

# Unknown Model Immortalized

## Tiepolo, Venetian Artist, Painted Her Often

**N**UMEROUS TIMES does the face of the young woman shown in the accompanying pictures appear in the famous murals and other works of the celebrated Venetian painter, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo.

• Who this woman was no one today apparently knows. What influence she may have had upon the last truly great master of the Venetian school likewise remains unanswered. That she was a young woman of finely molded classic features and of no little physical charm is proved in the various poses of her that still are found in the world's leading galleries. A model *par excellence*, she remains today an immortal mystery woman of art.

• Tiepolo, who painted her so often, has been dead more than 167 years, yet his works survive as a living force in the world of creative art, growing more valuable year by year. At the Art Institute of Chicago there is on exhibition, and will continue on exhibition until March 6, a collection of many of the most famous drawings, prints, and paintings of Tiepolo, as well as those of one of his sons, Domenico.

Tiepolo had another son, Lorenzo, who also was an artist, but almost nothing is known of him and his works.

• The most celebrated collections of America and Europe have lent works by the Tiepolos, father and son, to make this exhibition in Chicago the first extensive showing of the art of this famous pair. Giovanni Battista Tiepolo preëminently was a painter of frescoes, and to view his works in their utmost splendor one must



(Lent to the Art Institute of Chicago by K. W. Bachstiz, The Hague.)

"Rejected Proposal," an interesting painting by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, last of the great masters of the Venetian school.

visit Venice, Würzburg, and Madrid. In the Chicago exhibition, however, the lover of art can obtain a clear conception of the style of the Venetian master from the brilliantly executed sketches for murals, which give more than a hint of his extraordinary ability to fill a wall or a ceiling with a design of whirling figures carried out in touches of exquisite atmospheric color. Among the

Art Institute's own possessions are Tiepolo's studies for the famous Gesuati ceiling (Ryerson collection), the four superb canvases depicting episodes in the romance of Tasso's Rinaldo and Armida (James Deering bequest), and earlier works of the master. Other museums at home and abroad, as mentioned before, have contributed in the form of loans to make the Chicago Tiepolo exhibition one of distinction.

• Tiepolo the father was born in Venice, April 5, 1696, and was famous as a painter by the thirties of the following century. The first of his principal works that can be dated with certainty are the beautiful decorations of the Villa Valmerana at Vicenza. During the years from 1750 to 1753 Tiepolo was in Würzburg, Germany, engaged in decorating the episcopal (later the royal) palace of that city. He returned to Venice in 1754 to become director of the academy there. In 1763 he was summoned to Spain by King Charles III. to decorate the royal palace. It was in Madrid that he executed most of his famous etchings. He died in Madrid, March

22, 1770. Biographers record that he was married at the age of 23 to Cecilia, sister of Francesco Guardi, another famous Venetian painter.

• Domenico, the elder son of Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, was born in 1727 and died in 1804. He was an original, creative artist in his own right. After his father's death he developed his own



(Lent to the Art Institute of Chicago by the Springfield, Mass., Museum of Fine Art.)

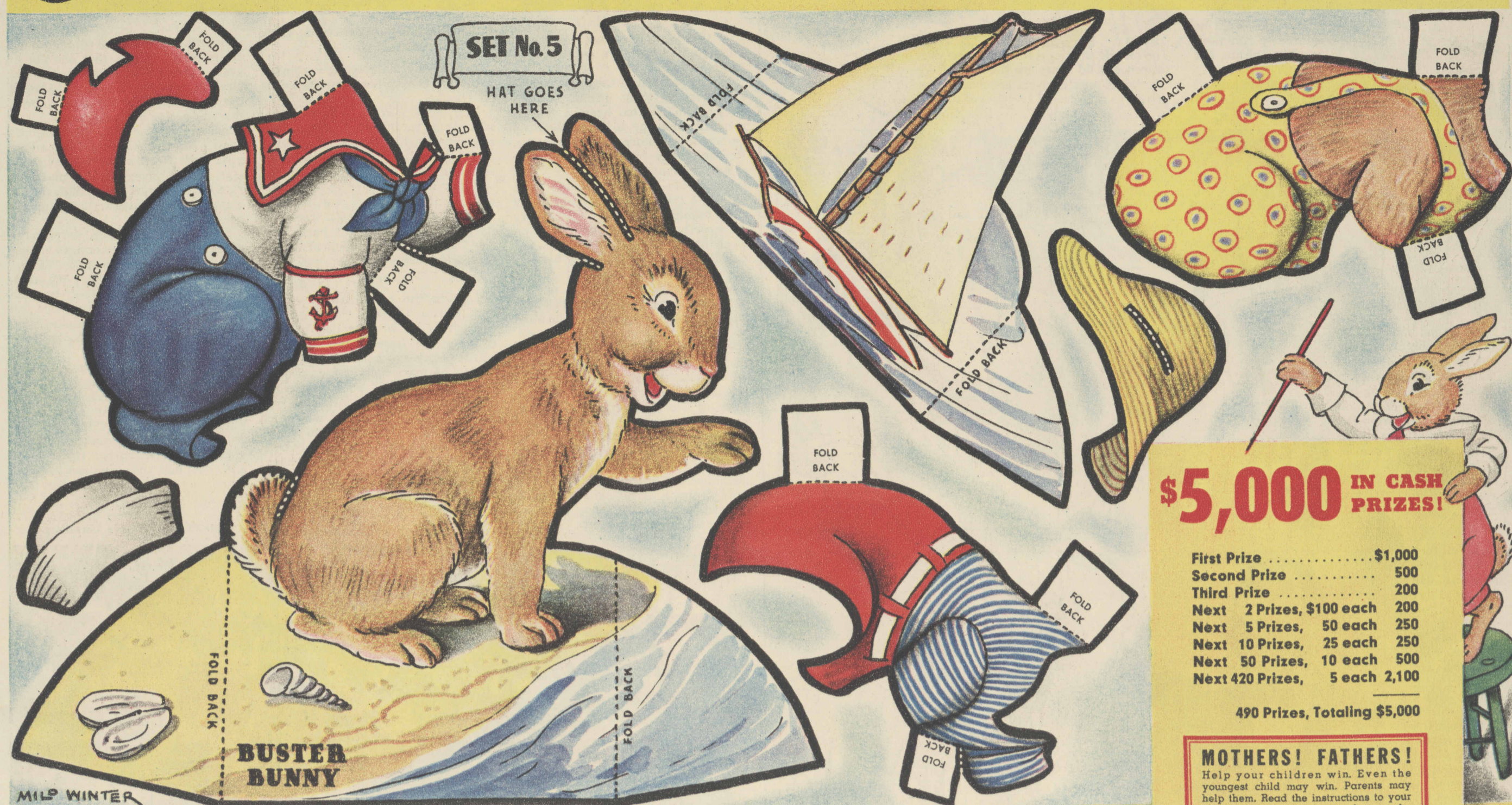
"Madonna and Child," by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, believed to have been painted for a church in South Germany.

style and became especially famous for delightful pictures of "Punchinello" subjects.

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