The Broadsheet February 1935

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Miniature Stage Sets

By Jessie Macapadyen

On the top floor of the Jewelry Building is a specially designed display room for student work. Darkened windows and the black and silver scheme of decoration increase the effectiveness of the lighted miniature stage sets of the present exhibition, designed and constructed by members of Miss Grace Ripley's day classes in Textile and Textile Design, and by the Theatre Arts clan of the Junior Saturday School. The main object of the work is to train the imagination and develop skill in using basic materials. It is also a basis for professional activity, since actual limitations of staging are kept in mind, and the models are scaled so that any might be reproduced in full size.

The skelton stages were made in the carpenter shop from working drawings of the students. Materials for settings and proscenium arches are wire, cardboard, paper, wood, and fabrics. All color schemes are worked out through the mediums of paints and dyes, with specifications which could be used for large scale production.

In the Junior School, John Biegen, who specialized in theatre design during the past semester, has designed an Early Gothic interior. In order that the set be authentic, scaled furniture of the period was built, with the assistance of Mr. Thomas Bocci, teacher of Woodworking, and even the draperies for the stained glass windows were hand dyed and block printed in an appropriate motif.

The Community Art Project has established a picture lending library for students and faculty of Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. At present, there are ninety books at present making use of this opportunity. There are only five existing of the Rhode Island School of Design available to members of it. We are, therefore, hoping to have an exhibit at the school before Feb. 21 of several of these drawings and paintings. These may be loaned out so that a student may have for his home or his room a fine print or reproduction of well-known works of art. The charge is twenty-five cents for the year.

Dana P. Vandervann

New Classroom for Middlemen

A NEW classroom for middlemen, made necessary by the almost doubled enrollment in evening classes, has been recently added to the Mechanical Design Department in Memorial Hall.

The increased interest in craft teaching has made it necessary to expand this branch of the Saturday School. To meet the demand, the school has equipped a shop on the fourth floor of the Textile Building.

The majority of the finished sets were made by the younger group on Saturdays. Some illustrate original plays, as do the two Egyptian sets by William B. Doggett. One special feature is a modern adaptation of the lotus motif. He has, also, scenes for the Biblical story of Joseph and his brothers. For these, he constructed palm trees in three dimensional form, in order to have more surface for the play of light.

Chester Freeman, aged 12, has a snowy exterior of a log cabin. Next to it is the interior view, with correctly proportioned furniture, and the realistic touch of two bear skins—of long pile black velvet.

Eugene Marble, 100, has a very modern understated room of Neptune. Varied shades of blue predominate in the background, and give a waxy setting for the fish suspended from overhead. On the throne is the figure of Neptune, which was costumed over a frame of pipe cleaner. The predominant colors of all the sets are enhanced by the hidden lights. Glicine paper and Christmas tree bulbs add color. The duration of future by Mr. E. Dean Farnsworth, Superintendent of Buildings, made expense a small item. Mr. Walter Gray, maintenance engineer, directed the wiring, so that the whole group is controlled from one circuit.

Items of the Moment

THE Rhythm of Bones Pony is now on exhibition in the Rhode Island Hospital National Bank Building beginning Feb. 14. Kenneth Wunshel and Robert McDaniell, members of last year's graduating class, are also constructing a model. It is to be a study of buildings for the Bryant & Stratton College.

At the request of a nationally known porcelain manufacturer, a group of students, under the direction of Mr. A. Ridolph Ruggles of the Jewelry Department, have designed desk pen holders. Models of three are on exhibition in the office of the Jewelry Building. Also on display is one of the newly completed problems of Mildred Toner of the Fabricated Design course, a planter model of an elephant, to be used as a boodler.

MR. L. Earle Rowe, Museum Director, has provided this a set of 25 pictures of European cathedrals to be hung in the main drafting room of the Architecture Department.

The instructor of the Textile Design class, student, has accepted a position teaching theatre craft in a western high school.