

Connick Windows

Thoughts, news and comments concerning the art and craft of Connick stained glass, published periodically by....

The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, Ltd.

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Summer Travels

In a slight deviation from our usual *Connick Windows* tour newsletter, this summer issue contains general comments that may inspire you to adventure on stained glass tours during your summer holidays.

Charles J. Connick, in his treatise on stained glass, *Adventures in Light and Color* (1937), wrote the following in a delightful and informative chapter "How to Share a Glassman's Holiday".

"We may smile at any determined zealot, artist, advertiser, or manufacturer who seems rather too eager to share his happy world with us; but if we have lived very long we know that it is a blessed privilege to share inspirations and enthusiasms with any honest man.

"Ancient windows are certainly among the healthiest and happiest of all the glassman's sources of education and inspiration. They are for the world to see, and barring wars and related savageries, they are constantly becoming more accessible to all eager-minded travelers.

"The stained glass craft has never been, and probably never can be, the precious and exclusive interest of aesthetes who like to be separated from the workaday world. It is rarely placed among the fine arts by its most ardent admirers and, significantly enough, the most famous windows were not signed by their creators. The most successful artists in glass, as we know them in Chartres, for example, were associated with the humble workers of the world as well as with their more exalted brothers and sisters. So we are suggesting windows as unusually interesting things to see in the hope that travelers in Europe and in America may be moved to get acquainted with them, as they react to all weather and varying moods of Brother Sun, for the sheer pleasure that such acquaintanceship affords healthy-minded human beings everywhere."

Connick then devotes seventy-eight pages to the description of significant windows in France, Germany, Vienna, Prague, Italy, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Spain.

Adventures in Light and Color is out of print, but can be found in most major libraries. Please contact the Foundation if you would like Connick's suggested list of European windows which he says is not academic or comprehensive, or a list of Connick windows in the area of your summer travels.

On your adventures when in the presence of these masterpieces keep in mind Connick's comments: "When you look at transparent stained glass windows, old or new, your first impression may be more nearly related to jewels or flowers in sunlight than to the world of pictorial art with which you are more familiar. Their first appeal should be emotional rather

than intellectual, and it may be that you will recall those first impressions like strains of music long after the actual subject matter has been forgotten."

"When you come to know superb windows you will realize that their actual composition is related to the works of poets, symbolists, and teachers, as well as to great artists and craftsmen, for color and line in glass, afire with light, offers a medium of expression for ideals and emotions second to none."

The same forces that unite to create great architecture, great music, and great poetry, are the inspiration of the masterpieces on glass that thrill us in the old cathedrals of France and England."



For those in New Orleans The Prophet Isaiah panel can be seen at St. Rita's Church. (All photographs from Connick Archives, Fine Arts Dept., courtesy of Trustees, Boston Public Library).



Cape Cod: This light airy window, symbolizing the four seasons, can be found in St. Mary's Church, Barnstable.

Connick News

- Janice Chadbourne, Curator of the Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library, which cares for the Connick Archive, wrote the following in her annual report: "Over the last year 1,315 Connick Archive items (from 37 projects) have been consulted by our patrons. Materials consulted were generally correspondence, business and description files, black/white photographs, and occasionally gouaches and color transparencies." Concerning the Orin E. Skinner annual lecture Ms. Chadbourne wrote: "The department is planning to install a small exhibit of Connick Archive's materials in cases at the end of the fine Arts/Music Reading Room to coincide with the Connick Lecture in the Fall."
- The twelfth annual Connick Foundation Board of Directors meeting was held in Boston, April 15th.
- A twenty-five dollar contribution will help continue the Connick Foundation's educational projects, including this newsletter.

One definition of Window is "a means of obtaining information". Our newsletter will keep you informed of the Foundation's activities, the Connick Collection in the Fine Arts Department of Boston Public Library, and Connick news around the country.

The American Church in Paris

If your summer holiday takes you to France several Connick windows can be seen in The American Church in Paris. "The present building on the Quai D'Orsay was designed by Carroll Greenough of Paris, and its construction was undertaken with Ralph Adams Cram of Boston as consulting architect.

"While I designed many of the windows that were made in French workshops, my staff of workers and I enjoyed designing and making in our own workshop the Chancel Rose window, the great Missionary window at the end of the nave, and the symbol of enduring friendship between America and France - the A.E.F. window in the clerestory.... so far as I know, this is the first time that windows designed by American craftsmen were carried out in French workshops, and the result was marked by qualities both interesting and unexpected to craftsmen on both sides of the water.

"My own hope is that as French men and women, boys and girls, come to know the American Church in Paris, they may sense a genuine effort, on the part of American craftsmen with warm hearts, to respond in pure qualities of color and light to the ancient paeans of praise and prayer that still sound forth in stained glass windows all over France." *Charles J. Connick: Adventures in Light and Color*

These photographs are segments of the American Expeditionary Force window at the American Church in Paris.

