

Ancient Oriental Art Ornaments Holidays at Little Gallery



MARIE MEREDITH AND INDIAN "TROUSSEAU CASKET"

AT CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

Young People's Opera Tells Story of Noah and the Flood

Christ Church Cranbrook is undertaking an unusual program—a church opera written basically for young people.

"Noe's Fludde," by Benjamin Britten, will be presented in the church at 4 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday. The performances are in connection with the conventions of the National Opera Association and the National Association of Teachers of Singing today through Monday in Detroit.

Based on a 19th-century miracle play, this story of Noah and the Ark was first produced in England in 1958, the year of its composition. The first performance was later cut for London records.

PRUDENCE NESBITT, sister of the Rev. T. H. Michael Nesbitt of the clergy staff, is directing the production. Miss Nesbitt, who recently arrived here from London where she produced and directed educational TV shows for the BBC, has seen the opera performed in London.

The choral portions of the opera will be sung by the Junior and Youth Choirs from the church, augmented by students from Brookside School Cranbrook and Kingswood School Cranbrook.

Young people featured in the cast include Jerry Hipps, Robin Turner and Carolyn Thomas, all members of the Youth Choir; Linda Allen, Adult Choir; and Richard Chapman and Trevor Hall, members of the Boys' Choir of St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

PLAYING THE orchestral score will be five members of the Detroit Symphony; a group of amateur string players being gathered

Cranbrook Accepts Registrations for Night Art Classes

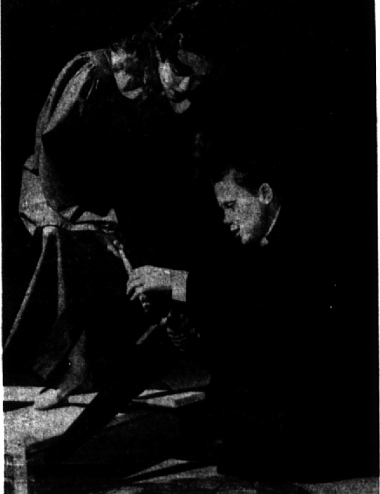
Registrations are being accepted for the winter term of the adult evening and drawing classes offered by Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries. The term begins Jan. 7 and continues through March 10.

by Bertha Seifert of Kingswood; a large group of recorder players, led by George Duncan of the Michigan Conservatory of Music; a battery of percussion instruments under the direction of Eugene Hanson of Birmingham's Seaholm High School; a quartet of buglers; and a handbell group led by Ennis Frahauf.

Don Prieur of the Wayne State

University School of Music will portray the leading role of Noah. Mrs. Noah will be played by Nora Skitch, Detroit contralto. Rev. Nesbitt will be the Voice of God. Harold Smart, director of art at Brookside, has charge of the setting and costumes.

The opera will be conducted by Robert Bates, organist and choir-master at the church.



HAMMER AND SAW in hand, Robin Turner, 15, and Jerome Hipps, 13, begin construction on Noah's Ark for the Christ Church Cranbrook production of "Noe's Fludde." Members of the church Youth Choir, they will sing in the young people's opera.

Japan, Thailand, India Featured

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Arts Editor

Viewing the exhibit, "Ancient Arts of the Orient," with Albert deSalle to explain the art forms of Japan, India and Thailand, was like having a fascinating guided museum tour. DeSalle of Little Gallery, 915 E. Maple, Birmingham, spent February to May in the Orient, selecting articles for the show. Two rooms are devoted to Japanese art and one is Thai and Indian.

"This is an unusual exhibition here," said deSalle. "We're best-known for contemporary. But when we travel we pick up things we think people would enjoy, regardless of period and place. We have already had contemporary Oriental."

DeSalle said that while many people are familiar with Japanese scrolls, "the Japanese also are among the great bookmakers of the world."

B'ham Sees Growth of Arts in '63

The Birmingham-Bloomfield area, already an acknowledged center of artistic and cultural activities, continued its growth in these creative directions during 1963.

Three new galleries opened in Birmingham. The Raven Gallery, 136 Brownzintal, moved from Detroit in July. Besides exhibitions of painting, sculpture and other art, the Raven brought an opportunity to enjoy entertainment, such as folk music and opera, and meals in a relaxed atmosphere. America House, first branch of New York's America House crafts gallery, opened in May at 5559 E. Maple, adjacent to and franchised by Englanders. Works by Michigan and North Central Area craftsmen are emphasized in exhibits that supplement regular sales.

KENILWORTH Galleries, 165 Pierce, was another summer newcomer to Birmingham. Artists from throughout the world are displayed at the galleries on an exclusive basis in the Midwest.

The music world made news in June with the naming of Wayne Dunlap as conductor for the South Oakland Symphony's 1963-64 season. Dunlap was one of the symphony's guest conductors during 1962 and conducted the Saginaw Symphony in 1959-62.

In academic circles, Michigan State University-Oakland not only gained a new name as Oakland University but graduated its first class, at summer commencement.

THE BLOOMFIELD ART Association, which operates the Birmingham Art Center at 1516 S. Cranbrook, sponsored its first European art tour for members last spring. The group was announced recently for a 1964 trip to the Greek Islands and Europe.

Birmingham Town Hall presented a 10 p.m. physicist Dr. Werner von Braun in March as a highlight of its ninth season. Author and lecturer Cornelia Otis Skinner opened the 10th series this fall in the Birmingham Theater.

Tying a decorative bow June 16-23 was the sixth annual Birmingham Arts Festival. There were large turnouts for the musical comedy, "The High Coat of Loving," and for the combo clash in which teen-aged musicians vied for prizes.

Classic Theatre's Repertory Company is entering the final phase of rehearsals for "Shakespeare 400," a six-month program of four Shakespearean plays.

The series, which will introduce the new theatre, will open Jan. 15 with "Julius Caesar." Other plays to be presented are "As You Like It," "Antony and Cleopatra" and "Romeo and Juliet."

He opened a book made in 1700, with individual paintings of 30 temples of Kyoto. "The figures are minute and lifelike," he said. The pages were spread accordion-style so all the paintings could be viewed at one time.

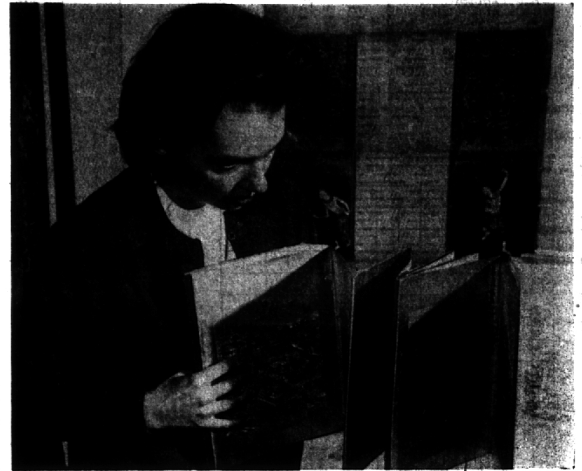
Boxes were made for these books which the owners would put away in wall cabinets. Another book, from 1710, combined poems by one Japanese with illustrations by another.

Said deSalle: "The enjoyment of the poetry is cartographic too, as well as the enjoyment of beauty. The artist tries to catch the feeling of the poem, as well as illustration."

THE GALLERY Director showed three pieces from a scroll which rolled horizontally. "This was not intended for display on walls," he said. "It was intended, as the books, to be looked at."

The original scroll depicted an attempt to invade China in 1650 and was painted in about 1750. It has been cut into 25 individual pieces.

Five water colors, taken from another book, showed "amusing, highly personal things such as people crossing the river in boats." Two water colors from an important series of an Emperor were overlaid with flakes of gold, frequently used to suggest clouds, depth and for decoration." (See ART 5-D)



SALLY SAUNDERS AND JAPANESE FOLDING BOOK

Fund Honors Late Arts Patron

A memorial fund has been established by the family and friends of the late Mrs. William J. (Eleanor Edythe) Poplack, 40, of 511 Lake Park Drive, Birmingham, who was an art patron and collector.

The income from the fund, which will be known as the Eleanor E. Poplack Memorial Scholarship Fund, will be made available to qualified young persons enabling them to participate in the "Art Workshops for Young People" at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Representatives from neighborhood centers and public schools will help select the recipients.

Mrs. Poplack was most active with the Archives of American Art, serving as chairman of their

first fund-raising drive. She was greatly responsible for making this organization and Detroit become the most renowned art information center on American art in this country.

RECENTLY, Eleanor Poplack served as an active member of the newly-established "Docent" Committee of the Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts, whose purpose is to provide guides and lectures for visiting groups of school children to the museum.

An active supporter of the Founders Society, the Detroit Artists Market and the Bloomfield Art Association, she contributed

many volunteer hours to these cultural groups.

Her collection of paintings, composed mainly of American art, was lent to many museums throughout the United States and Canada and has been used in the cultural exchange programs in Latin America and the Iron Curtain countries sponsored by the State Department.

THE DETROIT INSTITUTE of Arts has on many occasions borrowed pieces from her collection.

Friends and associates of Mrs. Poplack are being invited to contribute to this scholarship fund through the Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts.

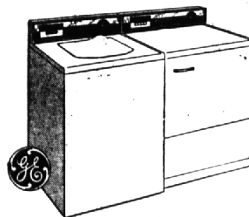
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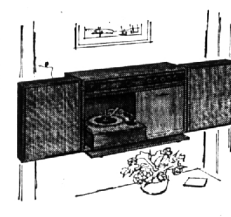
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