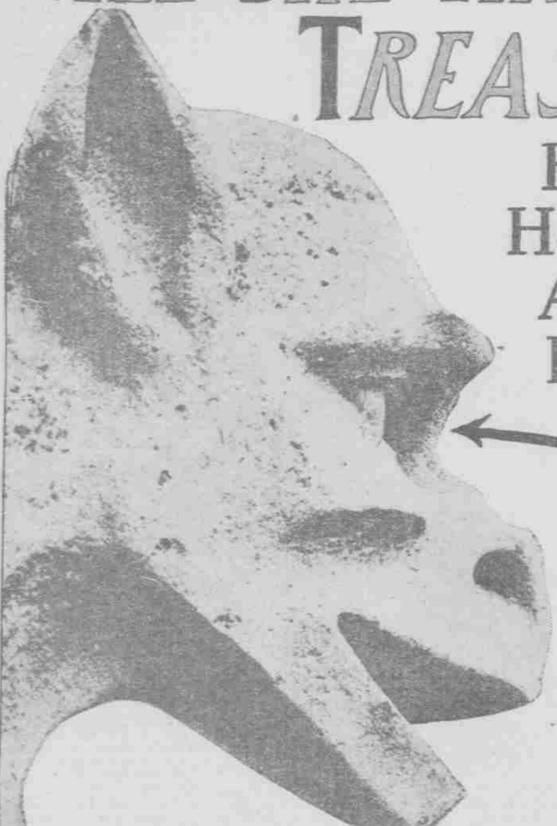


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WILL SHE FIND THE GARGOYLE GUARDED TREASURE OF NOTRE DAME?

How a Beautiful French Actress Hopes to Unravel the Secret of the Ancient French Cathedral Which Has Baffled Experts for Centuries



Mlle. Renee Rosay, the beautiful French actress, is the latest enthusiast to attempt to unravel the secret of Notre Dame.

According to the traditions of centuries, untold treasure lies concealed within the ancient cathedral of Paris. Historians have recorded the legends, writers of romance have made the treasure the theme of their novels, and numerous efforts have been made to locate it, but its resting place still remains unknown.

Apart from certain old and muddled documents which contain vague references to the "jewels of kings" contained in some secret passage in the cathedral's walls, there is not a single clue as to the whereabouts of the treasure save what may be gathered from the hideous gargoyles which embellish the structure and which are believed in some way to hold the key to its mystery.

It is from these gargoyles that Mlle. Rosay intends to drag the secret of the hidden treasure, and for this purpose she has obtained special permission from the authorities to study the weird creations at close quarters, to make such measurements as she may deem necessary, and, at the proper time, to make such excavations as may seem promising.

These gargoyles represent devils, birds of prey, dragons, wild animals of all kinds and other grotesque creatures, many of them

half man and half beast. Most of them are depicted with gaping jaws, ready to devour their victims. One of them, half man and half beast is in the act of tearing a rabbit limb from limb, another is crushing a mouse, a third has a frog in his clutches, while another, a devil, has plunged his teeth into the back of a smaller devil and is carrying him off.

These monsters, hideous as they are, are most fascinating. Every tourist in Paris finds it hard to drag himself away from them, and it was their fascination, indeed, that first led Mlle. Rosay to undertake the task of ferreting out their real significance.

"As a child," she declared, "these hideous monsters used to awe me. My parents explained that they were only waterspouts, but that explanation never satisfied me. As I grew up I became more and more interested in these stone monsters and read all I could find about them.

"The more I read the more I became convinced that the use of the gargoyles as part of the drainage system of the cathedral was only a blind to conceal their real purpose, and I determined as soon as I obtained the means to ferret the mystery to the bottom.

"Among the archives and documents of the district I found a lot of literature about Nicolas Flamel, supposed to have been an alchemist, who lived in the fourteenth century. This man lived within the shadow of the cathedral's walls and was undoubtedly as familiar with those gargoyles as any one has ever been, save their designer.

"It is recorded that Flamel, who was a great student and writer connected with the University of Paris, suddenly became immensely wealthy, and it is suggested that the source of his wealth lay in the fact that he discovered the secret of Notre Dame and helped himself to some of the treasures believed to be hidden there. After his death, his house was searched in vain for his hoards of wealth, and it was believed he utilized his knowledge of the secret of the gargoyles to hide it effectively.

"I have read all I could find about the life of this man, and I think that further study of the gargoyles may enable me to lay my hands on the treasure he is believed to have sunk in the cathedral. At any rate the investigation will be a most fascinating one, and although it may not enable me to attain wealth, it will, I am quite sure, prove a most instructive and amusing hobby."

Mlle. Rosay's plan is to plot out the lines of vision of the various gargoyles, noting where the lines cross each other, and drawing whatever inferences may seem to be warranted by the results thus obtained.

This will be by no means an easy task, for the monsters of Notre Dame are arranged in such a way that they look in apparently every conceivable direction. In most cases the gargoyles are arranged in pairs, and the angles at which their eyes look are always different in each pair. Some look directly into the church, while others gaze in an exactly opposite direction. To any one but an enthusiast, the task would seem a hopeless one, but

these who have studied the methods of the architects of the Middle Ages declare that in designing structures with secret chambers they followed more or less well recognized lines.

When the lines of vision of the gargoyles are cast back from north, south, east and west and so on, they will doubtless converge at some single point within the old cathedral, and there Mlle. Rosay intends to excavate for the hidden treasure.

Sterling Heilig, a well-known writer, who is an authority on Notre Dame and is familiar with all the legends connected with the gargoyles, doesn't see why the quest may not prove successful.

"When they have calculated the angles at which the beasts on the

embellishments at a cost of a million and a quarter dollars, but the gargoyles have never been displaced, and if they were originally designed with reference to the location of sunken treasure or other hidden articles, their secret has not perished by reason of the work of restoration which has been undertaken at different times.

With the aid of the archives contained in the Ecole des Chartes which is full of historic documents, old parchments and dusty manuscripts relating to Notre Dame, Mlle. Rosay may succeed in locating its gargoyle-guarded treasure and the result of her efforts is being awaited with considerable interest by those who have made a study of the old traditions regarding it.

Mme. Renee Rosay, the French Actress, Who, Fascinated by the Hideous Gargoyles of Notre Dame, Has Undertaken to Unearth the Treasure They Are Believed to Guard.



roof of Notre Dame look down and cast back the converging lines inside," he declared, "they may discover neither gold nor jewels, but ancient secrets and documents without price.

"It may be a library of the lost Greek and Latin classics. It would be worth many millions.

"It may be the confessions of a king, to alter history. It may be the old architect's complete plans, elevations, measurements and calculations of the church itself. At any rate, something is hidden about Notre Dame, and investigation of the gargoyles may reveal what it is."

Notre Dame, the cathedral church of Paris, was founded in 1163, but was not completed until 1421. It is 420 feet long, 155 feet wide and 110 feet high, with two towers 223 feet high. The southern tower contains the great Bourdon de Notre Dame, one of the largest bells in the world, weighing sixteen tons, the clapper alone weighing nearly a thousand pounds.

The cathedral has been reconstructed several times in the course of its history, but successive architects have never departed from the original lines. In 1865 Viollet-le-Duc restored the building and its

The "Laughing Devil," One of the Famous Gargoyles of Notre Dame, and, on the Other Side of the Page, Another Hideous Image Being Half Bird and Half Devil. By Following the Lines of Vision of These Weird Statues, and the Others on the Cathedral, and Ascertaining Where They Converge, Mlle. Rosay Hopes to Discover the Hiding Place of Untold Treasure Which Tradition Says Is Buried in the Cathedral.