

# NEWSLETTER

BENNINGTON COLLEGE  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

May 1964

## della ARTE

The Art Division has been busy as a Breughel this season and, Breughel-like in turn, the season calls for "double takes" if individuals are to be distinguished from activities, and activities defined. Both out-of-doors and inside Commons Lounge, students' works of sculpture catch the eye and take, in contrast to a hesitant spring, firm hold of the viewer's fancy. Woodcarvings or compositions, made of metal or what-have-you, all are forthright, wise or witty pieces and of substantial size. At the other end of campus, too, excitement rules without exception. So far, two shows have opened at the New Gallery of the Carriage Barn. The first was an all-out parade of Aegean light and colors, skillfully captured by the Drama Faculty's William Sherman, and brought back very much alive in a group of abstract water colors done during a sabbatical spent close to Athens and on Greek isles. The second, a collection of oils by Alexander Liberman, painter, sculptor and Executive Editor of Conde Nast Publications besides, offered the art world its first glimpse of gestural abstracts. In his new canvases, Mr. Liberman departed from his familiar hard-edge technique. Softnesses combined with strength came as a surprise. Ahead on the agenda for the New Gallery is a Maxfield Parrish retrospective, to be followed by a summer-long exhibit of works by the late Simon Moselsio. Paul Feeley's interest in a second look at Mr. Parrish's work would seem to be contagious. Show Magazine's May issue carries a feature article on the illustrator by Lawrence Alloway, former art instructor at Bennington and now Curator at New York City's Guggenheim Museum. A two-page spread on our forthcoming Parrish show turned up in a recent Saturday Review. Among others, Newsweek and The Detroit News hope to cover the event and daily letters arrive expressing personal appreciation to the College for putting Mr. Parrish back on view. All of which is appropriate to the season, for with Mr. Moselsio's work in evidence at the New Gallery, summer at Bennington College will be filled with warm personal feelings too.

Teaching goes on as usual, which is to say that our visual arts students are learning and working hard on a variety of promising independent projects. With Vincent Longo back from sabbatical and Anthony Caro at last well west of London, W.I., the Art Division Faculty is in fine fettle and quick to provide good news. "The Painter's Eye," a notable seven artists show at the Betty Parsons Gallery included two recent works by Paul Feeley. Peter Stroud's "Red Circumvert" has been purchased by The Guggenheim Museum for its permanent collection. The same canvas had been on view there earlier this year when, during the annual Guggenheim International Awards Exhibition, Mr. Stroud participated as one of four artists representing Great Britain. The past two months have seen New York and London openings of Jules Olitski one-man shows. The first was at the Poindexter Gallery. The second is at the Kasmin Gallery of Art, Ltd. and will continue through mid-May. Following its appearance in the Chicago Art Institute's Annual of American



Painting, Olitski's "Born in Snovsk," a large oil, was bought by the Ford Foundation for presentation to the Chicago Art Institute. Messrs. Caro, Olitski and Stroud are new at Bennington. This is the first year for all of them.

### SHOP TALK

The practicalities of everyday life were anything but dreary for the student body during the nine-week 1964 Non-Resident Term. One undergraduate found employment with the Department of Health in a Mexican province. A number of students worked with disturbed children; others were engaged in dance therapy programs and activities of a similar sort. Four students captured internships in biology and anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Two performed and assisted backstage at New York's Phoenix Theatre while at Princeton, New Jersey, a third worked behind the scenes and out-front, too, at the McCarter Theatre. The spotlight at Hopkins Center in Hanover, New Hampshire, left no doubts, either, that a Bennington girl was on-stage there. Among the more adventuresome occupations that turned up were research jobs at the Museum of Primitive Art in New York City, editorial work for a United States Senator from Maine, tariff research jobs for a Federal Government agency and research projects at the Archives of American Art. Assignments to work on the restoration of an ancient market place in Greece, to assist an archaeological-botanical team in Tehuacan, Mexico, or to perform on the Bennington Dance Company's extensive tour might reasonably be regarded as the biggest plums of all, but shop talk at a post-Non-Resident Term confab clearly indicated that the largest proportion of jobs were unusual and interesting. The Dance Tour Group won critical acclaim in forty cities and performed on television in Pittsburgh and Chicago. What's more, to demonstrate one of fourteen "Rewards and Pleasures of New England," the New York World's Fair New England Exhibit requested a color slide of the troupe in action. It was supplied and may be seen, projected, at the Theme Building of the Exhibition.

### COMMUNITY SOUND

Students, faculty members, administrative personnel and neighbors from surrounding areas joined forces for a bang-up concert in the Carriage Barn on the evening of April 16. That night, it should be noted, the audience as well as the Bennington Community Orchestra was conducted by Henry Brant. Vocalists and instrumentalists nestled among those listeners who took seats up on the mezzanine. Downstairs, members of the audience were close enough to the performers to ask for encores in a friendly fashion and nothing but enthusiasm accounted for the shouts. The conductor's own "Bennington 25th Anniversary Procession" opened the program on which Lionel Nowak's "Fantasia" and a medley of Early American Fuguing Music were the only other familiar pieces played. With Leontina Calabro as soloist, Louis Calabro's "Dadacantatadada" was heard for the first time. Students Nan Newton and Pril Smiley contributed "7 Portraits" to the list of premiere performances. And last but not least, "Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra," by the late Hector Villa-Lobos made its North American debut with Gunnar Schonbeck in charge of a soprano "sax." Two faculty concerts and a concert featuring the flute, double bass and percussion of Nancy and Bertram Turetzky and Tele Lesbines have been performed so far this season. All were considerably better than worthwhile.



Alice Smiley replaces Orrea Pernel who is currently on sabbatical in Switzerland. Henry Brant's sabbatical came to an end in January. Before then, however, he managed to orchestrate music for the film, "Cleopatra," and, on sojourn in Spain and Morocco, to compose "Voyage Four," a spatial concert piece for 83 instrumentalists and one singer, led by three conductors. Written especially for Woolsey Hall, Yale's neo-classic auditorium, it had its world premiere there on January 14. A forthcoming work based on a Biblical text and titled "Sing O Heavens" has been commissioned by the New York Choral Society. A spacial cantata for declaiming choruses, isolated solo voices and instruments, "Sing O Heavens" will first be heard at New York City's Town Hall on May 3. Other kinds of history are being made by Gunnar Schonbeck and Lionel Nowak. What used to be the local hardware store in North Bennington has, in part, been converted into a music studio by Mr. Schonbeck. And Mr. Nowak is now the proud possessor of a four-seater Piper airplane. A reliable source quotes him: "Since I'm going to go to the poorhouse anyhow, I'd rather fly there."

#### MRS. EDNA MORSE JACKSON

On Saturday, April 12, 1964, Mrs. Edna Morse Jackson died in her home in New York City. Mrs. Jackson's connection with Bennington College began in the early days of 1930 when the great struggle to establish the College as a reality was undertaken in the midst of the Depression. She aligned herself with the small group of founders and as one of them she actively shared in the responsibility of that successful effort. For a period of months she presided graciously over a series of weekly luncheons at the Cosmopolitan Club, enlisting new interest and support so vital to the establishment of the College in its touch and go days. From 1933 through 1938 she was a member of the Board of Trustees which, as the first Board of the functioning College, insured its unique future. The College today recalls her important contribution with grateful appreciation.

#### SIMON MOSELSIO

Because of Mrs. Herta Moselsio's wish that no one's Holidays be tempered with sadness, word of Simon Moselsio's death in December 1963, was withheld for a time.

Simon Moselsio, master sculptor and master teacher, came to Bennington College as a member of the art faculty in 1933. He retired from the faculty in 1960 - twenty-seven years later. He served the College community for that span without interruption of interest, energy, or devotion.

Simon Moselsio was a dedicated and gifted artist. His sculptures are in many private and public permanent collections across the land. But equal to the value and enduring strength found in his works of wood, bronze, and stone, are the effects of his work as teacher, counselor, and friend. His wise and good influence lives vigorously today in the hearts and minds of his students, his colleagues, and his fellow townsmen.



SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Bernard Malamud, who has been teaching at Bennington since 1961, is one of fourteen newly elected members of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Announcement of the elections was made in February by Malcolm Cowley, president of the Institute. Formal induction will take place at the Joint Annual Ceremonial of the National Institute and American Academy of Arts and Letters during the month of May. Mr. Malamud was named in the Department of Literature. Born in Brooklyn, he took his A.B. at the College of the City of New York, his M.A. at Columbia. He taught English in New York City high schools for several years. Before coming to Bennington, he was a member of the faculty at Oregon State University. He is the author of three novels, The Natural, The Assistant and A New Life, as well as two volumes of short stories, The Magic Barrel and Idiots First. Stories from the last named two provided bases for libretti for major operatic works by the late Marc Blitzstein, our 1962-1963 John Golden Playwright in Residence. Also among those elected to the National Institute were Ralph Ellison and Richard Neutra. Mr. Ellison will lecture at Bennington College on June 4. Mr. Neutra will be remembered as having been a member of the faculty here during the mid-1940s.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Two motion pictures simultaneously projected on separate screens may not be the answer to Television's time shortages, but they offered Bennington College's movie fans and nature lovers a stimulating new visual experience as a pair of plant-growth films were presented in the College Theatre by Robert H. Woodworth of the Science Division. On the left, aided and abetted by a camera rigged with mirrors, were kaleidoscopic patterns made by growing plants in our campus greenhouse. On the right, were studies in pollen germination photographed at the University of Florida last February. Both films were made by Mr. Woodworth, who furnished running commentary as well.

TWO MONTHS TO GO

On April 15, almost \$200,000 had been contributed in this year's annual giving programs of alumnae, parents of alumnae, parents of students and friends of the College to help close the gap between the cost of Bennington's educational program and the income from student tuitions. Volunteers in each of the campaigns are hard at work to achieve by the end of June goals that total over a quarter of a million dollars. This year a complete report listing all donors to Bennington College will be published for general distribution in July.

PERSONALS

Barbara Brodo Herrnstein of the Literature Division was married to Thomas Herbert Smith on February 21 of this year. Mr. Smith is a member of the English Faculty at New York University.

Poetry and Fiction: Essays by Howard Nemerov is now in print and has been well received. On leave from the Literature Division, Mr. Nemerov is currently Consultant in Poetry in English to the Library of Congress.