

## From the President's Desk:

Each year at this time (the beginning of the second semester) we are inspired by the response to our annual membership drive and the enthusiastic support given by the alumni to the Annual Giving. Many of you have written of the enjoyment you have received from affiliation with the Association in the years since your graduation. We appreciate hearing from you, for the Association grows steadily through the "word of mouth" help given by loyal PMCA alumni. We hope you will help us this year to locate the whereabouts of many former PMCA'ers who have failed to continue their affiliation with the College through the Association. We would like to write to them and tell them of the exciting progress of the College in recent years, and of the plans for the future.

In the meantime, we very much appreciate your active participation and look forward to greeting you at the AA Exhibition in March and the Dinner Dance in April.

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BORIS DRUCKER

S. Gertrude Schell—exhibition of recent work at the Neuman Gallery, opens February 22 and runs through March 8.

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## Evening Art Study in Philadelphia Draws Students From Wide Area

The Evening College, established in 1876 at the same time as the Day College of PMCA, has similarly become a fully accredited degree-granting institution of higher education. It is the only art college in the Delaware Valley providing professional degree training at night.

In recent years, the Evening College has steadily increased its popularity in the Delaware Valley. In the fall of 1962, it passed the Day College in enrollment for the first time with 750 students registered. Sixty-five different courses are now given each semester, and all faculty members are professionally-engaged artists.

Many of the Evening College students are recent high school graduates intent on obtaining a college degree in one of the art and design fields. Each year many high school graduates come to Broad and Pine to try their hand for one or two semesters. Some drop out, but many continue for three and four years of intensive training to obtain their degrees or certificates in advertising design or fashion illustration or interior design or industrial design or photography.

Other students already are professional artists coming back to broaden their skills. Still others are business men and housewives seeking relaxation and the deep satisfaction that comes with the development of creative skills. One of these, for example, is the president of a large Philadelphia manufacturing firm. Most popular with these students are basic courses in drawing, color and design, painting and art appreciation.

Many of the graduates and others who have trained in the Evening College are now leading artists and designers.

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## An Alumnus With a Vision

Some years ago this writer heard Mrs. Wilbur S. Corkran, class of 1915 and life member of our Association, describe a friend as "a woman of flavor." Now these long remembered words seem a most appropriate phrase with which to begin this profile. MARY LOUISE (CHAMBERS) CORKRAN of Gallatin County, Kentucky, is indeed "a woman of flavor"—handsome, dynamic, energetic, a visionary with the executive ability to have fulfilled a dream.

The dream, her real tribute, is "The Rehoboth Art League" of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, a twenty-five-year-old non-profit, influential art organization which Mrs. Corkran initiated in 1937. One might almost say the real wisdom of this vision was in beginning a summer art school in the delightful gray-shingled wing of the 175-year-old Paynter farmhouse (now The Paynter Studio) and in moving the building and locating it along the historic Lewes-Rehoboth Canal, on land donated by Colonel and Mrs. Corkran—land which is part of the beautiful community "Henlopen Acres," developed by this extraordinary husband and wife team, an architectural engineer and an interior and landscape designer.

Recently Mrs. Corkran was presented a silver punch bowl for her "unstinting devotion" to the League. And unstinting it has been this past quarter of a century, to have brought the League from its eight member, forty-two dollar treasury, small studio,

to its present status: close to 500 members; 2 acres of ground; 3 studios, Paynter, Corkran and Seabright; endowed prizes for members' exhibitions; 10 to 12 special art exhibitions annually; classes in drawing, painting and sculpture for all age levels; lectures on art by authoritative persons; teas for members and their guests and indeed to become the most important art influence in Southern Delaware and in neighboring Maryland and Virginia communities.

In addition, special projects not only raise funds but also broaden the cultural influence of the League—costume balls such as "Reincarnation Ball," "Art—From Adam to Atom," and one of the first, if not the first art tour ever conceived—"The Cottage Tour of Art," in which one-man art shows are viewed in about a dozen Rehoboth homes of great distinction so graciously lent by their owners.

Mrs. Corkran attributes this success not only to community interest but, as she describes it, to "the excellent instructors trained by our alma mater and secured through Evelyn Combs Penmegar, BAA '45—first, the late Otis Walter '27 and his wife, Marguerite '38, then Frances Oler, BAA '44 followed by Jane and Harry Bonelli '50 and presently Jon E. Smith, BFA '50.

"The Homestead," her charming 219-year-old cypress-shingled home, restored by the Corkrans in 1930, reflects Mary Louise's training in interior design at Broad and Pine Streets as well as her years in the Orient. She accompanied her husband Colonel Corkran, who was engaged in engineering in China, Japan and Korea prior to their return to the United States and to their work as community developers in New Jersey and Delaware. Her home reflects her pioneering in the use of indigenous materials, such as cedar tree discs for walks along the boxwood, garden vistas leading to driftwood that is worth the collecting, shells related imaginatively to exotic plantings, and an interior that is authentic as well as warm and inviting. Alumni are always made welcome to the League and to the Homestead by this extraordinary woman, an honorary member of the National League of American Penwomen who states that all her "life and its direction have been largely molded by years at PMCA and by the training of its instructors." Our Alma Mater can indeed be proud of such a distinguished graduate.

MARGUERITE WALTER

## News About Alumni:

Irene Morie Laverty '29, and her husband Sam are enjoying a three months' "wandering" through Mexico.

Natalie H. Davis '23, is a staff artist in the Botany Department of the University of Illinois. She specializes in botanical and horticultural illustration, both scientific and popular.

Rhoda Fishman '62, is teaching art at Roxborough High School under Temple University's Intern Teaching Program for college graduates.

Ann Potteiger '15, gives two lectures a week in Art Appreciation at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.

Russell F. Yeager, Jr. '61, is on the staff of Studio K, Lancaster, Pa.

An exhibition of the prints of Lila (née Oliver) Asher '43, will be shown at the Burr Gallery, 115 West 55th Street, New York, March 10-23.

Edgar Robinson '50, has been in the Publications Department of H. L. Yoh Company as technical art coordinator for the past twelve years.

James M. Ryan '60, was recently promoted to assistant manager of Design, Atlantic Aviation Corporation. He works mainly in project design of custom executive aircraft interiors.

Doreen (née Delbridge) Gerlach '29, gives her employment as "housewife—with plenty of time to paint—oil and watercolor—and make prints."

Henry B. Williams '28, is director of the Experimental Theater, Dartmouth College.

## IN MEMORIAM

Mary Bailey Reinhardt of the Class of 1910, in December, 1962.

I. B. S.