

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.

October, 1993

Directors: Jessie B. Danielsen Jonathan L. Fairbanks Elizabeth B. Johnson Orin E. Skinner, President

Comments on "Adventures in Light and Color"

Charles J. Connick's treatise on stained glass, *Adventures in Light and Color*, persuades and envelops us in his understanding and enthusiasm for "the greatest of all color mediums". In a review of this publication in 1937, H. Granville Fell, Editor of *The Connoisseur* (London) wrote these words:

"This book is most aptly named....A stained glass window is quite unlike an ordinary picture, which is a static unchanging thing.... No other art is susceptible to the innumerable effects of moving colour, light, shade and mystery. It is music, made visible, and its changing harmonies in certain conditions induce a mood in the spectator akin to awe."

'A special virtue of this book is that it embodies the practical knowledge of a master craftsman, and therefore it is of great value to other and less accomplished workers in the same field....Every part is packed with knowledge and good advice, wittily and good-humoredly imparted. *The colour reproductions are admirable. The "smouldering reds and glacial blues" are rendered with an extraordinary faithfulness that does credit not only to the artists own paintings, but to the blockmakers and printers also.* In particular we should mention the author's studies of *La Belle Verriere* in Chartres Cathedral, one of the loveliest and most celebrated windows in the world. This set of studies alone forms a whole host of valuable lessons and illustrates emphatically the authors remarks upon the volatility and absence of fixity in the moods of a window."

Ed. Note: Extra color plates were made for a 2nd publication of *Adventures in Light and Color*, but the book was never published again. The Connick Foundation is selling these historical color plates for \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. These plates are mounted on black paper and were printed in France in the 1930's. A descriptive catalogue of the 42 prints is available from the Foundation.

Saint Thomas of Canterbury Window

Connick writes in *Adventures in Light and Color* of the Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Beauchamp Chapel Warwick Window which is reproduced here in black and white (from the color plate of Connick's painting for *Adventures in Light and Color*). "John Prudde was King's glazier to Henry VII of England, and this one small window proves that he was worthy of that honor. He was given the contract for the windows of this chapel by the Earl of Warwick's executors, who paid him generously, but who stipulated that only French glass - and not much white, green or black - was to be used. The work was to cost two shillings a foot, about equal to an English price of one pound a foot today (1937)."

'Within its limitations, this stately figure, in pieces large and very small, respects ancient traditions in the glassman's vocabulary of that day. A velvety deep red, enriched with flowing patterns of paint, is well contrasted with the jewelled orphreys and the elaborate mitre in whites and gold stain.'

'Many of the jewels are set in holes bored through the glass, a ticklish job that only the most skilled craftsmen could manage. The background is an arrangement of the bear and ragged staff of Warwick - surely a more tasteful manner of suggesting the donor than an intruding portrait of him would be.'

This panel is but a small part of the east window, which is made up of various fragments that weathered gales and violent men."

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.

Forest Lawn

A letter from Margaret Burton, Director of Forest Lawn Museum, reminds us of their 26 beautiful Connick windows created for the Church of the Recessional, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, CA.

'These windows are designed with the masterworks of Chartres constantly in mind and the spirit of Kipling is evident throughout the entire scheme. Kipling's "Recessional" forms the basic motif through the aisle windows, culminating in the rose over the entrance.'

The photograph here is of a cartoon for an aisle window, Church of the Recessional, Forest Lawn, and represents the Beautitudes Blessed are the Merciful and Blessed are the Pure in Heart; reproduced by permission of Trustees, Boston Public Library.

(*) Description from the Connick Archives, Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library.



Photograph by Ian Justice.

From a Charles J. Connick watercolor, Saint Thomas of Canterbury.

Connick News

The Summer 1993 issue of *Stained Glass* magazine, the quarterly publication of the Stained Glass Association of America, contains as its cover feature an extensive interview with Orin E. Skinner, President of The Connick Foundation, recounting the philosophy and works of the Connick Studio. Also included are color reproductions of 15 magnificent Connick windows and medallions; from St. Patricks Cathedral, New York, Saint John the Divine Church, New York, The Heinz Memorial Chapel at University of Pittsburgh, and Sandwich Glass medallions. Copies of this issue may be obtained for \$5.00 by contacting Katei Gross at the Stained Glass Association of America, telephone 1-800-438-9581.

Correction:

We apologize for the misspelling of **Maginnis** in reference to the Maginnis architectural drawing collection in the June, 1993 *Connick Windows*.

