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ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Portraits of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY has already published a notice in April, 1921, and shown some photographs of an interesting underground tomb with important fresco-decorations, discovered in Rome on the Viale Manzoni. Since then, further researches and excavations have given new information on the subject, which I am anxious to make known to the readers of this magazine.

There seems to be no further doubt that the tomb belonged to a Christian community. The subjects of the pictures decorating the sepulchral chamber are, in fact, Christian. The figure of the Good Shepherd with the lamb on his shoulder is repeated four times; and the peacock with spread tail, the same number of times. The bearded man, seated on a rock and holding up an open book, with a flock of sheep gamboling at his feet, is certainly a symbolical, and not a realistic figure: it is the Christ, represented according to the fundamental idea of Christianity, set forth in the "Sermon on the Mount."

Moreover, twelve large figures of bearded men wearing the *pallium* and white tunics with the red *clavus*, which decorate the walls of the sepulchral chamber remind us of the Twelve Apostles. The two shown in these photographs have aroused a great clamor in the world; and even the newspapers have spoken of these severe portraits to which have been attributed the names of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. One has, of course, to be very cautious in giving two such solemn names to figures painted on the walls of the humble tomb of a certain Liberto Aurelio. However, since they form part of a group of twelve—very likely the Twelve Apostles—and, moreover, since they are the two among the twelve most closely resembling the traditional types represented in many Christian and Roman Monuments as the Apostles Peter and Paul, one may assume, without being very far from the truth, that the humble pictures of this tomb were intended as characteristic of the two Saints. The general diffusion of the art of portraiture and the remarkable height of perfection attained in that form of art during the Roman period easily explains how even a very modest artist might have painted good portraits of people who had lived long before. The types of Saint Peter and Saint Paul must have been taken, in their general lines, from original documents, perhaps even from documents of their own time, for we know that the two Apostles were in direct contact with the Roman people and with the classical world. And these two types having been already accepted in art, many copies were made from them; and the portraits in question may be two of these copies, made at least two hundred years after Saint Peter and Saint Paul had lived. So that one cannot say that these portraits of the Apostles were made "from life," but that they are reproductions of the traditional types accepted in art at that time.

Though the question is in this way reduced to its proper limits, the value of the discovery is not in the least diminished, as this tomb shows us a very beautiful example of the illustration of the Christian doctrines and Christian ideas accepted in the III century, that is to say: at a time when the Triumph of Christianity had not yet taken place.

This monument, besides being of great importance for the history of Christianity, is also of great interest for the student of Roman and Christian art, as pictures, displaying such depth of thought, such skilful execution, and such antiquity, are certainly rare and of high value.

GUIDO CALZA.

Dr. K. N. Das Gupta and the Union of East and West in Washington

A new organization recently formed in Washington has for its object the better mutual understanding between the Indian Orient and other countries of the world. The founder, Dr. Kedar Nath Das Gupta, is already very favorably known here through delightful Hindu plays which he has presented. He is an intimate friend of the great Hindu poet, Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore.

"The Union of East and West," as Dr. Das Gupta's organization is named, was established in London in 1912 with a view to bringing the noblest and best of India before the West and vice versa. Under the guidance of Dr. Das Gupta over thirty Hindu plays, ancient and modern, were presented in England with excellent success.

Dr. Das Gupta was educated in England and acted as Honorary Secretary in several exhibitions in India from 1904 to 1907. He returned to London in 1908 to create a market for Indian hand-made objects.

Trajan Baths Now Fully Excavated

The Turine Terme, or baths near Civita Vecchia, have just been fully excavated, and another fine monument of classic Roman architecture is added to Italy's archaeological riches. The