

SKETCHES THE ECLIPSE TO MAKE A PAINTING

Howard R. Butler Expects Work Will Surpass That of the Phenomenon in 1918.

Special to The New York Times.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Jan. 24.—Howard Russell Butler, N. A. of Princeton, made sketches of the solar eclipse today in the 115 seconds of totality from which he will make a painting. He worked with the same speed that marked the photographic and other studies of the scientists at the Van Vleck Observatory.

Mr. Butler believes that the painting will surpass that of the 1918 eclipse, now the property of the American Museum of Natural History. Explaining his methods of sketching the eclipse, he said:

"I chose for my location the top of the Arrigoni Hotel, from which I could see in two directions, one toward the approaching shadow and the other toward the sun. A cupola on the roof afforded a vertical surface on which I nailed two pieces of cardboard prepared in advance with circles, the inner one representing the moon and the outer one with radii half a lunar diameter apart. Eight extended radii, making angles of 45 degrees with each other, were drawn through the centre of the circle representing the moon. Tangents were drawn on the moon's edge on each card.

"After watching the approach of the shadow, which did not on this occasion have a very distinct edge as in 1918, at the instant of second contact I turned to the eclipse itself. A small mare's tail cloud, very thin, indeed, had covered the sun about five minutes before. The shape of the cloud was like a mitten reaching forth to grasp the sun. Fortunately it had retreated and the eclipse occurred in the clear blue sky. I gave about twenty seconds to regarding it through a field glass of eight diameters, then registered the colors of the blue sky in different places by formulae representing the luminosity on a scale of 100, black being zero and white being 100.

"In this case I registered 40. On the right the blue seemed to be quite true blue with a saturation of about fifty. On the left it inclined to violet and below it was warmer, reaching toward brown at the horizon. Next, about twenty seconds was devoted to outlining the corona, after which curves were drawn from tangents to radii to define the change of luminosity from the limb of the moon out to the point where the corona disappeared in the blue sky. These showed that the so-called inner corona was exceedingly bright this time while the outer streamers were very diaphanous. Numbers were entered on the most extended part of the corona to record again this change in luminosity.

"The moon may have been a trifle lighter and warmer in the centre than at its edges, but probably that is an optical illusion, however, of value in painting, in which I shall aim to give the effect on the eye. From these notes I hope to get the tonality of the picture which is determined by its extreme values or luminosity, that is, in this case it will run from about 70, the highest value, to 40, the lowest.

"After the eclipse light grew rapidly, and I used the second card to register impressions that still remained on my mind."

ODD INCIDENTS OF ECLIPSE.

Sailors Ignore It—Crows Caw In

Fright—Train Smoke Screen.

Peculiar and commonplace incidents took on an interest when viewed in connection with the eclipse. An observer at New London noticed that four sailors at the Submarine Base were engaged in shoveling snow while the earth was being darkened. Not one of the four stopped work to look into the sky. Officers at the base believed that the four had not heard of the eclipse and were too intent on their work to note that it was getting darker.

More observant was a flock of more than five hundred crows flying over a residential street near the business section of Poughkeepsie. As the eclipse became total the crows, with much noise, sought refuge in a group of trees. In apparent confusion and with a continuous cawing they swarmed about the trees until the sun came forth again. Then they resumed their course eastward.

A smoke screen from the locomotive of their train gave 200 passengers bound for Worcester, Mass., on the 9 A. M. train out of Providence an unexpected opportunity to obtain a good view of the eclipse.

Justice was tempered with mercy in the Harlem Court yesterday when three men arrested for intoxication told Magistrate McKiniry that they had come to their plight through overdoing a liquid celebration held as a preliminary to watching the eclipse yesterday morning.

"You were in jail this morning when the eclipse took place?" inquired the Court.

"We were," the three replied.

"Well, I think you have been sufficiently punished," the Court said. "Discharged."

John Thompson of 174 East Eighty-second Street was so excited that he insisted that his wife remain up all night to await for the eclipse. She disagreed and called a policeman.

Joseph Walsh of 221 West Sixty-sixth Street, was arrested while in the midst of a violent exposition on the cause and effects of eclipses.