

Extensive Research Sets Stage for Artist's Work

By ALICE E. MORGAN

The Foxcroft home and studio of Robert Thom is a continuous scene of activity as Thom goes on with the series of medical history scene he is painting for Parke, Davis and company.

Since starting the series more than two years ago, Thom has found himself plunged into a most unusual program of research.

The many paintings he has already done, some of which are to be seen in Birmingham drug stores, show the complete attention to detail which has been given them. Thom has already clocked up one trip to Europe and has spent many hours in reading, visiting museums and consulting with dozens of persons, experts who could put him on the track to perfection.

Mrs. Thom and many Detroiters have assisted materially with his research. The assistance of a rug dealer, art curators, a magazine editor and others go into these unique History of Pharmacy paintings, Thom reports.

HE SAID the 13th picture in the series, "Avicenna—the Persian Galen" is typical of the meticulous work involved. Thom, with Bender, spent months studying the Persian dress of the 11th century. Other hours were spent studying the living habits of furnishings and the accomplishments of the great scientists of the Islamic world.

Following preliminary conferences, Thom sought information from the Detroit Institute of Arts. Here, Francis Robinson, curator

of ancient and medieval art, and Mrs. C. A. Weibel, curator-emerita of textiles and Islamic art, instructed Thom in ancient Persian artifacts. It was here, with their help, that the artist located an inkwell of Avicenna's time.

Actual samples of antique Persian costumes, in which intricate designs often told a story about the wearer's achievements, were brought out for the artist by Mrs. Weibel.

HERE THOM made many sketches of various Persian artifacts and costumes, for use later in the series.

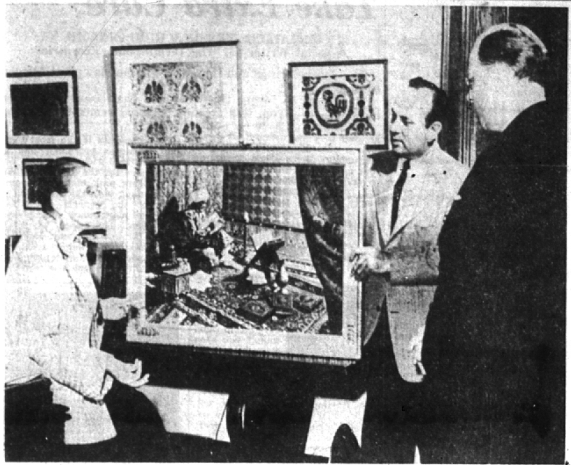
Another great source of help and information has been Hodge Magarian (the model for the completed painting shown with this article), a Detroit dealer in oriental rugs.

Magarian furnishes authentic information about Persian rugs used during Avicenna's lifetime, 980-1037 A.D.

The robe worn in the picture was made by Thom and his wife. Unable to find cloth with a suitable pattern, the artist actually painted an intricate Persian design on a bolt of plain material to achieve authenticity and realism.

MRS. THOM, using a sketch from the Institute as a guide, made the specially painted material into a full-sized Persian style garment.

After the painting was completed, Thom again conferred with



MRS. C. A. WEIBEL ROBERT THOM FRANCIS W. ROBINSON
Experts check finished painting with Artist Thom.

his information gathered from many of the same Detroit sources. Thom's European trip supplied him with a vast store of information for six pictures, gotten mainly from prominent pharmacists in France, Germany and Sweden. These paintings will cover the highlights of a 200-year period in the history of pharmacy.

CHARLIE BEING an engineer (with Ethyl Corporation), has worked out a simple mechanical device to speed up the process of soldering on the ear tabs and figured out an easier and quicker way of polishing the earrings. He is an exact and careful workman. "I've had a lot of hobbies before," said Kass, "but none have held my continued interest as this has. I've only been doing this a year and a half, but it is a gratifying experience to me to turn out something unusual and satisfying."



BIRMINGHAM COMMERCIAL ARTIST AT WORK
Robert Thom paints medical history.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Huebner Have Honeymoon in South

A ballet length gown of antique nylon net and lace over antique satin was worn by Rebba Arlene Watts for her marriage to Clarence Edward Huebner.

The lace bolero was fashioned with long sleeves coming to a point over the hands. A veil of soft fine nylon net was held in place by a jeweled tiara head piece. She carried white roses, baby and fugi mums.

The nuptials were read at 11 a.m. Nov. 28, at the Holy Name church. The Rev. William Stahl officiated at the double-ring ceremony.

THE BRIDE is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Felix John Watts, 16156 Elizabeth. Her husband is stationed at Norfolk, Va., serving in the Navy.

Mrs. Esther Stubaker was her sister's matron of honor wearing a ballet length gown of salmon net over satin. She carried rust baby and fugi mums. Barbara Harris and Leha Rae Fronwell were bridesmaids. Their gowns were fashioned with a burgundy velvet bodice and skirts of net over taffeta. They carried yellow baby and fugi mums.

History Made By Altrusa Member

Altrusa club of Birmingham is congratulating its three-term treasurer, Mrs. Edythe Crandell Peck, upon being the first woman in the fifteen year history of the Annual Study Conference of the Michigan Bankers association to be asked to participate in its program. She is assistant cashier and public relations director of the Birmingham National Bank.

Mrs. Peck was one of the panel members in a discussion on "Public Relations and Advertising Functions and Continuity" at the afternoon session Thursday, at the Backham Building in Ann Arbor.

Other members of the panel were Alfred S. Cullip, vice president of the Peoples Savings Bank, Pont Huron, and Clarence L. Jaising, president and cashier of the Peoples State Bank, Holland. Mrs. Peck was also the only woman present at the two-day Study Conference.

Cocktail Party Dec. 26

LATHRUP—Friends of Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Duncan, Jr., have been invited to a cocktail party to be given Dec. 26, at the Durum home, 27840 W. Goldensate. From 4:30-7:30 p.m.



AFTERNOON AND EVENING GROUPS of the North Woodward Alumnae Association of Kappa Gamma were explained the "here's how" of bow tying and gift wrapping at the annual Christmas party. Participating at the party, held in the Lone Pine road home of Mrs. James J. Nance, were from left to right: Mrs. Don E. Miller, Mrs. Cortland Cromwell, Mrs. Charles Hazard and Mrs. Ray Helsler.

Brelford-Kent Vows Said in College Chapel

Alumni Memorial chapel at Michigan State college was the scene of the wedding ceremony of Charlene Helen Kent and Richard B. Brelford on Dec. 6. Vows were exchanged amid a setting of mums, ferns and candelabra. The Rev. Schramm of East Lansing performed the ceremony. Organ selections were played by Shan Rosso of Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard S. Kent of Beaverton are Charlene's parents. Richard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Brelford of Hialeah. The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a walk length gown of emerald green and white with a matching lace hat and illusion veil. She carried a bouquet of pink roses and shattered white mums.

'Family' Dinner For Secretaries

Mrs. Mary DeBoe of Forrest Lake was hostess Wednesday evening, when members of the Pontiac chapter of the National Secretaries Association met for their "family" Christmas dinner and party.

After the business meeting conducted by the president, Mrs. Hope Hunt, gifts were exchanged. Mrs. Mary Mazurek was chairman for the evening, assisted by her committee consisting of Mrs. George Kohn, Miss Edythe Perry and Miss Eleanor Lockman.

The next meeting will be held Jan. 7 at the Hotel Waldron, Pontiac.

Julius Chajes Soloist In Symphony Production

Soloist with the Detroit Symphony orchestra on Dec. 17, at 8:30 p.m., in the Masonic auditorium will be Julius Chajes, Detroit pianist-composer. With Paul Paray on the podium, Chajes will play his own composition, the Concerto No. 2 in E, for piano and orchestra.

Paray has also programmed Beethoven's symphony No. 4 in B flat, excerpts from Berlioz' "The Damnation of Faust," and Mozart's Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro."



ENAMELING FUN FOR HUSBAND-WIFE TEAM
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kass work together on hobby. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

Enameled Earrings First Of Home Workshop Products

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

Lee and Charlie Kass, of 1028 Chestnut, have been having a lot of fun working with enamels and they aren't painting kitchen chairs with Duco, either! It isn't that kind of enamel. According to Webster, the enamel used by Mr. and Mrs. Kass is a "vitreous composition, usually opaque, for coating the surface of metal, glass or pottery for ornament or as a basis for decoration."

So far, decorative and attractive earrings are the only enameled objects to come from the basement workshop of these two budding artists. Without doubt, bowls, plates and other pieces will come in time. The Kasses have just started.

Kass became interested in the craft when, as president of the Community House board, he saw the silver classes of Mrs. Theima Anderson at work.

MRS. ANDERSON'S classes have been in session for several years and are a part of the adult education classes offered to the community by the Community House.

When Kass managed some free time, he was busy making a Swedish rope necklace.

Every beginner makes one of these linked chain necklaces and everyone calls it "idiot's delight"—only no idiot could do it.

After necklaces came bracelets—and then as Kass gained more experience working with the metal, he designed some rings and bracelets of his own.

"It's amazing how much skill you can acquire within one year," Kass said, "but patience is one thing you have to have in working with this material."

FROM SILVER it was only a short step to enameled earrings on a copper base.

"The two crafts work about the same," Kass explained. "There are certain fundamentals which apply to both, yet enameling is dissimilar enough to make it interesting and a challenge."

The art of enameling is an old one, usually by Lee Kass. They are bits of ground glass of different colors or perhaps glass threads. The disk is fired for the third time.

"When you mix blue and yellow paint," said Kass, "you get green paint—but enamel doesn't work that way. In enamel, you still end up with blue and yellow enamel."

They recently filled an order for 50 pairs which were sold at the St. Anne's Doll Tea of St. James church.

HE THEN enlisted the help of Mrs. Kass, for he felt the need of his wife's flair for color and design. She has been an enthusiastic helper ever since.

The two have spent many evenings working together down in the Kass basement. They have made many pairs of earrings, all of which have been given away as gifts.

They recently filled an order for 50 pairs which were sold at the St. Anne's Doll Tea of St. James church.

"You learn by practice how long



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