

Campus Artists Face Problems Of Acceptance

ANN ARBOR—The artist teaching at a college or university is a somewhat odd fish on the campus, according to Robert Iglehart, chairman of the University of Michigan Department of Art.

"His curious implements, models and puzzling products raise doubts in the minds of our colleagues in history and classical studies," says Iglehart.

"Fortunately, the artist is rivaled as a curiosity by the more esoteric professors of the more esoteric sciences.

"AS A MATTER of fact, it could be argued that the artist is more uneasy on campus than the campus is to have him. He has been long in exile. He tends to think of himself as in revolt," says Iglehart.

"Suddenly he is an associate professor with a regular income and a vote in the faculty senate. He fears domestication and suspects that neglect and oppression are necessary to his career."

"I am told that comparable problems arise in the schools of theology. This is comforting but does not suggest any short-term solutions," says Iglehart.

"Incidentally, it seems to me our students find the campus a more natural environment than do many of the faculty."

IGLEHART CLAIMS we have developed a sort of folklore image of the artist which would have surprised the decorators of Solomon's temple or Leonardo da Vinci.

"Isn't it somewhere near the truth to say that we expect the artist to be rather thin, dressed with some eccentricity, probably moody and unreliable, in practical affairs, unreasonably hostile to ideas held as a matter of course by the rest of us, and a doubtfully desirable son-in-law?"

"Even when we meet an artist who turns out to be fat, conventionally attired, happy, reliable, and not unprosperous, we view him as the exception which proves the rule, and hold fast to our familiar image. In any event, he is still a doubtfully desirable son-in-law."

Iglehart concludes, "There are problems of adjustment on the part of both the universities and the art faculties. Nevertheless, both stand to gain from the association. The artist on campus integrates the arts into the accepted disciplines. And the university provides the physical and human resources the artist needs to solve the problems of art."

U-M Library Adds Cartoons From Britain

ANN ARBOR—Fifty-five British cartoons of the Revolutionary period added this year to the collections of the University of Michigan William L. Clements Library help to give some idea of how the American Revolution appeared to the English man in the street.

"Finest acquisition of the library's year, the cartoons are colored and black-and-white. They were found in Europe and brought here by a New York dealer, providing a rare opportunity to boost our limited holdings," Howard H. Peckham, director of the library says.

"They relate almost entirely to the Revolutionary period, although a handful jibe at our embargo difficulties and the War of 1812," says Peckham.

"BETTER THAN critical pamphlets, perhaps, they demonstrate public reaction in Britain to government policies, especially those that failed to conciliate or subdue the Americans. The British cartoons, plus the few on hand, comprise a significant collection for research."

The manuscript collection was enriched by the purchase of a group of 120 letters from and to General Nathanael Greene during the American Revolution.

"Many of them, addressed to his wife, are full and frank," Peckham said.

"They are a valuable addition to our Greene papers because they have always been held by private collectors and were never seen by historians."

DESCRIBING THE acquisitions by broad subject categories, Peckham notes:

"We succeeded in adding 42 titles to our Shaker Collection, including two rare pamphlets of the 18th Century. These items plus 10 time books and 25 pieces of sheet music, and 36 pamphlets dealing with slavery account for more than a third of our acquisitions dated in the 19th Century."

"The colonial and Revolutionary period is represented by 16 titles, and seven more deal with Indian affairs and captivities. The adoption of the Constitution and the extent of federal power are the topic of 11 titles."

"Exploration and interior travel are the subject of 14 books. Sermons and religious works are represented by 28 titles. Smaller groups of books fall into the sub-medical, anti-Masonry, The War of 1812 and humor."

State Negroes Sought Civil Rights in 1843

The Negro in Michigan — 120 years ago—made the same appeals and challenges that the southern Negro is currently making.

The minutes of the 1843 "State Convention of the Colored Citizens of Michigan," now on display in the William L. Clements Library at The University of Michigan, illustrate well that the quest for equality now being made by southern Negroes has not always been confined to the states below the Mason-Dixon line.

The keynote speaker for the convention, William Lambert of Detroit, sounding very much like Dr. Martin Luther King today, stressed that "the time has come for us to be united in sentiment and action, and to speak out in our own defense upon the great cause of Human Liberty and Equal Rights."

ARGUING FOR the right of the Negro to vote Lambert said, "We are an oppressed people wishing to be free."

"History informs us that the liberties of an oppressed people are obtained only in proportion to their own exertions in their own cause."

The equality which Lambert sought was not only political, but economic.

He asked the convention, "Shall we not infuse into the minds of our young men, and posterity, a disposition to be free, and leave their present low and degraded employment and endeavor to obtain mechanic arts and follow agricultural pursuits?"

All of this could not be done by the Negro alone, but the keynote was aware that there were many white citizens who backed their cause.

HE SAID, "Our cause has attracted the attention of our op-

pressors, and caused many to cry out 'go on Thou Genius of Liberty, go on.' The friends of liberty throughout the civilized world have hailed it, and now stand cheering us to go on."

That convention, 120 years ago, rallied around the cause espoused by Lambert and vowed all-out support for the advancement of the status of the Negro in Michigan.

As a body it advocated the removal of the word "white" from the article in the State constitution

which withheld the vote from Negroes.

FOR THOSE who think the Negro revolution today is a new phenomenon the words of the convention minutes speak for themselves. They read, "We the representatives of the oppressed of this State will continue to write, publish, cry aloud, and spare not, in opposition to all political injustice until the blessings of Equal Political Liberty shall have been extended to all men."

As if it were a warning to 20th century America the last resolution of the 1843 meeting echoes down through the years.

"And let it be resolved that we will whisper in the ears of our white brethren that the time is now far distant when they can no longer stifle in us the spirit of liberty."

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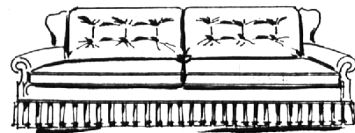
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