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Calendar of Events May 1941

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COMMUNITY ART PROJECT



CALENDAR
of
ART EVENTS

MAY
1941

Volume Eight

Number Eight



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SOME RHODE ISLAND AUTHORS

"I want to know a butcher paints,
A baker rhymes for his pursuit,
Candlestick-maker much acquaints
His soul with song, or, haply mute,
Blows out his brains upon the flute!"

So wrote Robert Browning. But in Rhode Island, things are the other way round. It is the poet who broadcasts news while another poet brews herbs, an historian ponders baseball scores, a novelist carves wooden animals, another paints water colors. A catholic lot, these. Our state is small but its people are versatile. Their IQ is high, but their hands are deft too.

Many of them are shy—especially to strangers—about their writing. Their neighbors hear them talk of psychic phenomena, of politics, or camper's craft, this hobby and that. A wider world knows their works. A casual glance through current magazines is frequently rewarded with one or more of their signatures. *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, *Collier's*, *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, the *New Yorker*, *Mademoiselle*, *Esquire*, *Virginia Quarterly*, *Story*, *Woman's Home Companion*, *Partisan Review*, *New Republic*, *Yankee*—and many others have recognized their talents.

Not that these people are prophets without honor in Rhode Island, although local fame does not spread as rapidly as it used to in the days of the *Providence Journal's* famed "Wednesday Page." Many of them are Rhode Islanders by adoption, coming diversely from New Hampshire, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Mexico, and Holland. They have accepted us, simply, and we are proud of them; as we are proud too of the authors who have always lived here.

Famed bibliographer, LAWRENCE COUNSELMAN WROTH, Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, writes *Notes for Bibliophiles*, (in the *New York Herald Tribune Books*); a column enjoyed alike by collectors and amateurs. The annual report of the John Carter Brown Library is always anticipated for its substance and admired for its style—a style almost unique in reports. *The Colonial Printer* and *A History of the Printed Book* are among his best known books, constantly used for reference. His versatility is also shown in such works as *The Way of a Ship*, a learned but agreeable essay on the literature of Navigation, and such little gems of literary history as *An American Bookshelf, 1755*.

WILLIAM E. WILSON, whose first published fiction—*Mucha Calor*—appeared in *Story*, sold many short stories; he then turned to the field of non-fiction with *The Wabash* (Rivers of America Series)—a book which pleased both reviewers and public. The same year (1940) we had *Big Knife: The Story of George Rogers Clark*, an exciting biography for young people. (Of double interest since the illustrations are by John R. Frazier, member of the staff of the Rhode Island School of Design.) Now William Wilson has turned to fiction again, (with a sigh of relief, we suspect), and we understand that he has just completed final revision of *Yesterday's Son*, a novel of contemporary life in New England, to be published in the fall.

WINFIELD TOWNLEY SCOTT, who won the Guarantor's Award from *Poetry* in 1935, and last summer received the Shelley Memorial Award, frequently appears in print as poet, essayist, and book-reviewer. His critical articles are provocative and scholarly; his readings and lectures are thoughtful, arresting, and beautifully delivered. Though he is perhaps best known for his volume of poems, *Biography for Traman*, his *Elegy for Robinson*, a poetic tribute to the late Edwin Arlington Robinson, has the same quiet force; it is already a "collector's item."



SUSANNA VALENTINE MITCHELL, whose poems have been published in many magazines, including *Poetry*, and *Harper's Magazine*, and *Smoke*, was for some time editor as well as contributor to this latter magazine of verse, formerly published here in Rhode Island.

Journey taken by a Woman is a collection of highly individual lyrics, varying in form from strict pattern to free,—though with more control and authority than "free verse" is apt to command.

For stories of the out-of-doors, packed with excitement, we turn to GEORGE MARSH, who gives us lively pictures of the Hudson's Bay Country—sled-dogs, wolves, Indians. *Toilers of the Trails*, *The Whelps of the Wolf*, *Flash*, *the Lead Dog*, *White Silence*, and other novels have been enthusiastically received by arm-chair adventurers as well as by real woodsmen.

OLIVER LA FARGE, whose *Laughing Boy* won the Pulitzer award in 1930, has continued his interest in archaeology and Indians. *As Long as the Grass Shall Grow* (illustrated with photographs by Helen Post) is a revealing volume in the "Face of America" series, and a departure from the fiction of *The Enemy Gods*, *All the Young Men*, *Sparks Fly Upward*. This spring he has written an enthusiastic foreword to *The American Primer* by Dersha Hayes.

His brother, CHRISTOPHER LA FARGE, put real Rhode Island flavor into *Hoxsie Sells His Acres*, a narrative poem, and *Each to the Other*, a skilful novel in verse. We have recently been delighted with his clever stories of the "Wilson" family of Providence and South County, appearing in the *New Yorker*; we hope they will be available in more permanent book form. Thomas Moul's *The Best Poems of 1940*, includes *Softly Returning*,—reprinted from *The Atlantic Monthly*.

I. J. KAPSTEIN, author of a nostalgic novelette, *The Song the Summer Evening Sings*, and a realistic short story, *The Man in the Jail is not Jesus*, is known for his quick wit, his story-telling ability, his aptness of phrase. His forthcoming novel, *Something of a Hero*, is arousing surmise, discussion, and enthusiasm, despite his reticence, among his large circle of friends and students.

CAROLINE HAZARD, who has edited *Nailer Tom's Diary*, and the well known *South County Studies* has made accessible records of unusual historical value. Her poems vary in subject from the spirit of the west to the spirit of New England. She has successfully employed her gifts in a charming book of lyrics, *Songs in the Sun*, and in her introduction to *An Academic Courtship*, the letters of Alice Freeman Palmer and George Herbert Palmer, 1886-1887.

Another Pulitzer Prize winner is MAUD HOWE ELLIOTT, whose biography of her mother, *Life and Letters of Julia Ward Howe*, (in which her sister, Laura E. Richards, collaborated) was accepted everywhere with acclaim

and delight. In 1938 Mrs. Elliott published *Uncle Sam Ward and His Circle*. In 1939 she received popular appreciation when she spoke at the dedication of the Brown Flagpole, with its ornamental base, donated by New England Greeks, in honor of her father, Samuel Gridley Howe, who fought for Greek independence.

Early Homes of Rhode Island by ANTOINETTE FORRESTER DOWNING, with its beautiful photographs by Arthur W. LeBoeuf, and skilful drawings by Helen Mason Gross, has a text as fascinating to the scholar as the illustrations are to even the glancer. The book was written "to coordinate art activities in Rhode Island and to encourage the further development and understanding of art in the State." In this it is as successful as is the author when she gives her absorbing popular lectures.

With three novels—*Belly Fulla Straw*, *Old Haven*, *Light Sons and Dark*, DAVID CORNEL DE JONG has established a place for himself in the field of realistic, serious writing. Novel and sometimes even cryptic in phrasing, his poems have appeared in most of the literary magazines. Contrasting with this style are his sympathetic, sensitive published stories of animals, his 1938 hurricane experience as published in *Yankee*.

S. FOSTER DAMON, poet, versatile biographer of Amy Lowell, expert on William Blake and Chivers, is also Curator of the Harris Collection, the famous library of American Poetry at Brown University. Besides books of poems—*Astrolabe* and *Tilted Moons*—he has written *The Day after Christmas*—a whimsical and pleasing story for children. The musical world knows him as composer of *Moon Walking*, and editor of *Old American Songs*. His introduction to the current *Annisquam Village Cook Book* is a delightful and informative essay. His culinary knowledge and enthusiasm for herbs are revealed in some of the recipes he contributed—*Elderblow Wine*, *Mackerel Apotheozed*, *Cocktail aux fines Herbes*.

In 1935 MARIBELLE CORMACK, assistant to the director at the Park Museum, was awarded a Julia Ellsworth Ford Foundation Prize for best juvenile literature—the book was *Horns of Gur*. Since that time she has written *Jacques the Goatherd* (as appealing as the well loved *Heidi*), *Land for My Sons*, and other unusual books; in some cases she has collaborated with W. P. Alexander. Written by these two is the ever popular *The Museum Comes to Life*.

CARL BRIDENBAUGH'S illuminating *Cities in the Wilderness (1625-1642)* is of particular interest to Rhode Islanders, since the urban life of Newport is accurately depicted in this book. It gives the feeling of colonial culture, explaining the background of our place and time.

Starting with *Ulug Beg* and *Ph.Ds.* we have enjoyed the witty verse of LEONARD BACON. His lines were sharp, his choice of words, arresting. Then suddenly, after nearly a dozen volumes of poetry, our poet turned biographer and published *Semi Centennial*—the *Odyssey of a Civilized Mind*, a brilliant, urbane, quotable autobiography. In his latest book—*Sunderland Capture and Other Poems*, the mood of the title poems captures a fleeting experience on a hidden Rhode Island stream.

These are only a few of our writers, but they represent diverse literary achievement. Thanks to them the world outside—and even their immediate neighborhood—is becoming conscious that this state and its capital city, relatively insignificant in area and population, are anything but that as a unit of American culture.

ELSIE LUSTIG CLOUGH

EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF RHODE ISLAND

Andover, Mass., Addison Gallery, Phillips Academy

Apr. 4-May 5—Decorative Textiles (Three Approaches to Textile Designing).

Cambridge, Mass., Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University

May 5-June 1—American Landscape Painting from George Inness to George Bellows.

Through June 1—Indian Paintings, XVI-XIX centuries.

Through June 1—Expressionism in Modern Graphic Art.

Through June 1—Specimens of Bronze and Pottery recently excavated in Indo-China by Dr. Olav Janse. Courtesy of Harvard-YENCHING Institute.

Boston, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts

May 1-May 31—New England Embroideries before 1800.

Worcester, Mass., Worcester Art Museum

May 1-May 21—Work by Artists and Craftsmen of Worcester County.

May-June—Dark Blue Staffordshire China with American Views.

Boston, Mass., The Guild of Boston Artists

Spring Exhibition by Members of the Guild.

Pittsfield, Mass., The Berkshire Museum

May 17—Pan American Exhibition lent by The Museum of Modern Art.

May 8-31—Toiles de Jouy lent by Mrs. Agnes Holden of New York.

Water Colors by Herzl Rome of Worcester.

Springfield, Mass., The Springfield Museum of Fine Arts

May 21-June 12—Exhibition of Silk Screen Prints.

Wellesley, Mass., Farnsworth Museum, Wellesley College

April 17-May 5—50 American Prints.

May 12-June 9—Houses and Housing lent by the Museum of Modern Art.

All summer—Students' Work.

New Haven, Conn., Yale University Art Gallery

Apr. 28-May 10—[Open daily except Sunday] The Architectural Work of George Howe, Philadelphia.

Apr. 28-May 10—Picasso's "Seated Man" lent by Museum of Modern Art. Water Colors by Herbert Gate's Class.

New York, N. Y., The Museum of Modern Art

May 7—Selections from the Museum Collections.

May 23—Art of Britain at War—paintings, water colors, drawings, prints, posters, cartoons, films, photographs, architecture and camouflage.

EXHIBITIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

Faunce House Gallery, Brown University

Apr. 25-May 16—Large Prints by Modern Artists.

Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design

Apr. 27-May 3—"Summer Recreation for Every Rhode Island Child."

Through May 20—Second Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Rhode Island Art.

Through May 30—Spring Flowers in Japanese Prints.

May 10-17—Photographs by the Camera Pictorialists.

May 26-June 30—Exhibition by Rhode Island School of Design Students. Story hour for Children, Sundays at 3:00 P. M.

Providence Art Club, Thomas Street

May 15-May 25—Memorial Exhibition of Charles H. Woodbury's water colors.

Armour Gallery, The Arcade

May 1-May 15—Water colors by Dorothy Holt.

May 15-May 30—Yachting Etchings by Soderberg.

Tilden-Thurber Gallery

Through May 19—Water colors by Sargent and Brabason.

Art Association of Newport

May 3-May 31—Exhibition of Work of the Students in The Art Association School.

CALENDAR OF ART EVENTS

Sunday, May 4

S. Dunstan's Choristers present a program of Sacred Music. Museum of Art 3:30 P. M.

The Providence Oratorio Society presents Rossini's "Stabat Mater." Alumnae Hall, 4:00 P. M.

Monday, May 5

*The Brown Brokers of Pembroke College and Brown University present "Run for your Life." Faunce Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Basement Studio Group: Dramatic reading of a modern play. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday, May 6

*The Brown Brokers present "Run for your Life." Faunce Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, May 7

*The Brown Brokers present "Run for your Life." Faunce Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Thursday, May 8

*Alexander Wollcott in "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Metropolitan Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

*The Brown Brokers present "Run for your Life." Faunce Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

*Admission charged.

See inside folder for the monthly article.

Friday, May 9

*The Brown Brokers present "Run for your Life." Faunce Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Saturday, May 10

*The Brown Brokers present "Run for your Life." Faunce Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, May 11

Gallery Talk. "The Adventurous Field of Restoration," (Demonstration). William J. Young, Restorer in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Monday, May 12

Basement Studio Group: Music hour by Mrs. Norma Senft and Ralph Warren; poetry reading by group members. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Saturday, May 17

*Sophomore Masque at Pembroke College. May day and dance pageant. Pembroke Field.

Sunday, May 18

Gallery Talk. "The Architecture of Brown University," by Miss Barbara Wriston. Museum of Art, 3:30 P. M.

Monday, May 19

Annual music auditions for the students of Pembroke College and Brown University. Alumnae Hall, 8:00 P. M.

*The Players present "Two on an Island," by Elmer Rice. Barker Playhouse, 8:30 P. M. Proceeds from guest tickets will be devoted to War Relief.

Basement Studio Group: Music hour by Miss Alice W. Darling, Miss Barbara Allen and Robert Allen. Poetry reading by group members. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday, May 20

*The Players present "Two on an Island," Barker Playhouse, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, May 21

*Leopold Stokowski and the All-American Youth Orchestra will appear at the Rhode Island Auditorium under the management of Mr. Louis Piere and endorsed by the R. I. Federation of Music Club.

Miss Mabel Woolsey, chairman.

*The Players present "Two on an Island," Barker Playhouse, 8:30 P. M.

Thursday, May 22

*The Players present "Two on an Island," Barker Playhouse, 8:30 P. M.

Friday, May 23

*The Players present "Two on an Island," Barker Playhouse, 8:30 P. M.

Saturday, May 24

*The Players present "Two on an Island," Barker Playhouse, 8:30 P. M.

Monday, May 26

Basement Studio Group: The Faculty Players, guests of the group, will read a modern play. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.