

This Man's Forgeries Fooled The World

One of Western Germany's most successful and wealthiest painters is Lother Malskat. He is also one of the most skillful forgers in history.

His hoaxes embarrassed many of Europe's leading art experts as well as the burghers of the German city of Lubeck. And Malskat himself was sent to prison.

Nobody had ever heard of Malskat in 1951 when Lubeck celebrated its 700th anniversary. Highlight of the festivities was the unveiling of 13th century murals in ancient St. Mary's Church, hailed as "the greatest art find of the century."

The hero of this discovery was Dr. Dietrich Fey, the renowned art expert. Dr. Fey told how he had uncovered the murals before war-time bomb damage to the church.

The West German Government decorated Fey with a cash grant and issued 2,000,000 commemorative stamps. Dr. Adenauer officiated at the unveiling, and Dr. Fey made a lengthy speech: "Nothing is known of the genius who painted these frescoes," he said, "except that he was active in about the year 1280."

Soon afterwards Lother Malskat walked into Lubeck police station and said: "The murals in St. Mary's Church are fakes. I painted them," he said, "except that he was active in about the year 1280."

The police threw him out, but he kept coming back, usually with pieces of evidence. He said that he had also painted about 600 pictures in the style of old masters; all these Dr. Fey had said — after officially verifying them as genuine.

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the Gothic wall paintings in the Schleswig Cathedral.

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But experts said that the turkeys finally proved that Vikings had discovered America before Columbus!

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He fought this fiercely, showing where he had put an inscription in Lubeck church saying: "All paintings in this church are by Lother Malskat. But the inscription had been painted over and he was unable to prove that he hadn't done this himself. He was sent to prison for sixteen months. But he had destroyed Fey's reputation and built one for himself.

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Venus — The Most Mysterious Planet

Before the year is out the United States should have unlocked some well-kept secrets of its sister planet, Venus.

That is, if Mariner II, the \$18,000,000 spacecraft now on its 181,000-mile trip to Venus performs as expected.

Of all the planets Venus is the most mysterious — though the closest to the earth, and the third brightest object in the heavens — next to the sun and moon.

The reason is that it is constantly covered by a dense blanket of clouds. Astronomers therefore have not been able to make direct observations of its surface, as they have of Mars, the moon, and other heavenly bodies.

One of the puzzling features of Venus is the changeable dark and light markings that appear on its cloud layer. What do they signify? How do they originate?

Some people have guessed they mark breaks in the cloud cover. But they have no regularity, and so far it has been impossible to see through them.

Another mystery is the length of a day on Venus. Quite a number of astronomers and space scientists believe that Venus rotates on its axis at a slow rate, possibly only once every 225 "earth" days.

However, it is known that a Venus-year lasts 225 earth-days, that is, it takes 225 earth-days for Venus to revolve around the sun.

If the length of rotation guess is correct, then it would mean that the planet turns only once in about the time it takes to complete an orbit. If so, an astronaut's "day" on Venus would last a whole Venus-year.

Or since one side of the planet is like the moon, "like smiling Cupid," famed her with brilliantly coloured ostrich feathers.

Cleopatra loved luxury as well as love-making. She provided sumptuous feasts for her guests. There is a record of one visitor to the kitchens of Cleopatra's palace who was amazed to see eight wild boars roasting whole.

"Queen Cleopatra evidently has a very large number of guests coming today," he remarked to her chief chef.

"No, only Antony and one or two others," was the reply.

Some tell us that Cleopatra loved riding and hunting with Antony in the desert — just to wear off some of the effects of their high living.

She would romp through the halls of her palace with him, says one historian. And she enjoyed watching him wrestle and fence.

Playwrights, script writers, novelists — they have all been striving for years to fathom the mystery of Cleopatra's immense appeal.

Some have portrayed her as heartless, others the line that for her ambition was always more important than love.

It is thought that she tried her powers of fascination on Antony's final conqueror, Octavian — soon to become Augustus, the first Emperor of Rome.

It is suggested that it was because he was proof against her powers that she killed herself.

Legend says that Cleopatra's bones still lie, with those of Antony, under a pier in the harbour of Alexandria.

One thing is certain — that when she pressed the asp against her bosom and killed herself, she ended a life which is today one of the world's greatest romantic legends.

Girl, standing beside two Texans looking at Niagara Falls — "I'll bet you don't have anything like that in Texas." "No, but we have plumbers who could fix it."

One does not know, in fact, if the surface of Venus is a solid substance or whether it is partly, at least, (if not completely)

covered by oceans of an unknown composition.

Certainly if the surface temperatures are as high as some estimate — 300 degrees centigrade or so — it is going to make human exploration of the planet very difficult, and make life of any kind as it is known on earth, virtually impossible there.

Ancient astronomers used to think that Venus was two stars, since it is not observed during the morning and evening hours.

The morning star, or Venus, since it appeared just before sunrise, was called Phosphorus. The similar-looking evening star was named Hesperus.

But somewhere back in the lost pages of history an astronomer discovered that the twinkling Phosphorus and the white-shining Hesperus. The planet was then named Venus for the Roman goddess of love.

Man has not learned much actually about Venus since that day.

What Mariner II should do in the 30 minutes or so it has to observe Venus is to get the answer at least some of the mysteries about the planet that has so intrigued mankind for centuries.

Modern Etiquette By Anne Adams

Q. Is it proper to say "thank you" to a waiter and, if so, when?

A. Certainly — for any guest who says "thank you" to a waiter is a sign of appreciation. It is not necessary to thank him in person. Instead, she was smiling to peer over our heads at the crowd and seemed occupied with something at a distance.

By discreet little gestures, we naturally didn't pry into her affairs, and were about to turn away when she suddenly called "Hey, you, come here!"

The next thing we knew we were inside the little booth, having scooped under a counter, as she scooped under it to get the said, "Now, you hear me, you stay right here and run this place till I get back, now mind!" And off she went into the crowd.

The carnival men, whose chicanery and shenanigans were a challenge to the citizens, were having a rough day. The deputy insisted on honesty and decency, and a fair shake. Even the merry-go-round was in trouble, for after giving 12 trips around on one ticket, it clipped one ride down to only 11 circuits.

This lady I speak of had a husband who wore a tall hat and a monocle, and she seemed to look you all over and write his guess on a pad of paper for everybody to see, and then make you sit in a chair and read it. If he missed, you got a box of chocolates. Unfortunately, he had neglected to have his suit certified by the local sealer of weights and measures, and from her shooting gallery the lady had seen a rough delegation remove her husband to the pokey in handcuffs. She felt her place was in his hour of need, and hence she drafted Pokey and me and took off.

While she was gone a man came up and said he wanted to shoot and would pay us afterwards. He shot six times, and said he would shoot again. Then he shot and shot, and he owed us \$1.30, at which Pokey and I demanded a settlement. At this, he whipped open his coat-front to reveal a badge that looked as big as a barn door, and said we were under arrest for running a crooked game. "Them things must be glued down," he said. I was speechless, but Pokey was equal to it. He let out a yell that frightened races horses over beyond the grandstand and began to cry that this big bully was cheating us little chaps and we needed help. This attracted quite a crowd, and Pokey, at the moment, so he dug out \$1.30 and paid us and then went away.

When the lady came back soon after she was pleased and surprised at how well we'd done, and thanked us and gave us a five dollar bill — by John Gould in the Christian Science Monitor.

ICE MAID—Anno Geirsdottir, Miss Iceland and runner-up in recent Miss Universe pageant, feels right at home with some big cakes of ice in sundrily Tollohsoe.

Crooked Work At The Fall Fair!

It may just be that I never supposed to mention the time I was at a crooked game at the fair and made \$2.50. It was really \$5.00. But Pokey Foster helped me and I was able to make \$2.50. We were all 10 at the time, and \$2.50 was in the pocket of an adventurous fellow.

I am sorry to say we frittered it away for spin sugar, merry-go-rounds and other amusements for if I had it now I could use it. But we did win a few jack-pot prizes and a teddy bear before we were poor again.

Pokey and I had been saving up but we didn't have much over the price at the gate, so we were spending slowly. We'd seen the cattle, swine and sheep, and the Ferris wheel, had paid a dime apiece to see a stiff, and now we were pondering a hotdog and pondering a hotdog.

As we approached a booth where a lady was running a shooting gallery, little prizes, much, and if anybody argued that it couldn't be done Pokey or I would up with a Daisy and money we took in a shot box out of reach of the public, and we found boxes of prizes in back to fill the shelf with when we needed to.

Well, I didn't want to keep you in suspense, so I'd better explain that the lady was having police trouble. Eager to protect the gullible public against flim-flam, the local deputy had alerted a posse, and half the farmers on the fair-grounds were legally qualified to make arrests. Their recitatives was unyielding and they showed no mercy. If they thought a couple of "rascals" were taking a bout they filled in a summons with a pencil and served it. If the ball didn't come back and knock down the target, they hauled the culprit in.

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