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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

Summer 1990

South Dakota Art Museum News, Summer 1990

South Dakota Art Museum

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SOUTH DAKOTA ART MUSEUM NEWS

GUILD CELEBRATES MUSEUM'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In a campaign led by Phyllis Bartling and Mary Thompson, the Museum Guild raised \$20,000 for acquisitions in observance of the Museum's 20th anniversary. The Guild contributed \$6,000 to the fund with proceeds from its annual Evening of Elegance fashion benefit.

\$1,000 contributions to the fund were made by Allen and Marian Barnes, Sherwood and Elizabeth Berg, Marjorie Denton, the Fishback family, Larson Manufacturing Company, Murray and Elsie Lievan, Jeannette C. Lusk, Norwest Bank, Robert and Jacqueline Sexauer in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sexauer, South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs, and Robert and Mary Thompson.

Joint donors were Lawrence and Phyllis Bartling, Tom and Mary Bezdichek, Hilton and Lillian Briggs, Brookings Savings and Loan Association, David and Naomi Gilkerson, Oscar and Elaine Olson, David and Janet Pearson, Irene Wente, and members of the Museum Guild.

The first acquisition from the fund is "Young Long Soldier," a 1982 cast bronze from an edition of 15 by Dale Lamphere of Sturgis, South Dakota. Lamphere, a native of Laramie, Wyoming, is largely self-taught as an artist, but is one of the most successful sculptors in the state. Among his recent works are four allegorical figures for the State Capitol rotunda in Pierre, commissioned as part of the 1989 South Dakota Centennial observance.

"Young Long Soldier" is a portrait of Martin Longsoldier, an Oglala Lakota Indian. The portrait was modeled during Longsoldier's rests between poses for another sculpture, "Tall Grass Walker." Having to work

quickly and using only his fingers to model the clay accounts for the spontaneous and lifelike quality of this portrait. It won best of show at the 1983 Western Art Show and Auction in Rapid City and the prestigious

Anna Hyatt Huntington Award from the American Artists Professional League in 1984.

A formal dedication of "Young Long Soldier" is planned for this fall.



Dale Lamphere's
"Young Long Soldier"

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Vol #1

SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

The American Collection. Works by 20 artists are featured in this selection from the Museum's collection of American art, including "The Badlands: Approaching April Storm," a 1984 platinum print by Milwaukee photographer J.P. Atterberry; "In the Ozarks," a 1938 Lithograph by Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975); and "Pyramid Jar with Arches," a 1976 raku and stoneware piece by Roy Strassberg of Mankato, Minnesota.

Harvey Dunn Paintings. The son of South Dakota homesteaders, Harvey Dunn (1884-1952) became a leading American illustrator and the most influential teacher of illustration after Howard Pyle, with whom he studied in Wilmington, Delaware. Dunn's last and finest paintings were about the homesteading experience in Dakota. The jewel of that series, "The Prairie Is My Garden," is included in this selection from the collection.

Oscar Howe Paintings. An outstanding student in the famous art program at the Santa Fe Indian School during the 1930s, Yanktonai Dakota Indian Oscar Howe (1915-83) of South Dakota was the first graduate to bring the decorative Santa Fe and traditional Indian pictographic styles into harmony. This selection from the collection includes one of his most abstract paintings, "Okiya" of 1968, which is based on the traditional Dakota "Tahokmu" or "Spider Web" design.

Marghab Linens. Embroidery is an ancient art in Madeira, and during 1934-78 Marghab embroidered linens from Madeira were the finest produced on the island. The Marghab enterprise, established by Emile and Vera Way Marghab, was a brilliant synthesis of superb design, the finest materials, and the most talented artisans. Selections from the Museum's 1,803-piece Marghab Collection are presented each month.

Native American Art. Dakota, Lakota, Kiowa, Navajo, and Ojibwa art is represented in this selection from the collection. A recent acquisition is a Kiowa loose-feather fan of about

1900, a gift of Joanita Kant Montieth of Watertown. The Kiowa call these "singing fans," because they are held while leading songs of worship in Native American Church services. They are also called "peyote fans," since peyote is a sacrament in Native American Church services.

The South Dakota Collection. This selection features 21 works from the collection, including "Wahktageli," an 1839 etching by Karl Bodmer (1809-93). It is based on his portrait of a Yankton Dakota leader that was

painted May 25, 1833, near present-day Chamberlain, South Dakota. "Dakota Bouquet," a 1980 drawing by Carl Grupp of Sioux Falls, has been on tour in the state for the past two years with the Museum's South Dakota Centennial exhibition, *The South Dakota Collection*. "Many Coups #5," a 1988 painting by Signe Stuart of Brookings, was one of six works purchased from *Art for a New Century*, a Centennial exhibition organized by the Museum and the Civic Fine Arts Center in Sioux Falls.

Roy Strassberg's
"Pyramid Jar with Arches"



Harvey Dunn's "The Prairie Is My Garden"

DONA BROWN NAMED LIFE MEMBER OF BOARD

Dona Brown of Huron was named Life Member of the Museum Board of Trustees by South Dakota State University president Robert T. Wagner. Brown, a member of the Board since its organization in 1969 and its president in 1976, was cited for her dedication to the Museum and her help in developing the Museum's collection of paintings by Harvey Dunn. Recent gifts by Brown and her family have increased that collection to 93 works.

Brown was born in Brookings and attended Huron High School. She earned a bachelor's in business administration and master's in education at South Dakota State University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1976. She served as a teacher and counselor in the Huron Public Schools for 43 years, and is author of the 1954

Guidance Handbook for Secondary Schools of South Dakota. She served on the South Dakota Board of Regents during 1957-69, and is included in *South Dakota 99*, a who's who that was compiled by the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader* for the 1989 Centennial observance.

A passionate collector of things ranging from thimbles to furniture, her preference in art has been for the work of South Dakotans, including Harvey Dunn, Charles Greener, Oscar Howe, and Robert Penn. Her collections seem almost modest in the 28 rooms of her restored Huron mansion, a 1903 structure that is listed on the Historic Register.

She joins Hilton Briggs of Brookings, Jeannette Lusk of Huron, and Vera Way Marghab of Watertown as Life Members of the Board.



Dona Brown



Carl Grupp's "Dakota Bouquet"

KIRKBRIDE ELECTED MUSEUM GUILD PRESIDENT

Museum Guild members elected Dee Kirkbride president, Lynnette Taylor vice president, Margy Chamberlin secretary, Cookie Perkins treasurer, Elaine Olson historian, and Joanne Johnson and Larry Stine directors-at-large at their April annual meeting. All are from Brookings.

1989-90 president Jeannette Abbey, vice president Mary Thompson, secretary Naomi Gilkerson, treasurer Ila Lushbough, historian Eleanor Evenson, and directors-at-large Edna Riley and Larry Stine were recognized for their leadership during one of the Guild's most successful years.

Guild members serve as receptionists and tour guides at the Museum, present art programs in the Brookings schools, and raise funds for Museum acquisitions.

STAFF NOTES

Cora Siverson, curator of the Marghab Collection since its acquisition in 1970, was recognized for 30 years service to South Dakota State University by SDSU president Robert T. Wagner. Siverson is professor emeritus of textiles and clothing at the University.

Lynn Optiz Steinley is due congratulations on her May wedding and appreciation for her work as interim assistant to the director. Among her contributions was the design of the *Lakota Art Treasures* touring exhibition, which premiered at the University of South Dakota Student Center in April.

Joseph Stuart, director of the Museum, was juror for the *Utah '90 Painting & Sculpture Exhibition* at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts in Salt Lake City. Stuart came to the Museum in 1971 from Salt Lake City, where he was director of the Salt Lake Art Center.

RAY PARKER DIES

Painter Ray Parker died April 14 in New York. Born August 22, 1922 in Beresford, South Dakota, Parker studied at the University of Iowa and after 1948 worked in New York, where he was at first associated with the abstract-expressionist movement. His first one-artist showing was at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis in 1950. Subsequent major showings were at the Guggenheim in 1961, San Francisco Museum of Art in 1967, and the Phillips Collection in 1979. He was represented in the Museum's first major exhibition, *The Art of South Dakota*, in 1974. Parker taught at Hunter College in New York during 1955-89, and a major retrospective of his work is scheduled there in September.

STENGEL RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BOARD

At their annual meeting in April, Museum trustees re-elected Jack Stengel of Milbank president of the Board, Ann McKay Thompson of Pierre vice president, and Rex C. Myers of Brookings secretary. As members of the executive committee, they have been involved in formulating long-range plans for the Museum, including an addition to the facility.

Stengel is an owner of Dakota Granite in Milbank. Thompson is president of Capital University Center in Pierre. Myers is dean of the College of Arts and Science at South Dakota State University.

MUSEUM AWARDED GRANTS

The South Dakota Arts Council, a state agency with funding from the Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, awarded a \$12,381 General Operating Support Grant to the Museum for the 1990-91 year. This is the Council's third GOS grant to the Museum, and its 21st consecutive year of support for the Museum.

The Institute of Museum Services, an independent federal agency that supports American museums of all kinds, granted a \$20,712 General Operating Support Award to the Museum for 1990-91. Of the 1,368 applicant museums nationwide, 390 received awards. The Museum has now received eight awards from the Institute.

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