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Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The literary treasures of antiquity have suffered from the malice of man, as well as that of time. What a pity!

The Romans burnt the books of the Jews, the Christians and the philosophers. The Jews burnt the books of the Christians and the pagans, and the Christians destroyed the books of the pagans and the Jews.

The destruction of famous libraries during the reign of Henry VIII is legion. Thousands of valuable books and MSS found their way into waste paper baskets, or were sent in shiploads to foreign bookbinders.

The Puritans consigned to the flames everything they found which disagreed with their religious point of view.

This wanton destruction of literature went on right down to the 18th century.

From the earliest times literary impostors have filled the mind of mankind with false tales. Writers who have never visited foreign countries and peoples have written lengthy accounts evidently collected from idle reports and silly tradition. Is it any wonder as many conflicting tales reach our ears through the written word?

An amazing literary imposture was that of Joseph Vella, who, in 1784, traveled in Italy and pretended that he possessed 17 books of Lucey in Arabic. He claimed the books had been stolen from St. Sophia's Church at Constantinople. The works turned out to be nothing but a history of Mohamet and his family. Vella did a stretch in prison for this piece of deception.

But not every literary imposture has been uncovered. Our histories, Bibles, and many other works contain writings that are anything but authentic.

We are indebted to the Italians for the idea of newspapers. The title of their gazettes was perhaps derived from gazzera, a coin peculiar to the city of Venice, called gazetta, which was the common price of the newspaper.

The first paper was a Venetian one, and only issued monthly. It was merely the newspaper of the government. From this solitary source, a flood of newspapers now covers the civilized world.

In the British Museum are several newspapers which were printed while the Spanish fleet was in the English Channel during the year 1588.

It is interesting to note that London's first newspaper is marked No. 50, and in Roman, not in block letters. It contains the usual articles of news like the London Times of the present day as well as some very pointed sentences about the Royal family.

draw down the blinds and begin their simple fare. They never will eat with anyone they consider their inferior in birth, wealth or dignity.

On the other hand, the people of the Philippines are noted for their hospitality. When an Islander finds himself without a companion to share his meal, he sets out to find one. He will not eat alone if he can possibly help doing so.

Some tribes feed separately from each other. Some members of the same family divide at meal time. The father, mother, sisters, and brothers all eat a few yards apart and dine out of individual dishes. The meal is eaten in profound silence. These people also abstain from eating while they drink, and from drinking while they eat.

Among the greater part of the American Indians, the host stands near his guests, imploring them to eat more, but touching nothing himself — Indian hospitality.

In the better homes in China the master of the castle absents himself when guests are present. The idea being that guests will be more at home when left to themselves.

The demonstrations of friendship in a crude state have a savage and gross character, which is curious to observe... Take the Tartars for instance, they pull their guests by the ears to make them drink and they go on tormenting them till they open their mouths, then they clap their hands in great glee.

The Kamtschatkans have a curious custom of treating their guests. They first invite them to eat. The host and his guests then strip themselves and enter an adjoining cabin which are heated to an uncommon degree. More food is brought and while the guests are putting it down the host keeps piling more fuel upon the fire. The stranger must not complain no matter how hot it gets.

As a distinguished mark of their esteem, the Negroes of Ardra drink out of one cup at the same time. The King of Lonapo eats in one house and drinks in another.

The ancient Kings of France when they sat at table with celebrities were served by the nobility who rode among the tables on horseback.

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Highest average Mary McCormack 91.2%

Teacher — Mrs. Cecelia McCormack.

LONDON — (CP) — Letters from

women listeners contained requests for more men on a radio program called "Woman's Hour". So the BBC dutifully introduced a short feature called "The Men's Point of View".

WELSH LIBRARY

The National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth specializes in books and manuscripts relating to Wales and the Celtic peoples.

Here are a few of the singularities observed of various nations in their eating.

The natives of the Maldivian Islands eat alone. They withdraw to some quiet place in their homes,

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