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OF ANCIENT DAYS

Much is Told in Collection of Old Documents.

Legal Papers Recovered by Investigators Reveal Life of People During Early Christian Era.

What is described as one of the most important collections of ancient documents yet discovered, consisting of more than 100 legal papers dating from the reigns of the Roman emperors Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula and Claudius, has been brought to Ann Arbor by Prof. Francis W. Kelsey of the University of Michigan. Professor Kelsey spent some time in Egypt in search of records. The collection is held to be important because it reveals the life of people during the early Christian era.

The records, obtained by Professor Kelsey constitute a part of the files of a record office in or near Tebtunis, Egypt, and were discovered four months ago. They are written on papyrus and are chiefly in Greek, a few being Demotic. They are believed to have been covered with sand soon after the record office fell and with few exceptions are preserved perfectly.

The earliest record is dated 7 A. D. and bears the signature of a woman who agreed not to bring claim against her brothers. Another record, of the same period, is a contract of common law marriage.

Among other records are contracts of sale covering both personal and real property, including lands, vineyards and houses. There also are leases, agreements regarding loans, a contract of indemnity, receipts for wages, a receipt for dowry, official orders, petitions to public officials, tax receipts, documents relating to transferring ownership of slaves and part of a registry of deeds.

What is held to be the most important record is in the form of a roll, more than seven feet long and written on both sides. It is said to be a perfect example of an ancient book or scroll of the kind mentioned in the Bible, particularly in the Book of Revelation.

The scroll, dated 42 A. D., contains on one side abstracts of a number of contracts and on the other is a registry of the contracts, written in the record office of the second year of Emperor Claudius.

Between ten and fifteen years will be required to decipher all of the records and to explain them in their relation to Roman history, according to Professor Kelsey. The university professor asserted there could be no question as to the authenticity of the records.

Another collection brought to the university by the professor includes a papyrus book of twelve leaves, in which are written the incantations and formulas used by a master magician. There are charms and curses for various occasions, one being a love charm. In the prayers God and the angels are invoked as well as the pagan deities of Egypt.

"Survival of the Fittest"

Samuel Eliot Morison, author of "The Maritime History of Massachusetts," comes of New England seafaring stock, about which many deep-sea tales might be told. According to a family tradition, two of Mr. Morison's ancestors were shipwrecked on a brigantine which was wrecked in the Pacific ocean toward the end of the eighteenth century. The crew had to row almost a thousand miles in a small boat before they reached land, with the usual accompaniment of drawing lots to see who would furnish the meals. One of Mr. Morison's ancestors perished; the other survived, and on reaching home two years later found that his daughter had married the victim's son. The two families remained on the best of terms, but it was considered poor form to refer to the "survival of the fittest" in the family circle. Mr. Morison did not tell this incident in his "Maritime History," as he did not expect anyone to believe it.

Oil Cans Used as Stoves.

The divers use to which empty kerosene cans are put are well known, and even in the most remote parts of the world these tin containers are in great demand because of the many different forms into which they may be made for further service, says the Kansas City Star. The five-gallon size, it appears, is the most favorable, because it can be worked by the average handy man with the crudest of tools.

Along the great waterways of interior Alaska drums are often found doing duty as stoves, but it is seldom that it is found utilized like this stove where travelers who have heated their skins in front of this stove in the "Golden North" hotel at Skagway, southeastern Alaska, pronounce it a marvelous generator of heat and a noteworthy example of creative work.

TO RESTOCK BRITISH FORESTS

Importations of Fir and Spruce From Canada Are to Be Made for the Purpose.

The British Isles are to be reforested with Douglas fir and Sitka spruce from British Columbia. To obtain the necessary seed, a seed extracting plant will be established at Westminster by the dominion forestry service.

Shipment of green cones has been found impracticable. The new plant will handle a ton and a half of cones every six hours. The cones will be dried under hot air blast and as they open, the seed will fall from the drying cylinder of fine mesh into a hopper. Present requirements call for 3,000 pounds each of fir and spruce seed, annually for which it will be necessary to gather 120 tons of cones.

Sitka spruce cones will be collected on the Queen Charlotte islands where the tree flourishes in abundance. The cones of the Douglas-fir will be gathered on the western slopes of the Rocky mountains, tributary to the Fraser river.

This is fur country of the Hudson's Bay company, now closing out its lands in the prairie provinces to farm settlers. The company's posts are still dotted through this region of primeval wilderness.

Investigations of the British commission working out the vast reforestation scheme have shown Douglas fir and Sitka spruce best adapted for the purpose.

Centuries of tree cutting have left the islands of the British group denuded of forests and reforestation is necessary to replenish the timber.

COULDN'T READ THE 'SIGNALS'

Later, Mystified Newcomers to New York Were Enlightened, and a Little Embarrassed.

Newcomers to New York by steamship begin to learn things about the city as soon as their vessel gets headed up the harbor. There was a party of such on a vessel from Southern ports.

From the roof of a high downtown office building they saw what appeared to be a string of signal flags snapping in the breeze. Some were white, some were striped and one big one was a flaming red.

"If we only knew the code we could tell what they mean," said a member of the party. "Perhaps they indicate what channel we are to take up the river."

"Or maybe they are weather warnings of some kind," guessed another. "Let's ask one of the officers."

They did. The officer looked first with the naked eye and then with his glasses.

"That's the janitor's wash hung out on the roof to dry," he announced, as he finished his survey. "The big red one is a tablecloth."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Whence the "Spit Curl"

The curl over the forehead, as worn by young ladies of today, has a very long literary history, having been mentioned before the time of Shakespeare, and probably has existed for many centuries. A very antique statue depicts Opportunity as having a bald head, save for one lock of hair in the center of the forehead. This was to show that there was but one chance to take advantage of an opportunity. Doubtless the belles of that day, taking the lesson taught by the marble to heart, began to wear a similar lock. The practice has continued to the present day.

The curls are made to adhere to the forehead by the application of any one of many modern substances made expressly for that purpose. These curls are called by the commonality, "spit curls," but this is a misnomer and misleading.

World Press Exhibit at Prague.

A novel exhibit was staged recently at Prague under the auspices of the Charles Pichal newspapers. A large hall was set aside for the display of newspapers from all principal cities of the world. Of these there were more than 4,000, from China, Japan, Palestine, Australia, czarist and soviet Russia, India, Africa, Turkey and from every country of Europe and America. More than 800 papers from France were shown. As a matter of fact, the exhibit comprised only a minute proportion of the world's newspapers, but, from the viewpoint of the Czechoslovak public, it was very instructive and successful.

Political Strategy.

"After a member of congress has lived in Washington for a time he acquires the airs of a statesman."

"Most of my colleagues do," said Senator Shortworthly, "but personally I prefer to look like a small town business man. I may not impress foreign visitors as much, but it makes me stronger with the folks back home when a constituent of mine returns from a visit to Washington and tells the boys there are no frills about him."

Shortworthly. He's just as much a friend of the plain people as he ever was."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Record Telephone Conversation.

A telephone conversation was recently held between a ship 100 miles off the Atlantic coast of the United States and Catalina Island, 30 miles off the coast of California, wireless telephony being used over the water and wire telephony over the land. This is the first time the voice of man has been carried across a continent and stretches of two adjacent oceans.

Age of Sheep Told by Teeth.

The approximate age of sheep can be told by the teeth. All the baby teeth are present soon after the birth of a lamb. The two permanent front teeth appear when the lamb is twelve to fourteen months old. The next pair, one on each side of the front ones, comes at about twenty-two to twenty-four months. The third pair appears a year later, and at the end of the fourth year the sheep has a full mouth with all permanent teeth present. As the animal grows old the teeth spread and show wear and finally come out.

Sheep Brought to America.

No domesticated sheep were found in America. The big horn or wild Rocky mountain sheep were known to the first settlers, but efforts to domesticate them, and cross them with domesticated sheep have proven failures. The early introductions were made by the Spanish discoverers and the English settlers. Columbus brought Spanish sheep to America in 1492. In 1565 Spanish sheep were introduced into Florida and in 1773 into California. In 1809 sheep were introduced into Virginia from England.

Little Dissertation on Gossip.

Western Paper—Gossip is a humming bird with eagle wings and a voice like a foghorn. It can be heard from Dan to Beersheba and has caused more trouble than all the fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, coyotes, rattlesnakes, cyclones, earthquakes, blizzards, gaut and indignation that this United States has known or will know when the universe shuts up shop and burns the final inventory. In other words, it has got both war and hell backed up in a corner yelling for ice water.—Boston Transcript.

The First Secessionist.

The first person to suggest secession in congress is supposed to have been Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts. In 1811 he told his colleagues that if Louisiana were admitted to the Union "it will be the right of all and duty of some (of the states) definitely to prepare for a separation; amicably if they can, violently if they must." Quincy was called to order for his remarks by the speaker, but on appeal the speaker's decision was reversed.

Old Court Has Much Power.

In Liverpool (Eng.) there still exists one of the very few remaining medieval borough courts of record. At one time there were 215 in various parts of the kingdom. The Liverpool court of passage, as it is called, has practically unlimited jurisdiction in causes of action arising within the city, and has more power than has the City of London court which has jurisdiction only when the defendant is employed in the city itself.

She Guffawed Then.

Sam—I never see you with Miss Giddings any more.

Lon—No; I couldn't stand her vulgar laughing.

Sam—So! I hadn't noticed it.

Lon—No, you weren't around when I proposed to her.

Preventable Forest Fires.

More than 100,000 forest fires have occurred in the United States during the past five years. Of these, 80 per cent were due to human agencies and were therefore preventable.

Restlessness a Universal Trait.

Life in the sea is so much easier than on land, and yet all creatures seem to want to invade the earth. Through millions and millions of years animals have been trying to get out of the sea in order to lead more interesting lives ashore. Our general aquatic ancestry is indicated by the fact that our blood has almost the same degree of saltness as the sea. And the human ear, with its delicate chain of bones, corresponds with the organs of the fish.

Proud South American Cities.

If Caracas claims the title of "The Paris of the New World"—and so they called the Venezuelan capital in the century past—we ought to remember that Bogota, Colombia's capital, was early in the sixteenth century named as "The Athens of South America." This city, founded in 1538, was a center of culture, before Harvard university had been thought of. Cartagena, Colombia, is fondly known as "The Heroic City," or "The Cradle of South American Liberty."—New York Evening Post.

BRIDE SET ON EXHIBITION

In Morocco, Girl About to Be Wed is Compelled to Pass Seven Long Monotonous Days.

It is a curious thing that in a land so careful in the public appearance of women as in Morocco, a girl should be compelled to sit in private exhibition for her women friends for seven long days before she departs to the home of the man who is to be her husband, writes Temple Manning in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

In one very important detail of the Moroccan marriage customs, however, is evidenced the complete separation of the sexes which is so much a part of Moroccan life. Not even the bridegroom is in the home of the bride when the marriage party is given there. Nor is the bride present at the celebration given at the bridegroom's home. Both bride and bridegroom entertain their friends of their own sex in their own homes.

For seven days the marriage rejoicings go on, to the accompaniment of the beating of drums and the blowing of pipes and flutes. But while the bridegroom joins his friends in celebrating the event, the bride must sit motionless, with downcast eyes, on a throne of cushions in the center of the chief room in her own house. She is not supposed even to see the various persons about her. But she knows they are all her own girlhood friends or the women friends of her mother.

Each of the principal guests is costumed and "adorned" much as is the bride. Their faces are painted red, their eyelids and the skin under their eyes, their under-lips, the palms of their hands and the fingers up to the first joint are stained brown. Thumb rings and anklets, as well as many bracelets, are prominent. The feet of these guests are dyed the color of iodine and gaudy with multi-colored slippers.

It is the seventh day that the bride says farewell to her parents and the home from which she may never before have stirred.

Finding Buried Shells.

An old problem which is being encountered all through the territory in which fighting occurred during the war, is that of guarding against the exploding of shells which buried themselves in the ground without having exploded. In the section of France along the Marne, where the fighting was particularly fierce, the peasant farmers have found this danger to be very real. A plowman may at any moment strike a shell that will explode with sufficient force to kill him and his team.

Various solutions have been suggested, but the most promising is one worked out by a French scientist and considered by the Academy of Science. The plan is to go all over the farms with an electrical instrument that will give warning when a mass of metal is near. Such an instrument is an old American invention frequently used in laboratory work. Some modifications of it were adopted by the French scientist to fit it for field use, and his apparatus requires the services of two men.

In practical tests on the old battlefields it has been found possible for two men to explore an acre thoroughly in about one hour, and to locate every buried shell near enough to the surface to do any harm.

"Dust" Pistolet and Science.

Equipped with "dust" shooting pistols to bring down high-flying insects that cannot be netted, Jesse H. Williamson and John W. Stohm, a retired army captain, sailed from New York on the steamship Polycarp for the jungles of Brazil. They plan to penetrate beyond the river of doubt, the Rio Tadoro, in their hunt for hitherto uncaptured zoological specimens for the University of Michigan and other colleges.

The expedition is expected to last six months up the Amazon to Porto Velho, thence along the Madeira-Marmora railroad 200 miles into the Serra Dos Parecis mountains.

The "dust" shot to be used in gathering winged denizens of the fever-infested jungle is so fine that the most delicate specimens would not be irreparably injured, the explorers said.

Quark Efficiency.

"Howdy, Gap!" saluted an acquaintance. "I don't aim to mind nobody's business, nor nut'n' that-a-way, but if it's a fair question, what was coming off at your place yesterday? As I was angling along past I heered you yelling 'Whee!' sorter like you meant it, and I seed you yanking yore brother-in-law around by the nose, it 'peared like, or the whiskers, or something, and cussing him right sharply while you done so. Recollecting that it wasn't none of my business I went on, but I'm tellin' shure I observed you heat off and kick the gent a time or two."

"Aw, he'd drunk up a bottle of my horse liniment," replied Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, Ark., "and that was the only way to handle him."—Kansas City Star.

Narrowed Down.

Prejudices are merely other people's opinions!—Wayside Tales.

OLDER THAN NEW ORLEANS

Ancient Records Show That Town of Natchitoches Has a Right to Claim Earliest Settlement.

Early in the history of Louisiana there was a spirited rivalry between the French and Spaniards as to which nation should occupy the region between the Red and Sabine rivers. About the close of the Seventeenth century the Spaniards established a post at Adayes (or Adaise), on the east side of the Sabine, and in 1714 Governor Cadillac sent Juchereau de St. Denis to establish a post at some point on the Red river. Marth, the historian, says that the expedition of St. Denis was "for the double purpose of finding a vent for Crozat's goods and checking the advances of the Spaniards, who were preparing to form settlements in the neighborhood of Natchitoches." St. Denis left a few settlers at Natchitoches, but it was not until 1717 that a permanent fort was erected there, which makes Natchitoches a little older than New Orleans. Dumont describes this fort as "a square palisade, where a little garrison was kept as a barrier against the Spaniards." A Catholic mission was established about the same time. The people, few in numbers, were not able to employ a resident priest, and for some years they were attended by Father Margil and other missionaries. Father Stanislaus came in 1765, and the humble mission developed into the cathedral church of St. Francis, which today is one of the historical Catholic landmarks of the nation. During the French and Spanish domination Natchitoches was an important trading post. The Spaniards from the west of the Sabine would come back with pack mules heavily laden with peltries, dried buffalo tongues, silver from the Mexican mines, etc., to exchange for dry goods and other necessities. In 1824 Isaac Wright began running a steamboat between Natchitoches and the settlements further down the river, and this added to the importance of the town as a commercial center. With the establishment of Shreveport and the advent of the railroads some of the trade was diverted from Natchitoches, but being located in one of the richest sections of the state the town has continued to prosper.

When in 1894, the general assembly provided for the establishment of a State Normal school, the location of the school was thrown open to general competition, and the most liberal inducements were offered by Natchitoches. The parish and city of Natchitoches purchased and donated to the state 100 acres of land, including a good building which had formerly belonged to the nuns of the Sacred Heart.

Splendid Memorial.

A living memorial, distinctive and majestic, and different from any other that has been dedicated since the World war, was unveiled recently in Yosemite National park, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. It is a tablet of bronze set at the base of one of California's famous big trees. This giant of the forest, towering above the ordinary timber that surrounds it, stands henceforth as "a memorial to the unknown dead" who gave their lives in the great war. A peculiarly fitting ceremony marked the unveiling of this tablet. Water from the crystal-clear stream of the Merced that flows through the park was sprinkled upon the tree and the tablet, to symbolize the purity of the devotion of the men who died in the war and the rock at the foot of the tree on which the tablet was placed was taken as a symbol of the permanence and strength of the principles for which the men fought, and the tree, which it is hoped will live through generations, was cited as emblematic of the living and growing gratitude of the nation for the supreme sacrifice made by its sons in the war.

The Politicians' Handicap.

All politicians agree that one improvement could be made in the human body. It ought to be possible to get both ears to the ground at once.—Chicago News.

Tolerable.

"Boston's Rank as a City" headlines the Springfield Republican. Not so awfully rank, neighbor. We've lived in worse.—Boston Transcript.

Honey Bee is Prolific.

The honey bee has been so prolific in Australia that it would be possible to gather honey in tons if it were profitable.

Have High Blood Temperatures.

Most animals have higher blood temperatures than man, while the temperature of birds runs higher yet.

Odd Effect of Frozen Air.

A bee that has been frozen in liquid air becomes so brittle that it is shattered like china if struck a light blow.

Narrowed Down.

Prejudices are merely other people's opinions!—Wayside Tales.

The Denarius.

The word penny occurs a number of times in our English version of the New Testament, especially in the four Gospels; for instance, Matthew 20:2. "And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard." The coin to which the name penny is given, was the denarius, a Roman silver coin in circulation in the time of Our Lord and the Apostles. It was the principal silver coin then in use throughout the Roman Empire. From the parable of the laborers in the vineyard it would seem that a denarius was then the ordinary pay for a day's labor.

Arkansas River Frozen Over.

The weather bureau at Little Rock, Ark., advises that the Arkansas river at that point has several times been frozen to a depth that would allow teams to cross on the ice between Little Rock and North Little Rock, the municipality just across the river. From January 11 to January 27, 1918, the river was frozen, the ice on January 21 being five and one-half inches thick. From February 7 to February 17, 1920, the river was frozen over at Little Rock and teams crossed on the ice.

Admiral of the Navy.

The position of the admiral of the navy has never been held by any one except Admiral Dewey, according to the navy department. At the present time no one holds the permanent rank of admiral. The rank of admiral is held during tenure of their respective positions by Robert E. Koonz, chief of naval operations; Hugh Rodman, in command of the Pacific fleet; Henry B. Wilson, in command of the Atlantic fleet; and James Strauss, in command of the Asiatic fleet. It is a rule of the navy that an officer holding any of these positions must have the rank of admiral during his tenure of office.

Asked For.

During a dinner party the conversation turned to good looking people. One lady said: "I think all the good looking men have stayed from this dinner party."

The gentleman to whom this remark had been made said: "Well, I think all the good looking ladies are with us tonight."

Then the lady thinking a compliment had been paid her added: "Of course, I should have said 'present company' excepted."

Whereupon the gentleman said: "Oh! of course that's what I meant to say!"—London Telegraph.

Pecan Crop in Mexico.

The pecan crop of the Nuevo Laredo district of Mexico for the 1921 season is estimated roughly at between 250 and 300 short tons, as against 600 short tons in 1920. A marked falling off in value, as well as production, is also expected, due to the large crops in Texas. The Texas crop will be drawn on first, no doubt, before the Mexican production is touched.

New Organ of Balance.

Dr. G. Vitall, the Italian naturalist, has discovered that birds and bats have a small sense organ or vesicle situated on the middle wall of the tympanic (drum) cavity of their ears. When this is removed they seem to have no sense of balance. Vitall concludes that this organ, which reacts to variations of pressure within the middle-ear, thus enables the bird to determine the density of the air through which it is moving, and regulates its muscular movements accordingly.

Public Opinion.

Public opinion is often wrong in the beginning; it is always right in the end. And the reason is that, at first, it is formed by the passions of the unthinking many, ignorant of mankind, but interested in passing events; at last, on the reason of the thinking few, whose judgment had been enlightened by experience to whom alone the past is an object of interest and by whom the verdict of posterity is formed.—Alison.

Death in a Rose.

A native of Lancashire, England, a member of a firm of cotton manufacturers, died recently, from the effects of a prick by a rose thorn. One day he pricked his hand when in his garden. Next day he complained of pain, but an examination revealed nothing. Later his hand swelled and a doctor told him he was suffering from septic poisoning. This caused his death.

Custom Many Centuries Old.

The ancient ceremony of collecting wroth silver at daybreak on Martinmas eve due to the duke of Buccleuch as Lord of the Hundred was observed at Knightlow Hill, near Coventry, England. The custom has endured for more than 1,000 years, and 24 parishes pay the nominal tax which originated in certain privileges granted to the ancient residents. Before sunrise people went to the spot to pay their toll, and afterward they were entertained at breakfast.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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PATENTS

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Re-Sale of Land.

Pursuant to an order of the Superior Court made in a special proceeding therein pending, entitled "R. P. Braxton and others, vs. Kate Braxton and others," whereto all the devisees of the late J. W. Braxton and owners and tenants in common of the real property hereinafter described are duly constituted parties, the undersigned Commissioner will offer for sale to the highest bidder at public auction at the courthouse door in Graham, on

SATURDAY, JAN. 28, 1922,

at 12:00 o'clock, noon, all of the following described real property, to-wit:

Two certain tracts or parcels of land in Alamance county, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of Wm. Hadley, J. W. Whitehead and others, and fully described by metes and bounds in the petition in said special proceeding. The first tract containing 38 acres and the second 43 acres, more or less. This property is known as the Dark Place. There has been sold off from the 43 acre tract a one-half acre lot to the Trustees of Center School.

Terms of Sale—The purchaser will be required to pay one third of his bid in cash on date of sale and the other two thirds in equal installments within six and twelve months, deferred payments to bear interest from date of sale until paid. Sale made subject to advance bids and confirmation by the Court, and the title to be reserved until the purchase price is fully paid.

This is a re sale on account of an advance bid and bidding will start at \$1,501.50.

This 10th day of Jan., 1922.
J. DOLPH LONG,
Commissioner.