

History, Methods of Journalism Told at Club Meeting

The following interesting history of journalism and review of the present day of presenting the news was given in a paper to members of the Womens Literary club at a recent meeting by Mrs. J. H. Mariotte.

The earliest newspapers of our civilization on record were Roman bulletins issued several centuries before the time of Christ, which were written by scribes and posted in prominent places for all to read. The Acta Diurna which was military news, the Acta Senatus, laws of legislation, and Acta Publica, which more nearly approached the modern newspaper, were the imperial family. This was a government service. It would seem therefore that the demand for that department of knowledge which we call news, the record of today's happenings, began as a public commodity, and a public commodity it still is, and responds to the demands of the public as surely as the gas company or the electric light company or the telephone company. There is not only literary ability necessary in the making of a good newspaper, there is business ability, mechanical ability, artistic and social talents, etc., and in politics, sports, and travel, but most important "A nose for news" and the ability to get it and turn it into the paper while it is "red hot."

But the development of an accepted newspaper style which is judged to be the one which serves the public best, has resulted in training many a person in keen observation and a concise habit of expression, and thereby laid the foundation for a literary career. However, the journalistic training, I suspect, is no more valuable to the prospective author or essayist than the large slices of material which comes to them from the human lives exposed to their gaze in the day's work—perhaps not as valuable. That is a question for the stylists and the realists to settle between them.

The First Paper
The first printed newspaper of which anything is known was the "Gazet" first printed in Peking at a date which is given by one authority as 1340 A. D. and by another 718 A. D. and that newspaper is still in existence as the Peking Gazette, the oldest newspaper in the world.

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U. S. PILOT GREETED IN ORIENT



Colonel Arthur A. Goebel, winner of the Dole flight, San Francisco to Honolulu, snapped on his arrival in Tokyo, Japan, at the start of a tour of the Orient. He is shown among a welcoming crowd at the Japanese capital.

and he later championed them in his paper.
Local Paper's Duties
But English journalism became national rather than local and it remained for America to develop the small town newspaper which came and many times is a factor in the upbuilding and betterment of communities. It is in the small weekly newspaper that the third function of the newspaper, to express the people, has its greatest chance. We see all three newspaper functions to distribute the news of the day, to guide public opinion, and to broadcast the voice of the people, operating at close range in our small newspapers.
Newspapers developed in all of the European countries along with the development of the printing press in Ireland in 1477, in Italy in 1466, France 1631, Germany 1615, and Russia 1703.
The first attempt at a newspaper in the American colonies seems typical of the rowdy humor and love of novelty which still crops out in us. Richard Berce, of Boston, too, if you please, proposed to bring out a weekly list of liars in protest against the false rumors which were constantly being set afoot by mischievous persons. It was suppressed after one issue. John Campbell in 1704 brought out the Boston news letter a half sheet of paper printed with nice type, the smallest kind of type. The Boston Gazette came out in 1714 and the New England Current in 1721. Philadelphia followed suit in 1719 with the American Weekly Mercury and New York in 1725 with the N. Y. Gazette. The Saturday Evening Post was founded in 1728 and the first American daily, the American Daily Advertiser, was put out in Philadelphia in 1774. Boston brought out the Boston Daily Advertiser in 1813. By 1740 there were 11 papers published in the new world.

Penny Paper Comes
The penny newspaper first appeared in 1830 but the first one failed. Three years later two successful penny papers were established, the Morning Post and the New York Sun.
Now there are 50,000 newspapers and periodicals in the world, of which 40 percent are printed in the United States and Alaska. This high proportion in our own country would indicate three things; that we are eager for news, that we are very articulate and love to express ourselves and that we are full of the energy of progress. Canada publishes 3 percent, Germany 13 percent, England 13 percent, France 7 percent, Japan 1500, Italy 1200, and Australia 800. More than half are published in English.
Times have changed. The old paper, the type set by hand laboriously gotten together by news days and sometimes months old before it was published, has given way to the comparatively modern each small part fitting into the rest in such a way as to get out 24 to 100 papers a day. In some times, five-minutes-old news under high pressure and at great speed. That we are full of the energy of progress. Canada publishes 3 percent, Germany 13 percent, England 13 percent, France 7 percent, Japan 1500, Italy 1200, and Australia 800. More than half are published in English.
Quite often this does not even have to be set up, coming in mats or plates which go into the printing press the same as a page of type regularly set. There is also a service which sends the two or more inside pages of the very small country weekly already printed and all the editor who subscribes to this service has his list to get his local news and adver-

ting on the two outside pages and his paper is complete.
The big city dailies, however, maintain a staff which includes experts in all lines, who furnish information and opinions in their field on timely subjects. There is first the editor in chief, often the owner, the city editor who is in charge of the local news gathering, the sports editor, the fashion editor, the art editor, the political editor, the society editor, the real estate, the radio, the movie, the fraternal, church and club editors and so on. Then there is a managing editor and sometimes a business editor besides.
There is the circulation department, the advertising department for liners and display ads, the library, where staple information is kept, the morgue, where all the defunct pictures go, the photographing and the engraving department, besides the printing and composing room.
Each man contributes his ef-

fort in order to fit in with the rest, every one working under pressure in order to pass his quota or work on to the next person involved. It is not surprising that mistakes occur in daily papers and it is on the other hand due to the insistence of the editors on accuracy, accuracy, and more accuracy that the news is given to you one day, six hours or one hour old with so little variation from the truth.
News Sources
Reporters cannot be present at all the happenings they chronicle, they must take another's word for most of it, and there is in most cases no time to verify it by the testimony of another person. And did you ever question two or more people about a startling event which had occurred an hour before in their presence? If you have you have probably been puzzled by the difference you have observed in their stories. Every precaution is taken by get news from authoritative sources, to telephone or telegraph or write it clearly and truthfully. It is taken from the telephone or telegraph by re-write men, their articles go to the city editor, state editor or suburban editor as the case may

be, who accepts or rejects it and hands it to an assistant to be edited.
(Next installment appears next week. It tells of the difficulty of "making-up the paper" and of policies followed in journalism.)
SPAIN GIVES BILLION FOR ITS NEW ROADS
Madrid.—The dictatorship of Spain must be thanked for what they have accomplished in the way of making new roads and keeping up the old ones.
(Over 6,000 miles of new roads are to be constructed in the next 10 years, and good motor car roadways will connect the capital with all the principal cities of the peninsula.)
The Madrid government intends to spend \$1,000,000,000 in public works which have already been planned. Motoring has made astonishing strides in Spain during the last few years.
Statistics giving the number of motor cars in Madrid show that they have increased 75 per cent in the last five years.

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