

New and Interesting Facts from Science and Life

Why EGGS ARE Used At EASTER

By DR. CLIFTON HARBY LEVY

THE egg is the great original, for out of it came all life, according to the Latin proverb, "Omne vivum ex ovo." When we describe its shape we speak of it as being oval—egg-shaped—far from it came the word oval, which form was first noted in the egg. The old riddle of "Which came first, the egg or the hen," has never been answered, though science says that the egg must have come first or there could have been no hen. Yet what laid the first egg?

The egg is the centre of countless myths of creation all the world over, for Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans saw in it the emblem of the universe. The Egyptian divinity Khneph is painted with an egg issuing from his mouth as a symbol of life. From the egg came Pithah, or the Fire, the Greek Vulcan, and on the temple of Sais was the inscription, "The fruit which I have produced is the sun."

The primitive idea of Chaos in Greece was that it was in the shape of a huge egg from which all life came. The ancient Romans believed that the twin sons of Jove, Castor and Pollux, were born from one egg.

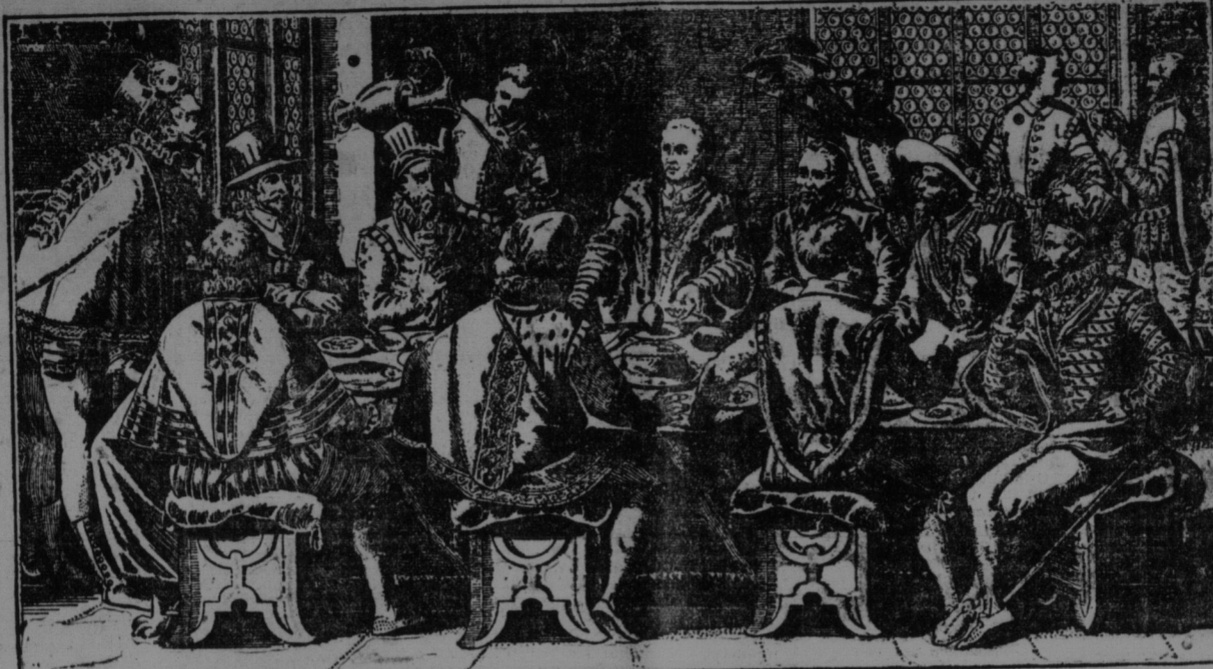
The Persians held that Light produced twenty-four good spirits included in an egg. The Hindus believed that all came from an egg and, therefore, would not eat eggs.

The Mongolians assert that a mystic bird laid an egg on the bosom of one of their deities, there to be hatched. He let it fall into the water and it broke; the upper part became the sky, the lower the earth; the liquid white formed the sun, the yolk the moon, the bits of shell the stars.

The dome of the Mohammedan mosque is held to be a relic of primitive egg-worship. Some of the Greek philosophers held that eggs should not be eaten, as that the witches could not make boats of them. The Netherlands say that ague may be prevented by eating on Easter day two eggs laid on Good Friday.

The association of eggs with Easter precedes Christianity by many ages, for almost every nation had its spring festival at the vernal equinox, which is Easter-time, celebrating the awakening of nature from the sleep of winter. The egg became thus a symbol of spring and of resurrection. It was easily adapted to Christian ideas and became the chief Easter symbol. The word Easter is traced to the Anglo-Saxon goddess Ostara or Eostre, who corresponded to the Latin Aurora.

As Sacred EMBLEM of Future LIFE, the EGG Is SYMBOLIC of the RESURRECTION



REPRODUCTION OF A PRINT FROM AN OLD WOOD ENGRAVING SHOWING HOW COLUMBUS ANSWERED HIS CRITICS WITH AN EGG.

The Most Famous Egg in the World, Undoubtedly, Was the One Used by Columbus to Confuse His Critics Who Said That His Discovery of the New World Was a Very Simple Thing and That Anybody Could Have Done It. He Asked Them to Stand on an Egg on End, but None Could Do It. When the Discoverer Took an Egg, Smashed the End and Stood It Up, All Then Admitted That It Was Easy When You Knew How."

fire. Air was found under the shell and it was a sign to destroy the germ of all life.

Many superstitions cling to the egg. Children were told to push their spoons through the shells so that the witches could not make boats of them. The Netherlands say that ague may

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whose festival occurred at this season. When the Saxons were converted to Christianity they still preserved the name Easter, but instead of saying "Eostre hath awakened," greeted one another with "The Lord hath risen."

Savages in Africa and South America offer eggs to their idols in the spring. Even the Greeks presented colored eggs in their temples. St. Augustine recognized the egg as a symbol of hope, and in the tombs of early Christian martyrs are found marble eggs.

The game of matching eggs was played by the ancient orientals who, in the celebration of the spring festival, struck one egg against the other, the breaking egg going to the owner of the one that broke it. The Romans had egg-games in honor of Castor and Pollux, races in an egg-shaped ring, with eggs for prizes. The Saxons had their egg-tournaments in which youths with blunt lances ran around a circle in which were twelve short poles with an egg on top of each. The youth breaking the largest number of eggs was the winner.

The eggs of the moa, an ancient bird of New Zealand, were very large. Those of the Aepyornis maximus were equal to about 150 of those of our ordinary hen. A single egg of the great auk, now extinct, has been sold for as much as \$1100, only 67 of these being known to exist.

An ostrich egg is equal to about 28 ordinary eggs, the shell holding three pints. The average weight of eggs is as follows: Hen's eggs, 1 1/2 to 2 ounces; duck's eggs, 2 to 3 ounces; turkey eggs, 3 to 4 ounces; goose eggs, 4 to 6 ounces.

Hens lay many or few eggs a year, while a properly cared for leghorn will lay from 150 to 200. Hamburgs will lay about 170 per annum and Plymouth Rocks only 100. Turkeys lay 60, guinea fowl 60, and geese only 20 eggs a year.

The most famous egg in the world, undoubtedly, was that used by Columbus to confuse his critics, who said that his discovery of the New World was a very simple thing and that anybody could have done it. He asked them to stand on an egg on end, but none could do it. When the discoverer took an egg, smashed the end and stood it up, all admitted that it was easy when you knew how. This was the discoverer's answer to his critics.

Did a CHINESE MONK Visit AMERICA 1000 YEARS Before COLUMBUS?

ONE thousand years before the caravels of Christopher Columbus reached the West Indies, a Chinese Buddhist monk visited the western coast of the American continent, according to the Chinese annals. This mysterious explorer then was said to have returned home and told what manner of men he had found in the new lands, so many thousand li to the east.

Columbus, it is said, disappointed the Spanish court by telling too tame a story when he came back. The Chinese Columbus avoided this mistake and so there was sobriety set down in the

Chinese histories a fantastic description of the first Americans.

A Cuban writer, Salvador Massip, had the help of a young Chinese scholar in translating these passages into Spanish. Mr. Massip's article in the Revista Bimestre Cubana (Havana) is selected for translation into English by the editor of Inter-America, who is trying to interpret Anglo-Saxon America and Latin America to each other.

An extensive controversy has arisen over this Chinese claim to a fifth-century discovery of America. Mr. Massip cites several authorities on both sides, but seems to be convinced that one Hui-Sen and a group of Buddhist priests of Afghanistan actually reached this continent in the fifth century A. D.

self and quoted from the translation in Inter-America.

"In the first year of the reign of the Tsi dynasty, a shaman named Hui-Sen came to King-Chen from the land of Fu-Sang, relating the following narrative:

"Fu-Sang is situated 20,000 li or more to the east of the country of the Great Han (which also is situated to the east of the Middle Kingdom). It produces many fu-sang-trees, whence comes the name. The leaves of the fu-sang are like those of the tree that the Chinese call tong. Its

first shoots look like those of the bamboo. The inhabitants of the country eat them, as also the fruit, which is in the form of a pear, although of a red color. From its bark thread is made, which they weave to make their clothing. They also make from it fine cloths and broades.

"The King of the country boasts the title of Chief of the Multitudes. The nobles of the first category are the nobles; those of the second category, the little tui-lui; those of the third category, the na-to-oha.

"The inhabitants of the country have

herds of deer, just as the Chinese have herds of cattle. They make cheese from milk. They have a kind of red pear that keeps a year without rotting, and they also have tomatoes. In the country iron is not found, but copper is. Gold and silver have no value.

These descriptions appear in the Chinese annals for the year corresponding to 499 of our era. Later on, between 502 and 556, three other strange lands found across the Pacific by Chinese adventurers are mentioned. In one the men had dogs' heads; instead of speaking they barked.

For TIRED FEET

SEEKING relief from fallen arches, an engineer has invented a muscle strengthener with which the benefits of massage and exercise can be applied to the bottom of the foot.

As described in Popular Mechanics Magazine, it consists of a series of wooden disks of varying



A Foot-Massaging Device.

diameters, mounted on a rod in such an order that they thoroughly massage the entire sole when the foot is moved back and forth over them, causing them to revolve.

It is claimed that this treatment not only tends to strengthen the muscles, but also stimulates circulation and gives relief after hard walking.

The SUPERSTITIONS of THIEVES

SOME of the most notorious criminals, who, it might have been thought, would not pay the slightest attention to omens, good or bad, have a profound belief in superstitions.

Curiously enough, the burglar will often relinquish a big burgling feat if a dream the night before has warned him that he will be in danger. But should it happen that he sees a rainbow during the day he will consider it to portend that, however reckless he may be, he is not likely to fall into the hands of the police for a space of three months.

Many burglars carry a donkey's shoe in their pockets before setting out, believing that this will protect them from danger, while others pin their faith to a piece of coal, which they will carry in their pockets throughout their career.

The pickpocket is equally superstitious. He will not rob a person who squints, this being accounted a certain sign of disaster, and if it happens that the purse he steals contains foreign money it is believed to augur that he will travel in the immediate future. But whether in the company of a couple of warders or not there is nothing to show.

Weddings and funerals are pregnant with meaning for the professional thief. To pick a

Origin of CUSTOM of DYEING Easter EGGS

EGGS have a history as old as the world. They were held by the Egyptians as a sacred emblem of the renovation of mankind after the deluge. The egg was the Eastern symbol of fertility and was dyed, ornamented and presented to the goddess. It was also the old Druidical emblem, and the Hindus have a golden and the Japanese a brazen egg.

The Jews adopted an egg to suit the circumstances of their history as a symbol of their departure from the land of Pharaoh, and it was used in the Feast of the Passover as a part of the furniture of the table, with the paschal lamb.

The coloring of Easter eggs goes back to pagan times, when eggs were dyed to express special joy over the coming of spring and were also exchanged as a sign of good will.

The Christians have used eggs on Easter Day as containing the elements of future life, symbolic of the resurrection. Painted or ornamented eggs have become in many lands an Easter institution. One authority says in regard to ornamenting eggs:

"It seems as if the egg was thus decorated for an Easter trophy, after the days of mortification and abstinence were over and festivity had taken their place, and as an emblem of the resurrection of life, as certified to us by the resurrection from the regions of death and the grave. Not only do we find this record of the use of eggs among the practices of the Egyptians, the ancient Israelites and the early Christians, but De Gobelin informs us that the custom of using eggs at Easter may be traced up not only to the theology of the people of Egypt but to the theology and philosophy of the Persians, the Gauls, the Greeks and the Romans, all of whom regarded the egg as an emblem of the universe and the work of the Supreme Divinity."

In the oriental sports of the early Christians of the Mesopotamia and other Eastern countries

Service FLAG for Returned HEROES

USING a national service flag in honor of the men in the American army and navy was a very happy thought, as was attested by the widespread and practically universal use of this flag throughout the country, although it was in no sense an official flag. Every home which could boast of a blue star was proud to exhibit the flag in its window. Commercial concerns were also proud to make as large a showing upon their service flag as possible. Indeed, there was a certain amount of rivalry between various concerns as to which could show the greatest number of stars.

But the flag, in the opinion of a writer in the Scientific American, represented no special patriotic service upon the part of the concern. It was the soldier who was honored, rather than the company which was for the time being deprived of his services. If the flag had any significance, it was that the company counted the soldier as one of its employes who would be taken back into the company's service at the end of the war. But the war is now over, and over to such a degree that a great many concerns have forgotten their patriotic claims and are making no effort to reinstate their former employes, or if they do so grudgingly, and seek every possible excuse to turn them away.

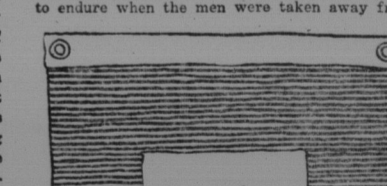
A new flag has recently appeared which a few companies are displaying. This is a flag which means far more to the company than the former service flag.

The new service flag is exactly like the old one except that the blue stars are replaced with khaki acorns. These acorns represent the returned men who have been reinstated in their former positions. An employer can point with far more pride to a flag of this sort than to the old service flag, because the new flag is an announcement of the fact that he is making good to the men who were

drafted into the service, whereas, the old flag merely represented the handicap which he had to endure when the men were taken away from

him, and, judging by the reluctance of so many companies to reinstate their former employes, this handicap, apparently, was not very small.

SCREEN of Human SKIN Is Turkish TROPHY



The New Flag Is Like the Old One Except That the Blue Stars Are Replaced with Khaki Acorns.

THERE are many priceless relics in the menagerie of the Sultan of Turkey, most of which symbolize brutality and vice. But the romance of the famous screen in the throne-room of the Sultan's palace is worth repeating.

It is made, according to an account in London Tit-Bits, of human skin, perfectly tanned and elaborately tooled and embossed, and it has been in the Royal quarters for more than two centuries. This remarkable screen is not an evidence of cruelty or barbarity on the part of Turkey's ruler two hundred years ago, but is a memorial to twelve faithful servants of a former Sultan.

At one time during the Sultan's reign, two hundred years ago, a wing of the palace caught fire, and during the conflagration a much-loved member of the Sultan's family was rescued by twelve servants. The twelve servants perished, some of them dying later of their wounds and burns, so His Majesty had their skins removed by an expert and had them preserved in this touching though remarkable manner. The screen is now looked upon as a part of the ruler's inheritance, and it is said that every Sultan cherishes it as a mascot.



FOR THE MASTERS TONIGHT

John Newsboys Will... this Evening—Good Store for Newsies.

fifteen this evening the Y.M.C.A. will be throwing the St. John newsboys will become the guests of a Y.M.C.A.

events and games will be given. Those who so desire and plunge about in the later by the evening at it and movies will follow Refreshments commonly be new as "eats" will be Y.M.C.A. annual holiday the newsboys of St. John been presented to the pers for the boys and a r are expected to attend.

TO ALL

IC - Today

Attraction at your write fun house:

GO DANCERS" Whirlwind Farce

Fun at the Lyric

Still On Tap!

Romantic Novel

us Prince' Foggy London as its

Hand' Windsor Brady

Line Curley Mitzaph

VER INVENTED CALLED, TION ER"

Natures to Thanksgiving