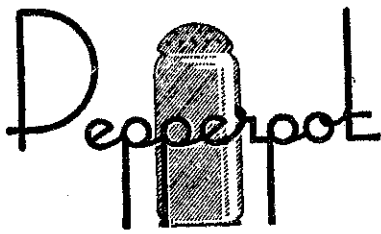


## PERSONALITIES OF THE WEEK

## CARD-PLAYING OVER 800 YEARS OLD



## Originated During The Twelfth Century By An Emperor Of China

THE lure of the card table has survived 800 years. Outdoors, lance and sword have succumbed to bat and racquet, cock-fighting to greyhound racing, a day's hawking to a day in the car. But our indoor recreations remain much the same as in the days of our forebears.

The origin of chess is lost in antiquity, but that of cards is not so obscure. Attempts have been made to prove that playing-cards were known to the ancient Egyptians and have been used in India from time immemorial, but the generally-accepted view is that they were devised in the 12th century by a reigning Emperor of China for the amusement of his concubines.

TWO centuries later they were introduced into Europe by the Crusaders (mostly inveterate gamblers), who had learned the art of card-playing from the Saracens. The craze soon spread, and some of the games then played can be recognised as the forerunners of our modern ones.

Poker was played as early as the fourteenth century and piquet was known to Rabelais. Most of the games were of Italian or French origin, England claiming credit only for cribbage and loo, both of which came into vogue during the sixteenth century.

Curiously enough, faro, once the pet of American gambling dens, was the fashionable craze in France during the reign of the "Grand Monarque." Possibly the first game known in England was whist, so named because silence was demanded during its play.

Since 1893, when bridge was introduced, cardsters welcomed a game that, in one or other of its bewildering variations, looked like staying. By 1910 auction bridge became firmly established and the old game faded into obscurity.

### Origin Of Suits

THE four suits of former centuries originally corresponded to the four estates of society, the religious, the military, the commercial, and the peasant classes, typified by cups (or chalices), swords, money, and batons. Our four suits may derive from this source in the order given.

The suit "cups" were transformed into hearts through the similarity of the shape of the two emblems. The suit "spades" is derived from the Italian word for swords (spade). The suit "clubs" is more muddling, for the Italian term was retained, while a different emblem, the trefoil, was borrowed from the French to represent it.

The suit "diamonds" appears to have obvious affinity with the money suit in the Italian and Spanish pack.

The ancestry of the cardboard court is a jumble of mythology and tradition. The King of Hearts derives from Charlemagne, the Queen of Hearts from Judith (of the Apocrypha), the King of Spades from David, the Queen of Spades from Pallas Athene, the Knave of Spades from Ogier, the Dane, and the King of Diamonds from Julius Caesar.

Most strange of all is the connection between the Knave of Hearts and the medieval Gascon adventurer, La Hire. La Hire was the French Robin Hood and is one of the minor characters in Bernard Shaw's play "Saint Joan."

Not everybody gambles at cards, but everybody, gamblers and non-gamblers alike, will be interested in listening to 2YA on Friday, August 25, when Mr. Llewellyn Etherington gives a talk—"Luck and Probability at Cards."

JEFF, 3ZB, 9.55 a.m., August 5: "I want you to draw a square about an inch round."

#### AMAZON—OR SAVAGE?

AUNT DAISY, discussing making a friendship garden, August 7, at 8.55 a.m., "Get little bits and cuttings of your own friends."

#### TENDER THOUGHTS.

ANNOUNCER, 1ZB, 9 p.m., Sunday, August 6: "Mr. Savage states the bulletin had a comfortable day."

#### FRAGILE FEATURES.

GORDON HUTTER, July 29, 1YA: "McCready brought his



left forearm hard on to Forster's face, and he's broken it!"

#### WARNING, FLEE!

ANNOUNCER, 3ZB, on a recent morning, 7.15 a.m., giving weather report: "Fleas slight to moderate."

#### DRAWN AND QUARTERED.

UNCLE SCRIM, 2ZB, August 3, 10.20 a.m.: "And when this old hermit died and they cleaned him out it was truly an amazing sight."

#### SCOTS' OUTLOOK.

ANNOUNCER, 4YA, Saturday, July 15, 10.12 a.m.: "After a night's rain the weather is fine being very overcast and drizzly."

#### OH! PIONEERS!

MR. GLADSTONE HILL, 2ZB, 12.35 p.m., July 18: "Should married men whose husbands are working, also go to work?"

### WE PAY FOR ANNOUNCERS' SLIPS

PRIZES of one shilling each will be awarded for the best announcers' slips heard by listeners, but entrants must be fair to announcers by leaving words in their right context. Address letters to "Pepperpot," c/o "Radio Record," Box 1680, Wellington. Payments are made at the end of each month.

#### VERY FILLING.

AUNT DAISY, 8.50 a.m., August 9, in recipe for custard tart: "The crust rises up through the pastry."

#### INSECTS TRIUMPHANT.

JACKO, 3ZB, Thursday, August 10, 12.10 p.m.: "And now you will hear one of —'s most melodious germs."

#### BIRDS OF FEATHER.

ANNOUNCER, 1YA, 9 p.m., August 7: "The Gardening Expert's talk is among the vegetables."

#### HEADS HE WINS.

GORDON HUTTER, broadcasting wrestling match, July 29: "Cox is still standing there with his feet up."



BELA BARTOK refuses to allow his music to be broadcast from Germany these days. Bartok (who is NOT a Jew), would not supply the birth-certificates of his grandparents to his Berlin publishers.

W. H. Squire, cellist and popular song-writer, well-known to listeners, celebrates the sixtieth anniversary this year of his first appearance in public. He "debuted" early in 1879 in Devonshire.

Fritz Kreisler, violin virtuoso, an Austrian by birth, has become a naturalised Frenchman.

Some years ago the irrepressible James G. Hume wrote that the favourite tunes of John

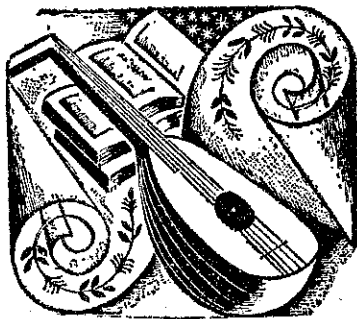
## Vincent Gomez—World's Greatest Spanish Guitarist

### Gives Recital From 3YA August 25

VINCENT GOMEZ, called by United States NBC heard that critics one of the greatest of all Spanish guitarists, is a new surprise. His story reads like a Press-agent's dream.

He learned his art from the wandering gipsies in Spain, and made his debut at 13 in Madrid's famous Teatro Espanol. This started him on a series of concert tours that took him literally to the ends of the

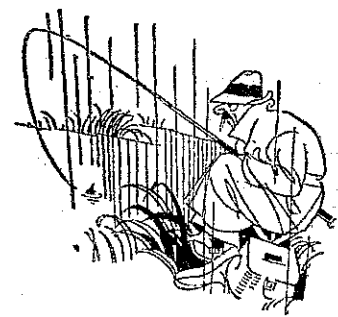
Vincent Gomez, guitarist, will be heard in a recital at 3YA, on Friday, August 25.



## Ike Walton Liked To Gossip

FROM the time he was twenty-one till he was fifty, an ironmonger of Fleet Street, "The scavenger of St. Dunstan's Parish," was given to leaning over his counter in earnest conversation with all the pious and learned folk who passed that way. They used to discuss their hobby.

From the time of his retirement when he reached fifty, he would sit contentedly day after day on the bank of a river, fishing for trout with a worm.



earth—from Africa, through Europe, to Cuba and Mexico, and finally to the United States.

At 21, Gomez returned to Madrid to write the music for, and appear in, several outstanding Spanish films which starred the internationally-famous dancer, Argentina. Later, he went on tour with this great star and appeared with her in leading concert halls, theatres and night-clubs throughout the world.

In 1937, Gomez went to Mexico, where he was featured at the National Opera House, in theatres, night-clubs, and in radio on virtually every important commercial programme from Mexico City.

Going to the United States, he made his debut at New York's Town Hall, April, 1938, and since then has appeared in many concerts and on several leading network radio programmes. He is considered one of radio's unique instrumental discoveries of 1938.

Gomez is by no means an undiscovered artist, although he is new to us. Reports from abroad long hinted that people were flocking in droves to hear him perform in concerts, and those who witnessed his performances came away enthusiastic in their praise. Finally, the

After ten years of this, our retired ironmonger published a volume of essays that, although its hints may be obsolete, still remains one of the loveliest volumes a man can draw from his pocket on a warm summer day.

Izaak Walton is a kind of patron saint of anglers, all of whom will be interested in a talk from 4YA Wednesday, August 2. The speaker is Mr. G. S. Thomson, whose subject will be "On Catching Fish." This is the initial talk of a series.

## Confessions Of People You Know

JEAN MACFARLANE, popular New Zealand contralto, confesses for the "Record" this week:

My eyes are: Hazel.  
My hair is: Dark.  
Favourite colour for clothes: Navy blue and violet.  
My lucky day is: The 13th.  
My favourite play is: "Faust."  
In my friends I look for the qualities of: Sincerity and a sense of humour.  
My favourite motto is: Be natural.  
My pet aversion is: Swing music.  
I could happily spend the rest of my life in: Aiding young singers.  
My favourite screen star is: Merle Oberon.  
What has pleased me most about New Zealand: The splendid facilities for broadcasting, courteous attention of NBS officials and staff, and the scores of tributes from appreciative listeners throughout the Dominion.  
What has disappointed me most: New Zealand has never disappointed me.

D. Rockefeller probably were Schubert's "Oilking," and the hymn "Praise God from Whom Oil Blessings Flow."

After concentrating to a remarkable degree the cellists of an orchestra under Toscanini got this cold comment from the maestro:—"As musicians I give you ten; as artists—two. Ancora una volta."

A legend of last century—Paganini's G string was the intestine of his wife, whom he had murdered with his own hands. And this publicity was current in pre-Barnum days.

The Italian Minister of Fine Arts has issued an edict to the effect that opera audiences must not ask for encores. This decision was taken following upon a disorderly scene at a theatre, the audience persisting in yelling for an encore which the conductor refused to grant.