



● Hand-wrought silverware designed and executed for the City of Munich, by M. T. Wetzlar, Munich
▼ Handgeschmiedete Silberbestecke für die Stadt München. M. T. Wetzlar, München

Phot. Reidt, München

THE ENJOYMENT OF ART IS A BIRTHRIGHT

BY RICHARD F. BACH

Director of Industrial Relations, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The enjoyment of art is not an exotic pastime; it is not expensive; it is not unusual. It is among the daily but none the less important things of life. We have to aid us two great agencies, the museum of art and the store. One preserves the fine things of other days, the other offers in fascinating variety the designs, good and bad, of the throbbing present. In the first we can trace the finger of time slowly moving through the centuries, recording the major changes of human thought. In the second we can follow as on a barometer the scintillations of passing fads, the superficial foibles that crowd the novelty counters, as well as the deep-stirring reactions of war, the tightening up of business recessions, the sturdy effort toward better design in all the arts. Our home environment can rarely carry pictorial significance, yet it expresses as truly our hopes, weaknesses, conditions of life and ideals. This it does not only in the kinds of materials used and the mode of their handling, but by virtue of art, of design. So it behoves us to take an active interest in their appearance, in the way in which these materials and types

of construction have been manipulated to attain expression in design. Out of this will come a real enjoyment which should be a cultural gain.

As you look at artistic records of the past remember that they are the work of human hands, that behind them lies a story of ambition satisfied, hope deferred, ideals crushed, empires founded, lives made rich, souls destroyed, or men made famous. That is the human side of art. These designers of the past sought art not only in temples and public places, but in the home, whether that was a palace at Versailles, a mansion in Florence, a brick-front house in New Amsterdam, or a cottage at Nantucket. Put art on a human basis and you will find it a logical thing to think about.

The standards which the museum of art suggests and the factory emulates in modern things are displayed for us in the store, which is in fact another museum. Here every commercial advantage is sought, to be sure, but at the same time every effort is put forth to accommodate the taste of a captious and inarticulate public. If in the store you are careful in your

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