Artistry in Glass

Birmingham Artist Betty Conn of 30855 Southfield Road (left) spoke at a recent board meeting and luncheon of the Grace Hospital Auxiliary at the Village Woman's Club. The discussion and a film centered around "Adventures in Glass." Viewing glass artistry are Mrs. George S. Olmsted, 3535 Burning Bush, Birmingham (center) and Mrs. Don A. Young, 376 Dunston Road, Bloomfield Hills.

'Messiah' Brought Rebirth to Composer

Of all the music associated with Christmas, perhaps no composition so well embodies the spirit of the holiday as Handel's "Messiah."

The great oratorio has enthralled countless audiences. It has been said to have brought more money for charity than any other single piece of music.

And it marked a rebirth for its composer.

George Friderick Handel was virtually a has-been in 1741. London had grown tired of his Italian operas and of him. More than once he had barely missed being thrown into debtors' prison, and his health was beginning to fail.

Then came a commission from the lord lieutenant of Ireland and the governors of three charitable institutions for Handel to conduct a series of charity concerts. He began to compose a new piece for the tour.

HANDEL WAS NOT an especially religious man, but something seemed to possess him as he worked.

For some 23 days he kept to his study, refusing to see any visitors, leaving his food untouched and working through the night. Now he played the harpsichord, now he sang, then back to the writing.

His servants thought he was going mad. Often they found him in tears.

When he finished the "Hallelujah Chorus," he declared, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself."

On April 13, 1742, 700 people crowded into a Dublin music hall for the premiere of "Messiah." It was a resounding success.

At the first English performance a year later, King George II was so overwhelmed by the "Hallelujah Chorus" that he rose from his seat and stood throughout the section. The audience, of course, followed the example of their king, and so began a custom which survives to our day.

Despite the king's appreciation, however, London was not ready to accept Handel and the concert failed.

It was not until Handel began directing annual benefit performances of "Messiah" at the London Foundling Hospital in the 1750's that his adopted countrymen came to recognize it as a masterpiece, and once again gave him their acclaim.

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Libraries Ask State For Budget Increase

The State Board for Libraries will ask the Legislature for a $2,256,128 budget in 1964-65 to support the State Library and expand a state aid program to public libraries, Genevieve M. Casey, Board Secretary and State Librarian, announced.

Included is some $300,000 which the library anticipates receiving in federal aid for rural libraries.

Major share of the request is for an increase in state aid from $420,000 to $1 million to establish a pilot program of library "systems", in addition to continuing present state aid to public libraries not ready to affiliate into systems.

According to Miss Casey, a library "system" is one or more public libraries maintained by one or more governmental units serving at least 100,000 persons or 50,000 if the area served has a population density of less than 35 per square mile.

MISS CASEY said, "Because a new state aid law is the essential first step to better public library service, a new proposal will be introduced in the 1964 Legislature to authorize grants to systems of libraries.

"Passage of new library legislation would require an increase in state aid. Our request for $1 million in state aid would extend library service to 200,000 persons now without it and lay the basis for development of new patterns of cooperation among libraries."

Referring to $956,128 in the budget earmarked for the State Library, Law Library, the U. P. branch in Escanaba and the Library for the Blind, Miss Casey said the increase—some $235,000 over this year's appropriation—is necessary to meet the increased demands for materials and services from public libraries, government, education and general public.

SHE CITED the need for special programs:

- Improved library service to state penal institutions and mental hospitals, featuring direct bookmobile service, consultant services and revolving book collections from the State Library.
- Expanded school library consultant services to meet demands from 1,500 school districts and 18 junior colleges.
- Special libraries in state agencies, centrally coordinated and administered, to avoid duplication of books and documents and insure maximum use of departmental libraries. This would pave the way for a system of information storage and retrieval, making available quickly and efficiently all information in state agency libraries.
- Expanded service to the Legislature to provide year-round service to special committees and obviate the need for costly special research assistants.
- A library education program to train librarians for new library systems and to secure qualified personnel for Michigan libraries.

Answers to Puzzle No. 787

A	M	E	L	I	A		S	C	R	E	W		F	A	R	M
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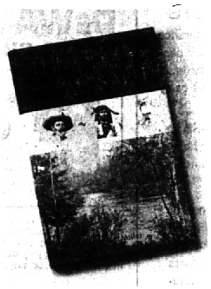

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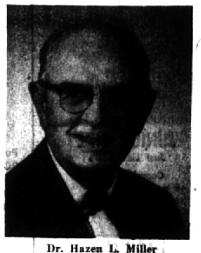
About The Author

Hazen L. Miller graduated from the Medical School of the University of Michigan in 1920. He is a urologist practicing in the suburbs north of Detroit. Some of his other interests are books, history, fly-fishing, art, old maps and unusual people.

Dr. Miller has a retreat on the North Branch of the Au Sable which he calls Aswe Wood, a name derived from "As You Like It." Over the door are Shakespeare's lines:

"And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and goods in everything:
I would not change it."



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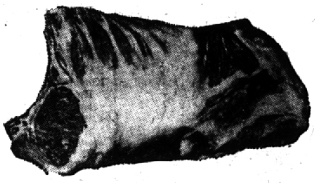

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