

"Slavic Art" Is Theme of Watson Art League Talk

By Beth Stutson

A little bit of history, a glimpse of the theater, a little bit of sculpture and a lot of pictures. Dudley Crafts Watson gave an admirable explanation of the foundations of the "Art Moderne" movement among the Slavic people. In the lecture given Monday night at Winnetka Community House, under the auspices of the North Shore Art league, Mr. Watson spoke first on the Slavic influence on the theater.

"The Love of Three Oranges," a production of the Moscow Art theater directors, was given here for a week, some years ago. The costumes and settings were designed by a Russian, the words and music were Slavic, and the gestures of the opera company were rehearsed under the direction of a Moscow Art theater man. Mr. Watson stated that it was a stupendous production, though Chicago was not yet ready for it and one leading citizen claimed it should be called "The Love of Three Lemons."

The Slavic people were steeped in the environment of feudalism, rugged country, rushing waters, and ponderous cities. Their natural tendencies were overlaid with the French and German influences until they were made a distinct peoples.

Commends Artists

In speaking of Slav artists, Mr. Watson especially commended Leon Gaspard for his virility of pattern and vigorous design, and Boris Anisfeldt for his distinctive settings and costumes.

The Slav artists go to the old St. Petersburg to study, though Prague is one of the liveliest capitals in Russia today. Poland is the slowest to take on her new opportunities, being an entirely inland country, though Poland is slowly awakening. The modernistic movement is the expression of the life of a suddenly freed people, the Slav is the strongest unit in the white race, according to Mr. Watson.

In Prague alone are four or five examples of a rococo style of ornamentation to be found. The rest is strongly Byzantine in feeling. In Moscow is the climax of the Byzantine influence. In costume, landscape, architecture, and interior decoration is expressed this influence. The early artists were afflicted with a desire to be European, according to Mr. Watson. They worked only in mosaics and marble after the Greek orthodox manner, most of the work being half life-size, in low relief. The mural icons were mosaics, rarely painted.

"Symphonies" Unintelligible

Of the pictures shown, several obviously pleased or displeased the audience. The symphonies of sound reproduced on canvass were unintelligible to lecturer and audience alike. Some specimens of modern sculpture, the lingo of which includes phrases about broken spaces, are just "obviously space displacement," said Mr. Watson.

Again, subjects treated in the new manner were as obviously pleasing to the audience. Contrasted with the realistic school, the naive simplicity of the modernistic had a depth to it, rather than a photographic quality. The piquant flavor of the sharp poster colors arrests the eye, though, as Mr. Watson stated, the rest spaces in a modernistic painting or room were all too infrequent.

One of the most interesting bits of sculpture shown was models intended to be carved in ivory or cast in silver for ornamentation of the grand piano. The centaurs expressing the treble cleff, the basso-profundo and other musical concepts.

Mrs. Sanford Holden, 527 Warwick road, Kenilworth entertained her Sewing club last Friday at luncheon.

George K. Cherris Will Lecture at Field Museum

The general public is invited to a free illustrated lecture on "The Turkestan," to be given Saturday, December 8, at Field Museum of Natural History. George K. Cherris of New York City, who was a member of the James Simpson-Roosevelt-Field Museum Expedition to Central Asia, is the lecturer. This expedition, which collected many rare animals, some of which are now on exhibition at the

Museum, did part of its work in the Turkestan. The lecture will be given at 3 p. m. in the James Simpson theater of the museum. Sunday at the

same place and hour Mr. Cherris will repeat his lecture for members of the museum. Seats unoccupied by members will be available to the public.

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