

1932

## EC5589 Nebraska Artists

Clarissa Bucklin

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IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
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1932

NEBRASKA ARTISTS  
Clarissa Bucklin

The material of this bulletin is condensed from the pamphlet, Nebraska Art and Artists, edited by Clarissa Bucklin and published by the University of Nebraska School of Fine Arts. Besides an article on early artists by Martha Turner of the State Historical Society, the biographical sketches of two hundred or more living artists, the pamphlet contains an article on the Nebraska State Capitol, by Harry F. Cunningham, Professor of Architecture and Chairman of that department in the University; on the Joslyn Memorial art center in Omaha, by Paul H. Grummann, its director; the School of Fine Arts, by Dwight Kirsch, Chairman on Administration in the School; as well as shorter articles on art organizations, and art departments in schools and colleges of the state. This pamphlet may be secured for a small charge from the School of Fine Arts Library, the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

The first section of this bulletin is taken from Miss Turner's article and deals with artists now dead. The second section is taken from the chapter on living artists, material for which was secured directly from the artists and edited by Miss Bucklin.

Section I

SAMUEL SEYMOUR:

The first known artist to come into Nebraska was Samuel Seymour, who accompanied the Long Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rockies in the years 1819 and 1820. Each member of the party, which was sent out by the war department of the government, was given his special duty. Seymour was chosen as the artist. His assignment read: "Mr. Seymour, as painter for the expedition, will furnish sketches of landscapes whenever we meet with any, distinguished for their beauty and grandeur. He will also paint miniature likenesses, or portraits, if required, of distinguished Indians, and exhibit groups of savages engaged in celebrating their festivals, or sitting in council, and in general illustrating any subject that may be deemed appropriate in his art."

The Long Expedition came up the Missouri River in the "Western Engineer", which was the first steam boat to ascend the river that far north. They landed about twenty miles north of the present city of Omaha on September 19, 1819, and remained at "Engineer Cantonment", as they called the camp, until the month of June 1820, when the expedition continued their journey by way of the Platte River to the Rocky Mountains, and then east and south to complete their investigations.

During the stay in Cantonment the Otoe and Pawnee Indians were called in for councils. Seymour has left pictures of both of these conferences. Several trips out from the winter quarters were made by groups of the explorers, and Seymour seems always to be mentioned in connection with these activities. In the final report made to the government, in the inventory of what was brought back with them, appears the following: "One hundred and twenty-two animal sketches and one hundred and fifty landscape views."

GEORGE CATLIN:

Mr. Catlin was born at Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, July 26, 1796, and died at Jersey City, December 23, 1872. He was educated as a lawyer but left that profession  
New Jersey



sion to pursue an art career. He decided to take up the study of the American Indian, and thereafter devoted his life to this study. He desired to depict the native American in his primitive state before he would be changed by civilization. From 1830 to 1836 and again from 1852 to 1855 Mr. Catlin traveled and wrote and sketched among the least known tribes of North and South America.

Catlin traveled up stream in the spring months, and as fall approached would wend his way down the river in his birchbark canoe to St. Louis or New Orleans, accompanied usually by two attendants. Just one hundred years ago, in 1832, the "Yellowstone" steam boat took him up the Missouri River northwest to the Mandan tribes. From there he drifted down stream in 1833. He thus saw and sketched Nebraska Indians and scenery in both these years.

Besides painting an almost unbelievable number of pictures, Mr. Catlin was a prolific writer. He was, and still is, the authority on primitive Indian habits of the west. He lived with them, learned their habits, and wrote exhaustively in detail about their life.

The Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, at Washington, now owns a collection of 422 paintings of George Catlin. Among the paintings done by this artist which most concern residents of this state were more than twenty-four portraits of Indians, including the Omaha, Ponca, Pawnee and Otoe, besides a number of scenes such as "Ancient Sites of Omaha and Otoe Towns on the Missouri River," "Bellevue", "Blackbird's Grave", and "Mouth of the Platte River."

#### GEORGE P. BELDEN:

"Belden, the White Chief, or Twelve Years Among the Wild Indians of the Plains", is one of the much sought old books of early history of the west. George Belden was a resident of Brownville, Nebraska, and as a young boy was a "devil" in a printing office there. He ran away from his parents' home in Ohio when only fourteen years of age. Arriving in Nebraska he immediately wrote to his father telling him about the advantages of the great west, and the family followed him here.

As a young man George Belden served in the Civil War, and later he again left his family to wander among the Indians. From experiences while living among the Indians he gathered material and sketches for his book, published in Cincinnati in 1874. The book contains fifty-five drawings, many of them by Mr. Belden himself.

#### HENRY H. CROSS:

Henry H. Cross was born at Flemingville, New York, November 23, 1837 and died April 2, 1918. He painted over three hundred sketches of notable chiefs, medicine men, prophets and warriors of the western plains Indians. Among them are Sitting Bull, Sah-Rah-Sa-He, Spotted Tail, Tall Bull and many others. Among the frontiersmen he painted are Jim Baker, Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, William Cody (Buffalo Bill), James Butler Hickok (Wild Bill Hickok), General Philip H. Sheridan and others who traversed the Nebraska country. All of these paintings are included in a collection of more than a hundred canvases by Cross in the Walker Art Galleries of Minneapolis.

In 1852 Cross was with a traveling circus. In 1853 he went to France and became a student of Rosa Bonheur, under whom he worked for two years. Returning to America he became acquainted with P. T. Barnum who commissioned him to decorate his circus wagons. He also painted many famous race horses. His portraits of Indians and frontiersmen, however, are his most important works.



YOSETTE LA FLESCHÉ TIBBLES & ANGEL DE CORA:

Before the arrival of the white man there were Indian artists in our state. Their art, so different from ours, has not received the attention it deserves until recent years. It is interesting to note that two Indian women are included in our list of Nebraska artists. These are Yosette La Flesche Tibbles and Angel De Cora.

Yosette La Flesche was born in 1854 at Bellevue, Nebraska, and died in Lincoln on May 27, 1903. Her parents were Joseph and Mary La Flesche of the Omaha tribe of Indians. She was educated in the mission school until she was fifteen when she was sent to college at Elizabeth, New Jersey by an eastern woman who became interested in her. Later she taught school.

In 1882 Yosette La Flesche married Thomas H. Tibbles, a newspaper reporter. Mrs. Tibbles traveled for many years as a lecturer both in this country and in Europe, pleading the cause of the Indian. After her retirement from public speaking she and her husband lived in Lincoln. She studied art in the University of Nebraska and painted many pictures. One book at least was illustrated in colors by her.

Angel De Cora was born May 3, 1871, in Dakota county (now Thurston county), Nebraska and died at Northampton, Massachusetts, on February 11, 1919. She was born of Winnebago Indian parents. She received her art education at Hampton Institute, Smith College, Drexel Institute and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Miss De Cora was honored by having two pictures hung in the Paris Salon in 1910. She was an art instructor for several years at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

One of her close personal friends was Cecelia Beaux, a well-known artist. Howard Pyle, her art teacher, considered her a genius.

SOLON HANNIBAL BORGLUM:

Solon Borglum (born December 22, 1868, died January 31, 1922,) was one of the great sculptors of the United States. His parents were Danes who came to this country and settled in Ogden, Utah, in the early sixties. Later the father practiced medicine in Fremont, Nebraska. Solon went to the public schools there and later to Creighton University, Omaha, but when sixteen years old was sent to northwestern Nebraska to his father's ranch to become a cowboy. Here he developed his knowledge of animals, learning the anatomy of the stock about him, and spent his leisure time in drawing his impressions of men and beasts in repose and action. His brother Gutzon Borglum, an artist and sculptor, urged the ranchman to turn artist. Solon was then thirty-six years old. He went with his brother to Los Angeles and Santa Ana, California, and later studied in the Art Academy, Cincinnati, and in Paris.

"Lassoing Wild Horses" was exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1898. "Border of White Man's Land" is now in the Metropolitan Museum, New York. Among others of his works may be mentioned: "Burial on the Plains," "Pioneer in a Storm," "The Blizzard," "The Intelligent Bronco" and many others.

CLARE A. BRIGGS:

Clare Briggs was born August 5, 1875, at Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and died January 3, 1930, in New York City. He was one of the most famous cartoonists in the world. He went to school in Lincoln, attending the preparatory school of the University of Nebraska and the Western Normal School.



His first pictures published were drawn for the Lincoln Evening News. In 1896 Briggs left Lincoln for St. Louis to work for the Globe Democrat there. He later did cartooning for papers in New York and Chicago.

Among the comic strips originated by Briggs during his busy life were: "What the Baby Thinks About," "Handy Man Around the House," "Kelly Pool," "Skinny," "The Days of Reel Sport," "When a Feller Needs a Friend," "Friend Wife," "Mr. and Mrs. Ain't It a Grand and Glorious Feeling," "It Happens in the Best Regulated Families," "The Guiltiest of Feelings," "How to Start the Day Wrong," and "Someone is Always Taking the Joy Out of Life."

ROBERT SPENCER:

Robert Spencer was born in Harvard, Nebraska, on December 1, 1879, and began his art studies in 1899 at the National Academy of Design in New York. Subsequently he was a student at the New York School of Art, and studied under Chase, DuMond, Henri, Garber, Francis Jones and Louis Mora. He died July 11, 1931.

Mr. Spencer exhibited paintings in all parts of the United States, in Canada, London and Paris. Examples of his work may be found in the National Academy of Design, the Arts Club, and Salmagundi Club in New York, the Boston Art Club, Detroit Museum of Art, Chicago Art Institute, Corcoran Gallery and Phillips Memorial Art Gallery of Washington, D. C., the Carnegie Institute and many other institutions. He has won an imposing number of important prizes. He became an Associate National Academician in 1914 and an Academician in 1930. He was widely known as a painter of portraits, landscapes and figure subjects.

Section II

GUTZON BORGLUM:

John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum, whose home is now in Stamford, Connecticut, was born in Idaho, March 25, 1867, but lived part of his boyhood in Nebraska. His reputation as a sculptor is thoroughly established, and he is a painter, illustrator and teacher as well. Mr. Borglum's ideal is to make his sculpture for the ages; much of his work is on an immense scale, and so deeply carved that thousands of years will not wear it away. Some of his sculptures are: the Sheridan monument, Washington, D. C.; "Mares of Diomedes," and "Ruskin," in the Metropolitan Museum, New York; "Lincoln Memorial," Newark, New Jersey; "The Flyer," University of Virginia, Charlottesville; and many others. In 1923 Mr. Borglum began work on a memorial to the Confederate armies to be carved on Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, Georgia. It was planned to have the main part of this memorial consist of a frieze about one-fourth of a mile long and two hundred feet high, containing portraits of many Confederate generals. Unfortunate differences arose between Mr. Borglum and the committee in charge of the work, however, and in 1925 the contract was nullified. Mr. Borglum is now working on sculpture in heroic size of portraits of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt on Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

ELIZABETH DOLAN:

Elizabeth Honor Dolan, now living in Lincoln, was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa. After taking an art course at the University of Nebraska she was graduated from the Chicago Art Institute, and spent a number of years at the Art Students' League of New York, at the Julian Academy in Paris, and in Fontainebleau, France, studying under many distinguished teachers, and specializing in fresco painting.

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Among her many paintings are the following: portrait, Chamber of Commerce, New York City; fresco in a thirteenth century cathedral in Fourquet, France; mural, Nebraska State Capitol; mural, Unitarian church, Lincoln; fresco in the Theatre in Fontainebleau, France; murals in the Nebraska State Museum, Morrill Hall, University of Nebraska, and four portraits in the Founders' Room; portrait in Hutchinson High School, Kansas; several paintings in the Hall Collection, Morrill Hall, University of Nebraska.

Miss Dolan was awarded three scholarships to the Chicago Art Institute, a life scholarship to the same school, and a \$500 scholarship to France. She exhibited a figure composition at the Paris Salon in 1925, and has shown in many American exhibitions. Miss Dolan's work has received recognition in such magazines as the American Magazine of Art and Museum News, and has been reviewed in newspapers not only in Lincoln and Omaha, but also in New York, Chicago, Washington, D. C., Kansas City and elsewhere.

#### AUGUSTUS DUNBIER:

Augustus William Dunbier, of Omaha, was born in Osceola, Nebraska, January 1, 1888, and studied art in the Royal Academy, Dusseldorf, Germany, and in the Art Institute of Chicago. He has exhibited extensively, received a number of important awards, and one of his paintings, "Clouds", hangs in the Public Library in Omaha. Mr. Dunbier has spent many years teaching art and painting portraits and landscapes.

#### ROBERT GILDER:

Robert Fletcher Gilder, Omaha painter, newspaperman and archaeologist, was born in Flushing, L.I., New York, October 6, 1856. Some of his works are: "Where Rolls the Broad Missouri", University Club, Omaha; "Sunshine and Shadow", Omaha Friends of Art Association; "Winter Morning", St. Paul Art Institute; "Desert Clouds," Philip Payne Memorial, Amherst College; "Arizona Desert" and "San Gabriel Canon, California", Omaha Public Library; "Among the Hemlocks", Normal School, Wayne, Nebraska; "October in Nebraska", South Omaha Library; "October's Good-Bye Colors", Omaha Central High School; "Winter Afternoon", Lincoln High School, Council Bluffs, Iowa; "My Red Oak Tree" and "Winter Afternoon", North Omaha High School, and many others.

Mr. Gilder received the degree of Sc. D. from the University of Nebraska in 1917. He has discovered prehistorical and archaeological material in Nebraska and adjoining states, and was archaeologist of the University of Nebraska museum for twelve years.

#### CHARLES HAFNER:

Charles Andres Hafner, of New York City, was born in Omaha October 28, 1888. He is a sculptor, painter and teacher, and has assisted in the studios of Daniel Chester French, Herman MacNeil, Charles Henry Niehaus, and Albert Jaegers. He has been an instructor in the New York Evening Industrial School of Art for the past eight years, and was a former instructor of life drawing at the Architectural Club, New York City, and in the Commercial Continuation School there. Some of his works may be found in the Numismatic Museum; at Tiffany's, New York, the Chautauque Institute, Chautauque, New York; New York University Directors' Room; Engineers' Club, New York; Paramount Theatre, New York; Albee Theatre, Brooklyn, New York; Rivoli Theatre, New York, Cornell University; Staten Island Museum, New York. He has exhibited at many museums and galleries all over the United States, and in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.



HERBERT JOHNSON:

Herbert Johnson, staff political cartoonist of the Saturday Evening Post since 1912, was born in Sutton, Nebraska, October 30, 1878. He attended the Elliott School and the Western Normal School in Lincoln at the same time that Clare Briggs did. Mr. Johnson worked on the Denver Republican, the Kansas City Journal and the Philadelphia North American before joining the staff of the Saturday Evening Post. A number of his original cartoons were presented to the University of Nebraska as part of the Hall Collection, now hung in Morrill Hall.

MYRA WARNER RANKIN:

Mrs. Rankin, who now lives in New York City and spends her summers in New Hartford, Connecticut, was born in Roca, Nebraska in 1884. She attended the University of Nebraska School of Fine Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago, then studied under Max Brodel at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Department of Art as Applied to Medicine, under Winold Reis in imaginative design, and under Hana Reis in sculpture. She has illustrated books and papers by Dr. Harvey Cushing, the Harvard Medical School; made illustrations for the Mayo Clinic and for Northwestern University Medical School; and illustrated the book, "Minor Surgery", by Dr. Frederick Christopher, Northwestern University Medical School. Enamel designs of hers are in the permanent exhibition of the New York Society of Craftsmen Gallery, and in the Art Center, New York City.

GRANT REYNARD:

Grant T. Reynard, Leonia, New Jersey, was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, October 20, 1887. He is on the faculty of the Grand Central School of Art, New York, in the department of illustration, and is a lecturer on "Ways of the Etcher." Mr. Reynard has gained wide recognition for his etchings. Prints of one etching, "Metropolitan Print Room", are included in the print collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Fogg Museum, Harvard University, and the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., and was reproduced in the American Magazine of Art. Four other etchings of his are also in the Metropolitan Museum; "On the Road to Chartres", "New England House," "The Wanderers," and "Crucifixion". Contemporary American Etching Vol. I contains a reproduction of "Carnegie Concert"; Vol. II has "The Trio"; 50 Prints of the Year, 1932 contains "The Degas Portrait." He has been represented in many exhibitions and in 1931 held a one-man exhibition of his etchings in the Grand Central Galleries in New York.

GEORGE SUTTON:

George Miksch Sutton, of Bethany, West Virginia, was born in Bethany, Nebraska, May 16, 1898. He is a painter, illustrator, writer and lecturer. He has had illustrations in "Auk", "Bird Lore", "Wilson Bulletin", "Outdoor Life"; in Bailey's Bird Friends and Foes, in Burgess' Seashore Book, and in the forthcoming Birds of Nebraska. He is author and illustrator of Birds of Pennsylvania and a forthcoming book, Birds of Southampton Island, Hudson Bay. He has exhibited his works in many museums and galleries.

J. LAURIE WALLACE:

Mr. Wallace, an Omaha painter and teacher, was born in Garvagh, Ireland, July 29, 1864 and came to Omaha in 1891 as director of the Western Art Association. He taught at the Art Institute of Chicago; and was president of the Chicago Society of Artists. He has been president of the Omaha Art Guild for many years. Mr. Wallace has painted portraits of many distinguished people and has exhibited widely. His work as a teacher has had a great influence upon art in Nebraska.