



PSC PORTFOLIO

The Philadelphia Sketch Club ~ Founded in 1860

september 2001

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“What – No Dinner Meeting!?!”

Yes, unfortunately – it’s true. Due to construction activities currently underway at the Club, the September dinner meeting has been cancelled. Workshops have been temporarily moved to the Plastic Club until they resume at the Sketch Club on October 16th. The schedule is as follows: Tuesdays, 12pm - 3pm; Wednesdays 6:30pm - 9:30pm; Thursdays 2:30pm - 5:30pm; and Saturdays, time not certain at this time. Contact **George Fuller** for any information regarding the workshops. Thank you to the Plastic Club for the use of your studios. As a plug for them, don’t forget their Sidewalk Sale on September 15th & 16th, plus their Restoration Fund Gala on August 26th. Check last month’s *Portfolio* for details. In regards to the construction, you should have received a letter from our President which explains all the details. We look forward to seeing you back at the newly renovated club in October for the very important “Thomas Eakins and His Fellow Artists at the Philadelphia Sketch Club” opening on Sunday, October 21st from 2pm - 5pm. Contact **Stephen Iwanczuk** for dates you’d like to volunteer.

Announcements

I would like to thank **Dick Cohen, Don Meyer, Bruce Bentzman, Bruce Mathews, Arthur & Donna Ostroff** and **Heidi Quarracino** for their work in our initial attempt at sorting the library collection. A few gems were found and we are sure many more are to be uncovered. – **Pete Quarracino, Librarian**

Save Your Canceled Stamps! As a project of Artists Equity Association, they are collecting stamps in cooperation with the Philadelphia Presbyterian Home Auxiliary. Their residents prepare the stamps for sale to stamp dealers. The proceeds are then used for the purchase of items needed at the homes. Residents gain satisfaction and pleasure from helping to provide funds for these purchases. This project was started in 1961 and has earned over \$118,000. Homes that benefit from this project: Broomall Presbyterian Home, Rosemont Presbyterian Village, Rydal Park Medical Center, 58th Street Home & Apartments, and Presbyterian Tower in Morrisville, NJ. Send your stamps (with at least 1/4” of paper around the stamps) to: Howard Alber, 3300 Darby Road, #5111, Haverford, PA 19041-1072.

The Philadelphia Sketch Club will be represented in the *Art Is Everywhere* Exhibition (to be held at the Woodmere Art Gallery) with the painting “Dry Dock” by **Charles T. Coiner**. It was painted in 1973 and won the Philadelphia Artists Materials Dealers Purchase Prize in the Club’s Small Oils Exhibition that year.

Art Natters

Pete Petraglia is having a one-man show “From the Mind’s Eye” at the Medical Healing Arts Center, 52 East Oakland Avenue, Doylestown, PA (215-348-4002), September 15 – October 15, 2001. He will be showing a wide variety of work including oils, acrylics, watercolor, mixed media, and photographs.

The Fellowship of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts will hold its 104th Annual Membership Exhibition at Historic Yellow Springs in September. **Jack Gerber** will be honored as the Featured Artist and will have a room devoted exclusively to his works. Other Sketch Club members in the exhibition include **Hilarie Hawley, Pamela Sinkler-Todd, Elizabeth H. MacDonald** and **Michael Kuncewich**. The exhibition will have a reception on Sunday, September 9th, from 3 to 5 PM. *Hey, since we’re not having a September dinner meeting, perhaps you should put this on your calendar as a fill-in.* Many PSC members will be there.

The Arcadia University Art Gallery (formerly Beaver College Art Gallery) is calling for entries for its Works on Paper 2001 juried exhibition. Entries are due September 13th and there is a center city drop-off point for Philadelphia artists. For a copy of the prospectus call (215) 572-2131/2133 or by email at www.arcadia.edu.

Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ, seeks entries for its Works on Paper juried exhibition. Entries must be delivered on September 7th or 9th. For a prospectus call (856) 235-6488 or write Perkins Center for the Arts, 395 Kings Highway, Moorestown, NJ 08057-2725.

Calendar of Events

September

14

Dinner Meeting
Cancelled!!

24

September Board Meeting

October

12

October Dinner Meeting

14

"Thomas Eakins and His Fellow Artists at The Philadelphia Sketch Club" show opens
2 to 5 PM

16

Workshops Resume

21

Opening Reception for "Thomas Eakins and His Fellow Artists at The Philadelphia Sketch Club"
2 to 5 PM

22

October Board Meeting

November

9

November Dinner Meeting

19

November Board Meeting

Note: For the information of new members, monthly dinner meetings include a social hour at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM and an after dinner speaker. Reservations for the dinner meeting can be made by calling the Sketch Club, (215) 545-9298, by the Wednesday before the meeting and leaving a message under the appropriate code.

Judith Barbour Osborne, a PSC Friend and soon-to-be Member, received a 2001 Independence Foundation Fellowship for the production of an artist's book involving a collaboration between a poet and herself. In addition, her "Chance Tangent," mixed media on paper, is in the *Art of the State* exhibition at the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg through September 9, 2001. Another painting in this series was in the Art of the Northeast exhibition at Silvermine Guild Arts Center in New Cannan, CT, in June. In October, Judith will give a slide talk and SODA Inc. will perform at the Art and Spirituality Conference sponsored by the School of Visual Arts at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City.

In 1971, Sketch Club member **Reginald E. Beauchamp**, now deceased, unveiled his sculpture bust of Benjamin Franklin that was covered by 80,000 pennies donated by Philadelphia schoolchildren. The bust, known as "Penny Benny," honored the 100th anniversary of the Philadelphia Fire Department and was placed outside the Fourth and Arch Street firehouse. It also honored Franklin who established a fire company in 1736. In 1996 the bust was removed to storage due to its deteriorating condition. As reported in the August 19, 2001, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, philanthropist Kal Rudman has agreed to restore Penny Benny and is working to have it installed in the Franklin Institute. We will make an inquiry about this project, so hopefully the Sketch Club can participate in the second unveiling of Penny Benny.

Marta Bartolozzi had a profitable summer. During July, she was in the following exhibits: Fine Art Liaisons, Salon des Amis, Manayunk Open Juried Show, Chester County Member's Juried Show, Wallingford Community Arts Center Member's Show, Plastic Club Open Juried Show, Maureen's Gallery in Exton, Swarthmore's "Celebrate Swarthmore Artist's Day" Exhibit (at which two formerly censored nudes were on display), Philadelphia Sketch Club "Pleasures of Summer" exhibit (Honorable Mention), and Fine Arts Liaisons in Valley Forge. Last month she sold approximately \$1,200 in paintings. She was also in the May issue of *County Lines* magazine, featuring a photo of the carriage painting "Home From the Hunt Cup" and a biographical sketch.

Bob Grooms was one of 15 artists participating in an invitational show at the Multiple Choice Gallery at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell. The show is for annual award winners at the Oreland Art Center, and ended August 20th. **Clemmie King** was chairman of this show. Bob and Clemmie currently have artwork on exhibit at the Annual Woodmere Museum Members Show through September 22nd. Clemmie also has two pieces accepted into the Open Juried Mixed Media Show at the Montgomery County Guild of Professional Artists at the Inquirer Building; the show ends September 5th.

Harriet Ermentrout's watercolor "Miller's Quarry" won third award for watercolors in the Tincum Civic Association's 52nd Tincum Arts Festival that was held in July 2001.

Howard Alber has been busy. He was one of four jurors for the 4th Annual Juried Exhibition at the Tyme Gallery in Havertown, PA. The show, *Inner Essence* is on display from August 10 – September 6, 2001. He remarked "...it was the best jurying method (for a group of jurors) I have ever seen." In September (with the opening reception being September 14th from 5pm to 9pm), he is having a one-man retrospective and art sale at the Tyme Gallery. The show runs from September 14th – October 10, 2001. The Tyme Gallery is located at 17 West Eagle Road, Havertown, PA 19083. For more information, you can contact the gallery at 610-853-1215.

Welcome

to our new member:

Active
Meryl Citron

Art Collection

As previously reported, the painting "In the Studio" by **Hugh Henry Breckenridge** (1870-1937) was donated to the Sketch Club by Breckenridge's granddaughter and great-granddaughters. **Terry Newman** has generously offered to have it restored by Newman Galleries. Due to the painting's size (5' x 6') and its poor condition, restoration will take considerable time. Progress on this work is continuing. Newman Galleries will also be restoring two of the **William Thomson** portraits in the foyer that have some chipped paint. One of these is in process and will be completed before the end of the summer.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is currently displaying: **Elemental Landscapes: Photographs by Harry Callahan; June 23 - September 30, 2001 & Jacques Villon, Poet of Precision: A New Acquisition in Context ; June 23 - September 30, 2001**

For more information: <http://www.philamuseum.org/>

Grant Committee Report

No new grants have been received. As indicated to you in our letter dated August 20, 2001, we were forced to delay some Club activities because of the work going on in the gallery. Future grant requests will include the following organizations by the dates indicated: Helen D. Groome Beatty Trust (9/15/01), Philadelphia Cultural Fund (10/2/01), and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (11/1/01).

Archive Report

Due to the construction, work on archives has been limited to responding to archival inquiries and current filing. It's just as well since many of the friends of Archives, along with many others are helping with preparations for our Eakins show. Among other tasks, we are framing some 70 plus items from the Clubs art collection. If you would like to help and join one of the framing work parties phone me 610-352-3692. Those who are helping say it is a great learning experience. A belated thanks to **Bob Grooms** who donated a case of copy paper for the club. – **Dick Cohen**, *Archives*

Who's That? Thomas Pollack Anshutz

Painter ~ 1851 - 1912

Best known to most folks by a single painting, *The Ironworkers' Noontime* – the painting hangs at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and portray a group of "puddlers" (the most skilled workers in the factory who determine the ingredients that get melted together in a cauldron) on their break from work in a nail factory. They are stripped to their waist and stretching, looking somewhat like ballet dancers warming up at the bar. Anshutz also has work hanging at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *A Rose* [1907]; the National Gallery of Art, *Rooftops*, *St. Cloud* [unknown]; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, *Checker Players* [1895]. We at the Club know him well, and have his 44 portraits of fellow members forming a frieze along the tops of the walls in the library, part of the evidence that Anshutz loved the Club and the Club loved him.

Those portraits began when a popular member, **William J. Clark, Jr.** died August 1, 1889; Anshutz presented to the Club an unfinished oil sketch of Mr. Clark. In March of 1892, Anshutz offered to paint the portraits of other members, the paintings to always remain the property of the Club. The only stipulation was that each sitter had to furnish his own canvas, properly stretched and of a uniformed size. Anshutz completed 16 portraits by October. In 1895, before the series was completed, the Club honored Anshutz by presenting him with a silver table service. The last portrait was finished in 1900.

"The lank and sedate Kentuckian, Prof. Anshutz, was forced at the point of sword, to dangle and flop his number ten bug-crushers to the wild jig music rendered by Prof. Schell," so reads a passage in *75 Years of the Philadelphia Sketch Club*. Born 1851 in Newport, Kentucky, Anshutz came with his family to Philadelphia when he was 19. He began his artistic training under Lemuel Wilmarth at the National Academy of Design in New York, but later returned to Philadelphia in 1876 to enroll in the classes **Thomas Eakins** taught at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. A year later he was the assistant demonstrator in the Academy's dissecting room. By 1881 he was a member of the faculty.

From the Club's history book: "A very large attendance of members and guests, enjoyed the exhibition and afterwards the entertainment provided at the Annual meeting in January 1881. Mr.

Clark was again re-elected President, and the Club's award for 'the best carefully finished study' was voted to Thomas Anshutz, who was a popular member of the Club then and for many years following. At this time he had just become an instructor in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts School, where as a member of the faculty he was instrumental from time to time in introducing many of its students into Sketch Club membership. He was a man of deep knowledge and gentle tolerance, with a mind that was keenly and continually receptive to new methods and new ideas. As a member of the Club, he was a powerful influence in stimulating and sustaining interest in the serious endeavors of the members. As an instructor he was unequalled. He had much to do with the aroused enthusiasm for the sketching part of the program."

Although Anshutz at first adored Eakins and was regarded as Eakins best student, in later years Anshutz sided against his mentor when Eakins was forced to resign as director of the Academy. Anshutz also tried, unsuccessfully, to force Eakins out of our Club (but I shall leave it to others to pick apart this peccadillo). He took Eakins' place as the head of life classes in 1886. There is an etching by **John Sloan** in the Delaware Art Museum that shows Anshutz giving his talk on anatomy. (John Sloan, a former student of Anshutz, had walked out on his class after Anshutz complained about his sketching the students and not the bust.) Other students of Anshutz were **Arthur Carles**, **Charles Demuth**, **Daniel Garber**, **William Glackens**, **Robert Henri**, **George Luks**, **John Martin**, **Charles Sheeler**, and **Everett Shinn**. Among these names you will notice many of the Ashcan School. Anshutz had passed on Eakins emphasis for realism to a new generation. From 1909 until his death in 1912, Anshutz served as the director of the Academy, succeeding **William Merritt Chase**.

Thomas Anshutz died on June 16, 1912. A special meeting of Club members was convened the next day to write notes of condolence for his widow. Over 40 Club members attended the funeral and made up most of the pall-bearers. The Sketch Club's entranceway was draped in black for a fortnight.

Compiled from the PSC Archives by Bruce H. Bentzman

How A Dinner Reservation Is Made

Call the club phone number (215.545.9298) and follow the instructions. The information must be put on the answering system. Reservations can be made ANY DAY after 3pm except Wednesday on which you may call any time during the day up to 6pm. These hours have been established to avoid disturbing the workshops in progress. Reservation and cancellations cutoff is 6pm on the Wednesday prior to the meeting night.

Sunday – Tuesday
call after 3pm

Wednesday
anytime until 6pm*
*cutoff time for calling
is 6pm prior to the
meeting night

Thursday – Saturday
call after 3pm

Registered Attendees:
You need only to call if you are cancelling or bringing guest/s. We must know how many guests. If you fail to show, you will be billed for the cost of the dinner/s at \$13.00 each.

Unregistered Attendees:
You must make a reservation each time you come to dinner stating the number of guests you are bringing. If you fail to show, you will be billed for the cost of the dinner/s at \$13.00 each.

Note: *If you wish to be registered as a regular attendee, you must do so with the Treasurer.*

Please do not let this deter you from attending the meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.



{ SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING: CANCELLED! }

NEXT DINNER MEETING: OCTOBER 12TH

News for the Newsletter?

To submit information or announcements for *The Portfolio*, please use the following as a guide.

Via e-mail:

sketchnews@hotmail.com

Via regular mail:

Editor, The Portfolio
235 South Camac Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5608

or

Susan Hutton DeAngelus
950 North Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

For all other information, contact the appropriate committee chairperson and they will submit the item with their reports.

Copy deadline
for the October issue:
September 27th

Press Release

Once An Artist, Always An Artist? A successful ad man and University of the Arts Alumni never lost touch with Landscape Painting. Advertising Design alumni, **Ed Letven** shows retrospective exhibition – “Watercolors and Digital Variations” at University of the Arts’ Arronson Gallery from September 3rd – October 3rd, 2001.

Philadelphia, PA – He built a successful ad agency and PR conglomerate yet over a 42 year creative career University of the Arts grad (1954) Ed Letven, a lifetime painter of both landscapes and seascapes, always kept a paintbox and easel nearby ready for business travel. After ending his interest in the creative organization he founded, Letven has left marketing devoting all his energy to return full time to art. For the first time he is exhibiting a large collection of his older “plein-air” watercolor paintings as well as recent works. The exhibition will be on display at the University of the Arts’ Arronson Gallery located at 320 South Broad Street (Broad & Pine) on Monday, September 3rd. Letven’s exhibit is part of a special weekend celebrating the accomplishments of the University’s alumnus.

Letven will show an interesting transition of his watercolors over the years. The show will also include some examples of recent experiments using the computer as a diagnostic tool to explore variations. The show will be open to the public from September 3rd until October 3rd. A cocktail reception is scheduled for September 15th from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at 320 South Broad Street. He is a member of the Philadelphia Sketch Club and an Associate Member of the Philadelphia Water Color Society, and Artsbridge.

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art is currently displaying: American Spectrum: Paintings and Sculpture from the Smith College Museum of Art; June 30, 2001 - September 30, 2001

For more information: <http://www.pafa.org/museum/exhibitions/>