

# What Makes FACES Interesting?



The face of Mrs. Shevlin Smith is full of question marks. That's what makes it interesting, according to Cecil B. Beaton.

By Carol Bird

"A face has to have punctuation marks to make it really interesting." This interesting remark was made by Cecil B. Beaton.

Punctuation marks! We liked the metaphor and began quizzing Mr. Beaton about it. Mr. Beaton is a young British artist and photographer who has made camera and brush studies of all smart London and New York society women, the famous beauties and the merely So-So's—mostly for \$500 a shot.

He recently held a one-man exhibition in New York City, and among the photographs and sketches were two of the Duchess of Windsor. There were also

studies of Mrs. Harrison Williams, sometimes called "the best-dressed woman in the world"; Princess Paley, Iya Lady Abdy, Miss Mary Taylor, the Duke of Windsor, Noel Coward and Mrs. Rhinelandier Stewart.

Since Mr. Beaton is an authority on beautiful women—his sister, Lady Nancy Smiley, is a famous English beauty—he was asked what sort of model might be his favorite—why certain women photographed better than others. He was in a picturesque red lounging robe and slippers, down on the floor with an art eraser, industriously scrubbing away at some new drawings.

He arose, served some sherry, and immediately turned the apt metaphor about "punctuation-mark faces." Faces, it would appear, must have a period, a dot, a dash, a hyphen, a question mark, a comma, colon or a semicolon to give them really definite meaning or a starting point for analysis.

"When I say a face ought to have punctuation marks, I mean a face ought to have a focal point, something as a foundation, a striking something from which to judge the sizes and shapes of all the other features," explained Mr. Beaton.

"Mary Taylor, for example, has an exclamation mark in her face. It is her mouth. It is a large mouth, but it photographs well, and since she has a very delicate neck the mouth offers contrast to that slim column. It is the contrast that appeals, that gives to her face its incredible delicacy.

"Then take Greta Garbo. Her eyelids are her punctuation marks. They are semicolons, lingering semicolons. A great many noses I know of are commas. Tillie Losch's nose is a comma.

"You asked me to name some of the women I have liked best to photograph or to sketch. Well, Miss Losch is one of them. High cheekbones photograph well.

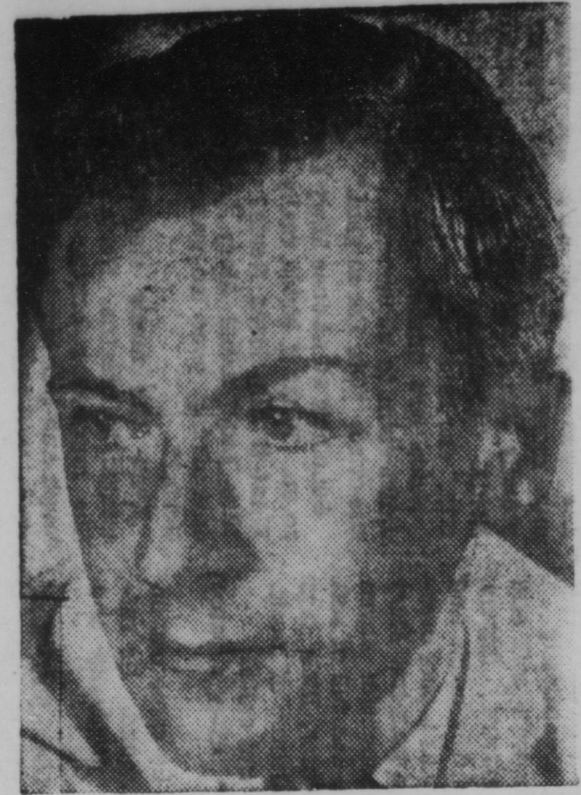
They are always good in a drawing or a painting. Tillie Losch has high cheekbones, a marvelous skin. Yes, she appeals to me exceedingly as a type.

"A great many noses I know of are question marks. Mrs. Harrison Williams makes an excellent model. Her eyes are her outstanding feature. They are regular exclamation points. I like amused eyes. Mrs. Williams not only has amused eyes, but also they are very tragic ones and have a very startled expression in their depths. This startled kind of eye is usually a rather popping kind of eye—that is, a bit protruding.

"Since we are speaking of eyes, I might mention Gertrude Lawrence's eyes. She has a fascinating and extraordinary way of closing them upward instead of down."

Digressing a bit from the punctuation-

The nose is important in interesting faces, as shown by the profile of Mrs. Harrison Williams.



Don't be afraid of wrinkles, says Cecil B. Beaton, noted artist.

mark metaphor, Mr. Beaton mentioned qualities which make a person easy to "do," either to photograph or to sketch.

"People with squ t faces photograph well," he pointed out. "Eyes are actually the least important features of a person's face. Norma Shearer hasn't got good eyes, but they look well in pictures. You can always fake lashes, touch up the eyes to beautify them.

"The nose is very important, perhaps the most important feature of all, this because of nose shadows and other points. Balance is important, too, and how features contrast with one another and offset each other.

"Pendulous features are bad, very bad. People can be quite ugly in a retousse way and look quite beautiful in a picture. But hanging cheeks and drooping jowls do not add to the charm of a picture.

"Certain heavy features, which in life may be crude and coarse, give solidity to a photograph and oftentimes appear quite delicate. Protruding features are never good.

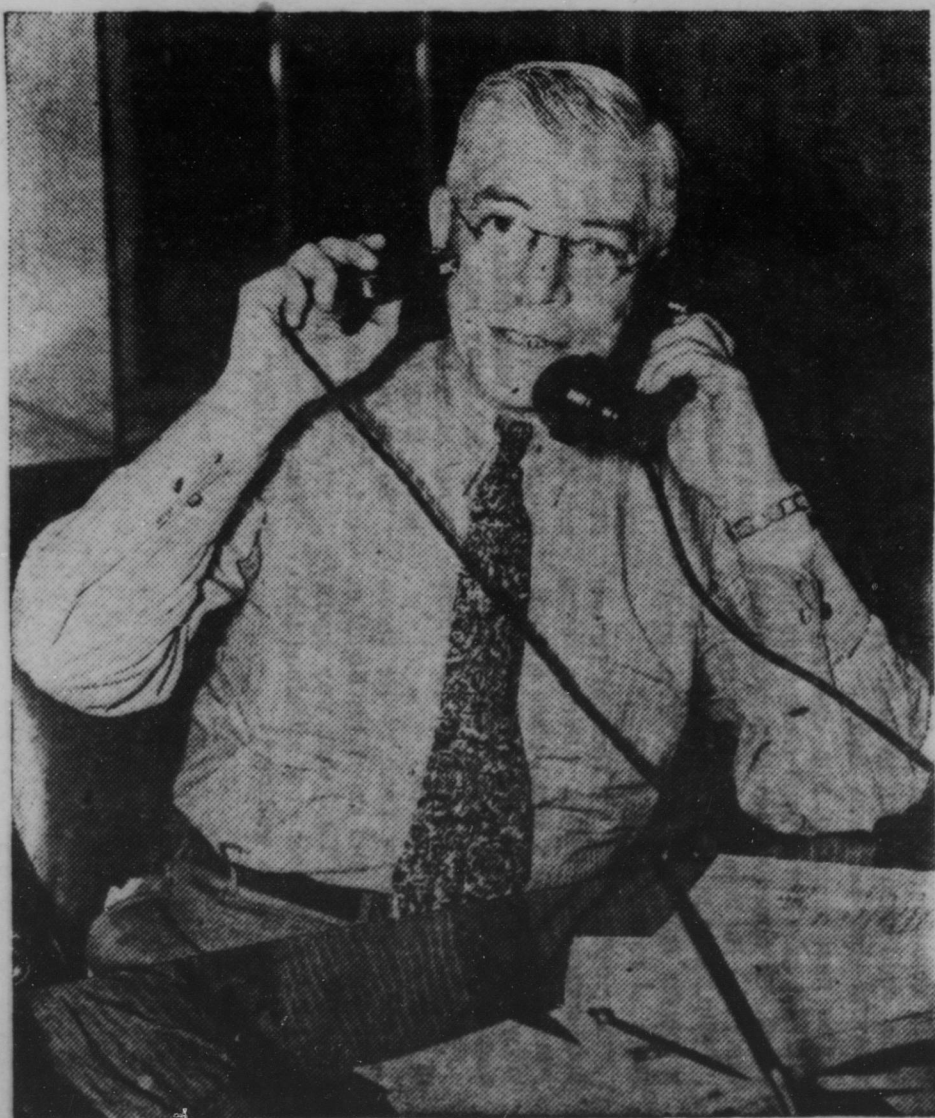
"The skin is a quality that holds great magic for me, despite the fact that it does not register with the camera.

"I like a face that has well-balanced features. A great many film people, for example, have heads that are too big for their bodies, according to our standards of beauty. But on the screen it does not matter. They judge faces only—the face is the be-all and end-all in Hollywood.

"I have seen so many people in the past in a photographic way, and now that I am drawing and painting I see them in a draftsman's way. There are new points of interest to me. I like very much suggesting the sheen of people's skin, the texture, the color, in my portrait sketches.



Here is another face that artist Beaton describes as interesting. It is his painting of Mrs. William Paley, wife of a noted radio chain executive.



Mayor Robert E. Patterson, of the Village of Freeport, Long Island, New York, at work at his desk.

## DAILY ROUTINE

"A thriving community of 20,000 persons becomes a great responsibility," says Mayor Robert E. Patterson, of the Village of Freeport, Long Island. "Especially when New York's playground, Jones Beach, is adjacent and the surrounding waters abound with game fish."

"Municipal ministering increases at this time of the year," says the Mayor, "and demands more of my time at the office. It has become virtually a necessity for me to live behind my desk."

Mayor Patterson starts his morning routine with "shaving while working." He has found that he can, during the course of his morning shave with a Packard Lektro Shaver, answer correspondence, pick up the telephone, attend interviews, sign mail, and take care of other pressing office routine. No wonder he is "all smiles."

"If I hope to find the time for a vacation this year," said Mayor Patterson, "it is necessary that I combine the daily routine of my personal attention with the office duties. Business men sometimes find it necessary to have their meals at their desk, but I can do more than that to save time."