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Calendar of Events December 1941

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COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

CALENDAR of ART EVENTS

DECEMBER 1941

Volume Nine Number Three
A HISTORY OF DECORATED TÔLE WARE

MIRIAM SPICER

AT ONE TIME tin plate was a secret product so closely guarded that in 1620 the Duke of Saxony sent a spy into Bohemia to discover how it was made. It is fitting that we know the history of this "painted tin" or Tôle ware. This almost extinct type of domestic ware comes into being about 1660 when Thomas Allgood of Northampton, England went to Pontypool to start a factory for the tinning of this rolled iron plate or Tôle Ware. Then this ware was Japanned or lacquered, a new process which resembled lacquered products of the Japanese. This process was carefully guarded by the Allgood family. A ready market at home and abroad was found for these beautiful snuff boxes, trays, tea canisters and useful household articles. This business continued to expand under the presiding genius of William Allgood, great grandson of Thomas. After family changes the business ended in 1822. Thus the history of Pontypool Tôle ware is brought to a close.

It is interesting to note the names of two English decorators — Benjamin Baker, a decorator in the Allgood factory — and Even Jones, who introduced decoration on papier-maché. This factory was at Usk and became successful after 1822.

A gifted woman of the 18th century was Angelica Kauffman, who decorated fine furniture for Sheraton and Hepplewhite. Mythology influenced the subjects of Miss Kauffman's works, such as Pan, Cupid and the "Three Graces" — Her name has become famous and her works seen in many museums.

When slaves began to lessen the domestic duties of "gentlewomen" in the household, there was a trend toward decorative painting of tôle ware. The "arts" were taught in finishing schools and this form of "genteel employment" became very popular among "the ladies", who confined their efforts to the decoration of trays especially. This decorative painting was an attempt to satisfy a "hunger for beauty" when household furniture was plain and utilitarian in character.

The ode by Thomas Thomas deserves quotation as a curiosity of its era, It was recited at the theatre at Pontypool on the occasion of a visit of the Kembles:

"Though last, yet noblest, utmost stretch of Art, They made the dross from scaly iron part, The yielding sheets assume an endless form, And figures gay the polished black adorn, The swelling urn its lovely blue displays, And beauteous tortoise shells are viewed on trays."

In the first quarter of the 19th century near Albany, N. Y., lived Ann Butler, whose artisanship excelled. She began decorating the tin ware made in her father's shop, when she was in her "teens". She used no stencils, her decorations were free hand and her designs and colors of the best. She signed her works and lucky is the collector who finds a piece as her work was strongly individual.

The example shown on this page is from my collection — an English Cheese Cradle with dry stencilling. My interest in the history on Tôle Ware started when I learned the art from a craftsman who taught "after the old manner". Since that time my hobby has become an interesting business.
EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF RHODE ISLAND

Boston, Mass., Guild of Boston Artists
Nov. 24-Dec. 13—Pastels of Flowers by Laura Coombs Hills.
Dec. 15-Jan. 3—Exhibition by members of the Guild.

Boston, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts
Nov. 19-Dec. 14—Memorial Exhibition of the works of William McGregor Paxton, N. A.
Nov. 19-Dec. 14—The Wall Paintings of India and Ceylon.

Andover, Mass., Addison Gallery of American Art

Pittsfield, Mass., The Berkshire Museum
Dec. 3-Dec. 31—Paintings by Thomas R. Curtin and Paul Wiegardt.
Student work of the New York School of Fine and Applied Art.
Sculpture by Nelle Bar.
Sculpture of the 13th to the 20th Century.

Northampton, Mass., Smith College Museum of Art
Nov. 30-Dec. 19—Exhibition of Italian Drawings, 1330-1750, lent from Public and Private Collections.

Springfield, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts
Nov. 7-Dec. 14—Exhibition of Ecclesiastical Arts.

Wellesley, Mass., Wellesley College Art Museum

New York, N. Y., Museum of Modern Art
Dec. 1-Dec. 30—Modern primitives including ten new acquisitions.
Architecture of Eric Mendelsohn, 1914-1940.

EXHIBITIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

Providence Art Club
Nov. 25-Dec. 7—53rd Annual Exhibition.
Dec. 9-Dec. 28—Little Picture Show.

Faunce House Gallery, Brown University
Nov. 27-Dec. 18—Face of America.

Armour Gallery

Tilden-Thurber Gallery
Nov. 24-Dec. 6—Exhibition of Paintings by Col. H. Anthony Dyer.

Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design
Dec. 9—Exhibition of French wallpapers from Louis 15th to Louis Philippe.
Dec. 12—"The Tokaido Road" by Hiroshige. A series of 55 Japanese Color Prints recently given by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Dec. 14—Oriental Costumes.

CALENDAR OF ART EVENTS

Monday, December 1
*The Players present "She Stoops to Conquer". Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.
Basement Studio Group: Dramatic reading of a modern play, Tea, 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday, December 2
*The Players present "She Stoops to Conquer", Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, December 3
*The Players present "She Stoops to Conquer", Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.
*Community Art Project presents "Sacred Music from the Churches of the World", by the Gloria Male Choir, the "Y" Singers, the Cantor and Choir of Temple Emanuel, the Southland Quartet, New Auditorium of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:15 P. M.

Thursday, December 4
*The Players present "She Stoops to Conquer", Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.
Lecture by Frits Lugt on "Rembrandt and His Drawings", Museum Lecture Hall, Rhode Island School of Design, 8:15 P. M.

Friday, December 5
*The Players present "She Stoops to Conquer", Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, December 7
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, New Auditorium of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.
*Concert by the Rhode Island W. P. A. Symphony Orchestra, Edward Caffier, conductor. Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.
Story Hour for Children. Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

Monday, December 8
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.
Basement Studio Group: Dramatic Reading of a modern play, Tea, 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.
*Admission charged.

Tuesday, December 9
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, December 10
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.
*Community Art Project presents The Oratorio Society with the W. P. A. Providence Symphony Orchestra in "The Messiah", New Auditorium of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:15 P. M.

Thursday, December 11
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.
*The Gilbert and Sullivan Club presents "Patience", Faunce House Theatre, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Friday, December 12
*The Gilbert and Sullivan Club presents "Patience", Faunce House Theatre, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Saturday, December 13
*The Gilbert and Sullivan Club presents "Patience", Faunce House Theatre, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, December 14
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, New Auditorium of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.
*Concert by the Rhode Island W. P. A. Symphony Orchestra, Edward Caffier, conductor, Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.
Story Hour for Children. Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

Monday, December 15
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.
Basement Studio Group: Poems relating to candles read by ten group members, Music and tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday December 16
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.
*The Community Concert Association presents The Trapp Family Choir, Metropolitan Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, December 17
*The Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.

Thursday, December 18
*Musical Art Quartet with Frank Sheridan, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, December 21
*Concert by the Rhode Island W. P. A. Symphony Orchestra, Edward Caffier, conductor, Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.
Program of Christmas Carols sung by the Girl Scouts, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3 P. M.
Story Hour for Children. Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.