

RESPECTABILITY COMES WITH AGE

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In Lexington they tell of an attractive and successful businesswoman, Belle Breeson. In the twenties and thirties, Belle supervised and chaperoned the activities of a number of lovely young ladies in her own establishment that was internationally known for its elegance and style. It is common knowledge among the older Lexington citizens, that Belle was immortalized by Margaret Mitchell in *Gone with the Wind* as the real life counterpart of Belle Watling.

On our recent visit to Lexington, we spied a lovely, large floor vase that sat in the corner of the well-appointed living room of a friend's horse farm mansion. It was of sterling silver, silver handled and of graceful design, and was filled with freshly cut flowers. When we commented on its beauty, our host, a gracious and dignified widow in her 60s, obligingly showed us the other two pieces of its set, a sterling silver wash basin and a sterling silver chamber pot. All three pieces had been bought at the auction of Belle Breeson's possessions held after her death some twenty years ago.

This story illustrates that class will tell and quality will always conquer. From bidet and slop jar in a bordello bedroom to flower filled elegance in a respectable living room in less than one generation. However, we suspect it must miss some of the gay life and excitement of its earlier heydays.