Today's Geography

Little Journeys to Places Figuring in World Events

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HUNGARY: HUMBLED AND ISOLATED

Hungary, cut practically to half its former size by the Treaty of Versailles, and now disassociated from Austria and having no alliance with other neighbors, is peopled by a race unusual in many ways, according to the following communication to the National Geographic society by C. Townley-Fullam:

"Pastoral Hungary has features all its own. It stretches across the vistas of the Great Plain in the region of the Hortobagy. There is the genuine original Magyar, the Sentaur-Mazeppa, who, like his sires of old, that rushed Alexander on the plains of Sogdiana, rides like a devil of the twilight; eats, drinks, sleeps on his small, tireless charger, and chokes with pure delight in lust of life and rush of wind. The long white 'gatya'—no penitent sheet—the embroidered sleeveless waistcoat, the plumed or be-ribboned hat, the gorgeous mantle, the deep-bowled pipe, mark this tanned Bacchanalian cavalier more surely than does the anthropologist. He cultivates no circus trick, but he and his horses are Freemasons in one craft.

"There is nothing spectacular in this man's work nor annals. His blood-brother, the shepherd of the night, sustains himself on sheep cheese and milk and in his lonely vigils could still do service to astronomy. The Queensland squatter has no such run as the shepherd of the plain, whose vistas are wide, illimitable and peaceful.

"What may be the psychological keynote of a pastoral and peasant people, shepherd kings, whose whole corporate national life has been one long test of endurance that in the end has tired out Turk, Teuton, Slav, and even Destiny herself? A musical, wine-loving, hospitable race; warm, generous and combative; proud and vain; dowered with the curse of Reuben, with a total incapacity to unite on great issues and the power to fight on any soil but his own.

"Imagine this people, its gods still the bards of the victor's camp, cut off from all the world we know by its Turanian tongue, whose beauty chained the admiration of Cardinal Mezzofanti (who is said to have spoken 58 languages), but maintaining its own as a minority by sheer force of character in that strange pentecostal mosaic of race, creed, and caste which until recently held the Danube and the Central Plain as Austria-Hungary.

"Imagine a virile stock which can still sit and think, can fall into gleaming frenzy as its harp or picture-post storms a delicate imagination with breathless deed; a race which combines the Buddhist aversion from action with the Celtic instinct of opposition; improvident, lavish, naively charmed at the courtesy of the stranger; simple, with the barbarian lust of pleasure to the eye; sensitive to its inmost chords to gentleness—a passionate, dreamy race of fatalists; the true Asian mystery."

MOROCCO: BANDITRY THERE A PROFESSION

The United States has had diplomatic difficulties in recent years with the people of northern Morocco where Spanish armies have just scored their greatest success in sustaining the colonial power of Spain in Africa. Some insight into the kind of people with whom the Spaniards have had to deal is contained in the following communication to the National Geographic society, concerning Raisuli, "the Villa of Morocco," whose raids caused political crisis in Spain.

"He could not bear to hear a child cry, while on several occasions I noticed his care even to avoid allowing the bees collected in his cup to drown." is the surprising statement, not of a friend, but of the wealthy American who was held for ransom by Raisuli in 1904, until President Roosevelt sent a fleet of warships and his famous ultimatum, 'Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead,' to Morocco.

"In many respects the man interested and attracted me in spite of all my natural motives for dislike," continues the writer, Ion Perdicaris. "Raisuli was at once so gracious and dignified, not to us only, but to his own wild adherents, who evidently idolized their chieftain, whose position among them seemed that of the head of a Highland clan in the olden times.

"He was quick to see the humorous aspect of a situation, while his repartee was as immediate and to the point as though he had been born in County Galway itself. In fact I discovered to my consternation that I was beginning to like the man in spite of my natural resentment. I found myself unconsciously accepting his contention that he was not a mere brigand or cattle-lifter, but a patriot struggling to rescue his Berber followers from the tyranny of the corrupt shereefian officials. His charm of voice, the natural poise and dignity of his manner, his self-control under provocation, all betrayed a superior character.

"In fact, this strange experience while in camp with Raisuli at Tsarradan began to assume an aspect of unexpected and idyllic charm. The life of the natives; the little touches of more gentle human character; the tiny child who offered me fruit, which I at first declined, until I noticed the expression of disappointment and mortification upon the boy's face, and then the radiant and almost ridiculous satisfaction of the little fellow when I pretended to enjoy his half-ripe offering; the many attempts of the wild people about me to propitiate me; their curiosity as to our own manners and customs, as when one venerable inhabitant of the village led me gently aside to inquire why we walked so energetically up and down the village green. 'For health's sake,' was my reply. 'Indeed?' said the old Mohammedan, 'and may I ask how many such daily turns, up and down, it may require to keep a Christian in good health?'—all afforded matter of interest and reflection.

"Raisuli was confronted by the problem as to what disposition he was to make of the seventy thousand silver Spanish dollars which he demanded for our release. Here at Tsarradan there were no iron safes, nor so much as a house with a cellar, while the thatch of skaff, or dried reeds, the only roofing of the houses, offered but poor security should he leave so much coin stored in a village where he himself was but a transient sojourner.

"At last the mules bearing the silver dollars, carefully packed in boxes, arrived and the bullion was counted.

"I was summoned by Raisuli, 'The silver,' he said, 'has been counted—twenty thousand dollars, as stipulated, in Spanish dollars; but these letters,' showing me as he spoke a check book containing certified checks on the Comtoir d'Escompte, the French bank at Tangier, 'of the value of these, which are supposed to represent fifty thousand dollars, I know nothing. However, I will accept them on your personal guarantee, but on that condition only.'

"When I had examined the checks I gave the required assurance verbally, and Raisuli, leading me to the door, where I found my horse waiting for me, bade me adieu, saying that he had learned to look upon me as a friend, and that he hoped I cherished no ill feeling on account of my detention. He furthermore assured me that should any danger menace me in the future, that not only he himself, but any of the men of the three tribes under his orders, would hasten to my relief.

"Thus I left him, and pushing on as rapidly as we could we were soon in the midst of a large armed escort which had come from Tangier to see us safely home."

KIACHOW: THE FIUME OF CHINA

Kiachow, China, was seized by Germany in 1897 and captured by the Japanese when the latter entered the World war in 1914. Its permanent disposition has been the subject of wide discussion, especially in the United States because of our historic friendship with both China and Japan. Now dispatches state that a Japanese representative at the first meeting of the League of Nations announced that his country is ready to prepare for the transfer of this territory back to China.

Following the murder of two German missionaries in 1897, Germany employed her retaliatory seizure of Kiachow as a means of obtaining an indemnity and a 99-year lease on Tsingtau and the bay of Kiachow. She gave the name of Kiachow to the entire German concession, which is not to be confused with the nearby city of the same name. The concession includes the German-built city of Tsingtau, outlying towns, and the bay, which has a narrow outlet into the Yellow sea on the west coast of the province of Shantung.

Tsingtau illustrates aptly Germany's pre-war methods of getting a foreign foothold in anticipation of her dream of world domination. The setting of this effort lay in a province conspicuous in Chinese history for 4,000 years, and revealing traces of pre-Chinese inhabitants. For Shantung was the birthplace and teaching field both of Confucius and Mencius. There also the Boxer movement first was directed against foreigners.

But the harbor of Kiachow, apparently, interested the Germans more than history. It is considered one of the best along the Chinese coast, and to have a stronger natural defense than Port Arthur.

Back of the city rise hills as high as 1,000 feet and a range 600 feet high dominates the harbor. This range was utilized by the Germans for forts where they mounted powerful Krupp guns, commanding every point of land and sea approach. When the Germans completed their defenses Tsingtau was considered one of the most strongly fortified ports on the globe.

All this protection was not to be afforded a fishing village and a none too busy harbor. Natives were persuaded to move, and the lessors built a typical German city on the site of Tsingtau. They also renamed this city, calling it Ching-tao, but the older name clung to it.

Streets were laid out, and given German names. German banks, German industries, including breweries and German hotels were established. No other postoffice than the German one was permitted to handle foreign mail.

Germany not only obtained indemnities and the 193 square miles area and bay described, but mining and railway concessions. Shantung has fertile, well cultivated lands, coal fields, deposits of iron, gold and other metals, and small diamonds are found. A railway was built to Chinanfu, connecting with important inland lines

BOKHARA: STRATEGIC CENTER OF TRANS-CASPIAN REGION

Reported nervousness on the part of the Bolshevik leaders at a growing restiveness under Soviet institutions in the region of the Caucasus, raises the question whether similar conditions may not be present in Bokhara, just across the Caspian sea, where plots and counter plots have followed one another bewilderingly during the last few years.

Bokhara, dusty and tawny in tone, is nevertheless a colorful city because of the striking costumes of the male inhabitants. The women, clad in somber tones and hiding their faces behind horsehair veils which resemble window screening, avail themselves of a protective coloration which enables them to move like shadows about the ancient city. But the Bokhara male, be he Usbeg, Sart, Persian, or Tajik, utilizes all the colors and tints of the solar spectrum in his costume.

Bokhara is an important religious center. It has 364 mosques. With a practically unknown railway running south to the Afghan frontier, its location in the midst of Central Asia gives it a strategic importance that is little appreciated.

The Khanate of Bokhara has an area about equal to that of Utah, but with four times the population. Since the outbreak of the war, its fortunes have varied. Part of the time it has been an independent khanate, showing its prerogative by taking up the rails of the Trans-Caspian railway which passed through its territory. Several times it has been under the control of the Bolshevik forces. The Amir had a picturesque army of about 11,000 soldiers, many of whom carelessly lounged along the stone passageway which leads up to the Ark, or castle.

On this incline, in front of the royal residence, formerly there was enacted every Friday morning a ceremony impressive in its dignity and dazzling in its color effects. Hundreds of solemn mullahs, clad in bright silk robes of stick candy stripes or gorgeous golden suns on purple fields, belted with silver, and with buckles as large as salad plates, gathered here in impressive rows, each with a priceless prayer rug beneath his feet.

These were not the dashing types which once made Mohammedanism a power from Mecca to Gibraltar but the ceremonialists whose religion is a thing of dignity and prosperity, founded on trade rather than a life in the saddle. In unison they bow low so that only broad backs can be seen, but a moment later all are erect with their spotless white turbans the most prominent feature in a scene so colorful that only an Oriental sun could harmonize it.

Bokhara is architecturally unimpressive but nowhere are there more attractive Oriental bazaars. Brassmiths vie with goldsmiths to add the glint of glowing metal to the half light of the covered souks and there the makers of peculiar Bokhara caps display their brightly colored wares, the edges glistening with soft furs from Siberia.

HONDURAS: LAND OF RIVERS AND BIG DEBT

Honduras, least developed of the five Latin American countries which are now considering the formation of a "United States of Central America," is a country of hills and valleys; of rain and sunshine; of large and small rivers.

A half dozen rivers may be crossed in one day, and while they are usually narrow and shallow, a few hours' rain will turn them into roaring torrents, absolutely impassable. A traveler may be held up for many days by a stream that when he first crossed it was less than three feet in depth.

Honduras is said to be the most backward of all the Central American republics, and she will remain so until railroads cross the country and the government becomes stable. Then there will be great opportunites there for many, and Americans and American capital will always be welcome.

The country is just a little larger than the State of Pennsylvania, yet it has a population of only a little more than half a million. It has the largest per capita debt of any country on the face of the globe except New Zealand—at least it had before the present European war upset all statistical conditions. It owes $220 per capita. Most of this debt was created by loan-shark methods, however, for Honduras would agree to pay $10 to get one—or some such ridiculous proportion.

The name of the country is said to be derived from a Spanish term meaning "depth," the early explorers having found difficulty in striking water shallow enough for anchorage. They were so delighted when they reached the Nicaraguan shore nearby that they called the headland "Cape Gracias a Dios" (Cape Thanks to God), a name it still holds.

As a rule, the night will be spent in a native house, sometimes little more than a hut, built of mud, thatched or roofed with tiles. One is apparently always welcome to the best the house affords; but a hammock as part of the traveler's outfit is a necessity, for the beds of stretched bull-hide or canvas are usually fully occupied, if not by those at whose homes you are a guest, then by other residents greatly to be feared.

Everybody sleeps in one room—men, women, and children together. Your hosts are curious, but politely so, watching you undress and get into your hammock, with a calm stare that must not be considered impertinent, for a white man is not an every-day visitor. One learns seldom to undress completely.

LACE DRESS STYLE

Paris Dressmakers Are Successful With Dyed Fabrics.

Darkest Greens, Deep Browns, Rust Reds, Golden Yellows and Deep Blues Favored.

Apparently one need have no fear in buying a lace dress that will soon become old-fashioned as far as lace is concerned, at any rate, states a Paris correspondent. This is extremely gratifying at this time, because new things have sprung up overnight like mushrooms to such an extent during the last few years that we are glad to have something to which we may pin our faith, if it is only a party dress.

Back of all this lace agitation is a well-known propaganda in behalf of the French industry, and this propaganda has been launched at a time when the market is almost bare of merchandise. It is, therefore, not to sell goods now, as there are few laces to be had, but it is to create a movement in favor of laces in order that when the new stocks are ready the world will be clamoring for them.

Among the most interesting features of the present fashions are the dyed lace dresses. Early last summer there was evidence of a strong revival of lace through the launching of many black and white lace dresses at the spring and summer race meets. Deauville in July and August also proclaimed the vogue of lace; but it was left for the Paris dressmaker to spring something new at the opening of her season. With lace on the crest of the wave these clever creators of novelty clothes brought out lovely dresses in dyed laces of the darkest greens, deep browns, rust reds, golden yellows and deep blues. So to be in keeping with this winter's fashions one must have a dyed lace dress, and while black and white laces are still very fashionable, the newest thing, of course, is the lace dyed in one of the new colors.

THE LEATHER WALKING COAT

For the cross-country tramp at this time of the year nothing is more suitable than a leather walking coat, collared with fur.

THE WINSOME TAM AND SCARF

A tam and scarf of angora is charming for winter weather, as the model here demonstrates.

NEW NET AND LACE DRESSES

Embroidered in Color, Made Over Contrasting Foundations, Both Youthful and Attractive.

In their effort to add further novelty to the lace idea the Paris dressmakers launched strange kinds of combinations. For instance, blue serge dresses are trimmed with blue lace, usually in an opposing shade of blue, as navy blue serge with royal blue lace. Dark green velvets are combined with green lace, rust-colored brocades with rust lace, and so on through numerous combinations the clever Paris maker varies the lace idea.

Net as well as lace dresses are made in simple chemise effects. Straightline dresses of white net embroidered in color and made over contrasting foundations are both youthful and attractive.

One of Cheruit's big successes has been an orange lace dress. Madeleine et Madeleine have repeated many times a model made in dark bottle green lace, and Callot Soeurs consider their rust-color laces the most fashionable offering of the season.

It is but natural that nets should follow in the wake of laces. They, too, are oftentimes bright colored. If, however, they are black they achieve the necessary brightness by embroideries, which may be red or copper hued.

Care of Silk Waists.

White silk shirts and waists washed in warm suds, rinsed in water of the same temperature, wrapped in a bath towel to absorb the extra mositure, and then pressed with a warm iron, will not turn yellow for a long time. Avoid exposure to strong light while drying and really hot irons, for both tend to turn white silk yellow.

Startling Colors.

Startling colors appear to be the most distinctive note in dress trimmings this season. Elaborate embroidery designs of oriental inspiration, with tinsel thread worked in with rich colors, are most popular.

Bright Dresses for Winter

Gay and Pretty Costumes Add an Air of Cheerfulness on the Dull Days.

As the winter season advances, brighter and prettier are the dresses that are worn, which is as it should be. A pretty bright costume is cheering on a dull gray day. For instance, an attractive brown taffeta dress, with a tucked vest of the same fabric, is made with an eton effect and a belt of bright-colored ribbon. A blue taffeta dress has a waist which suggests a basque, with seams piped in silk. It is slightly shirred in at the waistline to adapt it to a girlish figure. Red wool is used to outline the neck. The skirt has six bias bands, which are sewed around at the top, but each band is left loose at the lower edge, which adds grace to the skirt. This dress would be pretty made in navy blue satin.

Another blue silk dress is made with a round yoke of navy blue georgette crepe, which extends as a band across each shoulder and down the tops of the sleeves. This georgette trimming is outlined along the edges with bright green silk machine stitching.

A dress which combines brown velvet and brown wool jersey has an accordion-pleated skirt of the latter worn with a hip-length jacket of brown velvet edged with wool cord in orange tones. The same wool cord edge forms buttonholes for wool buttons of orange color. This overblouse has set-in sleeves of the velvet.

A dress of blue velvet and satin is trimmed with touches of blue wool embroidery. Pockets on the skirt have thistles or corn flowers of blue clipped wool used with green wool stitching.

FASHIONS IN BRIEF

New Paris footwear is elaborate and makes much use of straps.

A new vogue in blouses combines crepe de chine and knitted silks.

Flat velvet flowers are appliqued on chiffon and edged with flat jet beads.

Pastel-colored felt hats are trimmed with flowers in striking color combinations.

Frocks of blue tricotine have collars of black satin which button high around the neck.

Five and six-inch laces, dyed any preferred tint, are made up into charming evening gowns and dancing frocks.

Crepe meteor, crepe de chine and all silks with crepe surfaces or weaves are in high favor for frocks for next spring.

Wool jersey cloth is one of the present season fabric leaders for sport blouses and smocks. The trimming most used is heavy embroidery, which may be done in wool, chenille or woolen beads.

The new net veils are very large, large enough to swathe the hat and hang down the back. They are coarse and open. The smartest are the square mesh filet or octagon shaped fish-net veils with a border of chiffon. The favorite colors are brown and taupe.

Chinese Remedy.

The Chinese laundry had ruined his collars. Their saw-edge was cutting his neck. Besides, they looked disgraceful. He thought it was time to complain, because they had been laundered only a few times.

"See here, Lee Sam," he began. "I won't have this! You are simply ruining every collar I possess! Why don't you take a little more pains? What are you going to do about it?"

The laundryman looked at him without emotion, and said: "You buy more collar!"

The Life of a Song.

"This music dealer advertises that 'Two Loving Hearts in a Little Bungalow,' is a song that will live forever."

"What does he mean by that?"

"About six months."—Birmingham Age-Herald.