions on Jade and Amber Prevail in the Occident

By GABBY DETAYLS.

THE orient casts its spell like a dark, silken, fluttering robe over all who enter its domain. The white traveler from the occident is no less likely to fall beneath it than the dark-skinned natives who beat out their superstitions on tom-toms, and pray to heathen gods.

Many of the legends that lure in the far, mystic east, are centered in jewels and stones. Among these, none are more conspicuous than amber and jade.

"Clear as amber," is an old saying which tells at once its story. An encyclopedist will inform you that amber is "an exudation from trees of the pine family," while some accounts state simply that amber drips from trees into salt water from where it is thrown back on the shore in hardened form.

A prettier story is the one told by eastern natives, who say that amber is the "essence of the brilliant rays of the setting sun, concealed in the sea and cast upon the shore."

Amber is an old stone. It was a favorite object of trade and barter between peoples of the Baltic coast, and history tells us it was popular in the Roman world. In Homer's "Odyssey" we read:

"Euryarchus wrought a golden necklace, highly and set with amber beads, that glowed with sunshine."

Another indication of the age of amber is found in the fact that it often contains ants, mosquitoes or other insects of species now extinct. Mrs. H. H. Baldrige, who returned this week from Honolulu, has a handsome chain of amber beads, made all the more fascinating by the inclusion of two tiny insects.

Mrs. Baldrige's chain is made up of 108 beads—the number necessary to appease the wrath of the gods against one for taking away a stone which might otherwise beautify the temples, or even be used for figures of the gods themselves. Hers is a Korean amber, supposed to be the oldest of the several varieties. Amber and jade are used in the Orient as we use precious stones.

Miss Margaret Baum has a chain of large oval amber beads, but not in number. Gabby wonders what the gods have done to her to express their unbroken wrath. Miss Baum thinks it may be true that "the mills of the gods grind slow," for so far as she knows they have not yet wreaked their vengeance upon her. She obtained her beads in London before the war.

Mrs. E. S. Rood, who was a visitor in Hawaii this winter, is returning with three necklaces—amber, jade and amethyst.

Jade rivals amber in antiquity and popularity. There are pieces shown in Honolulu which date back to centuries before Christ. Jade is prized as a talisman; it is said to be potent in keeping for its wearer the good faith of all acquaintances and the devotion of loved ones, if a flat piece of it is worn on a ribbon around the neck. Mrs. E. M. Syfert is often seen wearing a pendant of carved jade in such a way.

Mrs. Myron Learned wears a heavy carved piece of jade on an apple green silk cord. The piece was a gift secured in New York by Mr. Learned for his wife.

Mrs. L. F. Crofoot has something unique in the realm of jade—a double chain of beads brought her by Mrs. Arthur Nash. Mrs. Arthur Crittenden Smith has a most alluring jade necklace from China. Mrs. Walter Preston wears a piece of carved jade on a black silk cord. The design is similar to that found on the old willow pattern plates.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm have told many interesting stories to their friends since their return from the orient, including bits of information about amber and jade. Mr. Wilhelm refers to amber as a sort of petrified resin. The best amber market is found in Korea, where a darker variety is displayed than that which comes from Germany. Canton, China, is the best jade market, he says. Mrs. Wilhelm has a necklace of jade and a string of round amber beads.

Amber is a favorite material for pipe stems and cigar holders. When Gabby asked Mrs. Samuel Burns if there was anything of particular interest about the petrified jade she wears on a silken cord, she replied: "The most interesting thing about my jade is that it is imitation," she responded with a frankness which marks her as an individual, and a refreshing individual. "I have always wanted a piece of real jade and this

is as close as I have come to it," she continued.

"Are there any ornaments on your cord?" Gabby asked.

"Yes, there is a slide set with imitation diamonds," she persisted with continuing truthfulness.

The day was brightened for Gabby.

Speaking of imitation, do you know how to detect it in jade? It's a matter of temperature. The imitation quickly takes on the warmth of the atmosphere while the real does not. A piece placed against the cheek will feel cool if it is real. As for amber, it becomes strongly electrified when rubbed which no imitation will do. This power to attract a piece of paper when magnetized. The attractive power exhibited by amber was the first electrical phenomenon observed by man and the word "electricity" was derived from electrum, the Greek name for amber.

Old places in China are being ruthlessly robbed of all their jade pieces, to satisfy the demand both at home and abroad for this attractive stone.

Mrs. William Tracy Burns is the possessor of a handsome piece which she wears on a cord. Mrs. F. P. Kirkendall, too, wears a piece mounted on gold so pure that it is soft to the touch.

A stunning necklace of jade (guaranteed to be real) has been given Anne Morgan from the famous Judge Crompton collection and is now on exhibition at Cartier's very exclusive shop in New York. It contains the charmed number of 108 beads, all large and perfect. The American committee for devastated France, through Miss Morgan, is selling this necklace "on shares." (Of course it isn't raffling, since there are laws against such methods of disposing of things, but some one will win the necklace.) Mrs. A. C. Smith and Miss Mae Mahoney are in charge of sales in Omaha. Some one will win this wonderful necklace. Let us hope the gods wink in our direction!

Miss Gwendolyn Wolfe has a pretty piece of jade brought her by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Baldrige from Hawaii, and her mother, Mrs. Joseph M. Baldrige, is displaying an amber pendant with a large green bug cut in the center.

Fashioned in the form of a butterfly, jade acquires a special significance in China, because of a legend which relates that a youth in eager pursuit of a many-hued butterfly made his way into the garden of a rich mandarin. Instead of being punished for his trespass, the youth's unceremonious visit led to his marriage with the mandarin's daughter. Hence the figure of a butterfly is a symbol of successful love, and Chinese bridegrooms are wont to present jade butterflies to their fiancées.

Mrs. Rood's purchase of an amethyst necklace recalls to Gabby's mind the pretty legend about this stone, which has been happily treated in French verse. The god Bacchus, offended at some neglect he had suffered, was determined to avenge himself, and declared that the first person he met on his train passed along, should be devoured by his tigers. Fate willed it that this luckless mortal was a beautiful and pure maiden named Amethyst, who was on her way to worship at the shrine of Diana. As the ferocious beasts sprang toward her, she sought the protection of the gods, and by being turned into a pure white stone. Recognizing the miracle and repenting of his cruelty, Bacchus poured the juice of the grape as libation over the petrified body of the maiden, thus giving to the stone the beautiful hue that so charms the beholder's eye.

An account is given in this paper of a German song sung by Madam Heink during her concert: "Sang a German Song. 'Again a request,' said the singer, and paused a moment as if she were not sure whether she ought to tell what this request was. 'But it's in German,' and this time there was a question in her face. She left it to the audience, and the audience said yes—at first rather faintly. 'Up in the front there was a little woman with a care-worn face, her hair drawn tightly back and not an ornament on her simple black dress. She applauded hardest of all. Her hands said: 'Please, please, sing me my native tongue again. It has been so long in disgrace, here in my beloved adopted country. Lead it back, you who can, and crown it with a song!'

Marian Coad, bridge party for Marie Patterson, visitor from Los Angeles. Fort Crook Woman's Bridge club, Mrs. William Slaughter and Mrs. S. McPherson Rutherford hostesses. Women of First Central Congregational church, luncheon and tea. St. Barnabas Guild for Nurses, evening meeting at the home of Mrs. S. W. Townsend. Olga Metz, evening bridge party for Virginia Offutt and Milo Gates. Mrs. J. T. Anderson and Mrs. C.

Club Department Will Present Play. The parliamentary law department of the Omaha Woman's club, Mrs. A. L. Fernald, leader, will present a one-act play, "A Suffering Town Meeting," at the open day meeting of the Omaha Woman's club Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The cast of characters will be as follows: Mrs. Manchester, moderator, Mrs. A. L. Fernald; Mrs. Briggs, town clerk, Mrs. O. Y. Kring; Mrs. Smart, tax collector, Mrs. A. C. Anderson; Mrs. Gray, chief constable, Mrs. J. W. Welshans; Mrs. Eaton, fence sweeper, Mrs. H. B. Whitehouse; Mrs. Cash, tree warden, Mrs. L. F. Easterly; Mrs. Jones, superintendent of streets, Mrs. W. H. Warwick; Mrs. White, overseer of the poor, Dr. Adda Wiley Ralston; Mrs. Proulx, chairman of board of assessors, Mrs. John W. Baumann; Mrs. Snow, milk inspector, Miss Marie Niemmann; Mrs. Drake, highway surveyor, Miss Gladys Shann; Mrs. Holmes, auditor, Mrs. W. F. Burdick; Mrs. Plain, chairman of board



## Washington's 'Little Season' Opens Gaily With the Passing of Lent

Bureau of The Bee, Washington, March 26.

Easter in Washington will rival Easter in Rome more than will any other city in the world. The Easter week is so full of gayeties scheduled for every waking hour of each day, that it would be difficult for the society woman to slip in another luncheon or tea. And as for dinners, the invitations for them have been out so long, and accepted so many days ago, that they are forgotten save for the entries in the "books."

Entertainments will start tomorrow with breakfast parties, followed by luncheons, teas, dinner parties, dances and "at homes." The last named have taken on such importance as to be no different from a large pretentious reception, except that no invitations are issued.

Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Coolidge are active in their social plans for the spring, or "little season," which is a short, but a merry, one. Mrs. Harding had a brilliant reception last week for the members of the diplomatic corps and their families, at least the grownups of their families, and established a precedent in the matter of assistants for the function. She had with her the wives of the two Ohio senators, Mrs. Allen Pomeroy and Mrs. Frank R. Willis, wife of the junior senator. In the dining room, to assist in making the guests comfortable, especially those who were more or less strangers, she had Mrs. Harry S. New, wife of the Indiana senator, and the wives of the heads of the important parts of the State department. Mrs. Fletcher, wife of the undersecretary of state; Mrs. Dearing, wife of the assistant secretary of state; Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, wife of the third assistant secretary of state; and Mrs. Wilbur J. Carr, nee Koon, wife of the director of the consular service, and assistant to the secretary of state. The historical old White House never looked more classically beautiful than on that occasion, with simple decorations of well chosen spring blossoms in each room.

Mrs. Harding also established a precedent in the arrangement of affairs, she and her secretary, Miss Harlan, having worked out in the east room and pass on from there into the blue room, where the hosts received them, and passing on comfortably into the state dining room, a much more simple arrangement than the one observed in former administrations. Mrs. Harding wrote on that occasion a very beautiful gown of jade green satin, completely veiled with fine, delicate lace, tape colored. It was most becoming to Mrs. Harding. The marine band played in the main corridor and the scene was one of the most brilliant the old mansion has known since the war set in, for the diplomats all wore their court costumes and the ladies accompanying them were in their smartest and most elegant spring clothes. A beautiful repast was served in the state dining room, one in which the touches of the mas-

ter hand of Mrs. Harding were to be noticed. On Monday afternoon the vice president and Mrs. Coolidge held a similar reception at the Willard, where they are living, and had as guests the diplomatic circle, assisted by Mrs. New and Mrs. Françoise, wives of senators, who presided at the tea table. The other assistants at Mrs. Harding's reception comprised the little group of assisting ladies, Mrs. Coolidge, a woman of pronounced attractions and charming poise, was handsomely gowned in the fashionable pale gray georgette crepe trimmed with bands of eylet embroidery, made in tunic fashion, opening over an embroidered, gray skirt. The sash was of the embroidered and the sleeves were three-quarter length. She wore gray slippers and the only touch of contrasting color was the bunch of violets and lilies of the valley which she wore in her belt. No rule of precedence was observed at the affair, the Coolidge's first official function, as guests being received just as they arrived so as to avoid any unpleasant crush.

Senator and Mrs. Norris are enjoying the quiet of the recess period as Senator Norris has not been well for some time and is recuperating as best he can without having to take splendidly. His trip to Battle Creek which he had expected to do, he and Mrs. Norris will remain right in town until the convening of congress on April 11. Mrs. Andrews, wife of the representative from Hastings, Neb., also has been ill for some time. She is recovering now quite rapidly, but has had to chance to take her place in the official life in which she is already well known. Senator and Mrs. Hitchcock and Miss Ruth Hitchcock who went to Asheville, N. C. a fortnight ago will not return here until about April 10, in time for the opening of congress. Mrs. Hitchcock, who is as improved as she has been, she would wish the mild weather.

Mrs. Clarence R. Day, formerly of Omaha, who has been seriously ill for many weeks is able to get out again though she is not accepting invitations as yet. As soon as she is stronger she will go to Panama for a several months stay. Mrs. Day spent much time there during Col. Day's station there and they have hosts of friends who have been urging her to visit them all the season. She will observe a series of days at home just previous to getting away, but has been unable to set dates for them as yet. Representative and Mrs. Jeffers expect to take possession of their new apartment at the St. Regis early next month when for the first time in a year they will feel settled for a time. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Driggs of Omaha spent a week here at the Hotel Washington on their way from the south. They left this week for Chicago to make a visit with friends before going on to their home in the west.

## A Legend of Siam Luncheon, Tea and Odd Ballet Bazaar Given Thursday

Brilliant orange, gleaming blue, glittering gold, shining black, and glistening green will form the predominant colors in the costumes for "A Legend of Siam," a dance divertissement which will be one of the numbers at the recital given by pupils of Pleasant Holyoke at the Brandeis, April 11. The ideas for the costumes were suggested to Miss Holyoke by Dr. C. W. Mason, a former Omahan, now a medical missionary to Siam. All details of color and line were carefully worked out according to the description furnished by Dr. Mason of the dress worn by various classes of the Siamese people. The story of the dance is a common one in that small nation of the Orient where Buddha reigns as supreme god. Many, many thousands of years ago in a province of Siam lived an evil spirit who was most jealous of the great god, Buddha. Now, this wicked one coveted the magnificent jewels which adorned the statue of the mighty god in the temple but fear kept him from stealing them. One day while the pretty Siamese maidens were taking their offerings to the temple altar, a poor slave went there to worship at the shrine and became bewitched by the evil spirit. Disregarding the consequences of his daring act, the servant snatched the jewels from the statue. Before he had time, however, to leave the temple, the god rose in wrath and smote the thief dead. Jane Ellis, as Buddha, will be resplendent in elaborate robes of green and gold. The slave, Helen Brown, will be costumed in gold with striking touches of black, and the Evil Spirit, Grace Vodick, will be garbed in black, the color of evil, with just a bit of gold to relieve its dullness. The Siamese maidens are to wear gorgeous creations of orange and blue in vivid contrasts. This group includes Charlotte Brandt, Genevieve Finney, Janet Nolan, Marion Williams, Betty Smith, Alice Harding, Ruth Roberts, Jean McGrath, Eloise Potter, Iris Kilgore, Audrey Kilgore and Martha McCormick.

Reservations have already been made by Mesdames Ed Smith, George Doane, George Squires, J. J. Brown, W. H. Head, W. H. Taylor, John Harvey, R. C. Peters, J. W. Towle, Walter Head, C. A. Hall, J. E. Davidson, O. Palmage, W. E. Rhoades, Allen Tukey, Ben Wood, jr., George Payne, Allen Koch and C. S. Stebbins. A spring sale will also be a feature of the occasion. Fancy and utility articles and home-made foods, including cakes, pies, breads, doughnuts and candy, will be sold from 11 o'clock in the morning until the end of the afternoon. "Elections" Play. An entertaining playlet illustrating the various things which may happen at elections, will be presented Friday, 3 p. m., at the city hall, council chamber, under auspices of the citizenship school now in progress. The pupils of Effie Steen Kittleson will appear in the roles. The public is invited to attend. The play is instructive and highly enjoyable, according to Mrs. Wheelwright, who has seen it given with great success in Lincoln. Egg Rolling. One of the annual sights in the city of Washington is Easter egg rolling on the White House grounds on Easter Monday, in which several thousand children usually take part. The game is played in pairs, each player having one egg. These are rolled down hill, the unbroken egg taking its rival if the latter is cracked. Long ago it took place on the Capitol terraces. This pretty custom has been out of vogue for some time, but Mrs. Harding has recently announced that it would be inaugurated again this year.

## Schumann-Heink Sings German Songs

Unstinted praise is given Mme. Schumann-Heink by the Kansas City Times for her appearance in that city last week. "It is at least seven years," the critic said, "since she has sung with such beauty of tone, such freedom or in such a reposeful style. The strain and worry of the past years have dropped from her, leaving her richer in emotion and experience, and vocally herself again." An account is given in this paper of a German song sung by Madam Heink during her concert: "Sang a German Song. 'Again a request,' said the singer, and paused a moment as if she were not sure whether she ought to tell what this request was. 'But it's in German,' and this time there was a question in her face. She left it to the audience, and the audience said yes—at first rather faintly. 'Up in the front there was a little woman with a care-worn face, her hair drawn tightly back and not an ornament on her simple black dress. She applauded hardest of all. Her hands said: 'Please, please, sing me my native tongue again. It has been so long in disgrace, here in my beloved adopted country. Lead it back, you who can, and crown it with a song!'

Marian Coad, bridge party for Marie Patterson, visitor from Los Angeles. Fort Crook Woman's Bridge club, Mrs. William Slaughter and Mrs. S. McPherson Rutherford hostesses. Women of First Central Congregational church, luncheon and tea. St. Barnabas Guild for Nurses, evening meeting at the home of Mrs. S. W. Townsend. Olga Metz, evening bridge party for Virginia Offutt and Milo Gates. Mrs. J. T. Anderson and Mrs. C.

## Easter Week Calendar

- Sunday.** Porter Allen, motor picnic in honor of Virginia Offutt and her fiancé, Milo Gates. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Peters, supper at the Omaha club for Mildred Rhodes and her fiancé, Ware Hall. Women of All Saints church, dinner at the parish house. Le Mars club dance at Kel-Pine's academy. Mrs. Alexander Loomis, tea for Mrs. Sidney Smith of Hartford, Conn.
- Wednesday.** Mrs. Lee Kennard and Mrs. E. A. Baird, bridge luncheon at Kennard home for Mary Hall of Chicago, guest at C. D. Sturtevant home. Emily Keller, bridge luncheon for Virginia Offutt, bride-elect. Ruth Carter, luncheon for Mildred Rhodes, April bride, and Marie Patterson of Los Angeles. Margaret Parish, tea at her home. Elizabeth Robertson, dinner at Athletic club, honoring Mildred Rhodes and her fiancé Ware Hall. Liberty chapter, O. E. S., dance at Masonic temple. Daughters of 1812, benefit afternoon bridge party at the Fontenelle. Schumann-Heink in concert at Municipal Auditorium.
- Thursday.** Junior league board meeting. Mrs. Marlon Brandt, bridge luncheon for Mildred Rhodes. Regina Connell, dinner for Virginia Offutt and Milo Gates. J. F. W. club, luncheon at home of Mrs. Earl Sherman. Phi Psi fraternity from University of Nebraska, Lincoln, "rush" party, informal dance at Haute hall, Dundee.
- Friday.** Election of officers of Emma Hoagland, Flower Mission at the home of Mrs. Will W. Hoagland. Scottish Rite Women's club, afternoon card party at Scottish Rite cathedral. Fort Omaha Woman's Bridge club to be entertained by Mrs. Ad-

## Wellesley Club Presents Prof. Maccougall

The Wellesley club of Omaha will present Prof. Hamilton C. Maccougall, head of the music department of Wellesley college in a benefit organ recital at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon, April 7 at the First Baptist church. Prof. Maccougall is on a concert tour of the country in the interest of the semi-centennial fund which is being raised for the benefit of the college. Mrs. Winthrop Lane will have charge of the ticket sale. Miss Helen Davis at the Officers' club of the post. Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Aid society, luncheon in church parlors. Crescent club, April Fool dance at Scottish Rite cathedral. Morning Bridge club, bridge luncheon at the home of Mrs. W. D. McHugh. Gates-Offutt bridal dinner at Country club, followed by rehearsal for wedding. Kappa Kappa Gamma, monthly luncheon at home of Mrs. Guy Kiddoo. Duchesne College and Convict of the Sacred Heart, alumnae reunion luncheon at the college building. Gates-Offutt wedding at the First Presbyterian church followed by informal reception at Offutt home. Wedding of Mary Cooper of Pitts- burgh and Burdette Kirkendall of Omaha, in Pittsburgh. Chapter M. P. E. O. luncheon at William Bartley home. Chapter B. X. P. E. O. luncheon at Athletic club.