



Halton Hills Arts Council

Aesthetic value of your paintings

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is the second part of a two part series on art appreciation by John Sommer.

By JOHN SOMMER
Herald Special

The discriminating art buyer is able to weigh the aesthetic value of the work of art he or she is looking at. The aesthetic value may be high or low, but without it, as I said before, there is no work of art.

"I know nothing about art but I know what I like," is a contradiction in terms. There can be no knowing without knowledge.

An artist is able to give a seemingly lifeless object (the painting) life. We all have seen loved ones that died. The most shocking fact about death is that this smiling, talking, sparkling person we know and love becomes from one moment to the next a silent and unresponsive corpse. What made this person human - call it the soul - has left, and what remains is something none of us would want to live with any longer.

The artist gives the work of art he creates a part of his soul. This is what sparkles and shines and utterly charms and takes hold of us when we look at a fine painting.

In order to have aesthetic value a painting has to live, and in order to create an artist has to constantly give himself away and renew himself. This is an arduous task. It is also the reason that many artists are difficult to have around. Into their creations enters what is best in them.

Reproductions, before man invented mechanical reproduction methods, were, strictly speaking, copies made by another artist. These copies are often of enormous aesthetic interest because they are really a new thing, the result of a confrontation, so to say, between the first artist who created the work of art, and the second artist who copies it, made it his own and, by so doing, changed it.

With the reproduction machine - in the case of a reproduced painting the mechanical printing press - troublesome ghosts have entered our world.

What was unique, says the "Mona Lisa", is now readily available to everybody in reproduction. We could, if we wanted to, have a "Mona Lisa" in every home.

Garbo is a luminous star because there is only one of her. What if we could make millions of her, if we would encounter a Garbo in every store, office, and factory? Garbo would be nothing because she would have lost her individuality.

Mechanical means of reproduction drain the visual art work of its individuality. The size, the power, the vitality, the soul, the life of the original is always lost in mechanical reproduction. The reproduction is, at best, a souvenir. It has a place in our affections because of the memories it kindles. It reminds us of great art we have seen or it might tempt us to go and look at great art. As a poster or on the pages of a book the reproduction is fine, but for the serious "lover of art" the reproduction has no interest because it lacks individual life, it lacks aesthetic value.

In true original printmaking the size of the edition is mainly determined by the material involved. The copperplate, the stone, the woodblock will wear out. The material sets the limit for the graphic artist as to how many dry points, or etchings, or lithographs, or woodcuts, or serigraphs he will be able to print by hand from them.

The reproduction is a mechanical medium and by definition unlimited. All limiting of the reproduction process is arbitrary and an imposed marketing device.

This brings me to the monetary value of a work of art about which I would like to write at a later date.

Norval

Churches join forces for cantata

NORVAL - Norval United Church held both a carol service and a Christmas bus service, along with the children's Sunday School concert. All three evenings were a very special part of the season and again remind all of us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Norval and Union Presbyterian Church choirs performed the lovely Cantata Promise of Peace, Sunday evening Dec. 22 at Norval Presbyterian Church.

Gerry Murphy, choir leader at Norval, directed the Cantata, assisted by Shirley Ingils, organist and choir leader of Union Church Choir. Joan Hunter accompanied on the piano.

Solo parts were taken by Ruth and Wayne Drawchuk. Scripture readings

by the Rev. Angus Sutherland and John Henderson. Following the Cantata a social hour followed.

Belated birthday wishes to Mrs. Marjorie Wilson on her special day Dec. 16.

Get well wishes to Claude Pickett, RR2 Georgetown, who is home following surgery at the McMaster University Hospital, Hamilton.

A number of Norval people are on the sick list. Get well wishes to Mrs. Gordon Miller, who is back in the Georgetown Hospital, following a few days at home.

Welcome home to George Campbell who is recuperating at home following several weeks in the Brampton Hospital.

Get well wishes to Mrs. Corrie

Graham of Guelph, formerly of Norval, who is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph.

Sympathy is extended to Eileen Nixon on the sudden death of her brother Alan Treanor of RR2 Brampton. Alan was a faithful member of Home Church. He is survived by his wife, Carol, one daughter Laurier and his mother Mrs. Lydia Treanor of Streetsville. Funeral service was Monday from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Streetsville. Interment was in Streetsville cemetery.

The year 1986 will be the 100th anniversary of Huttonville Church.

The amalgamation of churches at Springbrook, at the corner of Third Line and Queen Street, and Page's Church on the Fifth Line, south of the

Credit River, formed to make the Huttonville charge. During the years 1947 - 1952, Rev. Ross Cummings was the minister and at this time the Sunday School room was built onto the church. A history book of these years is being prepared for sale.

Sunday morning Jan. 5 from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. breakfast will be served and all are welcome. Following breakfast, the 10 o'clock church service will be conducted by the Rev. Cummings.

Norval euchre had five tables on Thursday. Winners were: Vi Preston, Florie Alcott, Fred Workman, Vivian Shaw. The lunch committee consisted of Em McGilvray, Mary Roberts, Florie Alcott, Lillian Shopeley and Liz McMenemy.

White Christmas unfold, in Ballinafad hamlet

By WINIFRED SMITH
Herald Special

BALLINAFAD - Those that were dreaming of a white Christmas certainly had their dream come true this year. It was crisp and cold. Travelling was not too bad over the Christmas, but the fresh snow and the high winds following made the travelling rather hazardous.

Christmas parties are over, there were many in our area this year. On the evening of Dec. 17, the UCW had their annual supper and party. Guests and husbands were invited.

Several tables were set up in the basement. They were all decked out with candles and other festive garlands. Pot luck supper was served buffet style and everyone enjoyed the variety of delicious food.

Tables cleared and set aside, chairs were set up and a program followed. Joyce Clarke was chairman. Andrea Delmonte was called on for the devotional. It proved to be quite

interesting.

Alma Sinclair and Ernie McEney sang a duet. Rene Schwarz entertained with several numbers on his guitar. Willa and Fred Shortill sang two numbers, The Night Before Christmas and Away in a Manger.

Readings were given by Margaret Jamieson and Joyce Clarke. Different stories of school days were told by members of the audience, which provided some humor.

Members of the United Church choir sang some timely numbers. It was time then for the mystery parcels to be auctioned off. Members had brought in these parcels all tied up with ribbons and bows and placed them around the Christmas tree.

Holy Cross grandteachers are honored

A highlight of the Holy Cross Separate School Christmas festivities was the presence of the "Grandteachers".

These dedicated seniors give generously of their knowledge, wisdom and patience to enhance the school curriculum and the arts. One of them, Mr. George Mitchell, expertly coached a junior play.


All Grandteachers received service pins, and a floral arrangement from an appreciative principal, Mr. Lorito, staff and students.

A parent volunteer, Mrs. Jackie Sperduti, was also honored for providing transportation for one of the seniors.

Valentine dancing

Dance to the music of the 1950's at the Acton Community Resident Group Valentine dance Feb. 15. Tickets are \$25 per couple and include a buffet dinner at the Sit-N-Bull Pub and Restaurant.

Money raised will be donated to the old Town Hall. For tickets visit Mary Crane at Gordon Dawe Real Estate at 25 Mill St. whose phone number is 853-3790. Or call Cheryl Corson at 853-3766, David Steckley at 853-3699 or any Acton Community Residents Group member.



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