

Most of the ancient Greek art were based on their mythology. They painted and made life size statues of their gods and goddesses like Zeus, Apollo, Hera, Artemis and many more.

Greek art can be divided into four styles. In the Geometric style (9th-7th century BC), vases were painted with geometrical patterns.

In the Archaic style (6th century BC). Two different methods of vase painting were developed. The Greeks painted pictures using a black colour, on light clay. On firing, the unpainted areas turned orange red. Details, like eyes and nose, were then scratched on it. This was the Black figures style.

Alternatively, they began painting the background in black and leaving the pictures unpainted. On firing, these pictures acquired a red colour and the details were painted in black. This was the Red figure style.

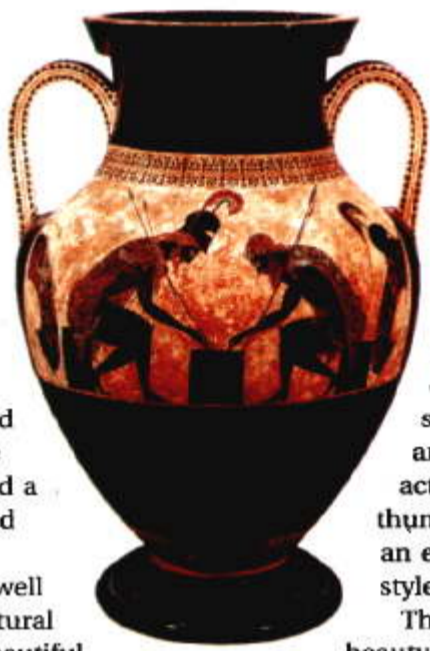
A lot of Egyptian influence was seen in the Archaic style.

Their stone sculptures looked slim, stiff, with arms mostly on sides and fists clenched. However, unlike the Egyptian style, these sculptures were totally free standing.

The male statues were called kouros (youth) and females were called kore (maiden). Their faces had a cheerful expression called the Archaic smile.

The Greeks were also well known for their architectural sculptures. They built beautiful temples and carved on its walls. They cut deep into the wall and created well-defined figures. These carvings, called high reliefs, looked as if they were placed on ledges, rather than carved on walls.

Statues were also placed on areas of



Amphora depicting Achilles and Ajax

Glory that was Greece

MALA MAHESH

Ancient Greek art was based on mythology.



ART BEAT

the temple called the pediment. This was a triangular space, formed by the ceiling and the sloping roofs.

The Classical style (480-325 BC) was a refined improvement on the earlier style. The stiff pose of the Archaic style was replaced with a more flexible look, as the artists found a way for shifting the balance more to one leg. This was called contrapposto or counterpoise. The sculptures could now take any position and also show action. Zeus throwing a thunderbolt, made in bronze, is an example of the Classical style.

This style shows human beauty in its most ideal form. A handsome face and a strong body with rippling muscles were the common features for most Classical sculptures. They copied exact anatomical details on to their work.

Their pediment sculptures also showed bodies in different position. A good



Nike...the Goddess of Victory

example of this is the "Dying Noid", a lady trying to pull out an arrow from her back. Imagine trying to place a statue like that in a triangular frame, without making it look cramped!

Praxiteles and Polykleitos were the famous sculpturers of this period. Unfortunately, most mural paintings of the Classical style were destroyed.

Next came the Hellenistic style. Artists began to show emotions like sadness, which made their sculptures seem more real and more human. They experimented with twist in bodies and gave more attention to detail, like folds of clothes. A fine example of this is the Nike of Samothrace, a statue of a winged goddess, as she descends on to a ship. The artist shows the effect of the breeze on the clothes, as it gently clings on to the body of the goddess. That must have been really difficult to carve on a stone.

Hellenistic meaning "Greek-like" also had a great influence on Roman art.

June 5 was World Environment Day...A day to take stock of our environment.

On the road to life



the Indian government and funding has been secured for several projects in other countries, ranging from the strengthening of tiger patrols to campaigning for changes in the law concerning the import of tiger parts.

The Siberian tiger population in particular has risen from 30 to 450. Effective projects have also been undertaken with rhinoceros in Nepal's Chitwin National Park and with the golden lion tamarin (a squirrel-size primate).

Text and picture by LONDON PRESS SERVICE

From his school days the boy worked on a newspaper route in addition to evening duty in his father's candy store. The routine continued in his early years in Columbia University. Once a customer scolded him, "My son works hard to earn a living. What do YOU do?" "I write. I got this for a story today," the 20-year-old youngster replied, holding up a cheque for a sum that silenced the grumbler.

That was Isaac Asimov (1920-92), best known for his science fiction (SF), though he wrote mysteries and children's stories too. He loved non-fiction — authoring textbooks on astronomy and biochemistry, an excellent layman's guide to science. Not satisfied, he wrote on the Bible, Shakespeare, Gilbert and Sullivan, annotated Gulliver's Travels, collected limericks on Sherlock Holmes, was passionate about history. So vast were his interests that he required 500 books and three volumes of autobiography to do them justice, not to forget 400 magazine columns in 33 years. "There isn't an idea that I've ever had that I haven't put down on paper." He added with a grin, "Can you imagine how miserable my life would be if I disliked my books, considering how many of them I write?"

Readers clamoured for more from the man who took them into the distant galaxies, cleverly converting familiar history into futuristic fantasies. Those countless stars had to be reached by the typewriter. The author was terrified of flying, hated all travel short and long.

He was his own typist, researcher and agent. "I work everyday, with breaks only for eating and sleeping," he said. "Writing is my only interest, even speaking is an interruption." And why waste time on revisions when he could write something new instead?

Astronomer Carl Sagan declared that Asimov was the

greatest explainer of his age. Along with Robert Heinlein and Arthur C. Clarke, the son of an immigrant from Smolensk (former Soviet Union) was to contribute to the golden age of SF in the 1940s. Their intellect and imagination were to produce classics in what had been pulp fiction area until then.

Asimov's most famous work is the Foundation trilogy

"Robbie" for a child, Asimov shows you the "Bicentennial Man" — the robot who insists on transplants of human organs, even though death is the price he pays for his obsession to be a man. In the process, Asimov invented the famous Three Laws that govern robot behaviour, besides coining the word Robotics, now part of the English language. In everyone of these stories you see the author's sneaking preference for machine over man. Why not? As he explains, a robot is crafted to be the model of all that is best in humans, often sadly missing from real people!

Asimov was a genuine humanist. Many of his stories deal with racial prejudice, not surprising in a Jew who watched the horrors of Hitler's War. His sympathies are with the Venusian or Martian underdog. He also foresaw how religion could become fanatical, turning against science and progress.

"Nightfall", voted the best SF short story ever written by SF writers themselves, shows the evil side of religion in a planet with six suns which experiences a total eclipse once in two thousand years,

with disastrous results. Little Isaac was undeterred by scorn from teacher and student in the school's creative writing course. His family was too poor to afford books, and the library lent only two books per week.

"When I was 11, it occurred to me that if I wrote my own books, I could read them at leisure." As a renowned writer he was to chuckle, "I'd rather read what I write, than write what I read."

Isaac Asimov's science fiction is the sort that even non-SF fans can read with pleasure. Age could not cramp his style. "The longer I write the easier it gets. Writing is more fun than ever." His own enjoyment of his imagination is infectious. Is that why he remains a favourite the world over?

Futuristic fantasies

GOWRI RAMNARAYAN



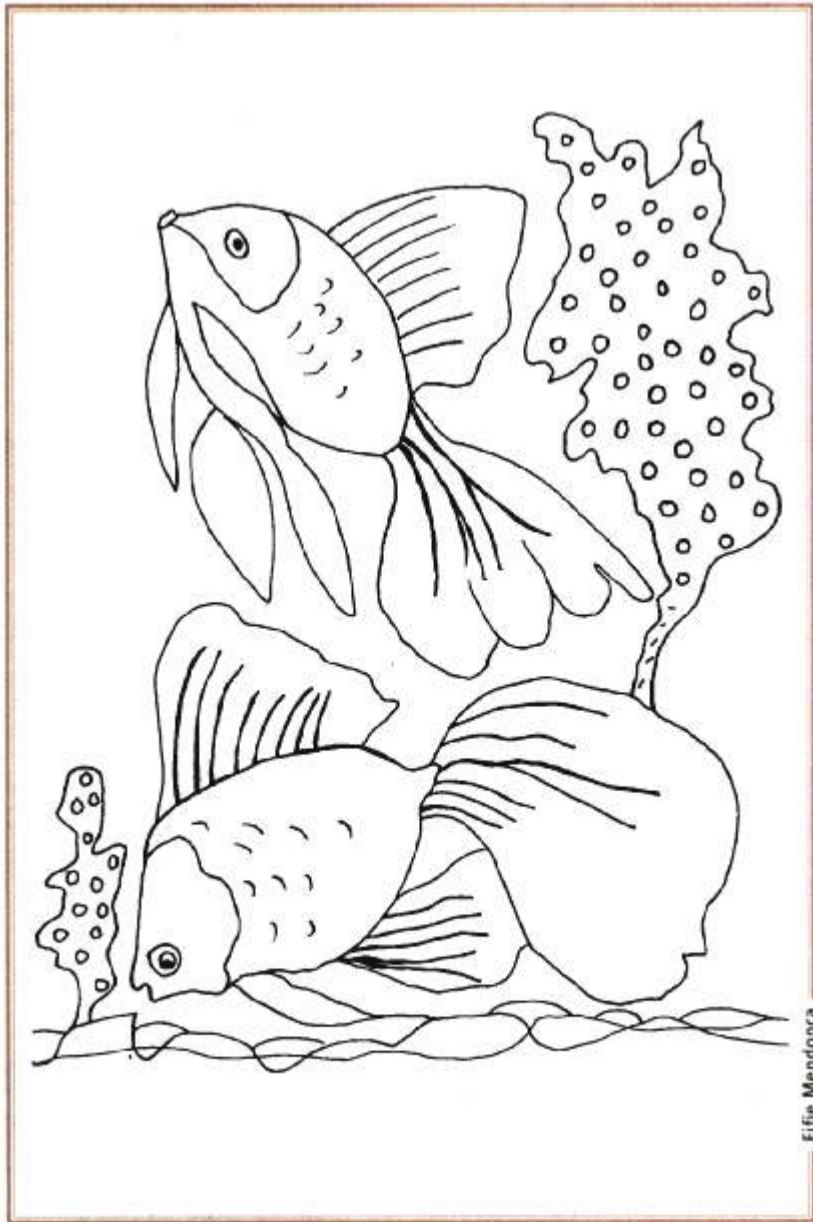
Asimov gives you nail biting drama...spaceships and travel to the unknown.



WRITER'S BLOC

describing the whole universe populated by human beings. Psychohistorian Hari Seldon predicts the Fall of the old empire. He establishes two Foundations to cut short the millennia of anarchy which follow. Without monsters and demons, witchcraft and voodooos, Asimov gives you nail biting drama. His outstanding short stories deal with robots. Starting with a mechanical playmate

Crayon Corner



After Standard XII, some of us are faced with the question "What next?" For the fortunate ones, the answer is clear. What about those who are on the look out for different, yet satisfying careers? One such option is

GETTING THERE

Social Work. Social Work is one such option. And it is an appealing and rewarding profession. It is a full-fledged profession that requires relevant skills, training and education like all

Making a choice

VIDYA RAMAN



Choosing a profession that would help others...

Can Social Work be pursued as a career? Or can only dedicated persons who have the "calling" opt for it?

other professions. It is often believed that to choose social work as a career one needs to be born with the vision of serving humankind and that one needs to be at all times, goodness personified. The first

step towards choosing social work as a profession is: understanding yourself. This involves being aware of one's limitations, at the same time not giving up. In fact, social work needs to be seen as a career that demands professionalism and training so that development will involve interested and intelligent workers and as a result be more focused.

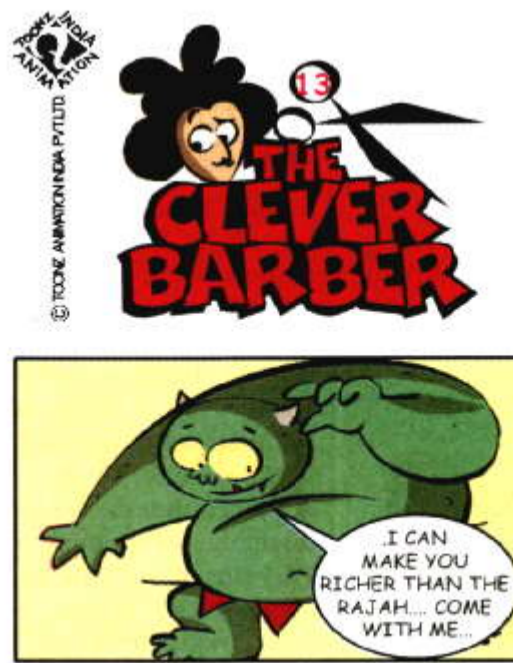
In the words of Andrew Cuomo, "Compassion and competency is the combination that leads to success". How does one go about pursuing a career in this field? Find out next week.

Answer to General Science Crossword

R	S	C	M	U	S
G	A	L	E	N	A
O	S	R	C	S	T
O	N	R	A	N	A
D	I	M	E	R	T
F	O	R	C	E	S
F	O	R	C	E	S
N	H	A	A	A	E
A	B	S	O	R	B
A	L	I	A	L	E
D	R	I	V	E	G
K	O	B	N	E	A

Answer to Jumble for kids

Jumbles: ODD, ZONE, BAND, MILL. Answer: His Mom described the pillow fight - "BED - LAM".



TO BE CONTINUED...