

TOMBSTONE FORM CHANGES ARE FEW

Modern Type Differs But Little from Those of Thousands of Years Ago

In 4,000 years during which the world has seen such remarkable changes and progress in nearly all directions of human activity, at least one thing has remained almost exactly as in ancient times. That is the form of tombstones. A study of the large collection of ancient Egyptian tombstones, collected by the late Edward E. Ayer and now on exhibition at Field Museum of Natural History, will immediately impress one with this fact.

In shape most of the ancient Egyptian tombstones are practically identical with the conventional types used in our cemeteries today. The materials used centuries ago are commonly still in use. The sentiments on the stones parallel in a general way the epitaphs of the present time.

Many Specimens

The museum collection contains 52 tablets, ranging in date from before 2000 B.C., down to the Christian period of Egypt's history. For the most part, the carving and painting on the stones of the later periods are cruder in execution than those of early times, indicating the decadence of later Egyptian art.

During the late period prior to the Christian era the conventional design consisted of a carving, at the top of the stones, of a winged sun disk and sacred jackals, and below it the divinities Isis and Osiris, with the figure of the deceased. Some of the exhibited stones are from the graves of unknown persons, and carved blank oblongs on them, intended for the insertion of the name, indicate that the cheaper tablets were produced in quantities as is done today, and sold when required.

Varied in Character

The stones at the museum include one of a king, several of priests, those of nobles, petty office holders, common men and women, and whole families. On most of them is a prayer to Osiris for bread, meat, beer, water and clothing in the hereafter. One stone of the Christian period has a carved figure of Christ in a chapel. Most of the tablets are of various kinds of limestone, but some are of black basalt and black granite. The epitaphs contain brief biographical sketches of the dead, and expressions of the affections of their relatives and friends, together with the prayers for their welfare in the other world.

Organizing Rotary Club at Glencoe; 25 Members

At a meeting held at the Glencoe State bank Friday evening of last week it was decided to organize a Rotary club in the village.

Signatures of twenty members were then obtained, since which time two additional names have been added to the list. It is anticipated that the maximum number of twenty-five will have been secured by the time of the organization meeting.

Paris Plans League to Preserve Beards; Fear American Style

A league for the preservation of beards, sideburns, goatees, long flowing mustachios and whiskers of any geometrical form is being demanded by a distinguished company of newspaper paragraphers and champions of French culture, says a United Press report from Paris.

Frenchmen are beginning to look much like the men from New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, is the lament of the organizers. The real Frenchmen always wore beards, the great kings of France were always "barbue." Such weaklings as Louis XVI who wore no beards wound up with their heads in the guillotine basket.

Maudice de Waleffe, who heads the movement, exclaims that the individuality of Frenchmen is going down daily in ever increasing mounds of hair on barbershop floors.

"One day a Frenchman you know," he writes, "a man of distinction, individuality, bearded and coiffed with elegance, goes into a barbershop and comes out a mediocrity, no longer a Frenchman, a smooth faced fool you could meet anywhere in any country in the world. Just as our delicate apertifs have been swallowed by cocktails, our fine old music under jazz, so our beards under the vogue for the smooth that has blown across the Channel and from America; clipped to the cold tiles of the coiffeur's flooring."

The proposal is that a league be established and beard wearing be made a prerogative of membership.

Notable Features of Free Guide Lectures

"Primitive African Art" and "Drama in the Orient," at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. respectively on Monday, October 28, are the opening subjects of next week's free guide-lecture tours offered the public at Field Museum of Natural History. On other days at the same hours subjects will be: Tuesday, "Fishes, Past and Present and "Early Man"; Wednesday, "Indians of Plateau and Desert" and "Tribes of Economic Importance"; Thursday, two general tours of the museum; and Friday, "Fibres of Many Kinds" and "South America." Parties for these tours of museum exhibits conducted by staff lecturers assemble inside the north entrance.

Grayslake Woman Is Suicide; Last Week

Mrs. Herman Pegan of Grayslake, 45 years old, the mother of four children, committed suicide without apparent cause last week by taking a heavy dose of strychnine while her husband and a niece, who lives with the family, were in the house. Attracted by her screams as the burning poison took effect, her husband rushed to her room whither she had quietly retired a few moments before to find her dying on her bed.

Dr. Herman Struthers arrived on a hurry call a few minutes before Mrs. Pegan died. With her last words she admitted to the physician that she had taken the poison with deliberation, refusing to assign a motive for the deed, according to his report.

"Why are you looking so fed-up?" "I bought a book called 'How to Make Love,' and now I don't know what to do."

"Why?" "Well, it says you take the girl's hand, look into her eyes, and say: 'I love you, Beatrice.'" "What's wrong with that?" "My girl's name is Lizzie."

Vanishing Billboards

Forty-one states now place severe restrictions on roadside advertising signs.—Woman's Home Companion.

Deluded Maidens

A woman likes to think that the man who doesn't make love to her is bashful.—Farm & Fireside.



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