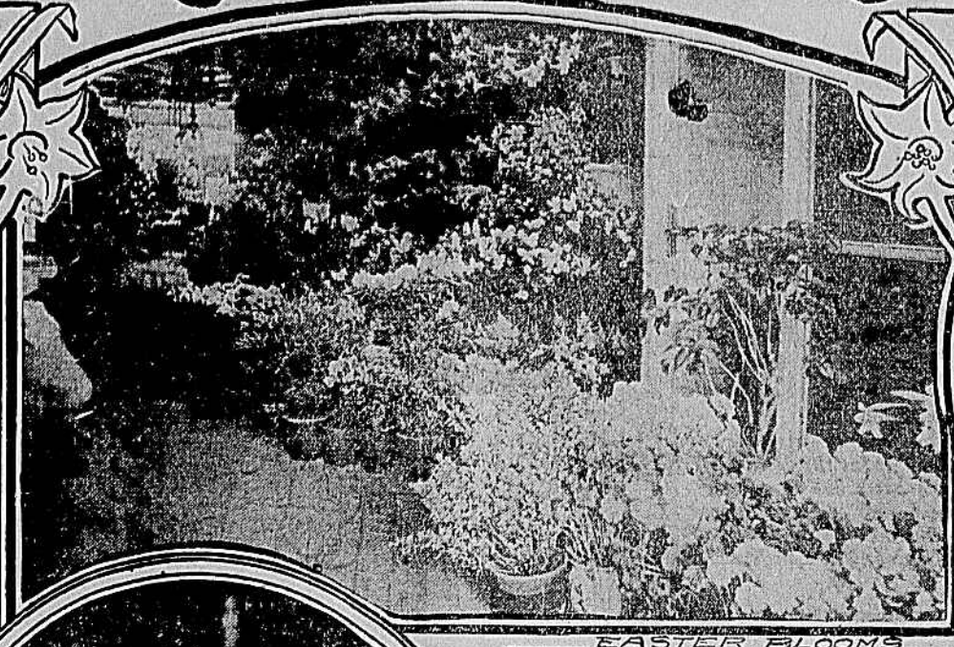
ALL RICHMOND REJOICES AT EASTER TIME

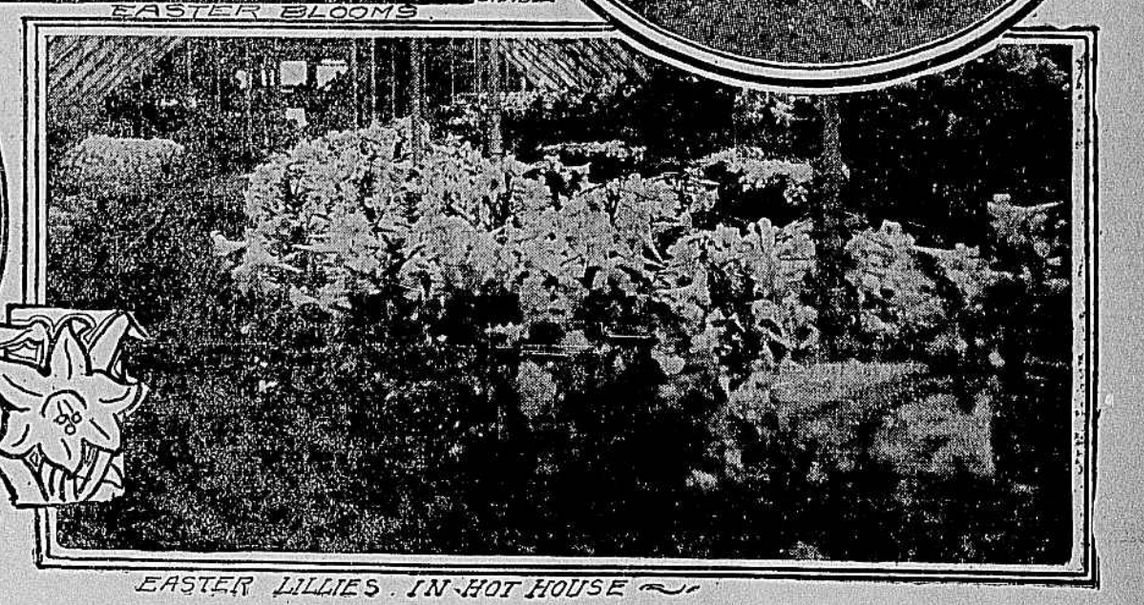
CHINA WARE FOR EASTER PRESENTS



EASTER BLOOMS

EASTER SUN SHADE

EASTER EGGS AND ANIMALS



EASTER LILLIES IN HOT HOUSE

CELEBRATION OF GREAT FEAST DAY

Story of Easter and Description of Some of the Easter Customs—Use of Eggs and Hares.

The festival of Easter is one of those known and spoken of as a movable feast. While there has never been any question as to the perfect propriety of its celebration and but slight difference as to the character of its observance, as early as the second century of the Christian era great diversity of opinion rose as to the proper time when its celebration should take place.

Easter was instituted in the Christian church about 68 A. D.. There is an opinion even now widely held by many Christians of divers creeds that the Apostles ordained the anniversaries of the Passion, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord, and the descent of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, and, therefore, it may not be improbable that they also ordained the celebration of Easter.

On one point all churchmen agree that the observance of the day of the "taking away of the Bridegroom" was kept from the earliest times with extraordinary humiliation and sanctity, with the strictest fasting and fervent prayer. It, therefore, was but natural that the fulfilment of their ardent hope, that culminated in Christ's wonderful resurrection from the dead, when hope became certainty, would be observed with reverent but joyous ceremonies. What form those glad ceremonies took on none now knows; we can only imagine them. In later times they became very elaborate.

Why Disputes Arose.

Early disputes as to the date for observing Easter arose because the celebration not only commemorated the resurrection, but was a memorial of the Christian passover, the atonement made by Christ upon the cross. In the East, the Christians kept their paschal feast upon the same day when the Jews kept their Passover, that being on the fourteenth day of Nisan, the month corresponding with March and April. Western churches knowing that the Lord's resurrection took place on Sunday, and to make more effectual distinction between their paschal feast and the Jewish Passover, observed it on the Sunday following the fourteenth of Nisan. Then followed taunting between Eastern and Western church, the former maintaining that the latter was departing from the custom of the Apostles, and the latter declaring that the former was Jewish and not Christian. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, pleaded for the fourteenth of Nisan because he had celebrated the feast with Saint John on that day. Anicetas, Bishop of Rome, cited the example of Saint Peter and Saint Paul as observing it on the Sunday after the fourteenth of Nisan.

The Nicean Rule.

Early in the fourth century the matter assumed such importance that a great Ecumenical Council was called at Nice, A. D. 325, and the rules to govern the fixing of Easter were laid down by directing "that the 21st day of March should be accounted the vernal equinox. That the full moon happening upon or next after the 21st of March should be taken for the full moon of Nisan.

"That the Lord's Day next following first full moon should be Easter day."

"But if the full moon happened on Sunday, Easter day should be the Sunday after."

This is the rule now observed. But ti was long after the canon of the Council of Nice was decreed before it was entirely effective, for the history of the Irish church, and consequently of the Church of Scotland, showing that as late as the sixth century they were still in opposition to the canon, prove how deep and strong the feeling of churchmen must have been.

It was in the year 664, at a great assembly held before the King of Northumbria, that a contention between Bishop Colman, representing the Irish church, and Wilfred, a Roman monk, sent to Britain by Pope Gregory of Rome, as to the date of Easter, was decided by the King in favor of Rome.

Name of Festival.

But in a certain way the islanders were avenged for their defeat. Before this time the feast in the Latin and Greek, and in all languages derived from them, had been called Pascha, pasch, Pasqua, Pascua, Paques, from the Chaldee word Pascha, the equivalent of the Hebrew Pesach. Since then, in all English-speaking countries the holiday has been known as Easter, from the Teutonic goddess of spring—Eastre.

Her feast was kept in the spring, and she was a sort of Teutonic Proserpine, who dwelt half the year with her mother, Ceres, in Olympus, and half the year with her spouse, Pluto, in Hades. When Proserpine returned to earth the lilies and daffodils blossomed in her honor. So Eastre was a goddess of winds and of flowers. For her, Easter fires were kindled; her coming signalizing the breaking of winter's icy sleep of death and the awakening of nature to the resurection of spring.

Earliest Easter Customs.

With a tendency to the realism which afterward resulted in the miracle plays of the early drama, it is not strange that in many of the oldest churches in England and on the continent a "holy sepulchre," or tomb, was erected near the altar, which at Easter-tide was the centre of attraction in the Easter ceremonies. These sepulchres were of wood or stone, supposed to represent the tomb where Joseph of Arimathea laid our Lord. Some like that still preserved at Heckington in Lincolnshire, English, are very elaborate. This one just named has carved figures of the Roman soldiers either on guard, watching, or the relief sleeping around the tomb. More commonly, however, these Easter sepulchres were only recesses in the wall by the side of the chancel near the altar; but not a few of these were real tombs. Before these tombs from Good Friday till the dawn of Easter, when the choir broke forth in the anthem, "Christ is Risen," a watch was kept and the paschal light was burned, and the guard maintained with military exactitude. Prior to the Reformation this custom was invariable in all churches. After that the custom passed into desuetude.

An interesting book might be filled with a description of Easter customs of olden days in every county of Europe, from the sweet-voiced singers which wake the traveler in the Tyrol on Easter morning, to the games played on the village greens of England. Everywhere one feature is in evidence—the eggs—typical of both the birth and resurrection of our Lord. In no two countries exactly alike, yet similar in their goregous coloring. A unique feature of Tyrolese Easter eggs is the addition of original mottoes written upon the shell, each being of an individual character to fit the relations between donor and recipient. Especial dishes supposed to be peculiarly fitting for the day are also found, as in England tansy cakes and puddings mark the Easter feast.

The Polish Celebration.

In Poland, Easter eve ushers the "resurrection service," which lasts until 8 o'clock, when some authorities say Christ rose. The churches are crowded to suffocation; all press around the high altar where mass is held. When the supreme moment arrives, and the Resurrection words are spoken by the priests, the people assemble at "the sepulchre," saying Easter hymns and holding lighted candles in their hands.

As in Russia, in Poland there is much Easter gorging as a relaxation from the long Lenten fast when the people eat no meat for forty days. Even the peasants save up for some eggs, a big loaf of bread, sausage, cheese, ham and cake. Those who bring home a sucking pig and plenty of vodka enjoy distinction for the rest of the year.

Easter Eggs and Hares.

The use of eggs at Easter goes back as far as the ancient Persians, fire-worshippers who regard the arrival of the vernal equinox as a special blessing. The eggs colored with Tyrian dyes were presented by friends to one another, the egg containing the potential bird symbolizing to the Persian mind the power of spring breaking the shell of winter.

The Persians probably, like other branches of the Aryan family, derived their ideas about eggs from their ancestors, for in India the belief is almost universal that the world itself was hatched from an egg.

A later English tradition is that the word was created on Easter Sunday.

The connection of hares with Easter and of hares with eggs is often a mystery to the average mind, but it is easily accounted for in this way.

Among all Teutonic peoples the hare was held sacred to Eastre, and the goddess being of Eastern origin, the relation of the hare to the eggs of the Aryans and Persians is at once apparent. The goddess was the queen of spring, and about her were in their mind clustered the emblems of the resurrection season.

EASTER NOVELTIES

Easter Bon-Bon Cases.

The cases for holding Easter bonbons are as pretty as they are novel. In addition to the eggs, great and small, filled with candies, there are realistic rabbits, and there are charming little flower maidens whose heads lift off to show the pretty sweets concealed beneath.

There are swans with wings that unfold so that the French comfits which they hold may be gotten at; there are flower-cases with candies tucked away in their petals, and there are all kinds of devices that the imagination can conceive of in chocolates, from swans and hares down to smooth brown and speckled chocolate eggs.

Downy little golden-feathered chickens delight the children walking abroad to view the Easter sights. Children are getting the most pleasure possible out of the season, as they generally do.

Little toddlers are hugging baskets of eggs in their arms and viewing with open-eyed and open-mouthed delight the rabbits and chickens arranged alluringly in the windows.

One of the prettiest of the Easter bon-bon cases was a miniature mandolin, with a bunch of scented violets attached to it with a ribbon.

Novelties in Bric-a-Brac.

Richmond Broad Street merchants are showing in department stores many charming and new designs in bric-a-brac. Quaint Tiffany vases and flower-holders appear in new shapes that insure their popularity. There is much floral ornamentation, forget-me-nots wreathing a number of pretty and quaint conceits in articles intended purely for ornamentation.

Lamps are things of beauty beyond compare this season, and will at once attract the eye of the seeker after Easter novelties for Easter brides. But the purchaser of bridal gifts need not now find any loss if a halt is made before a bric-a-brac cabinet, for the most exacting taste cannot fail to be satisfied in so doing.

Parasols, Gloves and Ruffs.

Among the daintiest and prettiest Easter novelties shown on the counters of high-class Richmond stores are the parasols to be used with afternoon toilets or dress occasions, and the pretty neck ruffs, in all shades of chiffon—pale blue, pink, golden and dark brown, light and dark lavender, and in white and black.

The handsomest parasols are in white brocade silk, the pattern carried out in delicate Dresden tints of pink and green, and the handle in white wood, with quaint silver trimmings.

One peculiarity of the chiffon used in the neck ruffs is that it is so shirred or raveled and curled as to produce the effect of soft little feather plumage that renders it very effective.

Gloves are always acceptable Easter gifts. Consequently the glove counters are busy places during this week, the long gloves, in different shades of kid and silk, being inspected and approved by a majority of Easter purchasers.

Arise.

"He is risen; He is not here;!"
The empty sepulchre see,
Alleluias sweet, to all hearts dear,
Now fill the world with glee.

Arise dear soul—come to life,
Burst through sin's tomb,
Like nature with beauty rife,
Casting off winter's gloom.

Alleluia! Be glad; rejoice,
Radiant as the Easter skies,
Sin-free, make God your choice;
Arise, dead soul! Arise!

KATHLEEN DON LEAVY.

THINGS IN THE STORES

Easter Eggs This Season Are Enormous---Table Service.

Among the Easter novelties designed for this year for the convenience of hostesses and children alike are elaborate and beautiful Easter pies that will divide honors with Easter flowers for table decorations.

These pies are cunningly constructed of crinkly paper, and have their tops covered with fluffy masses of Easter lilies and ribbons, the latter being attached to the gifts and serving very excellent purpose when the time comes for plums to be pulled out.

Almost equally popular is a large flower-pot, within which blooms a short-stemmed half-blown pink cabbage rose, a quaint receptable for Easter souvenirs, hidden within its petals and dispensed at a luncheon, dinner or supper party. Crouched on the rim of the flower-pot, an Easter bunny holds the white and green ribbons to be used in drawing the souvenirs from their place of concealment.

Easter eggs this season are enormous, and have a pretty lining of crepe or fringed paper. A woman who is going to serve these mammoth eggs at her Easter breakfast has filled one with a regiment of tin soldiers and another with a baby doll and her wardrobe. A hen and chickens, miniature Teddy Roosevelt bears, dad a toy piano are some other souvenirs selected. The table will be lighted with a huge electric egg in the centre of the table.

In so far as the table service to be used, there are many new and attractive designs. A salad bowl is shaped like a large lettuce head, the plates representing a single lettuce leaf and both having the ubiquitous bunny perched perkily on the rim.

IS GLAD DAY IN SCHOOLS

Holiday Celebrated With Many Interesting Ceremonies by Pupils.

Easter is always a welcome holiday in the schools, coming as it does in the budding season of the year and giving to students and school children an opportunity for brief relaxation and enjoyment before they enter upon the homestretch preceding the final examinations.

The holiday as a holiday, has always been one celebrated with due regard to its meaning and importance in Virginia schools. Class work is suspended on Thursday so that students so desiring may attend Good Friday services. The holiday extends through Easter Monday, and, as that falls on April Fool's Day this year, any amount of merrymaking may be expected on the part of the young people.

Westminster School, Miss Ellett's School and Miss Morris' School for young girls and children closed Thursday, as did Woman's College and the other private schools in the city.

The High School and the grammar schools of Richmond also dismissed their students and scholars on Thursday to the joy of these young people and their teachers, to whom the holiday is much of a relief as to the youngsters.

A teachers' conference will be held in Lynchburg on Easter Monday, and many of the teachers throughout the State will attend it. School girls who go home from boarding school for the holidays will take guests with them, and many house parties are consequently projected throughout Virginia.

In the boarding schools of the State a generation ago Easter holiday was thought of and prepared for weeks beforehand. Immediately after the girls who spent the holidays at home returned, the Easter play, for which numerous invitations had been sent out, was presented. Sometimes tableaux took the place of the Easter play, with elaborate costuming and all the prettiest girls of the school in the principal parts.

After the program had been duly gone through with, there was an Easter dance with ice-cream and cake at the last.

Judged by present-day standards the plays might not seem so superfine as far as histrionic talent comes into consideration, and the tableaux might be adjudged too sentimental. But then they were rapturously applauded and, as they served their purpose, and were then thought to be quite perfect, it seems hardly fair to assume at this date a critical attitude.

Easter Good Cheer.

The Easter season ending the long Lenten period has always been marked with special preparation by Virginia and Richmond hostesses, who are fond of putting on their tables many dainties and delicacies in honor of the great spring festival that symbolizes the end of winter and the advent of spring.

Nothing could be prettier or more appropriate in the way of Easter table decoration than Easter lilies with a massing around them of lilies-of-the-valley and asparagus fern. Place-cards may be tied with green and white ribbon to souvenir bouquets of lilies-of-the-valley. White candles in green shades will add effectiveness to the color scheme to be also elaborated in china and other appointments. The following dinner menu may be served:

MENU.

Bouillon with whipped cream.
Finger Rolls.
Shad Roe. Lettuce and Egg Salad.
Shoestring Potatoes.
Broiled Spring Chicken. Hominy Cakes.
Green Peas in Cases.
Asparagus Tips on Toast.
Tomatoes with Mayonnaise.
Charlotte Russe. Nesselrode Pudding.
Conserved Mint Leaves.
Coffee.

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

Display Never More Notable Than That of This Year.

If one desires to breathe in the fragrance of the Easter spirit to the full, one only has to enter the realm of the Richmond florist and step one's senses in the perfection of fragrance and color all around and about. Tall Easter lilies swing their perfumed censers in the faint breeze; white lilacs give out their Oriental odors; roses, carnations, violets, tulips, hyacinths, orchids, mignonette, jonquils, azaleas, rhododendrons, in the different shades of yellow and white, pink, rose, crimson, scarlet and purple, make a rainbow blending of tints and an appeal to the senses in sweetness that is simply intoxicating.

Imagine a great table about four feet wide, occupying the centre of a room many feet long, massed with lilies, standing straight and tall, their white and gold showing clearly row on row against a background of green encircling them, their snowy purity strikingly emblematic of the Easter floral and spiritual significance.

Imagine baskets and baskets, in green and green and white; imported osier baskets, in all shapes and designs, holding lilies-of-the-valley and white hyacinths and violets that will be bought and sent by hundreds as Easter gifts within the next few days.

Imagine a massing of tiers of flowers, beginning with red rambler roses and bright crimson azaleas; then lilies, then pink azaleas and carnations, then white lilacs and bright red carnations. Interspersed here and there the bright gold of jonquils and the bright gold and crimson of tulips, the pink and white of tulips, the dusky purple of hyacinths and the pink, purple and rose of rhododendrons.

Imagine a stairway bordered with lilies and palms and ferns, the flowers reaching to the top of the balustrade, and the narrow pathway between just permitting one to bend over and take in breaths of delight.

Imagine everywhere, on every side, the white lilacs, the Easter flower of Persian origin and of centuries old—one most closely associated with all Easter memories and traditions.

Imagine all this, and consider what such exhibitions of the florists mean, in the importance and value of the work they carry on and the Easter sales they make.

The bulbs that have budded and blossomed for Easter were, many of them, brought from across the seas, planted last autumn, and tended carefully ever since. While basketry has become an important industry in the United States, new Easter designs in floral receptacles are still imported in the more artistic shapes and weaves. The violet boxes to hold the scented blossoms for Beauty's Easter adorning are prettier than ever before, and are tied with purple gauze or satin ribbon. Violet silk cords and tassels and amethyst pins accompany the boxes, to be used for the convenience and according to the preference of the fair wearer.

Equally pretty are the white-lined boxes, tied with green, for holding lilies-of-the-valley, a most appropriate debutante's flower, and one of the most suitable for Easter presentation.

The florists report an enormous sale in flowers, lilies-of-the-valley, violets, Easter lilies and white lilacs being prime favorites, roses, carnations and azaleas following in regular succession. Cut flowers and potted plants are already being ordered far up into the thousands. The florists are all very busy people this week and will doubtless enjoy the rest of Easter Sunday when it arrives.

EASTER SUNDAY IN RICHMOND

Easter is the doorway between winter and spring. One pauses on the threshold to glance back for an instant over the months of cold and storm, then looks gladly forward from the rigors of months past to the gentle delights of those which are coming.

The human chrysalis shows itself in accord with the season. Penitential robes of sadness are cast aside and the Easter maiden in her soft shimmering silks, her befeathered and beflowered hat is a radiant vision on which the eye rests with delight.

The season in itself begets joyousness, so much so that the mind swings back through cycles of time to the first traditional Easter morning and the first in the creation of the world, when God resting from His work, saw that it was good, and the morning stars sang together for gladness.

Day and Season in Tune.

The resurrection day and season are attuned, the one to the other, and the glad Easter hymns and music seem only a natural part of the great spirit of celebration.

The flowers, the beautiful gowns worn, and the cheerful, happy air with which, when the service is ended, the crowds of men and women stream out into the streets and the time-honored Easter parade begins, opens another of the day's incidents.

For years in Richmond the moving trend of those who join in the Sunday parade turns their footsteps westward up Grace and Franklin Streets toward the Lee Monument, which is usually the objective point of the pedestrian throng. All up the streets porches and windows are crowded with spectators to watch the long line, as it winds slowly along, with a frou-frou of silken garments, a ripple of gay laughter and a murmur of low-toned converse, a prismatic blending of rainbow colors and the perfume from countless violets, lilies-of-the-valley and American Beauties rendering the air fragrant.

Story of Other Easters.

Just as the story of to-day is to be repeated in the happy triumph of debutante and Easter bride-to-be, just so it was enacted years ago when other beautiful women were the queens-regnant of Richmond society, when stately golden-haired Miss Mary Triplett, in lichen green or filmy white passed by; when lovely Miss Lizzie Cabell followed and nodded gayly to Miss Mattie Ould, as the latter loitered, flashing a brilliant smile and a bon mot at a swain, claiming her attention for a moment.

A few years later and the Easter sun was shining down upon the red roses covering the grave of Mattie Ould in Hollywood, Miss Lizzie Cabell, as Mrs. Albert Ritchie, was living in Baltimore, and Miss Mary Triplett, as the bride of Mr. Philip Haxall, was reckoned one of the loveliest young matrons in Richmond.

Coming down through the years, one recalls in the after Easter processions, Mrs. Willie Allen, who came to Richmond as a bride, and now lives in New York; Miss Page Aylett, who married Mr. W. L. Royall; Miss Irene Langhorne, afterward Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson; Miss Lizzie Bridges or Mrs. Graham Hobson, as she is now called; Miss May Handy, spending Easter this year in the South with her husband, Mr. James Brown Potter, and scores of others who have added to the reputation of Richmond as a city noted for its beautiful women.

Winter's Page Repeated.

Last winter made an exceptional record in the number and brilliancy of its entertainments. The Easter season bids fair to copy out the winter's page and the Easter parade is to the social program what the overture is to the opera.

Never in the history of the world has women's apparelling been richer in material, more delicately lovely in color, more elegant in all the embroideries and laces that constitute the lavish ornamentation used.

This being the case, one can imagine the effect produced by the procession of human butterflies, attired in creations that for weeks past have tested the ingenuity of the modiste and the milliner to the utmost.

Add to the richness of attire, a natural gayety and prettiness of youth, and one can imagine the result of so goodly a combination.

Music of the Past.

Reverting again to past Easter days and fashions, one recalls how the Monumental Church used to be crowded always on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, its choir, with Mr. Leo Wheat, as organist; Mrs. Lockermann, as leading soprano; Mr. John Redford, as tenor, and Mr. Grant, as baritone singer, supplying music that all the Richmond world was glad to listen to and enjoy. On this Easter day all the churches in the city, including the grand new cathedral in the West End, will be filled with music, but there will be "a minor" in the strains of gladness, in memory of other Easters that have passed and those that have gone with them.