

RINGLING MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER

MUSEUM OF ART ASOLO THEATER CA' D' ZAN CIRCUS MUSEUM



June 1976

RINGLING MUSEUM MEMBER COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1975—76



Members Council officers for 1976—77 are:
(l to r) Mrs. Alan Guttridge, recording secretary; Mrs. Aaron Koplin, treasurer; Miss Jane Johnson, president; Mrs. William Strode, first vice president and Mrs. Irving Snyder, second vice president. Not pictured is Mrs. Clifford Meier, corresponding secretary.

Miss Jane Johnson was elected president of the Ringling Museum Members Council at the annual meeting on Thurs., May 13, in the New Wing Galleries.

Other officers for the coming year are: Mrs. William Strode, first vice president; Mrs. Irving Snyder, second vice president; Mrs. Aaron Koplin, treasurer; Mrs. Alan Guttridge, recording secretary, and Mrs. Clifford Meier, corresponding secretary.

In her annual report, outgoing president Mrs. David P. Wollowick noted the success of the Members Council activities and special events in 1975—76.

She expressed gratitude to all chairmen and their assistants for their work in "efficiently and graciously" organizing Council activities.

Hospitality committee chairman Mrs. J. B. Goldsmith and co-chairman Mrs. T.H. Hildebrand and more than 175 committee members provided congeniality and refreshments for three large exhibition previews and receptions, five coffee hours, in addition to the Circus Celebrity Evening, a membership drive coffee and a SWAP mini-convention coffee.

The Informal Activities Committee hosted four events: a reception for Fine Arts students; the third annual Sangria Party and tour of the "Baroque Masterworks" exhibition; a tour of the architectural show conducted by Carl Abbott, followed by a family picnic on the grounds, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Randolph Norton was chairman and H. Pat Sullivan was co-chairman.

Two New Members Receptions, planned by

Mrs. Gerald Klein, enabled new members to learn the benefits of museum membership and the opportunities for volunteer service and provided the opportunity for them to meet Council officers and Museum staff.

Ca 'd 'Zan was decorated with plants and flower arrangements by the Beautification Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Odin Hansen. Special holiday decorations were created for the Holiday Open House.

The first of the three annual events this year was the Courtyard Party, held on Oct. 26. Chairman Mrs. J. B. Goldsmith and Mrs. William Strode, co-chairman, planned the elegant candlelit "Venetian Evening." The party was a sellout and the profit of \$4,663 was donated to the Museum Foundation to be used toward the purchase of a sound system.

Record crowds attended the Fourth Annual Ringling Museums Crafts Festival in November. The work of 64 Florida craftsmen were displayed at the prestigious event which also featured the traditional Left Bank Lunch and the music of the Florida Folk Music Association.

Chairman Mrs. Clifford Meier reported that the net profit of \$1,357 was given to the Foundation.

Another event sponsored annually by the Council is the popular Children's Art Carnival. This year's theme was "Try the Arts of 200 Years Ago." Mrs. Arnold Kraaymes was the chairman and Oscar Freas, co-chairman. More than 300 volunteers worked on the Carnival in 30 activities on Carnival day including participatory demonstrations, games, folkdancing, an outdoor play, as well as 14

support committees for planning, food, tickets, etc.

A total of \$553 was contributed enabling 184 underprivileged children to attend the Carnival. The proceeds of \$1,530 were given to the Foundation for the support of the Museums' educational programs for the coming year.



Eleven-year-old Debbie Reichert of St. Petersburg who won the quilt made at the quilting booth at this year's Children's Art Carnival, received the finished work at a special presentation at the Members Council annual meeting. Mrs. William Strode headed the committee that started the quilt and on Carnival day taught youngsters the stitches and supervised their work.

LIBRARY

The Library acknowledges with much gratitude the recent gifts of books, periodicals and catalogues from Leslie Judd Ahlander, Mrs. Ruth Carmichael, Mrs. Barry Kayes, the Sarasota Public Library and Mrs. William F. Zimmerli.

Many thanks to these thoughtful friends for their continuing interest in the Museum and the Library.

Because of vacation schedules, the Library will be closed from 12 to 1 p.m. for the entire month of June.

LOANS

The Board of Trustees approved the loan of Salvator Rosa's *Portrait of a Writer* to the Museum Interchange Subcommittee of the United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange. The painting will be displayed at the Museum of Western Art, Toyko, Sept. 10—Oct. 17, and at the National Museum, Kyoto, Nov. 1—Dec. 5, as part of "Exhibition of Masterpieces, East and West, from American Collections."

View of Dunkirk by Louis Eugene Boudin has been lent to the Santa Barbara Museum, California, beginning Oct. 8, where the work will be included in the exhibition "Louis Eugene Boudin: Precursor of Impressionism." Following the showing in Santa

Barbara, the exhibition will travel through June 12, 1977, to the Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi; Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg; Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Ohio, and the Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego.

STAFF CHANGES

Ringling's senior curator Robert Tonkin resigned from the Museums to assume the position as Executive Director of the Morse Gallery of Art in Winter Park.

Cathy Stewart, program aide in the Education Division, will leave mid-June for Epen, Netherlands, where she will work for one year as an apprentice for Paul Rayar, ceramic sculptor.

ACQUISITIONS

Several gifts have been received by the Ringling Museum of Art during the past year: two bronze sculptures by German expressionist Ernst Barlach, *Russian Beggar Woman No. II* (1907) and *The Avenger* (1914), the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Beattie, Jr.; *Title 6* (1967) by Thomas Downing, the gift of Vincent Melzac.

Other gifts approved by the Ringling Board of Trustees are: forty-seven pieces of Jasperware Wedgwood pottery, given by John L. Petrosik, in memory of his half brother, Leslie B. Crane, in addition to two mauve taffeta bedspreads for the Ringling Residence, made in Paris in the early 1920s, from Mrs. Arthur Hirshon.

Five works purchased for the permanent collection include: *Paysage Marine-Blanchisseuses* by Claude Joseph Vernet; *Untitled* by Gene Davis; *Autumn Rain in the Woods* by Charles Burchfield; *Hephaestus* by Leonard Baskin and *Titan IV* by Auguste Rodin.

Gifts from three donors were approved for acquisition for the collection of the Ringling Museum of Art Foundation: *Margarita*, a sculpture by Martin Chirino, the gift of Mrs. Hart Perry; four paintings and one drawing from Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Resnik and 132 pieces of Ecuadorian and Peruvian pottery from William Draper.



The Avenger (1914) by Ernst Barlach, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Beattie, Jr. of Sarasota.



Bruno Zacchini (sitting center wearing dark suit) and members of his family surround the famed Zacchini cannon.

ZACCHINI CANNON

The Zacchini cannon, made famous by the world renowned "human cannonball" family who performed one of the most daring and sensational acts in circus history, is now on display at the Ringling Museum of the Circus.

Bruno Zacchini, assisted by his brother Teo, built the cannon that was installed today in the Phase I building in the Circus Museum. Bruno and Teo Zacchini are two of the seven sons of Ildebrando Zacchini who constructed the original cannon. In this particular model, two people are shot nearly 140 feet through the air within seconds of each other at a speed of 125 m.p.h.

The cannon is 37 feet long including the cab, 8 feet wide and 20 feet high with the barrel raised.

More than 20 members of the Zacchini family were present at the installation. It was a family reunion for five of the brothers, Bruno, Vittorio, Emanuel, Mario and Teo and their children and grandchildren.

The cannon will be displayed indefinitely at the Ringling Museum of the Circus.

PENSACOLA JOINS RINGLING FAMILY

The Ringling Museums Board of Trustees confirmed the Pensacola Art Center, Pensacola Junior College's Visual Arts Gallery and the

University of West Florida Gallery as members in the Museums' Affiliate Program.

Three directors of the new Affiliate selected the exhibition, "Latin American Horizons: 1976," as their first major program.

Ringling's Affiliate program, part of the Museums' Statewide Availability Project, is aimed at supplementing the work of existing art institutions through special exhibitions, loan programs, workshops and lectures.

Other Affiliates are the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Clearwater; Polk Public Museum, Lakeland; Jacksonville Art Museum and the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of the Arts.

ART EXHIBITIONS

On May 27 the exhibition, **Florida Collects**, opened in the New Wing Galleries and will continue through August 29. Lent by collectors in the Sarasota area, the show includes works by artists such as Sorel Etrog, James Weeks, Winslow Homer, Balcomb Greene, Graham Sutherland and John Piper.

Ringling's recent exhibition of 57 paintings and sculptures by contemporary Latin American artists, **Latin American Horizons: 1976**, is currently on view at the Metropolitan Museum and Art Center in Miami and will continue through June 30. The show will be displayed at the Ringling Affiliate Pensacola Art Center July 15—August 15; the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Sept. 1—Oct. 1 and the Affiliate Ft. Lauderdale Museum of the Arts, Nov. 1—30.

Latin American Horizons: 1976 was made possible through the generosity of the Florida Bicentennial Commission in Tallahassee with matching funds from the Southeast Banking Corporation of Miami.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Three music ensembles will perform as part of the New College Summer Music Festival at 3 p.m., Mon., June 14, in the Asolo Theater. Sponsored by the Ringling Museums, the special musical program will feature chamber selections by string, brass and woodwind ensembles.

Admission is one dollar at the door. Seating will be on a first come, first seated basis. Proceeds from the event will be shared by the New College Summer Music Festival and the Ringling Museum Foundation.

ART CARAVAN

More than 2,000 students and 200 teachers participated in Art Caravans during the fourth full year of this statewide program. Caravans were presented to students enrolled in regular classes on all grade levels as well as gifted programs, special education classes and art classes in 14 Florida communities including Sarasota County and Ringling Chapters and Affiliates throughout the state.

