

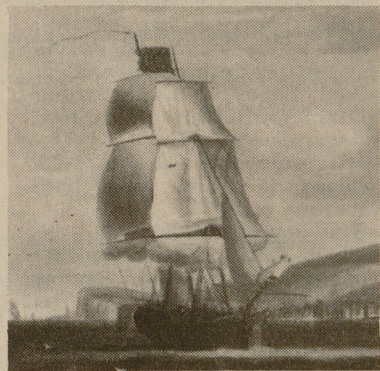
Texas A&M University Art Exhibits Presents

# ASPECTS OF BRITISH PAINTING

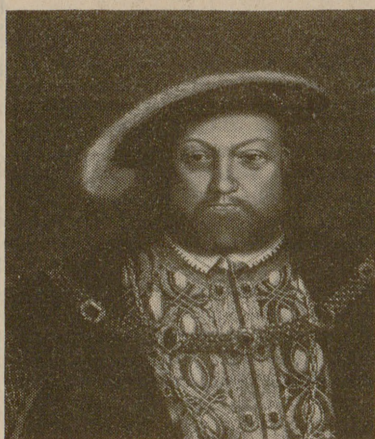
## 1550-1800



Detail of Edwy and Elgiva: A Scene from Saxon History William Hamilton (1751-1801)



Detail of Three Views of the "Amity Hall" with a View of Dover and the White Cliffs Robert Dodd (1784-1815)



Detail of Posthumous Portrait of Henry VIII with Queen Mary and Will Somers the Jester English School, 16th Century

From the Collection of the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation

September 8 - October 31, 1988  
Rudder Exhibit Hall

Exhibition Opening Thursday, September 8, 1988

Lecture by Dr. Nadia Tscherny, The Frick Collection, New York City  
"From Kin to Kine: The British Fascination with Portraiture"  
7:00 p.m. Rudder Tower Room 701  
Reception to follow the lecture in Rudder Exhibit Hall.

Thursday, September 22, 1988

Lecture by Dr. David R. Anderson, Associate Professor, Department of English, TAMU  
"The Moral Power of the Image for the Eighteenth Century English Collector"  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Student Center Room 201

Thursday, October 13, 1988

Lecture by Dr. James M. Rosenheim, Assistant Professor, Department of History, TAMU  
"The English Collector in Historical Perspective"  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Student Center Room 201

Docent tours of the exhibition are available by calling 845-8501.

# Tailor mourns demise of Old World craftsmen

DALLAS (AP) — In the back room of The Tailor Shop, at Midway Road and LBJ Freeway — amid the old black-and-green sewing machines and worktables strewn with spools of colored thread, canisters of buttons, thimbles and tomato-shaped red pincushions — A.C. Castro twiddles a tailor's chalk in his fingers and says, "It's all dying."

"There were a lot of custom tailoring places in Dallas back then in the '30s and '40s," he says. "There aren't many left now. In that time people used to like to dress. Now, kids wear blue jeans with a tuxedo coat on."

This year Castro will retire after 60 years in the craft, selling out to whoever will buy. He knows none of his seven children will be among the bidders, and he has no apprentice.

In a convenience-conscious, one-stop shopping world, instant service businesses are dramatically redefining Old World trades, driving traditional craftsmen such as Castro and George Nikolopoulos, a cobbler, to the haunting conclusion that their crafts are dying.

Today, the crafts honed over lifetimes and painstakingly passed down to apprentices are being taught in two-week group classes and practiced in high-tech chain outlets run by a new generation of business people who say they are rejuvenating the trade, not killing the craftsman.

Richard Adams, vice president of a 4-year-old international chain of nearly 60 shoe-repair stores called Heel Quik, says companies like his are "bringing shoe repair into the 20th and 21st century." And Adams says Heel Quik, a Marietta, Ga. company, is about to step into the tailoring trade.

"We all have in the back of our mind the little immigrant cobbler from Europe coming over to the United States with this trade that has been passed down from generation to generation," Adams says. "But the American dream came into play here, and that dream is that my son, my daughter should do bigger and better things than me."

"The number of shoe-repair shops began to dwindle. If you don't have someone to pass it down to, then your family business passes into memories. What we're doing is giving people a new chance."

But who are those people, craftsmen like Nikolopoulos wonder. "You can get a few people off the street just to put on heel caps, and then they butcher the shoes," says the native of Trehlos, Greece, who runs The Cobbler shop at Preston Royal Shopping Center. "The real artist is dying."

"That's not the idea at all," says Tom Van Pelt, who manages the Heel Quiks in Garland and Arlington. "The idea is to let people know that the shoe repair business is not a dying art."

It's just different — more modern. "It's actually better to take a virgin and train them in our way of repairing shoes, because sometimes the traditionalist is just so set in his ways, he doesn't want to move the way we recommend they move," says Adams.

Efficiency of movement is important in the new trade. Executives at Heel Quik conducted time and motion studies, then built their two-week training seminars and their shop layouts to provide maximum efficiency.

Now that they've got a foothold in the shoe trade, they're moving into tailoring with a new franchise called Heel-Sew Quik shops. "We don't go into any great tailoring or anything like that, but Sew Quik will be there

"The shoe-repair business is so much competition now. It's not skill. They teach them to put on a tap, and it's the only thing they know. This is what's killing the shoe repair (business)."

Cobler Octavio Avila, owner of a shoe-repair business

to hem pants, sew on buttons, shorten sleeves," says Adams.

It's just the thing that traditionalist tailors and cobblers don't want to hear.

"The shoe-repair business is so much competition now," says cobbler Octavio Avila, owner of a shoe-repair business on Knox Street. "It's not skill. They teach them to put on a tap, and it's the only thing they know. This is what's killing the shoe repair (business)."

Avila, 67, learned the trade while working in his uncle's shoe factory in Mexico as a boy and is quick to attribute the trade's decline to the instant shoe-repair shops. He repairs about 100 pairs of shoes each week.

Each Heel Quik repairs roughly 10 times that number and can do it about 10 times faster, Van Pelt says.

But Nikolopoulos, who learned the trade from his father in Greece, says speed isn't everything and, in fact, is being over-emphasized. He says he can repair shoes just as fast as

the chains, in most cases.

Plus, he says, he offers personalized service that instant shoe-repair stands can't provide — like designing and constructing metal inserts for a World War II veteran whose right Western boot toe tended to curl up, because he was missing his foot.

At the shop, shoes are heaped on the shelves in the back workroom — scuffed brown wing tips, aqua sailingbacks, white leather thong purple brocade pumps — waiting to be repaired. Others, already soled and heel-less, hang from bent nails in wooden workbenches.

"I grew up in this business," Nikolopoulos says. "It gives me a good feeling, especially in the times with the bad economy," when people are more likely to repair the soles of their old shoes than to buy new ones. He says his shop fixes about 750 pairs of shoes and boots a week.

Castro, the 69-year-old tailor, who will retire soon, says sadly that most of his work these days is just alterations: taking in seams and waist hemming pant legs and skirts.

Off-the-rack suits and the frugal fashion industry made the once-necessary trade a very nearly obsolete one, and those who still stitch tend to spend their careers in a store alteration departments, Castro says. His shop turns out only one custom-tailored suit from scratch a week. Castro remembers the years when he and his father tailored eight suits each day.

# Police: Some convicts may lead errant youth

HOUSTON (AP) — Some paroled convicts are returning to their neighborhoods where they become teachers and unofficial leaders of loosely organized groups of errant youths, police said.

The youths have a high regard for experienced criminals and the convicts serve as their role models, police said.

While cities like Los Angeles, Chicago and New York have been struggling with a gang problem for years, Houston police have discounted any rumors of organized gangs in this city.

But that picture has changed in recent months as police have begun to recognize several small gangs wandering the streets of north Houston at night.

In December of 1987, a rash of murders and robberies in an area near Moody Park caught the attention of police Chicano Squad officers.

Officer Rico Garcia said their investigation turned up a suspect who they believed was working with several other youths.

At first, police thought the crimes were the work of just one gang, but further investigation uncovered several pockets of small gangs throughout the area with members ranging from 12 years old into their late 20s.

In many cases, the youths were being guided by ex-convicts who were members of prison gangs, Garcia said.

Paroled from prison, the ex-cons, some still in their early 20s, return to the neighborhoods where they grew up and first began their criminal lives.

But their status as prison veterans and members of prison gangs bring them a new recognition, Garcia said. The convict becomes the nucleus of a group of admiring youths, whom he directs in criminal activity.

"They (ex-cons) are not actually recruiting them," Garcia said. "These kids just naturally hang around them, and they see the kid as easy prey to do their dirty work for them."

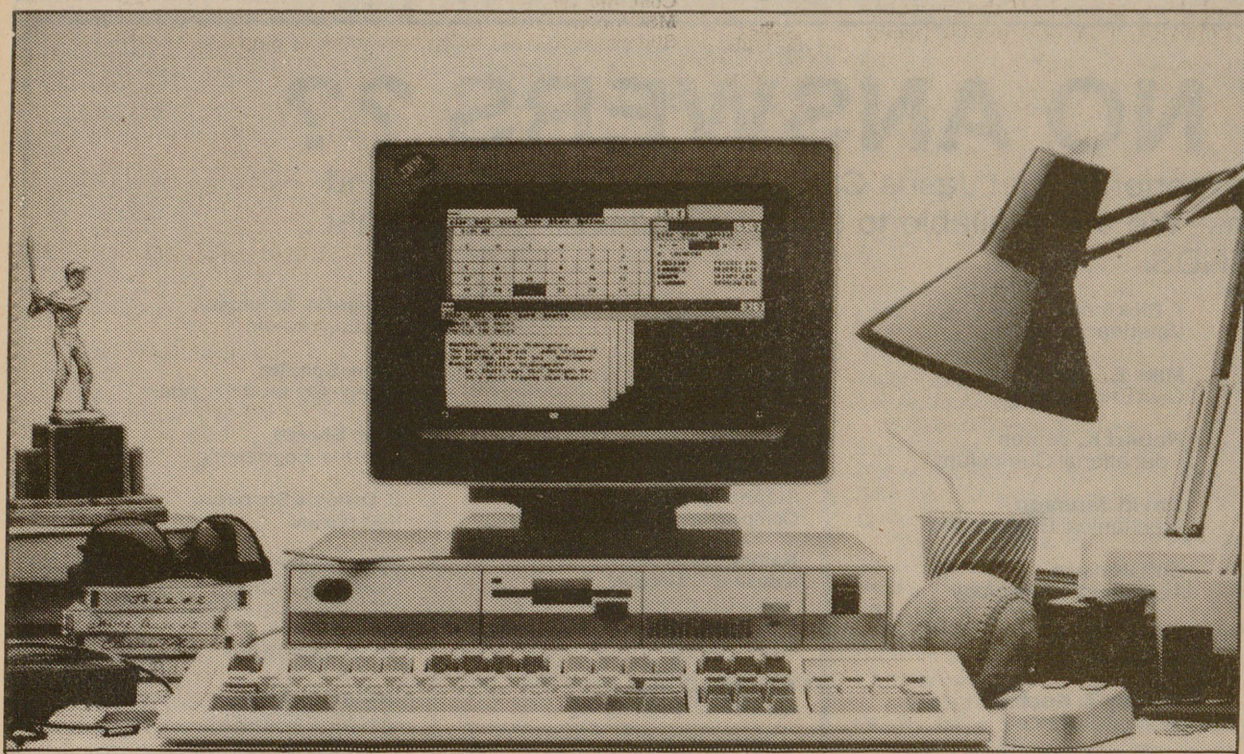
The groups of youths led by more experienced criminals are responsible for soaring crime rates in the area, Garcia said.

Houston police Officer Victor Trevino, who has worked out of the Wesley Community Center in the area for the past 10 years, has watched many of the neighborhood's children grow up, get involved with crime, serve a prison term and then return to the neighborhood and revert back to old criminal habits.

But Trevino is hesitant to use the word gangs, which implies more organization than these groups of youths have, he said.

"It's not the gangs the way you think of gangs," Trevino said. "Just a very indiscrete group of individuals who do drugs together and commit crimes, and there is an adult, a more experienced criminal or ex-con, who teaches them. They're packs, like wolves, that's what they remind me of."

But some police officials said they are noticing that the packs of youths are getting more organized.



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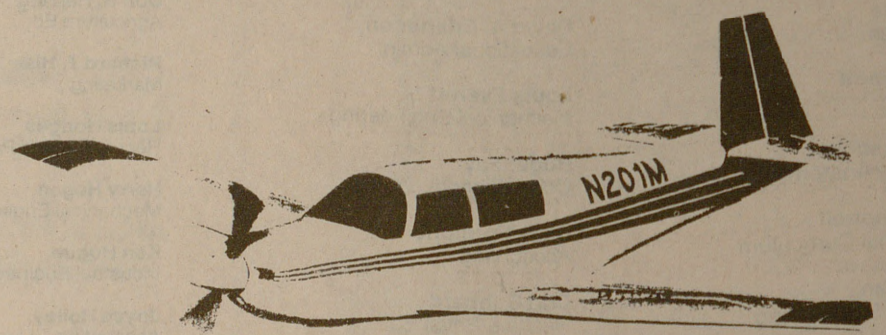
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