

Extension Course Studies Situation In Cuba Today

Nearly 300 Michigan citizens in six cities are seeking better understanding of Communist Cuba and other Latin American problems through a University of Michigan Extension course.

"Survey of Latin America," being taught in Muskegon, Grand Haven, Flint, Birmingham, Port Huron and Mt. Clemens brings many viewpoints to bear on the critical problems emerging in our neighbor nations to the south.

Coordinated by Prof. Robert J. Niess of the U-M romance languages department, course sessions in each city feature presentations by Michigan specialists in political science, geography, languages, zoology, public health and other areas.

ALTHOUGH the course has been given in the past, "it has new relevance and meaning now that Castro and related problems have emerged," Niess noted.

"One of the purposes of this course is to find the social, economic and other causes which bring about such situations as the one in Cuba. If we understand a situation we are better prepared to do something about it," he said.

Ceramics

(Continued from 1-D)

express himself, with the possible exception of cave art, was through the use of clay," Foster said.

"And?" Pitney added, "When man made his first pot, he probably couldn't resist taking a thumb and putting a mark in the clay."

and the created object is more intimate in our art than any other — no tools are needed. The more tools, the farther away you get from the intimacy that can be expressed in art."

Pitney interrupted his friend, "After all, tools are just an extension of the fingers."

"True," said Foster, "And I like to see fingermarks on a piece of clay. It shows the relationship between the person and the material."

a piece is created because the artist feels an urge to make it. Foser laughed at the idea of waiting for inspiration. "It would take three lifetimes for me to make all the things I have in mind."

Foster illustrated the theory of form growing out of function through his hobby of "bonsai," the ancient Chinese art of growing miniature trees. The artist made pots for each of the delicately beautiful trees in his backyard. Each pot enhances the beauty of the particular tree and seems to suit the character of the growth pattern.

IN BACKGROUND, the two men differ. Foster attended the Wicker Art School in Detroit, continued at the University of Michigan, and then went with Ford Motor Company as a ceramic engineer. While working in industrial ceramics, he was busy at home in creative ceramics. Finally the latter won out.

William E. Pitney's whole background is related to the teaching field. He graduated from Pratt Institute and after teaching briefly went to the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred where he received his M.A. degree. He came directly to Wayne State from there.

TALKING WITH the two men, one soon realizes that the art of taking basic elements from the earth, shaping and heating them leads to more than a craft, it leads to a love of nature, and a philosophy of life.

Archives Auction Raises \$43,000

"Upwards of \$43,000" was earned by the recent auction and sale to benefit the Archives of American Art, it was announced by Miss Milka Incomomoff, of Hanna, Birmingham.

The success of the project, sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Interior Designers, was announced at a meeting of the Detroit Association of Contributors to the Archives of American Art. Miss Incomomoff is vice-president of the association.

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THE MEN STRESSED that it is a human reaction to desire to form and shape things. Even a small child will show the desire to express himself when he begins making mud pies and sand houses.

In many children the urge fades away, but both artists admitted to their surprise that as small boys neither could resist picking up bits of clay and forming it into shapes.

Foster found his first material at a brickyard on Michigan Avenue and Pitney who says that he always had an inherent desire to make pots found some clay in the backyard on his family home on Long Island. From that first contact neither was able to shake off the urge to shape and form beauty from the earth's materials.

THEY DISCUSSED the fact that there has been a tremendous increase in great and active pottery in the last 25 years and a particularly great acceleration in the last ten. Why?

Foster ventured a guess. "Nowadays, people have more leisure time, better information and selective taste. As a result, they demand things of higher quality." He stopped for a moment and added, "The sensitive person needs the potter again, he demands more than a mass produced article."

Why does a person become a potter?

Pitney had a ready answer. "Because it's exciting. Once you gain skill, it's quick. Of course, getting the initial ability takes time. It looks easy, but it isn't."

Foster nodding in agreement expressed another idea. "A person becomes a potter because he enjoys it, not to make money, but because it provides the greatest satisfaction."

A QUESTION about inspiration brought forth many thoughts. A potter can work from one of several directions. Form may evolve out of function or consideration of what the piece will be used for. Or a piece may be designed simply for decoration. Both felt that often

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South Oakland Dance Concert Starts Season

A dance concert will be the first event of the season for the South-Oakland County Community Concert Association.

Kovach and Rabovsky and Co. will perform on Oct. 27 at 8:15 p.m. in the Oak Park High School Auditorium. Admission is by membership in the concert association only.

When performing with the Budapest State Ballet of Hungary on tour in East Berlin, they escaped to the West. They have since appeared in this country with the Washington Ballet and the National Symphony.

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