

# OUR SPECIAL FEATURE PAGE.

## Halloween— A HOLIDAY OF TRADITIONS

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### MAKING A JACK-O-LANTERN

No holiday on the calendar depends more for its charm upon tradition and the customs handed down from generation to generation than does that fateful night of mirth and mystery—Halloween. Most of our American holidays commemorate historic events within the past century and a half and consequently cannot, of course, have any of the characteristics of ancient ceremonial. Even Christmas has, in its observance, been modernized out of all semblance of the old-time celebration. Halloween, however, not only retains its time-honored significance and long-established ritual but finds its chief attraction in these reminders of bygone periods.

The festival of the night of October 31 has a number of different designations, though none are so commonly used as Halloween. The others are All Hallows' Eve, Nutcrack Night and Snapple Night, the latter two being derived of course from practices associated with the occasion. Halloween derives its most common name as the eve or vigil of All Saints' or All Hallows' Day (November 1). From time out of mind this has been heralded as a night when witches, devils and other mischief-making beings go abroad on their baneful midnight errands. By a strange coincidence, however, this same night is supposed to be devoted by the fairies to a grand anniversary celebration.

The traditions of Halloween also teach that on no other night in the twelvemonth do such supernatural influences prevail as after dark on the final day of October. According to ancient beliefs the spirits of the dead then wander about and in some instances the spirits of living persons have conferred upon them the temporary power to join the ghostly clan. Persons who have had the good fortune to be born on October 31 are especially likely to be warned or advised by the elves on each recurring anniversary of

their natal day, but sometimes, so it is said, other persons have the gift of conversing with the airy visitants on such occasions.

Saint Matrimony is the patron saint of Halloween and indeed this autumn holiday is best known as the night of all nights for peering into the future and especially for discovering just what sort of husband or wife fate has selected for each unmarried participant in the rites. It is this function of the holiday which helps to keep its observance alive with the young people of the nation and not a few of their elders who are yet youthful in spirit. Not only are the mysterious spirits that are abroad on Halloween supposed to be infallible in their verdicts but it is also of manifest advantage that they demand neither fee nor reward for piercing the veil that hides the future. The performance of some very simple ceremony is all that is exacted of the curious young man or woman who would learn interesting particulars regarding the destined life-partner.

The origin of Halloween seems to be hidden in an intermingling of classic mythology and Christian superstitions. The plan of making nuts and apples conspicuous in the Halloween festivities is traced back to the custom of the ancient Romans to hold on November 1 a feast to Pomona, the goddess of fruits and seeds, at which time there was a formal opening of the stores of eatables laid up in summer for use during the winter. On this same date occurred the great autumn festival to the sun in which the Druids or ancient Celts celebrated thanksgiving for their harvest and it was the belief of the Druids that on the eve of their holiday—the present Halloween—

### PICKING APPLES FOR THE HALLOWEEN FEAST

The Lord of Death summoned those wicked souls that had within the year been condemned to henceforth occupy the bodies of animals.

The people of England have long set store by an elaborate observance of Halloween, but even antedating their allegiance was that of the Irish. In the Emerald Isle it was the custom from the earliest days for each household to set out on this holiday the best viands it could afford, apples and nuts being inevitable features of the menu. In not a few instances peasants went from house to house collecting breadcake, butter, cheese, eggs and other eatables suitable for a feast. Indeed, throughout Great Britain bread or cake has long been associated with the Halloween feast, and even today in many English households a cake is baked for each member of the family. An early Halloween observance was that of ringing the church bells all night long, but a stop was put to this by King Henry VIII.

As has been said, many of the features of the Halloween program in ancient times have been continued to this day but for the most part the customs which were once ceremonies of belief are now observed only in jest. Halloween being the first of the autumn and winter holidays and, for the young people, the first break in the school year is invariably welcomed with especial enthusiasm. The circumstance that Halloween is not a national holiday does not in the least

affect its observance since its festivities are for the most part reserved for the period after nightfall when the work-day world is presumably at leisure.

Various schemes for obtaining matrimonial forecasts on Halloween have been handed down to the present generation. The roasting of nuts is an essential prelude to most of them. Some inquisitive maidens are wont to place a number of nuts, each bearing the name of a lover, on the bars of a grate or among the embers. According to the ritual if a nut cracks or jumps the lover will prove unfaithful whereas if it begins to blaze or burn he has regard for the person making the test. If a nut burns quietly and brightly especial sincerity of affection is supposedly indicated. Similarly if nuts named for a girl and her lover burn in unison an early wedding is to be expected.

Apples vie with nuts as Halloween vehicles for discovering the intentions of Cupid. Indeed one of the best known ruses, and perhaps the one most generally

practiced at the general time is that in which the credulous maiden eats an apple before a looking glass while combing her hair, confident that if directions be followed explicitly the face of her destined conjugal partner will be seen in the mirror as though peering over her shoulder. Equally well known is the scheme whereby any maiden may find out the first letter of the name of her future husband by peeling an apple, taking the paring by one end and after swinging it three times around her head allowing it to fall in whatever position it may. It must be confessed that some slight stretch of imagination may be necessary to construe the position of the paring as indicating a desired letter.

There has been transplanted to the United States from Scotland another means of peeping into the matrimonial lottery. By this plan the young women go hand-in-hand, blindfolded, or at least with eyes closed, to the cabbage patch and each pulls the first plant met with. Earth on

the root of the cabbage thus selected signifies dowry. The shape and size of the vegetable denote the appearance and size of the future spouse and the taste of the heart and stem indicate his disposition. Nor is all the Halloween prognosticating for the benefit of the fair sex. There have been designed for ardent swains numerous forms of divination, the best known of which is that whereby the smitten youth descends cellar stairs with a candle in one hand and a mirror in the other, hoping to have the face of a sweetheart reflected back to him from the glass.

All the Halloween pranks above mentioned and a host of others are introduced as adjuncts of the Halloween parties which now constitutes one of the most popular forms of entertaining in this country. That tradition has decreed the occasion one of mystery as well as a night of jollity and laughter paves the way for unique entertainments and many quaint conceits in the line of amusements have been devised by resourceful hosts

and hostesses. Halloween has become especially popular at schools and colleges, as a brief season given over to the pranks of the students. Particularly is there a fantastic observance of the holiday at girls' boarding schools and women's colleges.

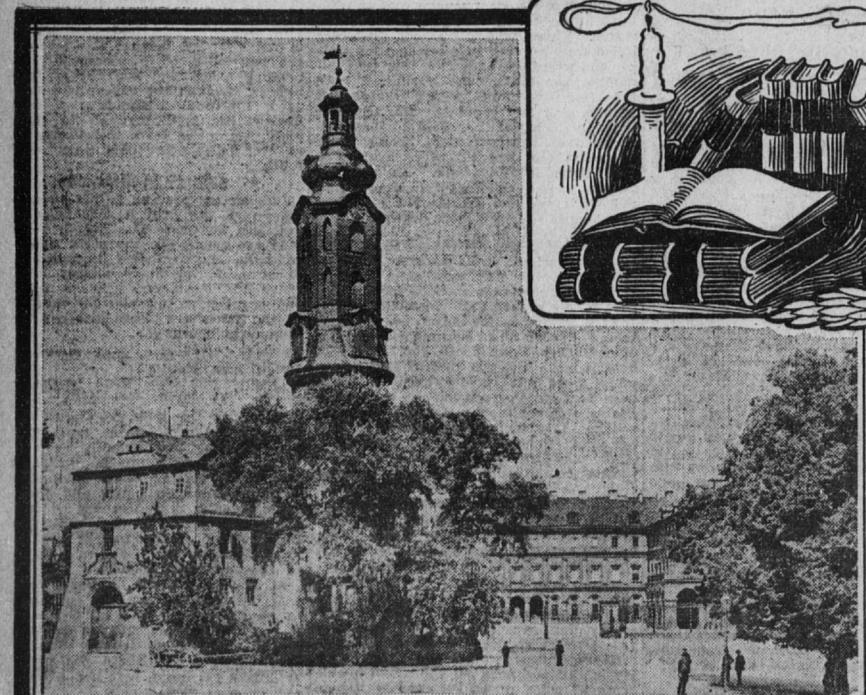
Novelty is the keynote of everything connected with a Halloween festivity. Like as not the invitations, menu cards, tally cards, etc. are bespattered with representations of witches riding brooms, blinking owls, broad-winged bats and pumpkins while for decorative purposes there are pressed into service a variety of nature's vivid-hued products such as cornstalks, pumpkins, carrots, russet oak leaves and green pine boughs. Finally the refreshments, which are an indispensable feature, include apples, nuts, grapes and other autumn delicacies.

Since mystic rites are to be essayed and ghost stories and other spooky subjects are likely to be among the topics of conversation, it is not only permissible but appropriate that there should be no brilliant illumination of the scene of a Halloween party and this enables the use of candles set in hollowed carrots or the employment of jack-o-lanterns.

Certain well-known American hostesses, famous as the originators of oddities, have given Halloween entertainments in barns and attics and in one instance a cellar was utilized—black draperies and the symbol of the skull and crossbones adding to the "creepy" atmosphere. Highly popular as Halloween entertainments are, masquerade parties of one kind or another and shadow pantomimes have come into extensive vogue in recent years. Some of the games which are now regarded as indispensable to a Halloween frolic have no significance as matrimonial barometers. Foremost among these is the prank of ducking for apples. The apples are set afloat in a tub and each person essays to catch one of the floating prizes with the teeth, his hands being tied behind him. The popping of corn at an open fire, fortune telling and other old-fashioned diversions are also revived for the benefit of the younger generation on Halloween.

## A LITERARY PILGRIMAGE

BY  
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THE PALACE AND OLD TOWER

JUST as thousands of tourists visit Oberammergau to witness the Passion Play and hasten to Bayreuth for Wagnerian festivals so each year nearly the same number visit Weimar, the Athens of modern Europe. Ever since the two greatest German poets made this place sacred with their memories, scholars and writers no less than musicians have found it a worthy retreat. Dickens and Thackeray spent some time here and George Eliot and Madame de Staël sought Weimar as a place of inspiration. Amalie Wintgen in her charming Weimar album describes the many brilliant English and Russian who came to take tea with Goethe's daughter-in-law, and spent the evening listening to the reading of German and English poetry. An Englishman of that day wrote in his diary these words in memory of Goethe and the days he made golden: "Sad heart why do you awaken in me memories of those golden days that flew by so quickly. In the classic town on the Ilm noted for its culture, life in the open air and pleasure. Weimar, oh, your name and its associations haunt me now." There are still plenty of associations to delight the thousands of travelers who spend several happy days amidst these literary haunts.

Weimar is an attractive place in itself,

it rests in a valley surrounded by mountains and splendid woods of the Thuringian forests. The air is refreshed by a small river which wanders gently and romantically about the meadows, and woods and again rushes on so forcibly it must be held back by a dam. The town is adorned with a beautiful park and some splendid monuments and some very attractive homes. The Hotel Erbprinz is one of the show places because of its historic associations. This hotel was formerly a large inn and was for many months at a time the home of Germany's greatest poets, musicians and painters. When Franz Liszt first came to Weimar this was his only home for five months. Here he practiced and played for many of his friends and wrote many of the compositions which were later brought out at the Opera house. His bedroom and the room occupied by Goethe are the two most popular rooms in the house and guests bid high to say they lived in the Liszt and Goethe rooms. There is nothing especially noteworthy in its furnishings except the beautiful writing desk at which the great musician and composer wrote. The top is shaped like a Greek temple decorated with mirrors and marquetry wood. The rest of the furniture is limited to a wooden bed, a small table, washstand,

a large round table and an oblong table with gilt trimmings. But the furnishing of the room is very due to that which the Schiller room knew. The small dimensions, the single bed, the plain writing desk and the one chair tell better than words the struggle and hardships which followed this great and talented poet all his days. Very different from the comfortable quarters Goethe enjoyed. Goethe's room was far more spacious and better furnished. His room had two large windows with a balcony commanding a splendid view of the old Castle walls with their strange carvings, a small house opposite with a strange sun-dial and the large market square. Goethe's bed is especially interesting because it is built in the wall and has linen curtains hung before it. The most elaborate piece of furniture is the writing desk, an exact duplicate of the one Liszt used. It is the desk on

which he is supposed to have written many of his most ardent love-letters and parts of his Faust. Though many noted guests have dined and spent some hours in this inn, two other names have made the place historic. Napoleon lived here some weeks when he once paid a visit to Weimar. In the room is a large empire table on which he is supposed to have written many important state letters. The great painter Mantel also lived here a long time and painted some of his greatest masterpieces. There is the same terrace overlooking the garden where Goethe gave a dinner to Prince Augustus, Liszt and others. It is here whispered that he often paid for Schiller's supper when his friend was short of money. Liszt also gave some famous dinners here, played for his guests and discussed his compositions at length. A stone's throw from the hotel is the royal park, a beautiful wooded

place cut by the Ilm murmuring with waterfalls and spanned with rustic bridges. In the summer-time the park is crowded with mothers giving their children an airing and men resting and enjoying the beauty of the surrounding after their day of hard toil. They may well rest here for a more beautiful park is difficult to imagine. Here is seen a wonderful canopy of green made by the over-arching of beautiful trees. Behind the trees is seen the frame of the rushing waters made gladder by the laughter and prattle of happy children. Blending with this modern note are interesting views. Going down a steep hill one comes upon Shakespeare's monument. Anything more beautiful can not be imagined. The poet is represented as a young man resting on a rock and looking out on the world with a happy air of contentment. At his feet are strewn manuscripts, a fester's doll and a wreath of roses. His expres-

sion is so alive he looks as though he were ready to play Orlando or Benedict. To become acquainted with the people of the town one should visit Weimar during the week of Schutzenfest, a hunters festival which lasts eight days. In this week of gaiety is much drinking, merrymaking and target shooting. Though target shooting is now considered as a sport, these sturdy Saxons show by their strength and skill that they have not forgotten the early method of warfare in which their forefathers excelled. But there is so much to see in Weimar one can not afford to let one's imagination run riot with fancies. A good starting point is the Schiller house. Schiller lived on the second floor and the apartment is very homely. It consists of a living-room, workroom, dining-room and bedroom. The living-room is the most elaborately furnished. It has cupboards which served for the keeping of books and dishes. In one corner of the room is a spinet and a guitar. In a cabinet on the other side are seen dishes, rings, letters, snuff-boxes and walking sticks, used by the poet. The single wooden bedstead in which Schiller breathed his last is placed in the workroom. It is piled high with ribbons which adorned wreaths sent by all nations when he died. As one gazes on these faded ribbons one's eyes fill with tears and the lips whisper: "They came too late. Why did not the world help

He lived here for eight years before moving to the larger house. The home is much the same as when he lived there. On the first floor is the dining-room furnished with wooden chairs and tables. It is here Schiller and his often ate together and discussed poetry by the hour. Their discussions were only to be interrupted by a visit from Prince Carl August. Above stairs are seen several simple bedrooms and workrooms. The cupboards served as places to keep the dishes and books. The most elaborate furnishings are the white curtains which were embroidered by Frau von Stein, one of Goethe's sweethearts. These are now covered because so many of the tourists insisted on cutting off pieces and taking them away as souvenirs. The garden is set out in terraces and is full of beautiful trees. There is a large stone where Goethe and Frau Stein sat together talking by the hour. A bronze slab contains the love verses she wrote to him while sitting there one afternoon. Across the road is a house where Frau von Stein is supposed to have had an apartment. Close to the garden hedge runs the road to Ober-Weimar, on the other side a meadow and a path lined with trees. A bridge leads to the Gutenberg, where Prince Karl August lived during the summer and amused himself telegraphing to Goethe.

Goethe's summer-house was exceedingly simple compared with the place he lived in later. The entrance hall is large and imposing and decorated with several statues brought from Greece. A broad flight of steps lead to the many living-rooms. The walls are hung with many rare portraits including a splendid likeness of Schiller and the poet Wieland; but the most interesting are all of Goethe's many sweethearts including Madame Schreote and Frau von Stein. Just as valuable are the rare sections of the Gutenberg, a Malajolica and terra cotta Goethe gathered when travelling in Italy and Greece. But this rare collection includes personal gifts given to the poet; including a laurel wreath of gold, rings, snuff-boxes, coins, rare plate and a piano, a gift of Mendelssohn. A flight of steps open into a wing. Beyond are his workrooms filled with splendid collections of woods, minerals and zoological specimens, showing what a wonderful knowledge of science he had. There are also cabinets filled with scales, bottles and test-tubes.

The most ostentatious room is his workroom, only lighted by two small windows. In the middle is a large work table and two chairs one was for him, the other was used by his secretary. Under the table is the wastebasket into which he threw his handkerchief when he got excited. The only other furnishing is a high writing desk on which rests a creamy glass bust of Napoleon. The bedroom used by the poet is even smaller. In his old age the chief luxury in which he indulged was to eat his breakfast in a large armchair.

But the traveler is unwilling to say good-bye to Weimar until he visits the resting place of these great men. A short walk leads to a cemetery. In a plain tomb are a number of bronze caskets, two are distinguished from the others because they are covered with beautiful wreaths. On one casket lies a wreath of gold inscribed with the words: "Wolfgang Goethe"; on the other a silver wreath bears the words "Friedrich Schiller." These two friends, brother poets so true to each other in life now rest side by side. This friendship is beautifully expressed in the large bronze statue erected to their memory. The young poet Schiller holds some parchment in his hand and his eyes are seen gazing upward in inspiration. His other hand touches the laurel wreath which Goethe holds as he looks out on the world content of his genius.

GOETHE'S HOME AND MUSEUM