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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

Summer 1998

The South Dakota Art Museum News, Summer1998

South Dakota Art Museum

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Donations of *Native American Art*

Paintings of *Godfrey Broken Rope*

The South Dakota Art Museum's collection of Native American Art has been greatly enriched by the gift of one South Dakota family. In 1997, Ray and Gayle Sturdevant of Brookings gave the Museum two paintings by Native American artist Godfrey W. Broken Rope. Ray and Gayle are the son and daughter-in-law of longtime Museum supporter Verna Sturdevant.

Irene Cordts from Faulkton, South Dakota, gave the Art Museum a Godfrey Broken Rope painting in 1994. Irene is Verna Sturdevant's sister and Ray's aunt. The family was introduced to Broken Rope's art when Irene and Verna met him on a vacation to Montana. Broken Rope lived for many years in Billings, Montana.

Artist Godfrey W. Broken Rope was born in 1906 at Okreek, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation of south-central South Dakota. He attended school in Rapid City, Flandreau, and Pine Ridge. A self-taught Episcopal minister who called his artistic talent a gift from God, Broken Rope often used his painting as a means of delivering a religious message. He regularly painted and spoke at sidewalk showings, for interested groups, and in public places. He liked to be where people could see his work and he could talk to them.

Broken Rope's last major project was painting a mural to enhance his collection of Indian history at the Bonanzaville Indian Museum in West Fargo, North Dakota. Returning to South Dakota to spend his last years, Broken Rope died in 1989 at the age of eighty-two.

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Top: Untitled oil painting by Godfrey Broken Rope, gift of Ray and Gayle Sturdevant.
Bottom: Untitled oil painting by Godfrey Broken Rope, gift of Irene A. Cordts.

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Hairpipe Breastplate

Vogele gift

The South Dakota Art Museum has gratefully accepted funding for the acquisition of a hairpipe breastplate from Catherine and Kenneth Vogele of Rapid City, South Dakota. The breastplate was made in the early 1900s, and is a very important addition to the Native American Collection. It was worn as a companion piece to the Lakota beaded-yoke deerskin dress that was given to the Museum in 1990 by the Guild to honor the South Dakota Art Museum's twentieth anniversary.

Both items had belonged to the late Emma Amiotte of Rapid City, and originally to Emma's mother, Maggie Red Bear. Emma had been a close family friend of the Vogeles, and they felt the two pieces belonged together. When an opportunity arose to acquire the breastplate, they generously arranged to fund its purchase for the Museum's Native American Collection.

We recognize the generosity of both of these donations and value the gifts that will help to preserve the history of the Native American culture in South Dakota.



Portrait of Maggie Red Bear wearing the Lakota beaded-yoke deerskin dress, given by the Museum Guild, and the hairpipe breastplate, purchase funded by Kenneth and Catherine Vogele.

Perfection, Never Less: *The Vera Way Marghab Story*

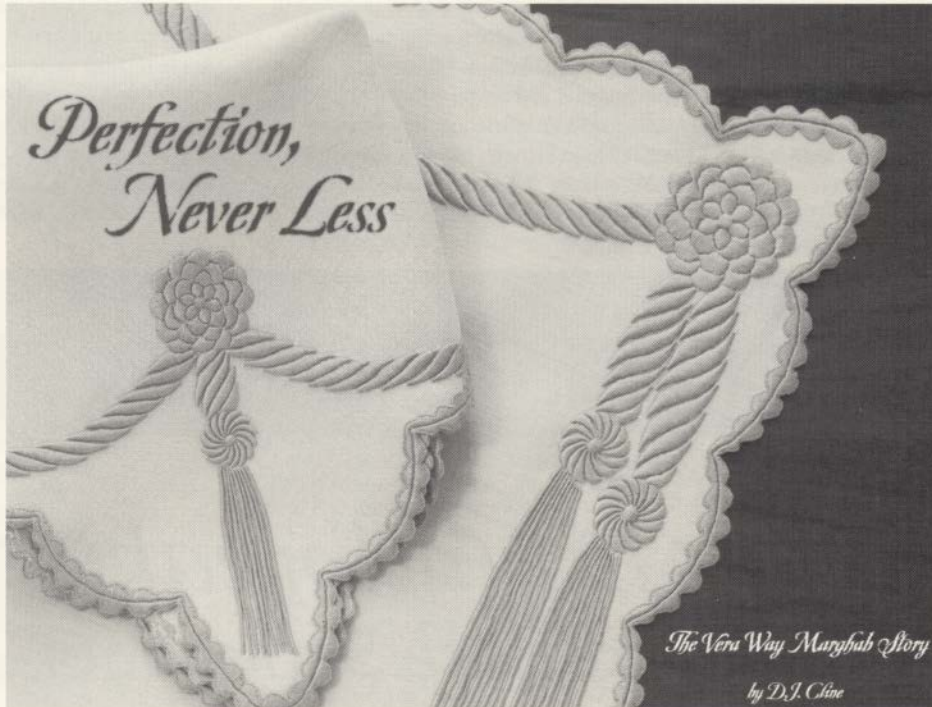
The South Dakota Art Museum is pleased to announce the release of *Perfection, Never Less: The Vera Way Marghab Story*. Written by author D. J. Cline of Brookings, South Dakota, this much anticipated book is the true story of Mrs. Marghab's extraordinary life. Cline, who was Marghab's business associate and close personal friend, was commissioned to write the story by the trustees of Vera's estate following her death in 1995. A former associate professor of journalism at South Dakota State University, D. J. Cline retired as professor emerita in 1985 and is now a freelance writer.

Perfection, Never Less is a coffee table book that is lavishly illustrated with color photographs of the hand-embroidered Marghab Linen designs, as well as a generous number of Vera's personal family photographs.

Beginning with the birth of Vera Way at the turn of the century, the book traces the path of her life from Watertown, South Dakota, to New York City, crosses the Atlantic Ocean to the island of Madeira, then comes full circle back to South Dakota.

Vera Way Marghab with her husband, Emile Marghab, established Marghab Linens, Ltd. in 1934 on Madeira, a Portuguese island known for the skill of its embroidresses. Mrs. Marghab's passion for perfection in all things dominated the linen business. As a result, the linens designed by Mrs. Marghab and hand-embroidered on Madeira, are of a quality and elegance unsurpassed, then and now. The linens are known worldwide for their exquisite beauty, and they have been owned and enjoyed by ambassadors, presidents, and royalty.

A pioneer in the world of women entrepreneurs, Mrs. Marghab successfully managed Marghab Linens, Ltd. on her own for more than thirty years after her husband's death. The book records her experiences as the head of an international business at a time when it was uncommon for women to



work outside the home.

Because of the Portuguese government's increasingly restrictive policies, the business was forced to close in 1978. Marghab Linens are no longer produced, and they have become rare and extremely collectible. In 1970, Mrs. Marghab donated a complete linen collection to the South Dakota Art Museum where it is available for viewing in the Marghab Gallery.

This book evolved from Mrs. Marghab's

desire to chronicle her life experiences for future generations. The book and the linens are the legacy of Vera Way Marghab's quest for perfection, and a celebration of her remarkable life.

Perfection, Never Less: The Vera Way Marghab Story will be available for purchase exclusively at the South Dakota Art Museum Gift Shop. Sales will begin on Friday, September 18, 1998, with a book signing to be held at the South Dakota Art Museum from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Author, D.J. Cline, will sign the first edition books. A second book signing with the author is slated for Sunday, September 20, 1998, at the Arts on Broadway Gallery in Watertown, South Dakota. It will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., and books will be available for purchase during the event.



D.J. Cline, author of *Perfection, Never Less: The Vera Way Marghab Story*.

Museum *Online*

The South Dakota Art Museum will enter the next millennium via the "INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY!" Visit the Museum and its various collections by tapping into our website at <http://www.sdstate.edu/~wsam/http/art1.html>. The Art Museum's home page is linked to other locations featuring information on the Harvey Dunn, Oscar Howe, Native American, and American Art Collections. For those interested in Marghab Linens, there is a site containing Marghab

information and history, as well as a second page with images and descriptions of the many designs.

The website, still in the early stages of development, is an exciting new form of outreach for the Museum. An ongoing process of changes and additions will make it a burgeoning resource for the future.

Now, we can also communicate through E-mail. Contact us at our E-mail address, sdam@mg.sdstate.edu

WWW <http://www.sdstate.edu/~wsam/http/art1.html>

E-Mail sdam@mg.sdstate.edu

September 18

Official Groundbreaking

Museum to close September 21

The advent of construction on the South Dakota Art Museum's new wing will become official on Friday, September 18, 1998, as groundbreaking ceremonies commemorate the event. Donors, museum members, and the public are welcome to attend the celebration. South Dakota State University President Peggy Gordon Elliott, acting director John Awald, and Art Museum Board of Trustees President Ann McKay Thompson will

be among the dignitaries to unearth the first spadefuls of soil.

The event will take place on the campus green south of the existing building at 11:30 in the morning, and will include a brief program followed by a reception for invited guests.

Following the weekend of groundbreaking and inaugural festivities for President Elliott, the Art Museum will close on Monday, September 21. Museum Offices and Gift Shop will

reopen for business on Monday, September 28, after moving to second floor Wecota Hall on the campus of SDSU. Telephone and fax numbers remain the same.

The Museum is expected to remain closed for eighteen months to two years for extensive building renovations and the construction of a new 8500-square foot wing.

Exhibitions Curator *Resigns*

Francine Marcel, exhibitions curator at the South Dakota Art Museum since January 1991, has resigned to accept a similar position at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, Montana. "It's a great opportunity for me to combine my love of art with my love of the outdoors," she commented on her decision to leave South Dakota. "Helena has an active arts community, and of course,

the mountains are close by for hiking and skiing." We wish Francine well in her new endeavor.

Nancy Hartenhoff, director of the Community Cultural Center, is now working as acting exhibitions curator, on a part-time basis. The position will be permanently filled after a new Museum director has been named.

In Memorial Helen Walters

Helen Walters, a longtime Museum member and volunteer, passed away June 11, 1998, at the United Retirement Center in Brookings.

Miss Walters was born in Bruce, and attended school in Brookings. She graduated from South Dakota State University, and in 1956, earned her master's degree in library science from Florida State University. She worked for many years as the high school librarian in Lead, South Dakota, before retiring to Brookings in 1968.

Helen was active in the community and as a docent and Guild member at the South Dakota Art Museum.

Janet Pearson

The South Dakota Art Museum recently lost a valued supporter and dear friend. Janet Pearson, 73, died at her home in Brookings on May 19, 1998. She was born in White Rock and grew up in Sisseton, South Dakota. She attended Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1946.

While working in Chicago, Janet met her husband, the late David F. Pearson. They married in 1946. Mr. Pearson was the vice president for administration at South Dakota State University and was instrumental to the establishment of the South Dakota Art Museum in 1970.

Janet was very active in church and community activities. She was a docent at the South Dakota Art Museum, as well as a member of the Museum Guild. She was a very positive presence at the Museum and in the community.

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The South Dakota Art Museum needs YOU

Members As a Museum member, your benefits include the *South Dakota Art Museum News*, invitations to member-only events and a 10% discount on gift shop purchases and special program fees. Your name also will be included in the membership list in the summer issue of the *News* each year.

Gifts In addition to your dues, your contribution to the Museum Endowment will purchase works of art and provide for facility maintenance in the coming years. These contributions also fund publications, scholarly research on collections, conservation of art works and their restoration. To acknowledge the role you play in preserving our state's artistic legacy, your name will be listed as a contributor to the Museum Endowment in the summer issue of the *South Dakota Art Museum News*. Contributors of \$1,000 or more to the Museum Endowment will be acknowledged as exhibition sponsors in publications and news releases.

A contribution to the Building Fund will be used to construct the Museum's new addition and upgrade the existing facility. Gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Building Fund will be recognized on a plaque permanently displayed in the Museum. Substantial gifts to the building fund may be recognized by naming a gallery or the wing itself with your family name. These naming opportunities are discussed on an individual basis.

Volunteer opportunities are available.
 Call 605-688-5423 for more information.

South Dakota Art Museum Membership Application/Renewal

Name as it should appear in publication _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Annual Membership:

Student (\$15.00) _____

Individual (\$25.00) _____

Family (\$35.00) _____

Contribution:

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Total _____

Please make check payable to South Dakota Art Museum and send it with this application to:

South Dakota Art Museum

Medary Avenue at Harvey Dunn Street

Box 2250

Brookings, South Dakota 57007-0899

Membership dues are not tax deductible.

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Directions: 1 & 1/2 miles West from Interstate 29 on Hwy 14, turn right on Medary Avenue, 4 blocks to Harvey Dunn Street. Museum is on right.

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South Dakota State University

The South Dakota Art Museum

Medary Avenue at Harvey Dunn Street
Brookings, South Dakota 57007-0899
(605) 688-5423



Accredited by the American
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On Permanent Exhibition: Harvey Dunn
Paintings, Oscar Howe Paintings, Paul Goble
Illustrations, Marghab Linens, and Native American Art

Free public hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 AM -
5:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sunday and
holidays 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Closed on state holidays.
Please call for hours if you are planning a visit on or
near holidays.

**MUSEUM CLOSED AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 1998,
FOR CONSTRUCTION**

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