



Wins Lectureship

An author, poet and associate professor of English at Michigan State University Oakland, Thomas Fitzsimmons recently was awarded a Fulbright lectureship to two Japanese colleges. He will leave in September of a year of teaching at Tokyo University and at Tsuda College. (See story page 1-D.)

Film

(Continued from 1-D)

panorama, all serve to divert and entrance the eye for three hours.

NEVER DOES IT cross the viewer's mind that the smallest prop is anachronistic. Every bit of architecture, from the tesserae of pavement mosaics to the complete city of Valencia, seems to be truly eleventh century Spanish Romanesque.

Never does the viewer feel that medieval armies were larger than the number of actors who portray them. Yet, somehow, the feel of the Middle Ages is missing. Perhaps the streets, castle floors, and actors' bodies are too clean. Too few of these bodies are crippled, hunch-backed, mutilated, or blind.

BATTLE SCENES are staged with such realism, on the other hand, that they tend to defeat their purpose.

Absorption in them is mixed with irrelevant wonder at their skill in simulation.

This is a family movie. Sex is out, and bloodiness is restrained. Sophia Loren is thoroughly draped from beginning to end.

The story will not strain any intellects. Some, however, may find it curiously perturbing.

The real Cid was brave and ruthless. An exiled freedom fighter, he attacked Christian and Moslem, and sacked churches and mosques impartially.

HIS CAPTURE of Valencia was distinguished for its brutality. His hard-bitten wife defended the city for two years after The Cid's death.

The movie Cid, however, spends his life aiding Spanish kings who bite the hand that feeds them. This Cid has all the Boy Scout virtues except obedience, which he obeys solely for the good of Spain.

He thus resembles The Cid of simulation.

glamorous, twelfth century legend, not The Cid of harsh, eleventh century fact, but the resemblance is flawed.

THE LEGENDARY Cid was a Christian champion against the Moors; the movie Cid is a champion of Spanish nationalism, which was innocuous in the eleventh or twelfth century.

A second flaw involves ethics. Early medieval notions of law and justice differed markedly from our own, but had some elements in common.

The movie might have shown the differences clearly, or concentrated on common elements.

INSTEAD IT muddies the waters. Problems of honor and treason are posed but resolved by neither medieval nor modern thinking.

They work out by quirk. Still, El Cid is a gorgeous movie, and we would be entertained even if the characters spoke incomprehensible Old Spanish. It might even be better that way.

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Sculptor

(Continued from 1-D)

for stylization and exaggeration, but none whatever for distortion. This does not mean that he does not like abstracts, for one of his major works in the Detroit area, the "Sculptured Metal Mural" in the Ford auditorium is an abstract. This, incidentally, is the largest seven-foot-metal sculpture in the world.

4113 Woodward is unique in that all of the work on each project is done right there. The casting of the metal sculpture, of course, is done at a foundry. The Crucifixion group was sent to Norway to be cast. That and "The Spirit of Detroit" are thought to be the largest bronzes to cross the Atlantic with the exception of the Statue of Liberty, which must be considered a building.

THE FREDERICKS studio at

State Department Building in Washington, D. C. UPON RECEIVING the Gold Medal for Fine Arts from the American Institute of Architects in 1952, Fredericks stated: "Sculpture can be used to identify a building with its purpose, to indicate the spirit in which the building was conceived, to give that building something personal which no other building has. . . . This identification principle is evident in the design of the fountain for the State Department Building, the title of which is, "Man's Adventure into the Expanding Universe."

It is a super being (not divine) seated on a sphere which is the universe. In the outstretched hands of the bronze figure are two new planets to be set off into space. The bronze sphere is covered with over 2,000 nickel stars in the exact pattern of the celestial system. AROUND THE sphere is a free standing, cantilevered, polished nickel orbit. The base is glass mosaic. Again, the vital statistics fall into the realm of giants. The metal portion will weigh 12 tons and the height of the piece, to be completed next October, will be 26 feet. There are many works in progress at the Woodward Avenue studio. Fredericks estimates that he has six years work ahead which he hopes to complete in about two.

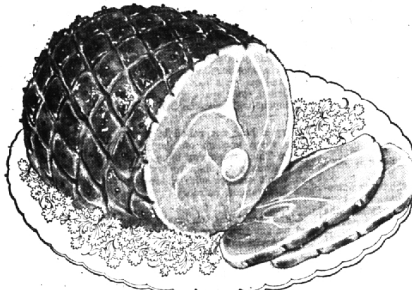
JUST A FEW of these are a 46-foot fountain of bronze and Norwegian granite for the Mall in Cleveland, a 36-foot bronze Indian and swans for the Milwaukee Public Museum, projects for New York City, Port Huron, Cincinnati and preparations for a one-man exhibition in California in October. Start buying U. S. Savings Bonds today. It's one of the best ways to invest in a comfortable future, and your country's freedom.

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