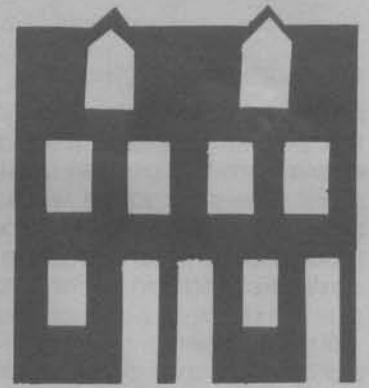


D E M U T H

DIALOGUE



VOL. 1, NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEMUTH FOUNDATION

SUMMER 1982

RENOVATIONS ON HOUSE TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER

Renovations to the Demuth house are scheduled to begin this summer. Dick Levengood recently presented architectural plans for the initial stages of restoration. Although the house dates back to the 18th century, it will be restored to its appearance circa 1930 when Charles Demuth was living and working there.

The rear portion of the building will be used by the Foundation. We plan to use the first floor for a garden shop. A back winding staircase will lead to the second floor gallery and a recreation of Charles Demuth's studio. The basement will be used for meeting space and as a workroom for the garden shop. In the future, the paved parking area will be restored to a flower garden, as it was in Charles Demuth's lifetime.

When the Demuth family occupied the house, the front part was leased to commercial and office tenants. We have been fortunate in obtaining a tenant also. Harold Horn has leased the front of the building and some of the parking area. Mr. Horn will be responsible for interior renovations in the front office area. Plans for this work and the Foundation's work have been coordinated to meet legal requirements and allow for modern conveniences, such as heating equipment.

To avoid changes which might alter the character and appearance of the building, we have been able to obtain legal variances from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. We will be required to install only one interior fire stair at the front of the house. In addition, we will not be required to construct an exterior fire escape. We will also be permitted to use the

back winding staircase for public access to the second floor gallery and studio, although we must limit occupancy of the second floor to twelve persons at one time.

Priorities for restoration have been established as: 1) exterior work, 2) interior work and 3) garden restoration. The Foundation has decided to tackle the most visible

work first with the remaining projects to be completed as funds allow.

Projects which will be started first are: 1) Creating an inverted dormer on the west roof area to accommodate heat pumps for Harold Horn and the Foundation. This ingenious plan will allow the equipment to be placed outside

continued on page 2

ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR GIVEN



Dorothea Demuth, honorary director, is shown presenting a Demuth painting of daffodils to Gerald Lestz, Foundation president. The painting was donated to the Foundation by Col. Henry C. Demuth, who now lives in California. Col. Demuth, cousin of Charles, had selected the painting from a stack of work in the artist's studio in the early 1920s. The painting was slightly damaged several years ago, but will be restored by the Foundation.

RENOVATIONS *continued*

but will maintain the appearance of the present roof line. It will not be visible from the garden area or the street. The alternative would have been to place the equipment at ground level, which would be an un-aesthetic addition to the proposed garden area.

2) Repainting the front of the building, to be done after paint samples are taken to determine the actual color in 1930. Photographs from 1943 indicate that the facade was probably gray, but additional research will be done to confirm this. The front will be further improved by removing air conditioners from the windows and transoms.

3) Repointing the brick at the rear of the building. Some of the "mortar" is actually mud. The brick will be chemically cleaned. We will avoid abrasive cleaning methods. An excellent 1943 photograph shows that the rear wall was red brick with one part whitewashed. This photograph also shows shutters at all the windows and "continental style" awnings. These will be included in the restoration.

Plans for the interior are limited at this time but include replacing oak strip flooring with old pine in the larger first floor room. The basement stone walls will be sand-blasted to remove whitewash and they will be repointed as necessary. A brick floor will be installed so the basement can be used as a meeting room and for garden shop activities. Eventually a stone stairway will be constructed to permit outside access to the basement. No immediate work is planned for the second floor studio and gallery.

ART SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 3RD THIS YEAR AND THE HOUSE WILL BE OPEN

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED IN MAY

At its first annual meeting in May, the Demuth Foundation elected officers for 1982-83 as follows:

President.....Gerald S. Lestz
Vice President.. Caroline S. Nunan
2nd Vice Pres... Donald B. Hostetter
SecretaryGloria J. Henneman
Treasurer.....Robert D. Garner

In addition new directors elected to serve a one, two or three year term are as follows: Merry Jaeger, Frederick N. Schroeder, Judy Briner,

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Albert B. Wohlsen has been serving as general chairman of the drive for funds. Assisting him are Abby Jensen, Chris McMurtrie, Jerry Molloy, Ed Ireland and almost one hundred volunteer captains and solicitors.

The campaign received initial pledges of \$60,000 from the Junior League, \$40,000 from the John F. Steinman Foundation and \$20,000 from the James Hale Steinman Foundation. With these advance gifts a drive was conducted among art lovers and community leaders to sponsor the project. Each of those who contribute \$1000 over a three year period will receive a portfolio of serially numbered prints of Charles Demuth watercolors. This limited edition is offered to the first 150 donors.

At the July 20th meeting of the Board of Directors it was reported that donations to date amounted to \$127,094 and remaining pledges were \$76,450, making total funds raised \$203,544. In order to complete the purchase of the building and phase one of the renovations, an additional \$25,000 will be needed during the third quarter of 1982. A committee is currently reviewing the prospects in the hope that a revitalized campaign can be conducted during September. This extended fund drive will assure the Foundation that the exterior will be repaired prior to cold weather and some basic services will be in place for the winter. If you would like to contribute or volunteer to help, please phone Gerry Lestz at 392-0733 or Don Hostetter at 393-0705.

Pat Holland, Nancy L. Neff, Page Steele, Daniel C. Herr, Esq., William E. Krantz, Christopher E. McMurtrie, and Linda Lestz Sharron.

Other directors who continue to serve, include: Carol Gundel Falk, Esq., Dr. John L. Farmer, Elizabeth Gilbert, Abby Jensen, Margaret G. Lestz, Richard L. Levengood, Debbie Hart, Shirley Reed, Susan Stoudt and Albert Wohlsen, Jr.

Dorothea Demuth serves as an Honorary Director.



Susan Stoudt welcomes visitors to the first public opening of the Demuth house since the purchase, held May 2 of this year. Over 100 people attended to get a "before" glimpse of the property.

JUNIOR LEAGUE INVOLVED

Contacted by the group of Lancaster citizens concerned with the preservation of Charles Demuth's home, the Junior League of Lancaster responded with a pledge of personnel and money. Both aspects of the pledge are currently being fulfilled.

The financial commitment in the amount of \$60,000 is being contributed in three installments to assist with various aspects of the project—purchase of the home, renovation and acquisition of exhibits.

Junior League members serve on the Foundation board. Through its board members and steering committee, League members have accepted responsibility in several specific areas of the project. League research has focused on obtaining information pertaining to Demuth's life through interviews with people who knew the artist. Old photos have been used in order to determine the original arrangement of the garden.

In addition, women of the Junior League have worked in promoting the Demuth Foundation by providing assistance with publicity, the development of a slide show presentation, and in determining the availability of funding sources through grantwriting. The formulation of a docent program will soon occupy the League's attention.

Through its pledge of time and financial assistance, the Junior League of Lancaster has joined with numerous citizens, organizations and businesses to assist in making the Demuth Foundation a reality with an exciting future.

FROM THE PRESIDENT: A BRIEF FOUNDATION HISTORY

In the short time since it was suggested that the home of Charles Demuth be purchased and restored as a memorial/museum, the response has grown. Today, we are proceeding toward full realization.

The first meeting on these plans was held November 30, 1980, with a small interested group present to consider the project. Since that time we have incorporated as the non-profit Demuth Foundation; purchased the home; made plans which are being implemented in stages; conducted fund-raising which has brought over \$200,000 in cash and pledges, and received gifts or promises of gifts of Demuth works to be owned by the Foundation and shown in the home.

And that's not all. We have received broad community recognition for our two major purposes—*honoring Demuth and adding to the cultural attractiveness of downtown Lancaster*. We have started planning for restoration of the Demuth garden, from which the artist drew subjects for famous still life paintings, and this has drawn strong emotional response. We are developing research—we know all the flowers that grew in the garden, and we are amassing all sorts of information in regard to the artist—some of this founded on interviews with people who knew him.

The end is not in sight. This is a dynamic enterprise, with all sorts of pleasant surprises. We will continue soliciting for basic funding, in order to complete preparation of the home for its full contemplated use. We are encouraged, but not at all complacent; there is far more to be done, and we welcome all forms of assistance.

From the outset, it was recognized that no matter how noteworthy this undertaking might be, funding was an absolute necessity. Luckily, we had the early support of the Junior League of Lancaster, some of whose members were in the first discussions, and the John Frederick Steinman Foundation and the James Hale Steinman Foundation, whose family members were friends of the artist. With a total of \$120,000 in pledges from these sources, we proceeded with the fund campaign. Other donors have since put the total where it is today.

Persons, organizations and business firms giving \$1,000 or more were told they would receive a portfolio of four Demuth reproductions, in a limited edition. Thus far nearly 40 of these have been delivered; a number of gifts are well beyond \$1,000. The reproductions were based on the Science Press Keepsake Book on Demuth; the company gave us the transparencies, and printed the portfolio in toto as a donation.

Meetings of the early committee, and later of the Foundation, have been marked by spirited give-and-take in frank airing of information and opinions. We decided that this would be a memorial to the artist, not the restoration of an 18th Century building, and so the home will look much as it did when Charles' father changed it outside and in, nearly a century ago. We decided also, since the Demuths had rented out part of the building while living in the rest of it, to follow a similar plan. Hence our leasing of part of the house will provide us with part of the money needed for annual operation.

The Demuth family has been very cooperative. Dorothea, widow of Charles' cousin Christopher Demuth, is our honorary board member and has contributed much in the way of

personal reminiscence. Her brother-in-law, Col. Henry C. Demuth, has donated a painting of daffodils which Charles gave him 60 years ago.

Charles lived in this house as a boy. It was always a haven to him, no matter where his travels took him. We believe he did far more of his paintings in the small studio on second floor rear (which will look as though he had just stepped out) than anyone ever knew. He could see Trinity Church steeple from its window. He often stood in the front doorway of the home, watching fellow townspeople pass by. Yet he was known to few of them—while elsewhere he was accepted as an outstanding artist by friends such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Marcel Duchamp. His visitors in the garden included Miss O'Keeffe and Eugene O'Neill, famed playwright.

We welcome your interest. We are only on the threshold of what can be done. Funds are vital, and we will continue to seek them. But interest means as much or more. We need active participation, so that this can be the best example of what citizens of Lancaster can do to honor someone who pursued excellence and in doing so brought new and lasting beauty to the world.

Gerald S. Lestz, Foundation President



Only men could vote on February 24, 1894 when this photo was taken looking across the street from the Demuth home. The picture was taken by Ferdinand Demuth, father of Charles, who was a talented amateur photographer. Courtesy private collection.

RESEARCH REPORT

The Research Committee has been collecting many pictures and news articles about Demuth from old Lancaster newspapers. A notebook containing these possessions along with family wills, art show catalogues and slides of Charles' work has been compiled.

Interviews of people who knew Demuth or were familiar with his art have been made and tapes recorded of these conversations. Some of those interviewed included a family lawyer, a household helper and a Demuth art collector.

The committee has been in touch with owners of several objects of interest, including a paintbox used by the artist and a china vase painted in his youth.

The research committee is always looking for new leads on information about the Demuth family and possessions they once owned. Anyone with information who would like to assist in this area should call Sue Engle at 569-9435.

GARDEN PLANNING

Thus far, the committee has identified every plant known to have grown in the original garden through the use of period photographs.

The original garden was approximately 20 by 80 feet long and extended back to Mifflin Street. Walkways were paved with red bricks in plain and chevron patterns. Red bricks also edged the raised plots arranged between the walkways. In May, the committee was pleased to discover that the original bricks still lie beneath the asphalt parking lot.

Recently a generous pledge of \$800 was made to the Foundation by the Four Seasons Garden Club, to aid in the restoration of the garden.

The Lititz landscaping firm of McCloud, Scatchard, Derck and Edson has offered a number of services towards restoration as a contribution. Already, they have generously provided detailed sketches of the proposed garden.

LOCHER SHOW AT RISD

The first exhibition of works by Robert E. Locher, one of Demuth's closest friends from Lancaster, is on view at the Museum of Art of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, until August 28.

Locher was one of New York's leading interior designers in the 1920s, and many of the pieces in the show are drawings and sketches he made for clients—doorways, floors, rooms, furniture, lamps and chairs among others.

There are also examples of costume design, book jackets for authors such as G. B. Stern, drawings for *Vanity Fair* magazine, and an advertisement for Armstrong Cork. (now Armstrong World Industries)

A small Demuth watercolor of Locher, titled "Old Top" is also in the exhibition, along with other items typical of design of the 1920s.

Locher inherited Demuth's watercolors and the home. He resided in the house in later life, until his death in 1956.

ARE YOU A MEMBER? IF NOT, PLEASE JOIN US!

I wish to volunteer

Categories of Membership

- Active \$10
- Household \$15
- Associate \$25*
- Senior/Student \$5
- Contributing \$100*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Associate members receive 4 Demuth post cards; Contributing members receive a small reproduction of Demuth's "I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold."

Applications should be sent to DEMUTH FOUNDATION, PO Box 328, Lancaster, PA 17603.

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE

DEMUTH FOUNDATION
PO Box 328
Lancaster, PA 17603

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 670
Lancaster, PA