

STUDENTS' NUMBER

# MINNEAPOLIS SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS BULLETIN. *Edwin Koehler.*

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OFFICERS OF THE MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS.

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Sketches by Cyrus Fosmire, Isabel Crawford, Carl Koch.

## THE ART SCHOOL.

Robert Koehler, Director.

The official closing of the 22nd school year on the evening of Saturday, June 1st, attracted a large number of friends of the Art School to the rooms in the library building to view the year's work and learn of the awards made to the successful students in the different departments.

The exercises opened with a musical program, in which Miss Estelle

Solon sang the "Waltz-song" from "The Pirates of Penzance" and "Caro Nome" from "Rigoletto," Mrs. J. W. Hoit accompanying. Miss Edna Matson (who has since become Mrs. John Williams) played a violin solo, to which her sister, Mrs. Stanchfield, played the accompaniment.

The following awards were then announced by the director:



Ceramic Decoration, Department of Handicraft.  
(On upper portion: Sketches by Students in composition class.)

tones. The class in metal, under Miss Marv E. Simpson, produced some excellent work during its brief session. One of the students, Miss Lockwood, received a \$20.00 prize for her candlestick, exhibited at the State Art Exhibition at Fergus Falls.

The class in jewelry, under the splendid instruction of Miss Jesse M. Preston, of Chicago, was a most enthusiastic one and wrought in the brief six weeks' term many fine pieces of jewelry, showing marked merit in design and in workmanship. At the exhibition were shown pendants, fobs, pins, buckles, rings, etc.

The jury of awards in this department was composed of Miss Nellie Trufant, instructor in the Minneapolis public schools; Miss Mary Simpson, metalworker and instructor in metal, Minneapolis School of Fine Arts, and

Miss Clara Derickson, pupil of Grasset, Paris.

The principal of this department left before the end of the school year, in order to see the closing exhibitions of Eastern Art Schools. Eight Art Schools were visited in the following cities: Chicago, Washington, New York, Brooklyn, Providence, Boston and Buffalo.

It was only natural that comparisons should arise in her mind. As a result she unhesitatingly affirms the conscientious student in the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts produces as good designs, and in so far as equipment has been provided, as thoroughly workmanlike craftwork as such a student in the East. And still we are not satisfied, but hope the future may bring us better facilities and hence a greater usefulness in the field of applied design.

## MINNEAPOLIS SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS.

At the last quarterly directors' meeting, held on Monday, June 10th, the special committee appointed by the president submitted the following report, which was accepted as a "report of progress," with instructions to the committee to continue its work:

Mr. President:—At the last meeting of the directors a committee was appointed to look into the practicability and the advisability of re-organizing

the work of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts; to devise ways and means for enlarging our revenue and in all other ways to see if it would not be possible to increase the usefulness of the Society in the community.

At the time it seemed desirable to see whether or not it would be possible to procure a business manager. To that end we entered into communication with a great many directors

and heads of museums throuth the country. A number of interesting reports were received and all agreed that while such a step as we contemplated was necessary and desirable, that it would be a difficult matter to put our hands on the right man. But we finally entered into serious communication with Mr. Frederic Allen Whiting, secretary and treasurer of the Society of Arts and Crafts of Boston. It seemed that Mr. Whiting had considerable experience in movements of this kind and it seemed to the committee very desirable and well worth while to obtain the ideas of a man of sufficient experience who would come and examine the situation on the spot. After some delay, we were able to get Mr. Whiting to visit us.

The second week in May Mr. Whiting arrived and spent from Tuesday morning at eight a. m. until Thursday at six p. m. in going over the situation from all points of view, interviewing different people of prominence in the business world, as well as those directly interested in the situation.

Subsequently your committee invited eighteen prominent business men to a dinner given them at the Minneapolis club. There were present some of the most prominent men in the city. At this dinner Mr. Whiting outlined briefly the situation as it appeared to him, after making a very close study of our local conditions. His remarks aroused considerable enthusiasm. Senator Washburn took the matter up and, in a vigorous speech, paved the way for others who spoke in the same vein. Everyone added ideas, which seemed, to your committee, to be in the end perfectly practicable.

One of the striking recommendations made by Mr. Whiting was as follows: That there was a useless duplication of energies where there were two societies like the Handicraft Guild and the Society of Fine Arts, devoting themselves to teaching a part of the arts and crafts and that, after he had examined the space available for our purposes at the Art School, that he could see a better arrangement of space for teaching and exhibition purposes. For instance, the rooms occupied by Miss Cheney's class for the department of design could be used for class in illustration, portrait and still life, so that it might be possible to clear away part of the large exhibition hall for the use of exhibitions, provided that some other arrangement for housing the School of Design could be found. That it seemed to him highly desirable, that in view of the fact that the

Handicraft Guild were about to erect a building to suit their needs, that the Society negotiate with this corporation immediately with a view to cooperate, should it be deemed advisable. To this end Mr. Whiting held several interviews with the ladies composing this corporation, both here and in New York, and as a net result, these ladies stand ready to meet the Society more than half way.

Mr. Whiting suggested that a committee be appointed by this Society to take steps to meet these ladies and go over the situation frankly and if some such arrangement could be made, there would be a saving of expense and energy. It was Mr. Whiting's idea that eventually, when we have launched our financial scheme, that an active agitation should be begun, which would look towards obtaining from the park board a site in the park system of Minneapolis for a museum, under an agreement which would give the museum time enough to prove itself entitled to such a location permanently. That plans should be secured for a large museum so designed that it would be easily possible to build a part of it for immediate needs, wings to be added as funds are secured and art collections obtained which would warrant such extensions. This is the plan which has been followed by all municipal museums. That, in his judgment, such a museum scheme would not only provide means for housing collections but should furnish ample room for a flourishing and powerful art school and school of applied design. That as a matter of pure business such a museum should be established and amply supported from the city taxes. That the situation of Minneapolis makes it inevitable that, if proper education and art facilities are offered, it will become one of the great centers of culture, which will inevitably bring to it those from the smaller towns of the Northwest who wish, for their families, advantages which the smaller towns cannot offer; that it is of prime necessity, after securing new memberships and adding materially to a permanent and growing trust fund, that a building fund be started which would have as its ultimate object a building costing in the neighborhood of \$300,000.

This, then, is a bare outline of the optimistic view which Mr. Whiting took of the situation after having looked at it with a perfectly fresh and unbiased eye.

On May 23rd your committee met and decided to recommend to the consideration of the directors that an

amendment should be made to the articles of incorporation, providing that all contributions of \$100 or over, received in the future, should be placed in trust as a permanent fund. That such moneys should be invested and safeguarded as a trust, the income only to be available for current expenses, and that after October 1st, 1907, the regular annual membership fee should be \$10, and that there shall be a student's membership fee of \$2 per annum, to which all persons in any way connected with the institutions of learning will be eligible, and that such members shall enjoy all the privileges of regular memberships save the right to vote at all meetings. That this committee recommend to the Board of Directors that the So-

ciety open negotiations with the Handicraft Guild, with the idea of making them a co-ordinate department to include the School of Design and Handicrafts. That a recommendation be made to the directors that at the earliest reasonable moment a large and comprehensive scheme of art work, including an Art Institute and building for the City of Minneapolis, be prepared and become the immediate aim of this Society and to be presented to the city as its aim. That an advertising agent be engaged for the coming year, whose business it should be in part, or in whole, to assist the Society on its publicity side to advertise the school, exhibitions and the work of the Society in general.