HOMER C. DAVENPORT, CARTOONIST, DIES

Stricken Two Weeks Ago, After Making Drawings Depicting Horror of Titanic Disaster.

IN CULT LEADER'S HOME

Artist Believed with Mrs. Cochran In "Science of Numbers"—His Famous Works—Breeder of Arabian Horses.

Homer Calvin Davenport, who was one of the best known of newspaper cartoonists, died at 7 A. M. yesterday in the apartments of Mrs. William Cochran, 514 West 114th Street. He died from pneumonia after an illness of two weeks. Mrs. Cochran was an old friend of Mr. Davenport and on the night of April 19 he had an engagement to take her and a number of friends to the circus. His work had been unusually severe on that day, which was the one on which the Carpathia landed the survivors of the Titanic. He drew three cartoons for the American and he was in a highly nervous state when he left his office.

Arriving at Mrs. Cochran's he suffered a collapse. Believing he was suffering from nervous strain he called in a masseuse. By noon Friday his condition had become such that Dr. Gill Wylie and Dr. William Baner were called in. He continued to sink and at his death eight physicians were in attendance upon him. Death came after two weeks' illness and for at least a week of that time the cartoonist in his delirium was again working on drawings depicting the horror of the Titanic disaster.

Mr. Davenport's body was taken to the Stephen Merritt chapel at Nineteenth Street and Eighth Avenue. His wife, from whom he was separated, lives at 48 West Seventy-fourth Street. The artist lived at the Hotel Albert in University Place.

Mrs. Cochran, at whose home Mr. Davenport died, is known as Assonath Neypa in mediumistic circles. She is a teacher of the creed of the "science of numbers." She has explained her belief as life harmony which consists of adjusting the being to a number of vibrations which will give forth accord and not discord. This is obtained by having the vibration of your birth date in harmony with the letters of your name. Mr. Davenport, it was said, was a believer in the theory.

Homer Davenport, besides being a cartoonist, was also a pioneer in the breeding of Arabian horses in this country. In his early life he had also been a jockey, circus follower, and railroad fireman. He was born in Silverton, Ore., on March 8, 1868. He never went to an art school. In 1892 Mr. Davenport went to the office of The Examiner in San Francisco with some of his sketches. They showed merit, and he was questioned. Davenport said he had just left the circus.

"I quit," explained the young man with captivating manner, "when they asked me to oil the elephant. It was too much of a job. They gave me a bucket of linseed oil and a rough brush and put me up on top of the elephant, and said: 'Begin on that spot between his shoulders.' So I rubbed it in until the whole bucket was gone, and then looked at the spot. It wasn't even greasy. I put the brush down and did a little figuring, and found that at that rate it would take me 365 days, or one year, to oil the whole elephant, and I struck. I thought it would take less time to draw pictures for The Examiner, so I'm looking for a job."

So began his career as a cartoonist. Perhaps his most famous work was his origination of the caricature of the late Senator Mark Hanna in his $-mark suit of clothes. In 1899 he made the giant figure of the trusts which, with his cartoon of Uncle Sam placing his hand on Roosevelt's shoulder, "He's good enough for me," was widely circulated. After three years on The Examiner W. R. Hearst brought Mr. Davenport to this city. He served for a time on The Evening Mail, and at the time of his death was on the staff of The American. It was his work that caused the attempt to pass an anti-cartoon bill in this State in 1897.

Mr. Davenport devoted much of his time of recent years to the stock farm he owned at Morris Plains, N. J., where he kept many Angora goats and geese and bred Arabian horses. At the time of the World's Fair in Chicago several thoroughbred Arabian horses were sold to satisfy a mortgage against the company which brought them over. Mr. Davenport, who had long wanted to obtain some of the breed, bought them. All but one of the mares died. Mr. Davenport sought to buy others through an agent at Beirut. The Sultan, angry, forbade the sale. After much negotiation Mr. Davenport obtained permission and went to the Arabian desert escorted by Turkish soldiers to select the animals. Nejdran, one of the horses, was the property of an English army officer. He was exhibited at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905, and Mr. Davenport wrote to President Roosevelt asking that a cavalry man be allowed to ride the horse 3,000 miles from Portland, Ore., to Morris Plains. The test was successful. The cartoonist showed a number of entries at the Horse Show, but never succeeded in having a class established in which he could compete.

In 1897 Mr. Davenport went abroad, where he met and cartooned many public men, including Gladstone. He drew sketches of Dreyfus and scenes in the courtroom at his trial.

Mr. Davenport was the author of a number of animal stories and "The Bell of Silverton," "The Dollar or the Man," and "The Diary of a Country Boy."

Mrs. Davenport was Miss Daisy Mooars of San Francisco. In 1909 Mr. Davenport and his wife separated.

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