

ART--The Direct Link To the Past

One of the truly great and profound experiences of man was the aesthetic experience expressed with skill by his fellow man—the artist. In man's struggle for advancement through the ages, the artist was the forerunner—a great instigator in the achievement of great civilizations of the past and present. The molders of the artful Greek nation of the past, the Roman Empire, the Egyptians, the Mayans of Mexico of the old, and later, the civilization of the Aztecs, could never have achieved the pinnacle of their own distinct national identities without the art of men in their times. The residents of the Cave of Cro-Magnon in Southern France probably did not know what they started when their artists executed the aesthetically beautiful cave wall paintings of buffaloes, red deer, and the activities of their people. The Cro-Magnon artists were truly the forerunners of the civilization as known in the world today.

Yet, there always seems to be a trend to stray away from the arts as far as modern civilizations are concerned. They tend to become too busy in their feverish efforts to achieve the latest—the most modern. They tend to forget the artist—the execution master of the aesthetic art that serves as a steadying force in the tempers of men.

Modern civilizations should take more heed to their artists because the arts are a direct link to the humble beginning of man from whence the seed of great achievements of today have sprung. A great nation, no matter how modern it might be, will always revert back, artistically at least, to its primitive origins that were indeed its basic foundations for being. Modern men should never be ashamed of such humble beginnings in their efforts to achieve the most modern. They should in fact have more respect for the artists of today because the artists' execution of the arts are the direct link to our artisan forefathers who made modern civilizations possible.