



Gerichtsstube aus Niederdorf, Pustertal
(15. Jahrh. Frühgotik)

Photo: Dr. Ringler
Tiroler Volkskunstmuseum, Innsbruck
Tyrolean Museum of Home Arts, Innsbruck

Magistrate's Room from Niederdorf,
Pustertal (15th. Century Early Gothic)

worthy to rank beside the natural beauties for which the country is famous; moreover these handicrafts deserve especial attention precisely on account of their spiritual relationship to these well-beloved landscapes.

In spite of the growth of tourist traffic, in spite of the progress of civilization, leaving everything naive and primitive behind, the population of Tyrol has apparently succeeded to a very great degree in preserving its traditional manners and customs. In striking contrast to the Swiss, who are more retiring and contemplative, although most devoted to art, the Tyrolese continue their many picturesque habits without troubling about the rest of the world. It may be that they thus consciously enhance the charm of the conception "Tyrol".

But no-one can deny that such traditional customs, organically connected with the character of the country, effectively support and increase the natural beauties of the landscape.

It was a happy thought, successfully carried out in other regions as well, to display the work and habit of living of the Tyrolese to all interested visitors in a worthy frame suited to the nature of the exhibits. Such exhibitions tempt the visitor to seek out all those regions where the original character of the inhabitants, possessed by a passionate love of especial forms, has succeeded in expressing itself so effectively in the materials of its choice.

There can be no more effective propaganda for a beauty spot than to prove that it has not been spoiled by the ingress of foreign bodies introduced in a false devotion to "progress". The so-called home crafts are only entitled to exist if they express themselves in ways that are valuable and original. Certain things created by the Tyrolese, touching in their simplicity of form and the evidence