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HEREND

HERALD

MAGAZINE OF THE HEREND PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY

DECORATION
GRACE AND HARMONY

TRAVEL
FOSSILIZED HISTORY

SECRETS OF THE TRADE
GLAZING – AN ANCIENT
TECHNOLOGY



TRADITION INNOVATION

HEREND

beauty to
be treasured
for ever

Herend

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DEAR HEREND HERALD READER,



The One and Only!

You are probably curious to know who this One and Only is?

This One and Only fills space and time, She encompasses the present while bridging the past and future. She is dream and reality at the same time! We desire Her, and then she is suddenly there. And once She is near me, I do not understand how I could ever exist without her. You fall in love with Her at first sight. I celebrate Her every day. I have been waiting for Her because it takes time for something precious to be born. I know that She can embrace people, cities and continents – all at the same time. I want to protect Her, I want to hide Her, but I want to show Her to everyone. Once I get Her at long last, I don't want to let Her go – however, she can slip out of my hand. But this is what makes life with Her exciting! I am proud of Her, yet don't want to boast with Her. She is full of love and care, has lots of knowledge, and brings all the colours of the rainbow into my world. She has the perfect figure, and is beautiful in every season, ever-changing, showing a different face all the time. She is comforting but also exciting. It is a pleasure to touch and caress Her. She gives you strength. She gathers a family around her. She is born of the trinity of *head, heart and hand*, only for me. She makes it worth getting up in the morning and it feels so good to rest in the evening knowing that I worked for Her today again. It is not possible to know Her fully, she is complex, and has to be discovered many times before I came to have her. She contains all the four elements, She gives you wings, and is traditional and perfectly new at the same time. It is impossible to be ashamed of Her. She will make you the focus of attention at any gathering of people – nobody can take their eyes off Her. It even makes me a little annoyed that everyone is not looking at me but only Her. They envy Her for her beauty and elegance. She is a secret – She is eternal!

But who is She?

HEREND PORCELAIN...

Thank you for your kind attention. I hope that you will enjoy reading our magazine, and wish you a pleasurable time while turning its pages!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Attila Simon

Chief Executive Officer



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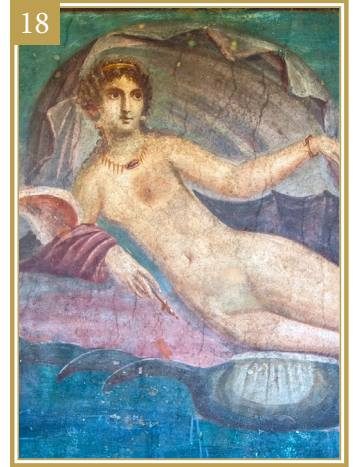
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THE TEA OF EMPERORS,
THE EMPEROR OF TEAS

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HEREND HERALD

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HEREND PORCELAIN AT THE RACE OF THE YEAR – FORMULA 1

Won by Sebastian Vettel driving a Ferrari, the 30th Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix was called by many the race of the season. Besides the trophy for his victory, Vettel also received a porcelain chalice in memory of the anniversary.

As already traditional in the history of the Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix, the chalice was made by the Herend Porcelain Manufactory. Vettel said just a few years before he had been envious of those winning a Herend chalice at the Hungaroring and now, he was smiling happily in the photos of the event.

The Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix and the Herend Porcelain Manufactory have been in partnership for nearly a decade, and the ties became even stronger in this year's anniversary. The Herend Porcelain trophy adds to the drivers' motivation.



JANE GOODALL RECEIVES HEREND PORCELAIN

Jane Goodall, one of the world's most noted anthropologists and environmentalists received a Three Wise Monkeys figurine, made by the Herend Porcelain Manufactory. The figurine was presented to Goodall at the charity lunch held in support of the Budapest office of the Jane Goodall Institute. In Eastern cultures, the figurine symbolises "the rejection of all evil", while in the West it represents man "wanting to escape problems, covering his eyes, ears and mouth". Both meanings are very relevant these days, matching Jane Goodall's philosophy. The anthropologist was pleased to receive the figurine made by the Herend Porcelain Manufactory.



SPADINA MUSEUM: HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDENS

The period of the 1920s and 30s was a time when Toronto experienced increased immigration, the vote for women, the stock market crash, prohibition and the introduction of public health and welfare. It was also the time of the Charleston craze, tabloid journalism, new technology and more. And it can all be seen, heard, felt and lived at the Spadina Museum, once home to the Austin family, Toronto's only museum to represent the 1920s and 30s. Visitors are introduced to 19th and 20th century etiquette, comparing the life of the famous aristocratic family in Downtown Abbey with the life of the Spadina Museum's original owners. The Apponyi set that also appears in the series is displayed in the museum's dining hall and bedroom.

AT THE 190TH ANNA BALL...

... the winners received numbered blue Herend porcelain hearts representing lake Balaton. The medals were hung in the ladies' necks in the garden of the Vaszary Villa. During the days of the annual Anna Ball, Hungary's heart beats in Füred. Anna means charm, grace and style – and these virtues describe the Anna Ball too, which stands for tradition at a highly prestigious old venue.

Visitors voted on the ladies they found the most beautiful, and a board of five elected the ball's queen and her maids of honour, who were all debutantes this year. The Belle of the Ball, Bettina Boór also became the proud owner of a vase with the Victoria décor, while her maids of honour, Dorina Barna and Csenge Szép received a vase with the Rothschild décor and one with the Apponyi décor respectively. A record number of visitors attended this year's event, all of them eating their fine dinners from Herend sets with the Apponyi décor. Tradition was represented at the event in Herend's shapes and colours as well.



GRAND EXHIBITION OF HEREND PORCELAIN

An exhibition of Herend porcelain and natural objects explored the relationship of science, art and nature at the Hungarian Natural History Museum. Visitors were guided through the Herend Porcelain Manufactory's history, the patterns and shapes of its porcelains inspired by nature, the process of porcelain making and the evolution of the famous Victoria décor. World-famous opera singer Andrea Rost attended the opening as guest of honour and patron of the event.



CLASSICS MEET IN PÁPA

The Herend Porcelain Manufactory performs a cultural mission too by preserving, demonstrating and leaving Hungarian-made value to the next generations. And what could be a more suitably noble venue to exhibit these valuable artefacts than the place they were originally meant for, such as the Esterházy Castle in Pápa. The recently reconstructed castle met Herend porcelain in this unique rendezvous.





HUNGARICUM, MAGIC, ARTISANSHIP, SZABADKA

Part of the European Cultural Heritage, Herend held an exhibition in Szabadka (Subotica, RS). "Every piece exhibited here presents the pleasure of beauty burnt into porcelain," said István Hulló, director of the City Museum, declaring that the exhibition brought to Szabadka is a present to the town, showcasing the unique product renowned across the world.

SECESSION RENDEZVOUS, SZEGED

Recognised as a Hungaricum, part of the Hungarian National Heritage and the European Cultural Heritage, the Herend Porcelain Manufactory presented a unique exhibition in Szeged's Reök Palace, perhaps Hungary's most beautiful Secession style building. Also including museum pieces, the show focused on the Secession style and styles it influenced later. The nearly 50 artefacts included masterpieces decorated with Secession style motifs but made in later periods, as well as contemporary objects with ornaments rooted in Secession, and a table set with stylized Hungarian folk motifs, made using a special under-glaze technology.



TOUCHING THE SENSES IN KÖRMEND

Touching the Senses – Herend is the title of the exhibition opened recently in Körmend's (HU) Batthyány Castle. Besides showcasing the Batthyány décor, related to the castle's former residents, the Herend Porcelain Manufactory's exhibition also presents the lifestyle of the aristocracy and the art of handcraft. The relationship of the castle and Herend is not a new development: it goes back to a delicate and elegant Herend décor, painted exclusively in gold, ornamenting made originally to the order of the Batthyány family.

LUXURY PORCELAIN IN THE HEART OF TRANSYLVANIA

189 years old this year, the Herend Porcelain Manufactory's products, including the bust of Queen Elisabeth by Alajos Stróbl and the equestrian statue of King Matthias, were exhibited at Kolozsvár's (Cluj, RO) Museum of Fine Arts, formerly the Bánffy Palace. Did you know that Herend porcelain is related closely to this town of treasures? Vilmos Farkasházi Fischer moved to Kolozsvár after winning a prize at the 1867 Paris World Expo. The purpose of his move to this town was to facilitate and promote the sales of Herend products in the Carpathian Basin, far from Herend (Veszprém county).



HEREND ON THE TABLE, HATVAN

The excitement of the hunt, the suspense, catching the prey and finally, the desired reward, the Trophy. These feelings are there in porcelain-making too. This was partly the reason why the Herend Porcelain Manufactory held a special exhibition at Hatvan's Grassalkovich Castle, one of Hungary's most magnificent and most significant hunting museums. The exhibition showcased a wide variety of Herend products related to the theme of hunting.



The Scythian Deer

THE DEER AS A SYMBOL CARRIES SOME KIND OF EXTRA MEANING FOR MANY OF US. LET US NOW TAKE A LOOK AT THE RELIC FOUND AT THE EXCAVATION OF A GRAVE AT ZÖLDHALOMPUSZTA, HUNGARY, IN APRIL 1928. ACCORDING TO ARCHEOLOGISTS, EMBOSSED IN A 37-CM GOLDEN PLATE, THE DEER, FALLING TO THE GROUND, WITH ITS ANTLERED HEAD TURNED BACKWARDS, IS OF SCYTHIAN ORIGIN, OR AT LEAST, IT BEARS ELEMENTS OF THE SCYTHIAN STYLE.



Shining marvelously, presented in various postures, the golden deer is a rich symbol. It stands for eternal renewal, re-birth, a symbol of the Sun, and because of its antler branching like a tree, in Hun-Scythian tales it is also identified with the “world-tree”. Besides all these, the golden deer represents longevity, eternity and wisdom: it was believed to know magic herbs that heal and bring back youth.

Among others, Hungarian archaeologist and goldsmith Nándor Fettich pointed out that similar artefacts were in the kurgans of Scythian princes on the great planes, the steppes of southern Russia. At the same time, these motifs of deers, probably used as shield ornaments, may as well have been made by goldsmiths already in the Carpathian basin, as they

were familiar with this style and these elements. Prey animals were the symbols of Scythian aristocracy. As an ornamental symbol, the deer is a heritage from the matriarchal community of Scythians.

Scythians were a nomadic equestrian people living in the 7th Century AD, north of the Black Sea, on the steppes between the Danube and the Don. As they were nomads, they left no architectural masterpieces to us other than the burial sites called kurgan, full of various objects. Furthermore, beautiful artefacts of goldsmiths’ artisanship come down to us from the Scythians. The graves of Scythian princes demonstrate the beauty and richness they enjoyed in their nomadic life.

Sarolta Szálka



Did You Know?

- As mentioned by Herodotus already, Greeks called all the people living in the steppes Scythians.
- Major exhibitions of Scythian artefacts are on view at the Hermitage in St. Petersburg and the Hungarian National Museum.
- The name Scythian is used in Europe, while in Central Asia the tribe is called skaka: the nation of the deer.
- There are Scythian elements in Hungarian traditions, such as in the steppe calendar, horse breeding and warfare strategies.
- The mysterious Kul-Oba relic bears mythical animal signs: the tip of its antlers is a ram, its thighs are a griffin, its flank is a hare and a lion, and there is a dog under its neck.

We Are Getting Smarter, Therefore, We Exist

Self-driving capsule cars have been in use on public roads in the Netherlands since this autumn, and in Japan, an experimental flat has recently been introduced, where users control their electronic devices with a headset decoding their brainwaves and transmitting them to their appliances.

We are living in times of incredible development, machines and computer-based systems perform a great number of our tasks and activities, saving us time, energy and money, while also increasing our safety and comfort. All you need to order the capsule car mentioned above, for example, is to download a smartphone application and give your location and destination. The self-driving capsule car will take care of the rest, controlled with the help of a GPS system and cameras – like Google’s self-driving cars do.

The system in the Japanese flat currently works with 70-80% accuracy, and in the not so distant future, it may help to increase the comfort of handicapped and elderly people in their homes significantly. Thanks to the Internet of Things (IoT) revolution, our devices and appliances connected to the network can be developed towards being capable of making decisions, eliminating the boundaries between the physical and digital world.

We have a “smart” version of almost everything – and this is only the beginning: the times of smart-watches that can be used as fitness trackers or even to open doors will come soon, as well as of smart toothbrushes that will bring news and the weather-forecast to their users; smart-bicycles, which will monitor your speed, route and the road conditions; smart cars that will recognise their owners; and smart boats where Bionic Bar robots will mix the cocktails and serve guests.

Áron Kovács

Did You Know?

- There are already digital clinics that cure patients from a distance.
- According to pharmaceutical producers, smart-medicines are modern and efficient tools for therapy, with less side-effects and taking their effect faster.
- There are smart-phones that you can activate just by looking at its display, showing the time, messages and the weather.

Herend Porcelain
Mousepad VHP-PT



GRACE AND HARMONY

THE HEREND SET WITH THE APPONYI DÉCOR SHINES BEST IN THIS PERFECTLY SIMPLE, YET, EXCLUSIVE MILIEU, WHERE WE EXIST, WORK, TALK AND EAT DAY BY DAY.

The story of this décor goes back to the 1867 Paris World Expo. A reception was held at the Elysée Palace in honour of Emperor Franz Joseph. The tables were laid with the Herend set called Indian Basket. The décor caught the attention of Count Albert Apponyi in 1930. On his suggestion, the main motif came to be more emphatic and larger, to make the overall image clearer and more subtle. The composition also includes tiny flowers, mildly curved stems and leaves, and peonies. The exoticism of the Far East blends uniquely with European restraint in this décor.

The décor has been living its own life since then. By today, turquoise has come to take the place of green, and platinum appears instead of gold, making the composition more modern and delicate. The new colours make the pattern more youthful, bohemian and relaxed. This moderate but charming set takes the main role in any milieu. While it seems modest, it takes revenge of the background. Simple contours, plain lines, basic colours. The flowers of the Apponyi set are alive!

Sarolta Szálka





Did You Know?

- The Apponyi was the décor of the year in 2012.
- The décor appears on Herend porcelains in orange, purple, hazelnut, yellow, lilac, blue and black.
- These beautiful flowers glitter not only on table sets but also on dishes, bracelets, napkins, and even on golf balls.

GLAZING - AN ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY

GLAZING IS ALMOST AS OLD AS PORCELAIN – THE FINEST OF ALL CERAMICS. PORCELAIN WAS INVENTED IN CHINA DURING THE TANG DYNASTY, AND THE EARLIEST GLAZED OBJECTS COME DOWN FROM THE 8TH CENTURY. REQUIRING METICULOUS CARE, THE DETAILS OF THE PROCESS OF GLAZING ARE NOT KNOWN TO THE BROAD PUBLIC.



“The layer of glaze on the surface of porcelain objects is a 200-300 micron thick cover of glassy structure,” says head of the department of technology and product development Bernadett Kolláth. This glittering layer of glass adds to the porcelain’s aesthetic value,

and it also has an influence on its mechanical tensility and resistance to chemical substances. In everyday use, the glaze layer makes the porcelain surface easy to clean, and serves as a fine base for ornamenting.

There are two methods for glazing: dipping and vaporisation. With the first firing, the objects reach the necessary firmness and porosity. You should imagine them as a sponge-like, firm material with holes too tiny to see with the naked eye. The porosity resulting from the small holes and narrow capillaries can be up to 35-40%, which makes the material suitable for absorbing the water content of the glaze, and by doing so, solidifying the glaze on the object’s surface.

Glazing Herend porcelain with pierced patterns or richly ornamented objects with small figures, bits and parts requires great expertise, and is done by hand just like moulding. It takes years of experience and meticulous attention to make the layer of glaze perfectly smooth, even and of the right thickness. The glaze’s glassy structure reaches its final shape in the second firing, at around 1400 °C.

There is a wide variety of glazes – offering an exciting and colourful choice. Most of the Herend Porcelain Manufactory’s products are covered with transparent glaze. Therefore, you can look at the translucent surface as if you were looking into a mirror. The silky, ivory-colour, crystalline glaze is called matte glaze. Coloured glazes are suitable for presenting the exciting interplay of the surfaces ornamented with reliefs.





The time required for glazing depends on the complexity of the object. It may take up to 3–5 hours for pieces glazed by way of vaporisation. Some exquisite pieces may take several days to glaze. For example, glaze vaporisation and cleaning the Herend Ornamental Vase's body takes a day, and preparing its base and lid takes another.

Fruzsina Szakály



Did You Know?

- The thermal expansion of the glaze and the paste need to be synchronised during the firing in order to avoid cracks.
- Glazing by hand requires considerable experience and skills for the glaze to be of the same thickness on various objects.
- Glaze flows and fingerprints are to be corrected on dip-glazed products.
- The colour of the glaze sludge is very close to that of the biscuit-glazed product. Therefore, it needs to be coloured to make it visible.
- The glaze must be removed carefully from the objects' bottom and foot to prevent the glaze from burning on the burner plate when the glaze melts.
- Herend's transparent glaze is the most unique type of all glazes, and is also the most difficult to use.

MYSTERIOUS TOWER CLOCKS

AT THE DAWN OF HUMANITY, PEOPLE OBSERVED THE STARS TO FOLLOW THE PASSING OF TIME. THE FIRST TOWER CLOCKS CAME ONLY IN THE MIDDLE AGES. THESE MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTIONS COULD MEASURE TIME MUCH MORE ACCURATELY THAN ANYTHING BEFORE, AND WERE INSTALLED IN MAGNIFICENT WORKS OF ARCHITECTURE. NO WONDER PEOPLE IN THE STREET HAVE ALWAYS FOUND PLEASURE IN LOOKING AT TOWER CLOCKS EVEN WHEN THEY DO NOT NEED TO KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS AT THAT MOMENT. TOWER CLOCKS HAVE THEIR HISTORY. BUT WHICH ONES ARE THE MOST UNIQUE?



Herend Porcelain
Clock with Mouse SVHNM + VHV1



The Oldest Hungarian Tower Clock

Hódmezővásárhely, Old Calvinist Church, 80 m

Although the gold-plated, fire-enamelled, colour clock is over 300 years old, it still looks spectacular on the red-brick building. A new electric bell ringer system was installed as part of the most recent restoration, while its external look was retained. Importantly, it is still punctual to the minute, with its hammer mechanism unique in the world. It is an everlasting piece, absolutely worth seeing live!



The Most Meticulously Detailed Astronomical Clock (Orloj), Prague, 69.5 m

One of the oldest and most detailed astronomical clocks, Orloj shows four times: the Central European, astronomical, Old Czech and Babylonian (the only tower clock in the world to show Babylonian time). Completed in 1410, the clock was constructed by clockmaster Hanus, who, according to the legend, was then blinded by the local authorities to prevent him from making another masterpiece like the Orloj. Hanus took revenge by breaking down the delicate clockwork, which then could not be repaired for a hundred years. Today, the hourly show of the clock's figures: the limewood statues of the apostles, plus the figures of Death, the Turk, the Miser, the Vain and a cock parade in the windows of the City Hall's clocktower for less than a minute.

Prison Made into Clocktower

Zytglogge, Bern (Switzerland), 54.5 m

The position of Bern's Zytglogge changed with the changes of the building's function with time. In the 13th century it served as a watch tower, subsequently as a prison, and then became a clock tower. What makes this tower clock especially interesting is that it was constructed long before the invention of the pendulum clock. Originally, it was based on a foliot, before a French clockmaker, Pierre Angely developed it into a pendulum clock. The pendulum of this clock is a unique piece: it is basically a recycled cannon ball, and still works impeccably. Instead of the traditional solution of using a metal spring, the pendulum's suspension is made from leather, and so, it had to be pushed by hand once a day.





The Most Monumental

Abraj Al-Bait, Mecca, 601 m

The Abraj Al-Bait tower clock is the jewel of Saudi Arabia. Six times the size of the Big Ben, its dials are 46 meters in diameter. Its 93-meter high tower is built on the roof of a hotel, and is adorned with a 35-tonne crescent made from golden mosaics. Its tip hosts an astronomical observatory and a control tower. This amazing time piece is lit with 2,000,000 LEDs at night. Flooded in green-white light, the clock tells believers when it is time to pray.

The Most Punctual

Big Ben, London, 96 m

The London Parliament's tower clock was nicknamed after House of Lords representative Sir Benjamin Hall. A landmark of the Victorian age, it was inaugurated in 1859. It was designed by Edmund Beckett Denison, a lawyer by trade, who had a passion for clocks. Redesigning the original clockwork was his major achievement, gearing the clock to show the time accurately even in the most severe weather conditions. Until 1912, it took two people five hours to wind the clock. Since then, an electric engine has been moving the figures and the weights that make the beats.

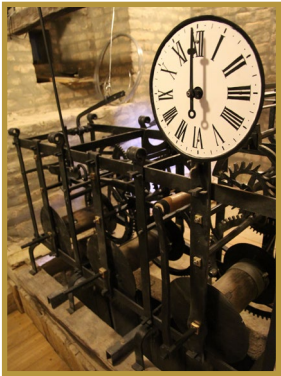


photo: Viktor Kabódi

The One with the Beautiful Sound

Spasskaya Tower, Moscow, 67.3 m

The clock of the Spasskaya (meaning the Saviour), one the Kremlin's 20 towers, was built in 1491 but had to be reconstructed several times after being destroyed in fires raging in the city. Its structure was redesigned in the 19th century by the Butenop brothers: the oak sockets were replaced with cast iron ones, a new pendulum and dial were installed, but the most significant new feature was a bell structure made from 11 pieces, which played different chimes to people in the street in the morning and in the evening. Since 20th of February 1926, the Russian Radio has broadcasted its midnight strikes every day, signalling to the people of the vast country the passing of time.



The Most Tilted

Albert Memorial Clock, Belfast, 35 m

Completed in 1869, the clock tower was built to honour the memory of Queen Victoria's husband, and is often referred to as Belfast's Big Ben. What makes it special is that for a long time it leaned off the perpendicular – even if not as much as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The building sank because the River Lagan had flooded the area repeatedly. The magnificent clock tower has recently been fixed, preventing it from leaning further.

Fruzsina Szakály



THE TEA OF EMPERORS, THE EMPEROR OF TEAS



Herend Porcelain
Teacup with saucer SP225

ITS COLOUR IS LIKE LIGHT WHITE WINE'S, ITS AROMA IS SWEETISH LIKE MUSCAT, AND IT GIFTS THOSE WHO DRINK IT WITH ETERNAL LIFE – AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT CHINESE LEGEND. KNOWN ALSO AS THE EMPEROR OF TEAS, WHITE TEA (PAI-CHA) GROWS IN JUST A FEW AREAS, AND IS HARVESTED ONLY IN EARLY SPRING, IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY, BY HAND, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE PRECIOUS BUDS AND NEW SHOOTS.

Known for about 5,000 years, drinking this tea was initially the privilege of Chinese emperors. The exquisite drink was served by beautiful virgins, who used golden scissors to cut selected flushes at sunrise. Mortals who committed the crime of taking a sip of the divine drink had to pay with their lives.

Due to the small size of the growing areas and the limited quantity of such tea to harvest, white tea, also called “virgin tea”, is quite expensive today too, but it is no longer the privilege of the aristocracy. What makes this type of tea so special?

It is time-consuming to cultivate, requires meticulous attention and expertise: a white tea plantation can only



have origin protected plants, whose lineage documents are kept in a kind of heavily protected birth certificate. The tea itself is made from the shrub's most precious leaves, the silver-coloured tips of the branches. They are picked on the days before the young shoots are unfolding. The harvest can take place only at spring sunrises, when the special light and temperature conditions maximise the content of various healthy substances, mainly antioxidants, in the leaves. The buds harvested are then steamed at low temperature, and dried on bamboo rugs in the sun. The quality of white tea is determined by the drying. Tea masters supervise the process all along.

Not only does white tea have a unique aroma – it is sweet without any sugar added and the leaves do not get bitter even if they are steeped too long –, but it has numerous health benefits as well. According to some ancient records, the legendary Chinese man-of-letters and pharmacologist Sen-nung mentioned some of white tea's health benefits around 2700 BC. Virgin tea helps concentration, strengthens the immune system, slows down ageing, helps you lose weight and reduces blood pressure. Also very importantly, this kind of tea has the highest antioxidant content. The most popular types of white tea today are Silver Needle (Yinzhen), White Peony (Pai Mu Tan) and Noble Beauty (Ying-mei).

Anna Rajkó



Did You Know?

- About 30,000 flushes are harvested for each kilogram of white tea.
- Blooming tea is a unique, modern-age form of white tea. Perfect leaves are bound together in a small bulb, and when the tea is steeped, the bulbs unfold slowly and gorgeously. In China it is considered a great honour to be offered blooming tea.
- When boiled, water is to be let cool down to 70-80 degrees Celsius to make white tea. 16-17 grams of tea leaves per litre are to be steeped for 2-5 minutes.



FOSSILIZED HISTORY

MOST OF US KNOW THAT TIME LITERALLY CAME TO A STANDSTILL IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF POMPEII, DESTROYED BY THE ERUPTION OF THE VESUVIUS IN 79 AD. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT ON THE VERY DAY OF THE ERUPTION LOCALS WERE HAVING A FEAST CELEBRATING VULCANUS, THE GOD OF VOLCANOES? AND THAT BASICALLY, THIS ROMAN RESORT HAD PERISHED BEFORE THE VOLCANO ERUPTED?

Moments of Astonishment

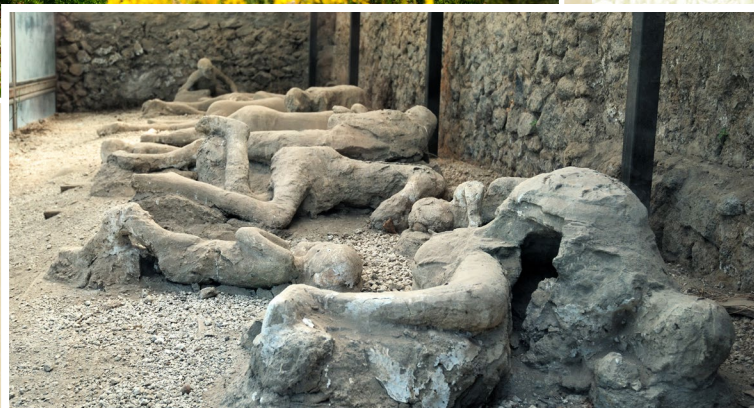
All of us know Pompeii from photos and films, but walking down the streets of this once thriving city you get really astonished. Not mainly by the intact houses or the frescos that demonstrate the city's glory of its day, but because in the streets destroyed by the Vesuvius and the tsunami that followed, the people remained just the way they were caught by the volcano's ashes raining on them.

The view of people crawling on the ground, holding on to one another, or protecting their infants sends chills down the spine even for those who are used to watching 3D disaster movies. The small town competes in popularity with Venice. In its streets, visitors are shown the plaster copies of the original remains, just like in the adjacent village of Herculaneum, which was also destroyed by the ash rain – and is less crowded with tourists.

Long Agony

Not very widely known is the fact that the Roman resort of Pompeii, discovered by accident in the middle of the 16th century, had been destroyed before the Vesuvius erupted. In 62 AD, a heavy earthquake shook the city, followed by several others, causing severe damage.

The ensuing riots and looting led to a lengthy period of famine and undermined the inhabitants' morals. Falling into apathy, some of the locals left the city, while those who stayed were hit by an increasing number of earthquakes, smaller than the first but still damaging. Meanwhile, they failed to realize the connection between the Vesuvius, which they believed to be extinct, and the earthquakes.



Did You Know?

- Naples is one of the most densely populated Italian cities, where the municipality pays people to move out because the Vesuvius is the most dangerous volcano on the planet.
- Most of the frescos once ornamenting houses in Pompeii are exhibited in the National Museum of Naples. However, the series of frescos in Villa dei Misteri, presenting the initiation of an engaged couple to the mysteries of Dionysos, are on view in their original place.



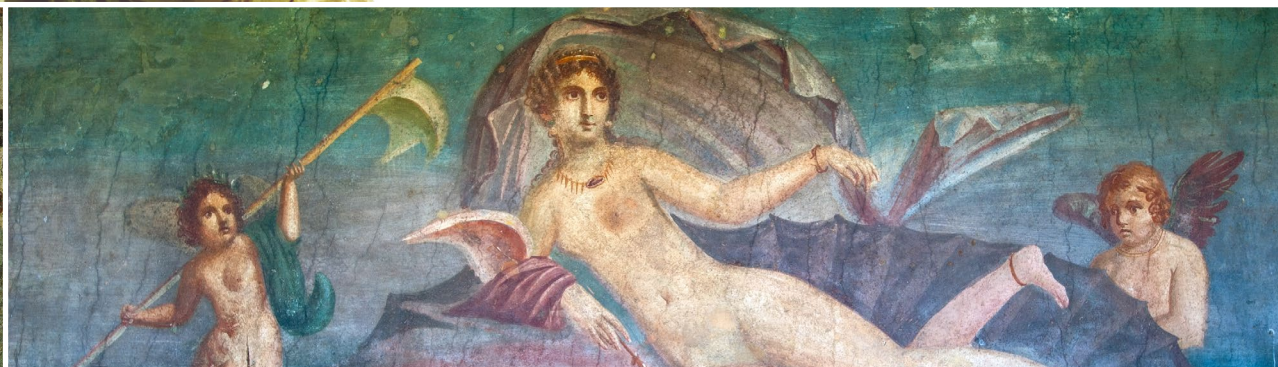


Herend Porcelain
Roman Soldier, Tribunus

The Good Volcano

Destroying the ancient city, the Vesuvius is one of the most famous volcanoes of all time. While aware of its immense power, locals are not afraid of it because the soil around it is rich in minerals and other nutrients, yielding a wealth of grapes and olives. Dubbed “Vulcano buono” (good volcano), is highly profitable in terms of tourism too. Besides tours of the crater, thermal baths around Naples, heated by volcanic activity, are also a major attraction. “To see Naples and die”, as they say. But the truth of this saying is getting more and more menacing these days: many scientists put the chances of Vesuvius to erupt in the next 30-50 years to 90%.

Gábor Petrikó



FLYING WITHOUT WINGS

FLYING HAS BEEN ONE OF MAN'S MOST ANCIENT DESIRES. THIS IS KNOWN FROM A WIDE RANGE OF EVIDENCE THAT HAS COME DOWN TO US, WRITTEN DOCUMENTS AND ARTEFACTS, REVEALED MAINLY IN THE FAR EAST. BUT WHAT IS THE STORY OF THE HOT-AIR BALLOON? THE GIGANTIC, COLOURFUL BALLOONS WE MOSTLY SEE IN RACES THESE DAYS. WHILE THEIR INVENTION IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE MONTGOLFIER BROTHERS, IN FACT, THEIR STORY GOES BACK MUCH FURTHER IN TIME.

Defence Tool

The first mentions of the balloon date back to the Chinese Middle Ages, the period of the Three Kingdoms, from the 3rd century AD. The "flying lanterns" are attributed to the name of Kong Ming, one of the most famous military advisors of that age. His ideas inspired the making of the Kong Ming Deng, rice-paper lamps fuelled with oil. In Ming's concept, the small lamps, rising with hot air, were meant to give signs for military troops or ask for help.

Forgotten

Ming's invention was known mostly in China and the surrounding countries, while practically unknown in Europe. Even Marco Polo's accounts in the 13th century failed to inspire the inventors of that age, except perhaps only for Leonardo da Vinci, who lived and worked some 150 years later. This flying object was waiting to be reinvented in Europe in the 17th century, when monk Francesco Lana Teri, discovering one of the basic rules of aeronautics, found that gases lighter than air and even hot air, move upwards.



Did You Know?

- The Montgolfier brothers first used hot-air to lift their balloon but later on they discovered that hydrogen was much better for the purpose.
- The longest flight was carried out by Per Axel Lindstran of the UK, who flew 7,671 km from Japan to Canada in 1991.
- Männer's balloon was the first in Hungary not only to carry humans but also domestic animals, which he parachuted with silken parachutes, the first living beings the local public ever saw landing by parachute.



Herend Porcelain
Bunny with Hot Air Balloon
SVH variations

Heureka!

Teri's discovery inspired Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier to start experimenting. They presented their first hot-air balloon to the public in 1783. This prototype was a balloon without a basket. However, Étienne rose in the sky in the gondola of a balloon that very year – the first man to do so in history. Just a year later, experiments took place in Hungary with two envelopes filled with helium – at that time with no passengers: the first one was made by Jesuit monk József Ferenc Domin, followed by István Szabik's envelope made from ox bladder. The first lift off in Hungary of a balloon with a gondola took place in 1811, with two Viennese physicists, Männer and Kraskovits as the makers and passengers. The first flight ever in Hungary was over the City Park (Városliget) in a balloon that was large enough to hold 200,000 litres of wine, according to contemporaneous reports.

Civilians In Balloons

Hot-air balloons were used in the American Civil War in the 19th century, and subsequently, rich Americans began to take an interest in them. The massive spread of the use of hobby balloons was prevented by its high price and related costs. However, neither the prices nor the costs have kept rich people from using hot-air balloons ever since, filling the sky with cheerful colours in every race.

Gábor Petrikó

APICIUS RESTAURANT RECOMMENDS



GRILLED PIKE-PERCH FILLET WITH MASHED SWEET POTATOES, CREAMED BEETROOT MOUSSE, CRUNCHY VEGETABLES AND SPROUTS

Season the fish slices with salt and pepper, lemon juice and garlic to taste and let it rest in the fridge.

Boil the sweet potatoes in salted water, mash it, then puree with cream, butter, salt, pepper and nutmeg.

Throw the fennel, zucchini slices and cherry tomatoes into hot salt water, peel the tomato halfway.

Mix the cooked beets with cream, salt, pepper, and horseradish then foam it in a whipping siphon.

Heat the olive oil, add the seasoned fish slices and some butter to fry the fish.

Use the remaining fat, white wine, cream, salt, pepper and lemon juice to make a light sauce.

Coil the zucchini slices in a spiral and put it briefly in the hot mix of olive oil and butter with the fennel and cherry tomatoes.

Put the grilled fish with the sauce and garnish on a plate and decorate with the sprouts.

INGREDIENTS – SERVES 4

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| sliced perch | 400 gram | cooked, peeled beet | 100 gram |
| peeled sweet potatoes | 300 gram | cream | 1 dl |
| fennel | 120 gram | dry white wine | 5 cl |
| sliced zucchini | 120 gram | salt, ground black pepper, nutmeg, butter, olive oil, | |
| cherry tomatoes | 8 | lemon, garlic, horseradish, beetroot, radish sprouts | |



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