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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

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Summer 1986

**News from the South Dakota Memorial Art Center, Summer 1986**

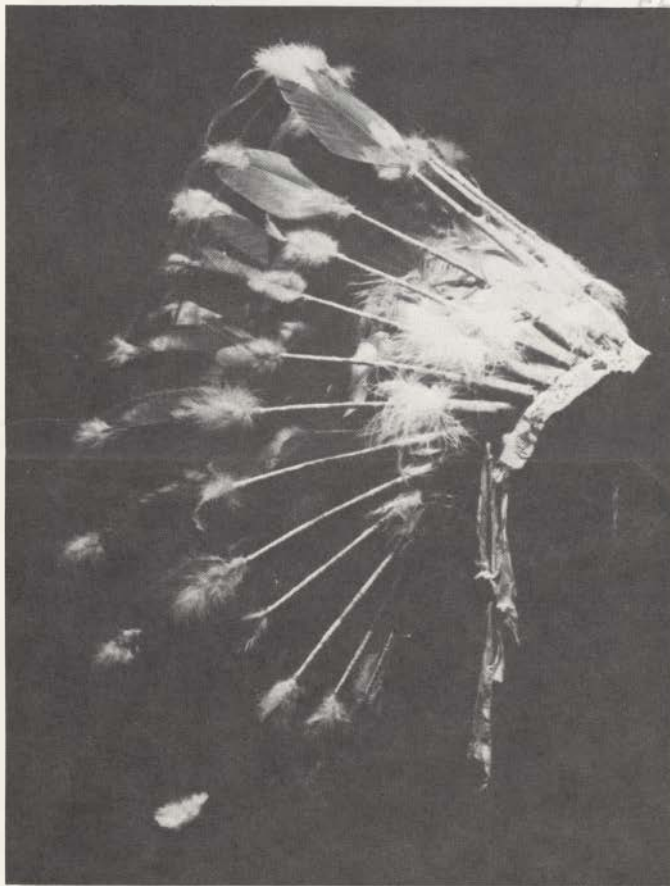
South Dakota State University

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## News from the South Dakota Memorial Art Center

Summer 1986



Crow eagle feather headdress, early 20th century.

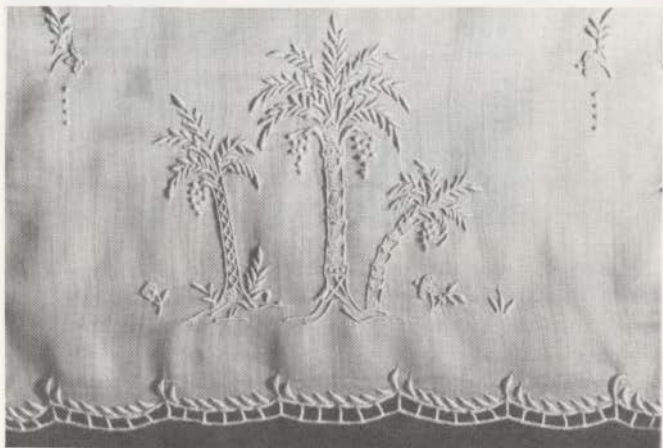
**American Indian Art** shows at the Memorial Art Center through August 31. The exhibition includes material from the Frank and Anna Dudeck, Beatrice Medicine, and Ben Reifel collections, all on loan to the Center. One of the most important works in the exhibition is a Crow eagle feather headdress from the Reifel collection, given to Dr. Reifel by Henry Kills Warrior, an Oglala Lakota (Sioux), at Oglala on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota in 1935. Twenty-five golden eagle tail feathers are attached to the felt skull cap, with all but the tips of the veins removed and the shafts wrapped with dyed porcupine quills. Two of the golden eagle's tail feathers are symmetrical center feathers, believed to be the special repository of the eagle's essence or power. Three center feathers are usually used in a headdress, but in this one there are seven, making it a particularly powerful and ostentatious piece.

**Harvey Dunn** (1884-1952) was born on a homestead in eastern South Dakota. After studies at South Dakota State University, the Art Institute of Chicago, and with Howard Pyle in Wilmington, Delaware, he was a highly successful illustrator, an artist with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during the First World War, and an influential teacher at the Grand Central School of Art and Art Student's League in New York. From ideas begin-

ning with such illustrations as "The Homesteader's Wife," Dunn produced a remarkable series of paintings about the pioneer experience in South Dakota, the body of work for which he is best known. The largest collection of his work is at the Memorial Art Center, where a selection is always on exhibition.



Harvey Dunn's "The Homesteader's Wife," 1916, oil on canvas.



Detail of a Marghab linen placemat embroidered with the "Palm Tree" design.

**The Marghab Collection**, begun by Emile and Vera Way Marghab in 1932, represents a brilliant synthesis of superb design, the finest of materials, and the unique skill of Madeira artisans, where embroidery is an ancient art. Marghab linens were once sold through the world's most exclusive shops and have been collected by such museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Vera Way Marghab, a native of Watertown, South Dakota, has given the complete collection of Marghab designs to the Memorial Art Center, where a selection from the more than 1,800 pieces is always on display.

**The Institute of Museum Services** has awarded \$17,551 in general operating support to the Memorial Art Center for the 1986-87 fiscal year. IMS director Lois Burke Shepard announced that the Institute "is proud of the contribution it has made to museums, both monetarily and in helping raise the consciousness of the public to the basic needs of museums." IMS, an independent agency within

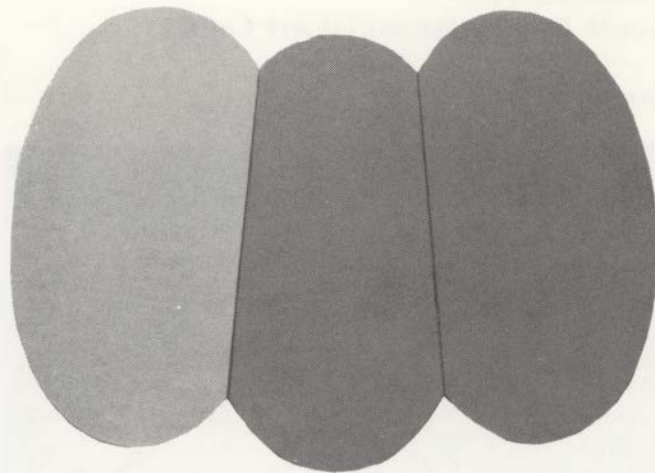
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the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, was established by Act of Congress in 1976 to assist museums in their educational role and to help them modernize their methods and facilities so that they will be better able to preserve the nation's cultural, historic, and scientific heritage. The General Operating Support award is based on the strength and quality of the applicant museum, with quality defined as the judicious management of the museum's available resources to provide the best possible services to its community and the general public. Competition for the awards was keen this year—there were 1,345 applicants and only 409 awards. This is the fifth GOS award received by the Memorial Art Center. Phyllis Bartling, president of the Memorial Art Center Board of Trustees, noted that "the Center has been obliged to rely on a combination of private, state, and federal support to care for its collections and provide quality programs for the public, and this award could not be more timely or appreciated."



**The Ada B. Erwin bequest** of 1984 — \$38,652—has been the largest single gift to the Memorial Art Center since operations began in 1970. In consultation with members of Miss Erwin's family, the Board of Trustees has established the bequest as an endowment, with earnings designated for maintenance and restoration of the art collection. In recognition of the endowment, sister Ruth Erwin Bibby (right) of Brookings presented an engraved plaque to Board president Phyllis Bartling. Members of the family are (from left) Mary Ellen Bibby Murphy of Rapid City, Betsy Bibby Holdhusen of Ipswich, and Jean and John Bibby of Brookings. Jean was a charter member of the Center Board. Miss Erwin (1888-1983), a 1909 graduate of South Dakota State University, served as head of the Home Economics Department at Punaho School in Honolulu during 1921-45, her last post in a long and distinguished career.

**South Dakota Artists**, showing through August 31, features work from the collection by 35 of the state's leading artists, including Arthur Amiotte of Custer, Mary Groth of Aberdeen, Signe Stuart of Brookings, and Martin Wanserski of Vermillion. One of the most recent acquisitions is the painting by Alice Berry of Brookings, "Red, Blue, Green Triptych," a gift of the artist. Berry is professor emeritus of art at South Dakota State University and is a docent in the Memorial Art Center Guild. Her triptych brings two major but disparate concepts into harmony—the interaction of prismatic colors and the form of folding altar paintings.



Alice Berry's "Red, Blue, Green Triptych," 1977, acrylic on canvas.

#### **1985-86 Friends of the South Dakota Memorial Art Center**

During the year of July 1, 1985 - June 30, 1986, the following individuals and organizations contributed cash, art, and services to the Memorial Art Center. In recognition of this support, we are pleased to present this roll of Friends, and pledge that we will do our utmost to justify their faith and generosity.

Phyllis Bartling, President  
Board of Trustees

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Fisher, Joanita Kant; Watertown  
Graves, Mrs. Linda; Sioux Falls  
Hepper, Carol; McGlaughlin  
Jennings, Mrs. Charles H.; Chevy Chase, MD  
Kettler, Georgiana; Minneapolis, MN  
Lawrence, Randy; Hinton, Alberta  
Marghab, Mrs. Vera Way; Watertown  
Memorial Art Center Guild  
Revell, Frank; Brookings  
Revell, Robert; Brookings  
Smith, Mrs. Judy; Hawarden, IA  
Smythe, Limen; Brookings  
Smythe, Ormond; St. Louis, MO  
Smythe, William; Chicago, IL  
Thorburn, Rev. & Mrs. Frank M.; Brookings  
Zivanovic, Drs. Judith & Milan; Brookings

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First National Bank; Brookings  
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Friends of the Arts; Brookings  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Nordica Foundation Incorporated Trust; Sioux Falls  
South Dakota Arts Council

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Anderson, William; Davison, MI  
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Bartling, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence; Brookings  
Bates, Mr. & Mrs. Merritt; Brookings  
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Binnewies, Ina; Brookings  
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Shultz, John; Huntington, WV  
Sivers, Cora; Brookings  
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Stine, Lawrence; Brookings

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Brookings Civic League  
Clark Women's Club  
East Pierre Women's Club  
Elkton Women's Club  
Excelsior Club; Lake Preston  
Fortnightly Club; Huron  
Fortnightly Club; White Lake  
Heritage Study Club; Milbank  
Progress Study Club; Beresford  
New Century Club; Midland  
Twentieth Century Club; Huron  
Twentieth Century Women's Club; Lemmon  
Waubay Mother's Club  
Wessington Women's Study Club  
SD Extension Homemakers Council  
VFW Auxiliary Post 2118; Brookings

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Fishback, Pat (1)  
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Frie, Ruby  
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Walder, Florence (1)  
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