Tacky Takes Flight

Faithful readers will recall that for the last few years John's airplane Tacky has resided in the Rodkey garage, while John labored long to completely rebuild the ancient bird. While the rebuild was a good learning experience (fabricating 1940s airplane pieces requires some ingenuity!) it was not a happy state of affairs for either man or bird, who longed for the air.

This August there was much rejoicing as John returned the completed plane to its natural habitat in Santa Ynez airport. The 1946 Aeronca Chief took flight on November 15, just short of four years since the rebuild started.

Since that time, it has flown on multiple sightseeing trips over the Point Conception lighthouse with a variety of appreciative passengers. Especially welcome are the vistas and delicate greens of the Santa Ynez mountains and valley it calls home. -- Elissa

See http://picasaweb.com/poobahster/Rebuild for pictures

Master's Thesis Defended: Phrenologists Unsurprised

Stepping off the plane at Los Angeles International Airport, grad student Elissa Rodkey greeted the crowds gathered in excited anticipation, “When I left you, I was but the Learner - Now I am the Master.” The throng showed its appreciation in thunderous applause for the newly minted Master of Psychology (University of York, Toronto).

Elissa's career shows promise, experts say, with award-winning papers and an extensive study of psychologist Eleanor Gibson, famous for her study of depth perception - The Visual Cliff - which involved pushing startled infants of all sorts (human, rat, goat, pig) onto a piece of glass above what looks like a dropoff. Reportedly, her thesis defense left professors pleased and impressed.

But is this the full story? We discussed Master Rodkey's career with an anonymous source, who sug-

See "Phrenologist", pg 3

So-Cal Innocents Blindsided by June Weather

A family from sun-soaked southern California, all innocence and confidence, encountered the reality of high altitude Sierra hiking in late Spring. Fearing that the twenty-mile trek might be insufficiently challenging despite its 7800 foot starting altitude and 1700 foot climb, they chose three days in early June for the expedition. Apparently the first on the trail this season, they picked their way around many fallen trees, observed fresh bear tracks in the snow drifts, and encountered freezing temperatures and a squall which brought rain, hail and snow. Feeling that the day's hike had not been

See "Innocents Abroad", pg 3

Excavation Expert

Sift through the sands of time with Adelle,
Excavator Extraordinaire
Specializing in Bedrooms, Attics and Garages
Animal Animosity Abated: 
Krista Keeps Company with Creature and Churchill

Despite her pronounced dis-taste for most animals, Krista has discovered one which overcomes her many anti-pet prejudices. The lamassu does not shed hair, create wrinkles or cause sliminess. Krista came across this shy but delightful creature on one of her many visits to the Oriental Institute in Chicago, and has since initiated the adoption process through the Society for the Protection of Ancient Beasts. for her pet. As any proper stu-the pace of life in Oxford has kept Krista from pining for Plato's Republic, where and Aristotle’s Ethics. And she has been studying since like any proper Orielensis (member of Oriel College)

Prolific Student Musician Performs and Publishes

Erik continues his illustrious musical career at Wesmont, filling his days with cello lessons, voice lessons, choir and chamber choir. The Reader has attained an exclusive interview with up-and-coming musician. Lounging on the lawn-chair art in front of Deane Chapel, Erik sipped a cup of Earl Grey while answering our questions.

RR: We have heard reports of your involvement in the musical theatrical arena. It's been a full year for you, hasn't it?
ER: Oh, rather. My double role in Secret Garden kept me on my toes, especially the 15 second costume change in Act Two. Then I was cast in two Gilbert and Sullivan productions, Trial by Jury and Pirates of Penzance, and sang the Lord Chancellor's Nightmare from Iolanthe in a performance of opera scenes. I don't how I managed to make it to those rehearsals on top of my busy student schedule, but I couldn't possibly disappoint my public, what?
RR: Such is the price of fame. I understand you also published your first musical history this year?
ER: Ah yes. “A History of the Music Inspired by Badminton” [see excerpt on pg.4]. I labored long over this scholarly masterpiece, and the critical response to its recent publication has been most gratifying. Although would you believe that Gerstermeier accused me of fabricating the history completely? Outrageous!
RR: You're a Junior this year; what can the Reader expect in terms of your musical career post-college?
ER: “I am the eggman, they are the eggmen, I am the walrus, coo coo cachoo.”
RR: ???
ER: Well, it's been lovely chatting, but now I really must go answer fan mail, iron handkerchiefs, polish my wellies, and rearrange my umbrella collection. Pip pip!

Besides the sales from his history of badminton, the protege funds his musical activities through a music-related summer job. Employed by Grancino Editions, the music publication company run by his cello teacher, he received a crash course in musical publishing. Sisters remain skeptical about how much actual work was being accomplished; whenever they picked him up from work his employer was plying him with lemonade and cake. However Erik contends that the neatly organized garage full of Grancino extra editions speaks for itself.

Medical Networker at Network Medical

Jeanne's networking skills are of global renown, and many have benefited by her medical expertise over the years. But recently there has been a change: at her workplace, Network Medical, she now receives payment for these services. Greeting patients with a cheerful smile, she is able connect them with resources for their pregnancy and provides them with a glimpse of their unborn child through ultrasound. While her work schedule occasionally forces the rest of household to scavenge for their own dinner, she finds satisfaction in her role of nurse, teacher, and friend.

In August, Jeanne traveled to Minnesota to enjoy a different kind of networking. Over a hundred relations gathered for the much-anticipated Mulholland Reunion, including 33 of the 51 first cousins. Some of these cousins she had last seen in her childhood! Story-telling and joviality reigned over all. But upon her return, Jeanne began to ponder anew the scandal of being paid to do the work that she has heretofore done pro bono. “Are you really sure that it’s not immoral to be paid to be happy?”

--Elissa

--Adelle
Rodkeys Ready to Renovate Ancestral Halls

By far the most ambitious Rodkey Family Undertaking: the remodel of the beloved 280 Big Sur residence, scheduled for Spring, 2010. Kitchen and dining spaces are slated for expansion and enhancement. The drawings are drawn, the contractor contracted, the permits permitted, but what do the hall's current residents think? Affection for the ancestral halls is universal, but opinions on the remodel differ.

John: “I won't disguise it—we need to annoy our neighbors with something. Now that painting my airplane on the front lawn cannot teach them patience, perhaps a remodel can.”

Adelle: “No one can deny that the house was looking a bit shabby, as you can see by the photo on the left. This remodel will be a big improvement.”

Jeanne: “I don't see what the big fuss is, I remember in my childhood, when we needed a window put in the kitchen, my dad just came in with a chainsaw and cut it to fit.”

Erik: “Adelle would have you believe the remodel is limited to the kitchen, but this is false. The proposed battlements and turrets reach down to the adjoining sidewalk and moat.”

---Krista

Adelle's Career Magnificent Crescendo

Adelle’s career as music teacher and Starbucks employee has been flourishing here in Santa Barbara. Her studio of private oboe and piano students has grown and many have been impressed by the musical achievement of the two children's choirs she directs at Artios Academy. Promoted to supervisor at Starbucks, she claims to enjoy the job despite its early hours and she positively revels in the bike ride there and back. But this joy is not unalloyed. Some have reported dissatisfaction with the location of her studio; Elissa, newly returned from Toronto grumbled “I woke this her bike ride to the quacking and scramble to catch packets of honking of beginner oboists. The pain was excruciating; this sidewalk cannot continue!” Adelle responded to the studio location concern with a firm “Pish-posh. Music making is full of great joy, even in its beginning stages; anyone who cannot hear that must be a joyless individual, corrupted by grad school!”

Rumors abound about this caffeine-spreading teacher; some credit her with a secret power of spinning straw into coffee beans, others say that her mere presence causes small children to spontaneously burst into song. Reliable attest that she has scattering largess on rides; pedestrians morning to the quacking and scramble to catch packets of honking of beginner oboists. tea as they flutter gently to the

---Krista

Nature Solves Empty Nest Problem

Nature abhors a vacuum—the same can be said of the Rodkey household, in more ways than one. Feeling the lack of children in the house, the Rodkey clan ushered Silvia and Cody into the fold, i.e. the spare bedroom. This is in fact a very natural turn of events: Silvia and Cody had already been informally inducted into the Rodkey household, so living in the same space only makes this adoption more convenient. Combined housing enables both homework help and spontaneous cookie-baking, proving once again Nature’s wisdom.

---Adelle

Phrenologist (Cont. from pg. 1)

suggest that Elissa’s career has already peaked, and is soon to experience a ‘visual cliff’ of its own. “You look at the facts: this last year she’s studied Statistics, old psychologists, and an experiment involving turtles and goats on a bit of glass... but next year? Phrenology and Mesmerism! I ask you, does that sound like a career on the rise? It sounds like desperation to me.” A brief study of her registration list shows this to be true. What is meant by this class choice: Honest curiosity, or last-ditch effort? We were unable to reach Elissa for comment. However, a leading phrenologist suggest this is a sign of a flourishing career. “I’ve taken a brief look at the shape of her head, and she should go far.”

---Erik

Innocents Abroad (Cont. from pg. 1)

a sufficient test of his woodcraft, the paterfamilias plunged into an icy creek, precipitating a minor case of hypothermia. The family bonhomie engendered by the communal reading of “The Man Who Was Thursday”, and evidenced by late-night giggling from the kids' tent, combined with genuine appreciation of the pristine alpine beauty of Hockett Meadows made the trip well worth its discomfort.

Bemused park rangers, encountering the be-ragged adventurers upon their return, rolled their eyes and reaffirmed their commitment to a permanent NorCal-SoCal split.

---John
A History of Music Inspired by Badminton
By Erik M. Rodkey
Badminton—based on the ancient, netless sport called Battlelore—has been the subject of many a poem or song. Ancient Hebrew songs from the exile period praise the Persian variant of the game. Closer to home, this 15th Century English plainchant Sancte, ad dexteram from the Matin service for the feast day of St. Gertrude (The patron saint of Battlelore and Badminton) displays all the classic and strange beauty of Medieval post-Gregorian plainchant. (See figure 1.) The sport is not mentioned by name, but contextually, it is about Badminton (or Battlelore).
A century later, in the Renaissance, we have our first direct mentions of the sport. Plunk atikatok, the French 4-voice madrigal by Clement Janequin recounting the triumphant victory of Prince Du mont of Toulouse over his Moorish rival in 1504 uses the various voices to imitate the sounds of a Battlelore match, in counterpoint typical of a Madrigal. (See figure 2.) Not to be outdone, Janequin’s English contemporary, William Byrd composed the imprecatory May each feathered byrdie fly / streight as a bird into thine eye (See figure 3.) Perhaps the most famous of all Baroque composers, Johann Sebastian Bach, coming nearly a century after Byrd, wrote an entire Cantata about the Battlelore craze, in which a father tries to limit his daughter’s playing of the sport, saying she must choose between the company of her friends, jewels, and new dresses on the one hand, and Battlelore on the other. She chooses Battlelore. He then raises the stakes: Battlelore or Marriage? Battlelore is out. Triumphant, the father sets about finding her a suitable husband, little knowing that the daughter is one step ahead of him, marrying the local Battlelore champion, on the stipulation that she may play Battlelore whenever she pleases.
After the Baroque era came the Classical era of music, and with it something of a lull for Battlelore in song. Poets and composers considered the sport too low-class a subject for an Art Song, and it fell out of fashion. Indeed, it was not until 1878 when Kipling penned these lines of poetry about the new sport from Colonial India—Badminton—that the subject became fashionable again.

Communist Party Party
In a curious turn of events, one of the most progressive social events of the year went entirely unattended, much to the dismay of its sponsors. The Communist Party Party, despite its meticulously planned with its menu of Communist Custard, Lennonade, Russian Revolutionary Rye Bread, and Black Sea Tea and its strident call to all comrades to rise up against the capitalist tyranny, had to be canceled when nobody RSVPed. It is not clear if the proletariat avoided this celebration of socialism due to bourgeoisie political pressure, or if the gallant peasantry were already involved in an uprising of their own.

Santa Barbara Beautiful Creativity and Beauty Award presented to John and Adelle for their extraordinary use of pre-existing materials.

Then ... and Now
30 years later, still in love.
John and Jeanne celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 16, 2009. Their children joined them as they ceremoniously burned the remnants of their wedding candle, broke out the old wedding album and laughed over the 1970’s so-called ‘styles’ and their youthful good looks. They are looking forward to their second tri-decade anniversary in 2039.

Now this is the Law of Badminton --
as old and as true as the sky;
And the player that keeps it may triumph,
while the player that breaks it just tie.
O’re the net that girdles the greensward,
the shuttle runs forward and back --
For the strength of the serve is the birdie,
and the strength of the bird is the whack.

Now the whole world was aflame with this old-sport-turned-new. Robert Schumann wrote this piece shortly thereafter—a prime example of German Lieder. Fliegen Sie, fliegen, Öber die Nette fliegt! Ich habe gewonnen! (See figure 4.) In England, Sir Arthur Sullivan wrote a setting of the following words, now a standard Hymn tune, (See figure 5.)

Badminton, we hail thee, brightest of the sports may we never fail thee, or be out of sorts you provide our comfort, pause within each day now upon this fine court grace our ev’ry play.

Rodkeys Recommend
Reading...
Wednesday Wars Kim
Musicophilia Plato’s Republic
The Silmarillion What is the What
The Man Who was Thursday

Watching ...
Thirteen Days Babette’s Feast
The Fall* Il Postino
Wives and Daughters Mongol* *Not for the faint of heart
Krista’s pet may be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCcqkygPKcs

[excerpt from Historia Musica Vol. 39 No. 4, pp. 78-83]