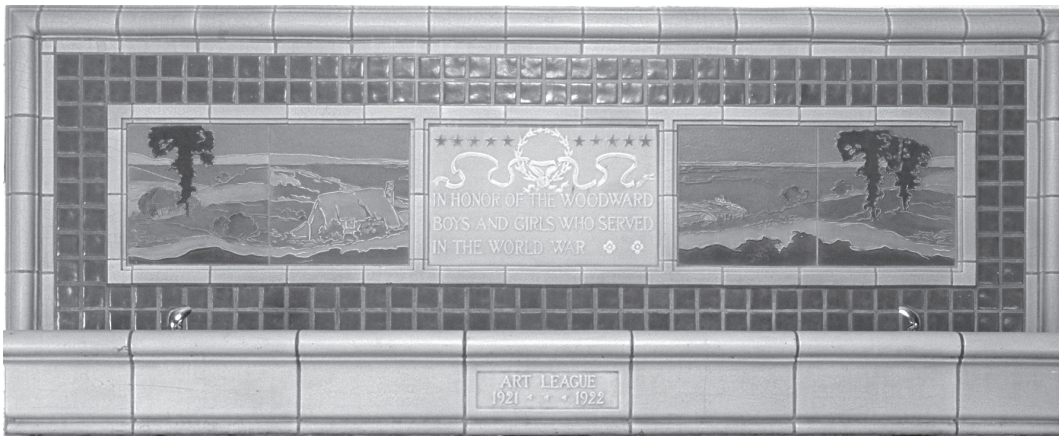


ART LEAGUE NOTES

volume 14 number 1

spring 2010

Bob Flischel



NEW ARCHITECTURAL TILE

By Bob Flischel

Cincinnati Public Schools are home to the largest collection of historic art tile installations of any school system in the country. These installations comprise a variety of forms, among them fountains, reliefs, sculptures, and architectural tile features. Since 1903 the Art League has been one of the primary sponsors of this historic collection. Soon the Art League will again help to place art tile designs in our schools.

We are proud to announce the "Tile Initiative" which will coordinate the design, construction and installation of new art tile features. Our own Rookwood Pottery Company, (along with other tile makers throughout the country), will help us in this endeavor. Commissions can be used to honor beloved members of our Cincinnati Public School friends and family. The first tile installation will recognize all the foundations, individuals and companies that made our "Legacy Campaign" a success. The Art League will underwrite this initial commission.

Please visit our website to obtain more information about this exciting project. This is an ideal way for classmates, family, or friends to memorialize, to honor someone.

SO MUCH TO REMEMBER

By Doris Mayans

The Spring 2010 Art League Afternoon will be held at the School for the Creative and Performing Arts on Sunday, April 11, from 2 until 4 pm. Call 271-3113 for information. The school is located at 1310 Sycamore Street, the site of many school buildings before this existing one. Old timers will remember this building as Woodward High School before it was Abigail Cutter, before it was SCPA.

The Woodward students and staff were moved (with the name) to a new campus at the corner of Reading Road and Seymour Avenue long ago. The present SCPA students and staff will relocate to

their new facility on Central Parkway next to Music Hall during the summer. They will be ready there when Cincinnati schools open.

The Art League takes great pleasure in inviting you to experience this elegant building of one hundred years. You can see evidence of Art League involvement through the years. Rest assured you will be glad you came.

The fate of this structure is in the hands of the school district. The Art League will say its farewell on April 11. Be sure to be there with us to celebrate a job well done in the history of Cincinnati Public Schools.



THE RETURN OF KILGOUR SPRING

By Deborah A. Ulrich

On December 7, 2009 the painting "Kilgour Spring" was given to Kilgour School by the family of former Principal Chester R. Heery. "Kilgour Spring" was painted as a retirement gift for Mr. Heery by J. F. Stevenson, art teacher at the school.

Mr. Heery was the principal at Kilgour from 1946 to 1968. He was with Cincinnati Public Schools for thirty-one years. He was an administrator at Garfield, Sands and Schiel before going to Kilgour. In 1968 he and his wife Margaret May Heery both retired and moved back to Lebanon, Ohio. They both grew up in Warren county. She was a court reporter in the Domestic Relations Court of Hamilton County.

"Kilgour Spring" always had a prominent place in their home. Chester was very proud of Kilgour School and he treasured the painting.

Chester died in 1989. Margaret was very active in the community until her early 90's when she suffered some physical set backs. She always made it clear that she and Chester wanted the painting to return to Kilgour when they could no longer keep it. Mrs. Heery moved to the Otterbein retirement community, and in November 2009 at the age of 100 and a half she passed away. Her passing a month earlier made the dedication of the painting at Kilgour School very poignant for our family and friends.

Note: Deborah Ulrich is a Heery family member, and teaches art at Bond Hill Academy.

ON THE WALL

The painting, "Kilgour Spring," is ready to grace the walls of Kilgour Elementary - but first the site has to be chosen. Angela Cook, principal of Kilgour School, called upon the Art League to help choose the placement of this wonderful work. One of the several possibilities in the entrance hallway was selected. CPS carpenters will now expertly hang this painting with special hooks designed to securely hold it in place.

ON SITE

You can visit our website, www.artleaguercinti.org to view "Kilgour Spring." New board member, Kate Leopold, has been working with Phil Roberto to resolve web issues and to make our site easier to update. To quote Kate, "The website is going to look amazing."

SCPA: Venerable 1310 Sycamore

By Linda Kiefer

The history of the original Woodward High School, and later SCPA, begins on October 24, 1831. A 2 story, 4 room red brick school, the first public school west of the Allegheny Mountains, opened in the area bounded by Sycamore, Broadway, Woodward and 13th Streets in Cincinnati. The high school merged with the city school system in 1851, and girls were admitted for the first time. The “Old Woodward Boys” continued to toast the original building during anniversary dinners held each year until 1883. However, a new school building had been designed to replace the well-loved original; this structure, erected in 1855, was considered to be one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture west of the Alleghenies. Of special note was a beautiful 3rd story oriel window on the north façade.

This “handsome” and “artistic” building (as described in the Woodward Manual of 1954) was demolished in 1907 to make way for another Woodward High School building, to be completed in 1910. The cornerstone was laid on Nov. 4th, 1908, with William Howard Taft (class of ‘74 and newly elected as U.S. president the day before) delivering the principle address.

The site for a new building was selected in 1946 at the corner of Reading and Seymour. In 1977 SCPA moved to 1310 Sycamore to share the old Woodward Building with Abigail Cutter Jr. High. An arsonist’s fire destroyed the theatre and almost burned the whole building on April 18th, 1996, but the school continued to thrive. The new SCPA, a combined community arts center and K-12 school nearing completion on Central Parkway, will continue the tradition started by William Woodward back in 1831.



Bob Flschel

ESME KENNY MEMORIAL

By Joe Wilmers

Esme Kenney was a 7th grader at SCPA when she was killed a year ago. In her memory, a glass sculpture is being commissioned for the new SCPA building on Central Parkway. A colored glass orb will float majestically above the third floor atrium. It will catch sunlight streaming through the south-facing windows. SCPA students will work with artist Jessie Henson, an SCPA graduate who works in NYC. In her proposal, Ms. Henson comments, “I see the poetic beauty of the glass as a perfect symbol for Esme, her clarity and strength, but also her fragility, and now her ability to live on in a new light, shifting form but constantly present.”

Note: Many fundraisers and concerts have benefited this memorial. The Art League supports and has contributed to this beautiful work. Honoring and remembering Esme is close to our hearts, and in the spirit of our mission. If you would like to join this tribute, a donation can be made to Friends of SCPA- 1310 Sycamore St.- Cincinnati, OH 45202- Attn: Esme Kenney Sculpture Fund.

POP QUIZ!

1. William Woodward and his wife donated land on Sycamore Street in 1827 for a public school. What was Mr. Woodward’s profession?
2. What was the name of Mr. Woodward’s wife?
3. What is a claim to fame for Woodward School?
4. Who was Woodward’s renowned teacher during the 1840’s?

(answers at right...)

Inventory Intricacies Grace Royalty

The painting given to Kilgour will be entered into the Art League’s inventory. When a Painting is entered into the inventory, the first step is to gather information. Our inventory sheets record the name of the artist, the title, and the date created. We also record the physical characteristics, such as the height and length and the medium used. The location in the school is noted. We also rate the condition of the work as being good, fair, or at risk. We look for any other identifying information, such as an Art League plaque or other dedication plaque. We then take a photo of the painting. Finally, each volunteer records his or her name and the date of inspection. Currently we store this information in a Microsoft Access database. We hope to soon be able to have our information converted into a different program, PastPerfect, which is a little more comprehensive and user-friendly.

answers:

1. He was a leather tanner.
2. Her name was Abigail Cutter.
3. Woodward is the oldest public school west of the Allegheny Mountains.
4. William McGuffey, author of the famous readers.

ROOKWOOD AFTERNOON DORIS MAYANS

If you missed the Fall, 2009 Art League Afternoon at Rookwood Pottery, remember that we missed you, also. It was joyous to visit this historic, artistic and renewed company. Chris Rose; President, Jim Stephens; Artistic Installation Consultant, Marsha Williams; Production Manager and Stephanie Blackburn; Public Relations and Marketing Manager welcomed us in the spirit of old friends and neighbors. The Art League and Rookwood share the values of conservation of the old and creation of new Cincinnati treasures.

We felt honored that Anita Ellis of the Cincinnati Art Museum also joined us, and reminded us of the strong convictions of past generations to make their schools a temple of learning, not a factory. Her books on Rookwood and other art topics are known throughout the art world. And so we thank them all, and our guests, for such a special day.

MISSION

Cincinnati Public Schools contain a national treasure of art and ornament, much of it purchased by generations of Cincinnati children through The Art League, beginning in 1903. The Art League aims to once again make a difference by documenting, protecting, preserving and enhancing this treasure.

ART LEAGUE 2009 BOARD MEMBERS

Kate Fischer
Bob Flischel
Jane Gardner
Linda Kiefer
Kate Leopold
Doris Mayans
Bobbie McTurner
Mara Mulvihill
Grace Royalty
Joe Wilmers

WRITE US :
PO BOX 9204
CINCINNATI, OH 45209

CALL US: 271-3113

VISIT US:
ARTLEAGUECINTI.ORG



Preserving a Cincinnati Treasure

Post Office Box 9204
Cincinnati Ohio 45209
(513) 271-3113

ART LEAGUE AFTERNOON

SCHOOL FOR THE CREATIVE
AND PERFORMING ARTS
1310 SYCAMORE ST.
SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH
TWO UNTIL FOUR