



By E. G. Whitney

From the dawn of history diamonds have played a prominent part in the joys and sorrows of mankind. They have caused wars, altered the boundaries of nations, become interwoven with religious ceremonies, fortunes have been won and dissipated because of diamonds while love honor and position have bowed down to them.

Usually, when we think of the precious stones, hardest of all material known to man, we associate them with glittering romance, wealth, position and happiness. Yet the pages of history are filled with intrigue, murder and wrecked lives resulting directly or indirectly from the desire for or possession of the jewels.

Probably the most publicized and damaging of all involving the gems and royalty is known as the "Diamond Necklace Affair." In 1774 Marie purchased a diamond ring from a man named Boehmer, court jeweler, at a cost of 360,000 francs or about \$60,000. Boehmer also succeeded in selling the king a number of other valuable diamonds to adorn the queen.

As a result of his past success, Boehmer conceived the idea of collecting the finest array of diamonds in existence to form a necklace of several rows. He expected to sell them to her majesty at a fabulous price. The Parisian jeweler visited the leading diamond marts of the world and eventually completed the dazzling and perfect set of the precious stones ever gathered together. It is estimated that the necklace was worth from one to three million dollars.

Boehmer arranged to exhibit the jewels before Marie led to his former amazement she refused to purchase them, pointing to their exorbitant price. It is reported that he said, "Madame, I am ruined and disposed if you do not purchase my necklace, I cannot outlive so many misfortunes. When I go I shall throw myself in the Seine." The queen replied, "I do not intend buying the necklace so you will have to throw yourself in the river."

Instead of taking the queen's advice Boehmer attempted to peddle the diamonds in all the courts of Europe, but unsuccessfully. However, his futile efforts attracted the attention of a well known adventurer, Madame DeLamotte, who was familiar with many of the court scandals and personal affairs of high society.

Knowing that Cardinal De Rohan, wealthy prelate of Strasbourg, was a very strong supporter of Marie, despite the fact that the latter cared little for him had seldom saw him, Madame DeLamotte conceived the plan of duping the Cardinal into buying the jewels for her majesty on the pretext that it would gain him the queen's favor.

Madame DeLamotte obtained the queen's stationery and opened correspondence with the Cardinal, carefully arranging to intercept his replies. After considerable negotiation the adventuress persuaded De Rohan to buy the necklace and planned the transfer of the jewels at her chambers apartment.

When the cardinal arrived, impostors dressed as court eunuchs were present and after he had signed notes and made a substantial payment to Boehmer the necklace was turned over to him and he, in turn, gave them to the supposed representative of the Queen.

The world's most expensive necklace has never been seen since that day. It is said that Madame DeLamotte's conspirators, 'whiting outside' were given the diamonds after the necklace had been broken up and they hid them in the diamond centers all over the world.

Later, the Cardinal was arrested for failure to meet his notes and the events surrounding the case became public. Almost all of the blame for the affair fell on the Queen who was accused of enlisting the aid of Madame DeLamotte in obtaining the jewels.

By Marjorie Elaine Porter

What is "good taste"? Is it merely a matter of selecting the right or wrong shade in history? Does it mean chiefly the choice of proper accessories to go with one's spring ensemble? It can mean these things, of course, but it should mean a great deal more. Always to do things in good taste is to possess the art of pleasing. Because good taste never offends.

Good taste is not offensive to the eye, to the ear, nor to the finer sensibilities. It takes into consideration the rights and feelings of others.

And in spite of all the prattle one hears about "modern standards" certain things will always remain the same in circles frequented by the cultured. Good taste is not necessarily a matter of having had social or personal advantages. It is innate.

Good taste is sometimes found in quarters where it is least expected, and is often lacking where one would most expect to find it. Perhaps, in every generation, the young are the chief offenders by affecting a disquieting disregard for all that comes under the head of good taste.

But youth is crude in many ways. It has not as yet reached the point of balance, of tact or of discrimination. When modern youth outgrows its rompers, it will learn, probably through the trial and error method, there are certain things one doesn't do in adult society.

One does not pepper his conversation with under-world expressions merely to demonstrate that he "knows his stuff." Sophistication is wise thing—vulgarity, another. Sophistication may be reserved, dignified and in good taste. Vulgarity is loud, common and away in half taste.

To be in good taste, one does not pry into the affairs of others without reserve. One does not cause embarrassment by asking favors. One is not noisily emphatic in expressing opinions. One does not dominate the conversation by use of superior lung power. One does not seek to attract attention by laughing loudly or by making himself otherwise conspicuous. But they are among the most annoying. And regardless of how the world wags, or how standards may change, these things always will be looked upon with disfavor by those who follow the precepts of Good Taste.

By Jane E. McClellan

A warning has come through to us to pass on to you. Don't let four children fly their kites near high tension wires. The wet thread, tinsel cord and light wire that they sometimes use for their kite string will carry electric shock that can and will cause serious accidents.

And you will see your little peeps and kites stay off the terraces at the Library? Ransome Lake is getting fairly desperate about their bicycle riding on his lawn, and while we are sure that he won't actually take drastic measures to enforce his "No Kites or The Grass" signs, we know that he would like to.

Word from local aids-to-writing-column pass of the news that Mr. and Mrs. "Wally" Kinnay, (Lenore Wrenn), both former residents here, have announced their marriage as of Nov. 14, in Angola, Ind. A dinner dance at their home in Fort Wayne, Indiana this past weekend was their way of spreading the tidings. . . . The latest man we've ever seen was walking across the city park Saturday morning. Instead of carrying his second hat in his hand, he stuck it on top of the one he was wearing and wore them both. . . . Left week's most attractive woman was Mrs. Huntley Childs, who, outfitted in blue and gray, and with her gorgeously genuine blonde hair, caused more than one person to turn and stare at her when she walked into the drug store. . . . These two "main" Rotafans, S. O. Wylie Bell and Elmer Hutob are back after traveling some 9,000 miles through the south west. . . . Also in that part of the country is Dave Laidl who was last heard from in Boulder, Colorado. . . . Talk of some people's "staid" being all in their thoughts. . . . Dorothy Allen is the classic example as far as we are concerned. . . . she put salt on her pie.

Over by the Library in the big back room there are accumulating many pictures on many subjects. For you they are arranged alphabetically, by subject and by artist. The picture file has been in a "limbo" for many years and has become a valuable aid to the reference department. There is no doubt but what it could stand more pictures and that anything you wished to bring

over would be very welcome. Adeline Cook, librarian, says they cherish post cards, and that they spend a lot of spare time. (When is there ever any spare time in a library we want to know?) cutting up magazines and mounting the pictures. In the event that you have a lot of the same on hand why don't you contribute them to the file?

Sound-Proofing Is Featured By Olds

The great attention paid by automotive engineers and designers to the sound-proofing of automobiles is demonstrated in the noise-reducing features to be found in the new Oldsmobile Six and Eight, engineers report.

In the all-steel Turret Top Body on the new Oldsmobiles, the top panel has a soft pad cemented to the under side to prevent drumming. The back, side and door panels have a special mat cemented to them on the inside. The dash and cowl are insulated against heat and noise by a thick layer of rubber mat. The floor, which is of steel, is ribbed and stamped to prevent vibration. The

front floor mat, of moulded rubber, also has a heavy jute backing to cushion it against wear and to further insulate the front compartment while the rear compartment has a jute mat under the floor carpet.

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