

TRAFFIC IN CHURCH ART A SCANDAL

By Dr. Frederik Funder
Vienna.—Chicanery, bribery and robbery are some of the means by which brokers, dealers and their agents are getting possession of valuable works of religious art in Austria to sell them at fabulous prices to gratify the rage for such objects of virtue. Convents are entered, shrines along the highways are despoiled, and churches are desecrated by these thieves in search for vestments, pictures and sacred vessels.

STEPS TO STOP VANDALISM
Repeatedly have strong measures been taken by the authorities to put a stop to this sacrilegious vandalism, and many priests and superiors of convents have been punished when it was found that they had not taken the proper precautions to safeguard the valuables in their care. In spite of all, the crimes continue. It is believed that drastic laws will have to be passed to require venders and possessors of articles of virtue to prove that they have obtained these in a legal manner.

The churches of Austria are real treasures of old Catholic art and culture and the religious sense and reverence of the people urges them to save all these sacred objects from profanation. It is very sad when many children are going hungry and when the Christian middle classes of Austria are being ruined; but it is worse when the House of God is no longer safe from the mercenary spirit of a demoralized age, craving for gold and not shrinking from crime as a means of getting it.

TRAFFIC IN ECCLIASTICAL ART

It is a sad truth that this craze for collecting, heretofore limited to stamps, old glass, furniture, clocks, miniatures and the like, has come within the last few months to include ecclesiastical art. It has become the fashion in the homes of the profiteers, among them many Jews, to use ancient carved statues of saints and even church vessels as ornaments for the drawing room. Enormous prices are offered for paintings and altar carvings from old churches. The art shops of Vienna and Munich are gorged with church equipment and paintings and sculpture which have been thrown upon the market in an amazing profusion. The stocks of several of the larger art shops in Vienna consist exclusively of old church furniture. The equipments of whole chapels are to be found there, and religious paintings by old masters in sufficient number to provide for five large cathedrals. There are sacred vessels from the early Gothic to baroque. It is indeed an affecting sight for any one of pious sentiments to behold here, exposed for sale, magnificent monstrances embossed in silver and gold and lately the shrines of the Blessed Sacrament. Like other wares, these may be bought by the first comer, be he Jew, Christian or Hottentot.

This traffic in ancient ecclesiastical art is one of the most pathetic symptoms of the great distress in Middle Europe, especially in Austria. Many small churches and chapels, heretofore private properties, have been abandoned, their owners no longer being able to maintain them. Many convents and poor churches, reduced to straits, are selling their treasures, which are more dispensable than food. Austrian law forbids the sale of artistic church equipment. Over and above that, the ecclesiastical authorities are making every effort to prevent it. In spite of this, the ordinaries in some cases have permitted certain exceptions to be made where the necessities were imperative.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES OF COLLECTORS
Thousands of so-called art dealers are now roaming Austria in quest of ecclesiastical art. The most remote and inaccessible village church in the mountains is no longer secure from exploration by greedy traders. Where they cannot obtain what they want by lawful means, they do not hesitate to resort to illegal practices. On the pretext of having valuable religious paintings or carvings restored for small fees, precious ornaments are taken away, and copies made and substituted for the originals, which are then sold to dealers or collectors.

SOVIETS PLAN TO EXTIRPATE RELIGION
It is quite evident that the religious policy of the Soviets aims to extirpate entirely the Christian faith from Russian soil. In their eyes there is no difference between Catholicism and Orthodoxy. Both are persecuted, robbed and massacred with utter impartiality. What is now happening in Russia in regard to the despoiling of church treasures is the best proof of these assertions. In the month of March the Soviets of Moscow issued a decree stating that all the precious objects in the churches, of whatever denomination, would be confiscated and sold for the relief of the famine sufferers. It is known that the gold reserve of Russia (before the War the Imperial Russian Bank had in Petrograd two thousand million rubles in gold) have almost vanished. Russia's only remaining stock of precious metals is in the churches and monasteries in the form of iconostases, bells, silver picture frames, sacred vessels of gold, sacred vestments adorned with gold and pearls, and gems glistening on the icons of the Blessed Virgin. According to the above-mentioned decree all these treasures are to be taken gradually from the churches, and sold in foreign lands, especially in Constantinople. The booty is considerable.

TREASURES TAKEN BY BOLSHIEVISTS
The historic lavra of Kiev has been plundered. The Bolshevists have gathered there 2,417 diamonds, the smallest one weighing 11 carats, the largest 9. In the diocese of Viatka alone, the pillage of the churches has supplied the Soviets with 13,000 kilograms of silver, 60 of gold, and 1,168 gems. In the town of Riazan, the value of the confiscated treasures amount to 700 billion rubles; in the Church of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin in Novgorod to five billions. In the district of Krasnaya Pressa the Bolsheviki sacked 51 churches and collected 830 pud of gold and silver (the Russian pud corresponds to 16.8 kilograms), an amount according to the Soviet official organ, that will suffice to nourish for a year 66,000 famished people. The amount of the robberies perpetrated in the churches of Moscow reaches, if calculated in Russian paper rubles, astronomical figures. Down to the end of March, it amounted to 290 billion rubles of silver alone.

The Catholic Church, especially in the diocese of Minsk and Kamenez-Podolsk, has suffered much, and blood has been shed. At Kamenez-Podolsk, 18,000 Catholics, mostly Poles, surrounded the churches to prevent their violation. The churches were taken by storm, and several Catholics killed or wounded. In the parish of Gorodecki the red guard struggle with the crowd, killing three people and wounding fourteen.

TOOK PIECE OF TRUE CROSS
At Moscow, the Catholic priests refused to give the keys of their churches and were arrested. At Minsk Litewski, the Soviet Commissaries called to their aid some Jewish laborers, and assisted by them, pillaged the tomb of Saint Felician, the altars, and the statues of the Blessed Virgin and Saint Anthony. The reliquaries were confiscated, among them one with a piece of the True Cross of our Lord. The rector of the church, Father Wasilewski, and the vice-rector, Father Lisowski, were thrown into jail. In the parish church of Zlotogorskiy the ciborium with the consecrated particles was taken from the Tabernacle, and the body of our Lord scattered on the floor. The ecclesiastical authorities of Minsk have decided to close the churches, and to suspend the sacred offices as a protest against the profanation of churches.

SOVIET PILLAGING CHURCHES

Odessa.—Patriarch Tykhon has launched an anathema against priests or faithful who abandon the treasures of the Church to the Bolshevists. Unfortunately the Bolsheviki have succeeded in sowing discord in the ranks of the Russian clergy. Several Bishops, namely, Melchisedech, the Orthodox Bishop of Minsk, and John, Bishop of Konban, have approved the conduct of the Soviets in confiscating church treasures. They have been moved to this approval by their belief that the Soviets would honestly use the money acquired from the sale of the church treasures towards the relief of populations suffering from starvation. The great majority of the clergy appear to have no such confidence in the good intentions of the Soviets in this regard. They are of the opinion that the money realized is not being used for relief of the starving but for the support of the Bolshevist regime. Moreover, they are resisting the confiscations of the Soviets because these confiscations are accompanied by the most devilish desecrations.

SEMINARIES TO GIVE TWO HOURS WEEKLY TO STUDY OF FLAIN CHANT
Paris, June 30.—Among the resolutions adopted at the recent congress of liturgy and sacred music held in Metz, was one requiring theological seminaries to reserve two hours a week for the study of Gregorian chant.

STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE
On Sunday, May the 28th, the temporary Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre was opened for service with two pilgrimages, numbering about 1,500 pilgrims. This temporary Shrine is of wooden construction and is 165 feet long by 62 feet wide. Besides the altars in the church proper, there are ten others in the side chapels, as in the former Basilica, with an equal number of confessionals. Ten masses may be said simultaneously. The new Basilica has a seating capacity of 1,800 (greater than the former church) and has five broad aisles and two side galleries. The C. E. Morissette Co., builders, are deserving of great credit for putting up such a building in only thirty-six days. Over five hundred men were employed during construction. The pilgrims and parishioners expressed their entire satisfaction for the work done. A magnificent pipe organ has been installed and was opened on July 6th. In the new Shrine can be seen and venerated all the relics rescued from the fire. Foremost among the rescued valuables is the miraculous statue of Ste. Anne, standing as formerly on its Onyx Monolith, at the extremity of the main aisle. The gilt brass shrine with the great relic was also saved and may be seen.

THE HISTORY WHICH LIES BEHIND THIS PILGRIMAGE, AND ESPECIALLY THAT RECALLED BY THE RUINS, IS FULL OF CATHOLIC INTEREST. IN THE REIGN OF RUFUS A BENEDICTINE ABBEY WAS FOUND HERE, AND ITS CONVENTUAL CHURCH WAS REBUILT ON A LARGER SCALE IN THE GREAT THIRTEENTH CENTURY, SO FULL OF INSPIRATION FOR CATHOLIC HISTORIANS IN WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED "THE GREAT PILLAGE" UNDER HENRY VIII. IT WAS SUPPRESSED, AND AT THE PRESENT TIME ITS RUINS ARE ONE OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS OF THIS VICINITY.

What was formerly the guest house of the establishment is now a museum. The ruins of the church are surrounded by a public garden, which sets off the beauty of the ruins to great advantage. It was arranged that on the day of the pilgrimage of the Guild of Ransom the Benedictines should again celebrate High Mass at St. Mary's Abbey, in the roofless church.

Tragic history was made hereabouts in the days of persecution of the faithful. York was the seat of the "Council of the North" in the days of the Tudors, and was for a long time the chief centre of executive government in the northern part of England. Its prisons were thronged with confessors of the faith, and its place of execution ranked next to Tyburn in the number of its martyrs. York has forty-five names on its rolls of martyrdom, if one includes only those who have already been pronounced Blessed or Venerable by the Holy See.

DIED
O'HARA.—At her late residence 14th concession of McGillivray, on June 26th, 1922, Mrs. Mary O'Hara. May her soul rest in peace.

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"TYBURN OF THE NORTH"

MASS AT RUINS OF CATHOLIC LANDMARK

York, England.—Much interest was manifested in Catholic circles this year in connection with the Guild of Ransom's Pilgrimage to York, which is known as "The Tyburn of the North." A temporary altar was erected on the site of the high altar of an ancient Catholic church ruin where Mass was said daily for more than 400 years in the days when England was Catholic. The history which lies behind this pilgrimage, and especially that recalled by the ruins, is full of Catholic interest. In the reign of Rufus a Benedictine Abbey was founded here, and its conventual church was rebuilt on a larger scale in the great thirteenth century, so full of inspiration for Catholic historians in what has been termed "The Great Pillage" under Henry VIII. It was suppressed, and at the present time its ruins are one of the historic monuments of this vicinity. What was formerly the guest house of the establishment is now a museum. The ruins of the church are surrounded by a public garden, which sets off the beauty of the ruins to great advantage. It was arranged that on the day of the pilgrimage of the Guild of Ransom the Benedictines should again celebrate High Mass at St. Mary's Abbey, in the roofless church.

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WANTED Normal trained teacher holding 2nd class certificate for S. S. No. 6, Huntley. Duties to commence Sept. 1st. Apply to Sec. Treas., R. R. No. 1, Cokerly, Ont. or phone Almonte 411 R. L. 22814

TEACHER wanted for C. S. No. 1, Osgoode holding 2nd class professional certificate. Salary \$600 per annum. Duties to commence Sept. 1st. Apply to Sec. Treas., R. R. No. 3, Osgoode Station, Ont. 22814

WANTED teacher holding first or second class certificate for C. S. S. No. 4, Glenora, Grey Co. Duties to begin Sept. 1, 1922. Applicants state salary and experience. Apply to J. C. O'Connell, Sec. Treas., C. S. S. No. 4, Glenora, P. O. Box 11, Hurry Brook, Port William, Ont. 22814

WANTED Catholic Normal trained 2nd class teacher, capable of teaching French and English; experienced preferred; to teach S. S. No. 4, La Poudre, Apply stating salary and experience to Hector Gervais, Sec. Treas., P. O. No. 4, La Poudre, Ont. 22813

TEACHERS wanted, holding second class Ontario certificates for Catholic Separate schools, Fort William, Ont. Salary \$800 per annum. Duties to commence September 1st. Apply to G. P. Smith, Secretary, Room 11, Murray Block, Fort William, Ont. 22814

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TEACHER wanted for S. S. No. 12, Peet. Must have second class professional certificate, salary \$1,000. State experience. Apply to Cornelius Callaghan, Sec. Treas., Box 31, Arthur, Ont. 22812

TEACHER wanted for S. S. No. 6, Merlin, holding first or second class professional certificate. Duties to commence Sept. 1st. New school. Salary \$1,000. One quarter mile to boarding place. Address: W. Gordon Drew, Sec. Fletcher, Ont., R. R. No. 1. 22814

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