



# PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

China and India in the News Recall Source of Fabrics and Wall Paper, Furniture and China Take Inspiration from the Far East.



Chinese screen and porcelain lamp bases are found in many contemporary American homes and a great many of our fabrics and furniture designs are oriental in inspiration.

Rudyard Kipling's famous remarks about the East and West make a nice rhyme but the fact is they met in peace as well as in war. . . they have been meeting in American homes from colonial days right down to the present. Though Marco Polo is usually credited with starting the whole thing, actually trade with the Orient was well established under the Roman Empire, but with the fall of the Roman civilization, trade with China went into a blackout and China became a mythical kingdom until Marco Polo revived the Venetian trade with the land of the dragon. So strong were the trade ties of Venice and the Orient that the former forced the rest of Europe to buy on her own terms. This, in turn, forced the great explorations in search of new routes to the East — in fact, Columbus stumbled on our own shores in an effort to find a shorter route to the Far East. Usually the term "China Trade" is used loosely to describe this traffic with the far East. From the Portuguese and their Eastern trading came our modern word "porcelain." They used small pink mussel shells as currency, shells the color of newborn pigs or porzella. When first the Portuguese saw the beauty of China's ceramics they were reminded of their delicate shells and so the ceramics of China acquired the name of "porcelain" which means "little pigs."

**To Speak of Tea**  
The Spanish, the Dutch and the English followed the Portuguese in establishing trade with the fabulous east. The vast array of spices, porcelains, silks and lacquered pieces which were

brought into Europe by the Eastern traders excited the designers, pleased the great ladies and led to the period of Chinoiserie, interpreted in each country according to its own desires and capabilities. Too, with porcelain, silks and spices came a marvelous leaf which could be brewed into a delectable beverage—tea. The influence of tea alone on the drinking habits and social life of England speaks volumes for the influence of the China and India trade. With the growth in popularity of tea there came a demand not only for china cups and tea pots (which inspired the development of all European translucent ware but of furniture suitable for tea-service — tea tables, tea stands, dumbwaiters, chairs suitable for tea-gatherings and chit-chats.

**The Toes of the Dragon**  
The great furniture designers absorbed the Chinese influence for their own purposes. "Chinese Chippendale" is still a household word; to the famous claw-and-ball foot is, in truth, the three-toed Chinese dragon holding a precious and mystic pearl. Right here it is interesting to note that the European designers, unwittingly perhaps, copied the dragon of the Chinese peasant. The Imperial dragon has five claws, the dragon for nobility, four, but the common mans dragon has only three toes. That the Europeans did not realize this may be attributed to the fact that the haughty Chinese exerted a strict censorship on "foreign devils" who came to trade and sold them only the items which they considered suitable for them. The claw-and-ball foot, therefore, be-

comes a subtle commentary by the super-civilized Chinese on the rough adventurers and piratical traders who sailed thousands of miles and around the world to "trade" with the east.

The Germans, English and Dutch reflected the China influence in their porcelain, furniture fabrics but it remained for the imaginative French to adapt the Chinese influence most sensitively and become the arbiter of its use in all of Europe. Even the name "Chinoiserie", designating the entire vogue, is French. The French used this new exotic trend to add much needed strength and vigor to the fading Rococo fashions. Lacquered furniture, scenic fabrics and wall papers all owe a debt to the far east. Printed cottons from India were the source of most our ideas for chintzes, toiles and calicos. "Quite sick of Rome and Greece, we fetch our models from the wise Chinese", thus ran a song of the era.

China-collecting became a mania of well-to-do ladies in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Chinese not only traded the examples of their own art but were smart enough to copy European trends, thus producing Chinese Lowestoft, taking its name from the port through which it entered the West, and using European and American symbols for decoration. In 1714, Joseph Addison had some tart advice for milady. "There is likewise another inconvenience in this female passion for china, namely that it administers to them great matter of wrath and sorrow. . . I would advise them to forbear dealing these perishable commodities till such time as they are philosophers enough to keep their temper at the fall of a teapot or china pot."

The boom era in American shipping and ship-building came to be called the "China trade," and right down to these modern days of leasehold and China Relief, our trade with that great unconquerable land has influenced the home-making of America. The early American housewife welcomed the exotic, colorful products of the East — the blue and white Canton china, the teak tables, the paintings, the vases, the furniture her sea captain husband brought her from the fabulous Middle Kingdom.

**In the Chinese Manner**  
The China Trade greatly stimulated the growth of our eastern seaboard harbors. Fast American-designed clipper

## Twenty Years Ago

From the Porcupine Advance Files

With the Timmins Horticultural Society show here last week it is doubly interesting to note that twenty years ago, before there was any horticultural society in Timmins, there was a flower and vegetable show here that proved a remarkable success. The event was held under the auspices of the Timmins Football Club in connection with a sports day on Labour Day, 1922. The Advance thought so much of the horticultural show twenty years ago that it made a separate report of this Labour Day feature in 1922, giving it actually half an inch more space than the report of all other events of the day. The horticultural show was chiefly the earnest work of H. Hatton. We had several very enthusiastic helpers including A. Booker, Jack Thomas, Rev. R. S. Cushing and the other members of the executive of the football club.

The big day of sports put on by the Timmins Football Club on Labour Day, Sept. 4th, 1922, was both successful and pleasing. There was a little disappointment because Schumacher and Cochrane fire brigades and Cochrane baseball team failed to fulfill their obligations to come here as arranged. However, the Advance at the time noted that the default in reality did not prove a serious matter for anyone but those falling to come here. Timmins and South Porcupine fire brigades put on a fine exhibition in the firemen's events and two baseball teams, selected by Chief Borland and J. Monaghan respectively, put on a great grade of ball. Tate and Destefano were the battery for the one team and Farr and McIntyre for the other. J. Monaghan and Chief Borland were the umpires and gave good satisfaction. The Tate-Destefano team won, 2 to 1, after a keen and close battle. One score shows how good the game was. The programme like all the old-time football club events, was run off exactly on the schedule published. Dome Jrs. won from the Timmins Jrs. 3 to 0 in lively football. There was a parade at 9.50 a.m., headed by the Timmins Fire Brigade and a number of floats and decorated autos.

When the schools re-opened in Timmins on Sept. 5th, 1922, there were 650 registered at the public school, and 608



Animals are back in fashion for decoration. Animal rugs, stuffed animal heads as well as animal patterned fabric are to be seen in smart rooms again. This hall featuring trophies from a famous hunter's collection was decorated by Alban Conway.

ships set out from Boston, New Bedford, New York, Baltimore and Charleston bound for the hazardous journey around the Cape and across the mis-named Pacific. Often the Captains and crews of these ships had been "given their orders" by their wives at home. The wife wanted certain household items made "in the Chinese manner" for her own home — an extension chair in bamboo, a panelled screen, a lacquered dressing table, a portrait from a daguerotype, a new china tea-service, Canton cups, or a lacquered tray. When his ship was due home the wife strode her catwalk, strained her eyes to the deep blue sea and speculated, as wives will, about what he would bring her this time. She saved earthenware pots in which ginger was packed. She formed a great liking for the small, busy Oriental designs of calico (from Calcutta) and adopted them so thoroughly that two centuries later her descendants were to call these small, all-over patterns "Early American," rarely remembering their Oriental source.

But even today the Chinese influence is apparent in our decorating schemes. The modern passion for spacious, uncluttered rooms may be traced to the beautifully balanced rooms of the Chinese palaces. A Chinese feeling pervades much modern furniture; there is eastern symbolism in our flowered fabric designs; bamboo and cane porch furniture came out of the east as did lacquered furniture. Collecting china is still an ardent hobby.

All of which proves that even emperors can be wrong. For in 1795 His Imperial Highness, Ch'ien Lung, sent the following mandate to George III of England. "Though you assert that your reverence for our Celestial dynasty fills you with a desire to acquire our civilization, our ceremonies and code of laws differ so completely from your own that you could not possibly transplant our manners and customs to your alien soil." The women of Europe and America decided differently!

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at the separate schools, making a total of 1238. This makes an interesting comparison with the year of 1932, when 3730 pupils were registered after the summer holidays at the schools. This year it is expected that there will be over 4000 attending the public and separate schools here.

August, 1922, was the smallest month of the year so far as building permits were concerned, the total estimated value of the buildings covered by the permits issued for the month being only \$1,500.00. The building permits for the year 1922 were estimated to reach a total of half a million or more.

The Advance twenty years ago gave considerable space to reference to the band contests in connection with the Toronto Exhibition. There were twelve entries in Class B, section and the judges placed Timmins in ninth place, Brampton won first, Collingwood second and Hamilton third. There was a general opinion among musicians that the judges had erred in their grading. The Advance took the stand that, just as in the Ontario Cup finals in football and the hockey contests it seemed difficult for the North to get a fair deal. The newspapers and the public in Toronto placed the Timmins band very high but that was of little advantage when the judges looked at it otherwise. In any event the cost of the trip to Toronto, and the smallness of the prizes made it poor business for Timmins to enter the contests, as they had to lose too much financially, even if they won in the prize money.

In the latter part of August of 1922, a parliamentary committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario toured the North and visited Timmins as well as other centres. The object of the committee was given as to "promote improvement of hotels and to develop tourist traffic." The committee included: Edgar Watson, M.P.P. for North Victoria, chairman; W. A. Lane, secretary; Malcolm Lang, M.P.P., Cochrane; Col. W. G. Price, M.P.P.; Toronto; T. Tooms, M.P.P.; Peterborough; Jos. Cridland, M.P.P. Norfolk County and Hon. W. E. Raney. At Timmins the committee was banquetted by the Timmins board of trade and they were given a regular "earful" as to what the North Land needed and demanded Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmins, told the committee that the hotel question was no problem in the North, there being good hotels here and local enterprise always being able and willing to meet increasing demands. In regard to tourist trade the mayor said that the North had wonderful attractions for the

tourists, but that without roads these attractions could not be of much avail. Among the local and personal items in The Advance twenty years ago were the following:—The total receipts for the football field day on Sept. 4th were \$1,203.50, with total expenditure of \$925.51, leaving a balance to the good of \$278.99. K. Moore who was shot some days ago by a man whom he found at the safe in his office, is making very satisfactory progress to recovery. He is now able to be up and the wounds, although painful at times, are not proving dangerous. One bullet is lodged under the collar bone and is not causing much concern. The other is now round at the back, having moved some distance in the last few days. It is expected that the doctors will extract this latter bullet in the course of the next day or so. In the meantime the police are searching for Mr. Moore's assailant."

**Death at Campbell's Bay of Former Resident Here**  
Campbell's Bay, Que., Sept. 9.—Tribute was paid to the memory of the late Joseph H. Chenier by many relatives and friends at his funeral. The cortege proceeded from his late residence to St. John the Evangelist church, where requiem mass was chanted by Rev. E. T. McNally, parish priest. Mr. Chenier was a son of the late Hercules Chenier, and his wife the former Emilie Duceau, and was born in Plantagenet 59 years ago. For many years he lived in Timmins, moving to Otter Lake, where he lived for a few years. Moving to Campbell's Bay about 13 years ago. He owned and operated a second-hand furniture and machine shop. Surviving are his wife, three sons, Alderic Chenier, Camp-

**Jas. A. McLaughlin Dies at Queen's Line, Renfrew**  
The Queen's Line correspondent of The Pembroke Standard-Observer last week had the following reference to the death and funeral of James A. McLaughlin, of Queen's Line, Renfrew County, Ont.:—  
"Mr. James A. McLaughlin, of highly respected resident of Queen's line, died Wednesday at his home here at the age of 76. The funeral was held Friday afternoon from his late home and was largely attended. Service was conducted by a former pastor, Rev. A. S. Cleland and interment was made in Cobden cemetery. He leaves, besides his wife, two sons and one daughter, Arthur, Tessier, Sask; Newton, on the homestead and Mrs. Ray Cote, Cobalt; four brothers, William, Haley's Station; Hugh, Queen's Line; David, Pembroke and George Timmins and two sisters, Mrs. Hilliard Walker, Renfrew and Mrs. Albert Headrick, Leroy, Sask, also eight grandchildren. The sympathy of the community is extended to the bereaved family."

Sudbury Star.—Remember when woman's place was in the home?  
bell's Bay; Cpl. Mark Chenier, R.C.A. M.C., Ottawa; and Edwin at home; four daughters, Misses Verna and Priscilla, Ottawa; Alma and Lucy at home; two sisters, Miss Lucy Chenier, Halleybury; and Mrs. Joseph Richard, LaTulippe and four brothers, William Chenier, Augustin Chenier and Oliver Chenier, all of Ville Marie and Joseph Chenier, of South Porcupine. Many floral tributes and spiritual offerings were received by the family. Interment was made in the parish cemetery.

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## GOVERNMENT INSURANCE

IN CASE OF

### WAR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

OWNERS OF PROPERTY ARE URGED TO INSURE AGAINST LOSS BY ENEMY ACTION

The Government of Canada, by Act of Parliament, has set up a Plan of War Risk Insurance against damage to property caused by enemy action—by countermeasures taken against the enemy—by explosions of war munitions handled by third parties.

In terms of general information, it may be stated that the Plan provides a certain limited FREE COMPENSATION for damage to owner-occupied homes and to chattels, but the main feature of the Plan is that owners of most types of property can protect their property by PURCHASE of GOVERNMENT WAR RISK INSURANCE at very moderate rates.

This type of War Risk Insurance is not being sold today by private insurance companies, because of the risk involved. Consequently, the Government has established a national scheme to make it possible for each citizen in Canada to purchase the sense of security that comes from knowing that if his property does suffer war damage (and the war has come much closer to Canada in the last twelve months) he can call on the resources of Canada to help him make good his property loss.

### HOW TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT WAR RISK INSURANCE

The Fire Insurance Agents and Companies of Canada have volunteered to the Government the services of their extensive facilities and personnel, on a non-profit basis, thus avoiding the setting up of the large organization that otherwise would be needed to handle details of this nation-wide Government War Risk Insurance scheme.

**YOUR FIRE INSURANCE AGENT OR COMPANY WILL GLADLY SUPPLY COMPLETE DETAILS OF THIS GOVERNMENT INSURANCE PLAN.**

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS PUBLISHED so that the public may have notice of the Government War Risk Insurance Scheme. The information given above is not intended to be a complete resumé of the Scheme. Full information regarding conditions, exclusions, etc., is available elsewhere.

**TO HOME OWNERS HOUSEHOLDERS and OTHERS**

Limited free compensation is provided under the Act for War Damage by enemy action to owner-occupied homes up to \$3,000. Damage to Householder's Chattels, up to \$800— for those of his wife, up to \$400— for each child under 16, up to \$100—for others, not householders, up to \$200.

No policies are needed in this classification but insurance additional to the above amounts may be purchased.

Ask any Fire Insurance Agent or Company for complete details.

**FULL DETAILS FROM ANY FIRE INSURANCE AGENT OR COMPANY**

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### It is now ILLEGAL to HOARD scrap steel or UNUSABLE machinery

The Steel Controller has ordered that, after September 15, 1942, no person may retain in his possession scrap iron or steel weighing a total of 500 pounds or more unless he has a permit.

(For the purposes of the new regulations, scrap metal includes machinery, structural steel, or any other article or commodity containing iron or steel, which is not serving an immediate vital purpose.)

The order also provides:

That anyone, coming into possession after September 15 of scrap iron or steel weighing 500 pounds or more, must dispose of it within 20 days.

That any person having a valid reason for not disposing of scrap metal as scrap metal or who believes that it can serve some essential purpose, must send in a report by September 15 to the Used Goods Administrator of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, Lansdowne Building, Toronto. His report must reveal the exact description, quantity, and location of his scrap metal.

The provisions of the order do not apply to scrap dealers who are already subject to previous orders; nor do they affect metal fabricators and processors who are in legal possession of metal to be used in manufacturing.

A copy of the order, S.C. 16, may be obtained from the Steel Controller, Department of Munitions and Supply, Ottawa.

Infractions of the new regulations are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000, or imprisonment of up to five years, or both fine and imprisonment.

**Department of Munitions and Supply**  
HONOURABLE C. D. HOWE, MINISTER