

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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"He who alters an old house is ty'd as Translator to the Original, and is confin'd to the fancy of the first Builder. Such a man would be unwise to pull down a good old Building, perhaps to erect a worse new one."

The above quotation is from Builder's Dictionary, 1734, and is a chapter heading in "Colonial Williamsburg, Its Buildings and Gardens," recently published by Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, and written by A. Lawrence Kocher and Howard Dearstyne.

A Lawrence Kocher is the brother of D. R. A. Kocher of Carmel and the son of the founder of one of the first jewelry stores in San Jose, a shop which still bears the family name. He is a native Californian having been born in San Jose where he still has many family connections. Many of the excellent and beautiful photographs used to illustrate the book were also the artistic work of a native Californian, Herbert Matter, now a resident of New York.

Mr. Kocher is a well-known architect and scholar who once headed the school of architecture at the University of Virginia and for ten years was editor of Architectural Record. He has been a member of the advisory committee of architects for Colonial Williamsburg since its inception, and is presently engaged in the task of assembling and editing all architectural records for the restoration project, Mr. Dearstyne is his assistant.

The architects and two photographers, working closely together from the start, have pooled their talent to tell the story of the restoration of an American town; not only to show its buildings and gardens as they appear today, but to outline the principles of the restoration work and the significance of the undertaking, which is carried out under the motto: That the Future May Learn From the Past.

The book "is a study of Virginia's restored capital – whose statesmen formulated the tenets of Democracy - whose builders created a notable architecture." Its contents include chapters on: The Virginia Planters' Capital; Building and Builders of Williamsburg, The Manner of Furnishings, The Gardens of Williamsburg, The Restoration of an American Town, A photographic Tour of Williamsburg and Bibliographical Notes. It would prove an excellent handbook for the historian

and a joy to the lover of beautiful gardens, old furniture, glass and china, and architecture that will live.

Chapter heading include the following quotations in old type and spelling:

"Let there be adjoining the House a convenient Garden, it being the purest of human pleasures, and a great refreshment to the spirit of man, without which Buildings are but gross Handyworks..." – Primatt.

How much more agreeable it is to sit in the midst of old furniture ... which (has) come down from other generations, than amid that which was bought from the Cabinet-maker's, smelling of varnish like a coffin." – Thoreau.

The only recipe included in "Colonial Williamsburg" is one for cooking Virginia ham as found on the flyleaf of a Bible that belonged to Colonel William Byrd of Westover: "To eat ye Ham Milk in Perfection steep it in Half Milk and half water for thirty-six hours, and then having brought the Water to a Boil put ye Ham therein and let it Simmer, not boil, for 4 or 5 hours according to the size of ye Ham – for Simmering brings ye Sal out and boiling drives it in."

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Fish have returned to their home overlooking the Carmel Valley and Point Lobos, after an extended visit in New York. Before their arrival in Carmel, on Saturday, they visited with Mrs. Fish's new granddaughter, Sheila Moore, recently born in San Francisco to Mr. and Mrs. David Moore. Mrs. Moore was formerly Miss Renee McCreey.

Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Maschke of Cleveland, Ohio, have arrived in Carmel to spend the winter at the La Playa Hotel. They returned last month from a European tour, stopped in their home city to pick up their automobile and continued west for their fourth winter on the Peninsula. Dr. Maschke is a prominent physician and surgeon in Cleveland.