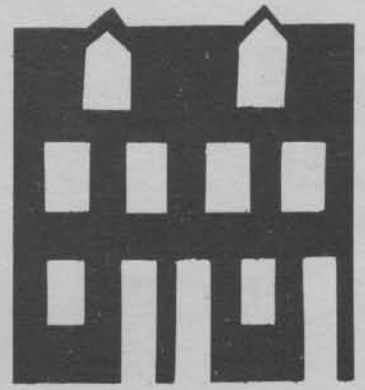


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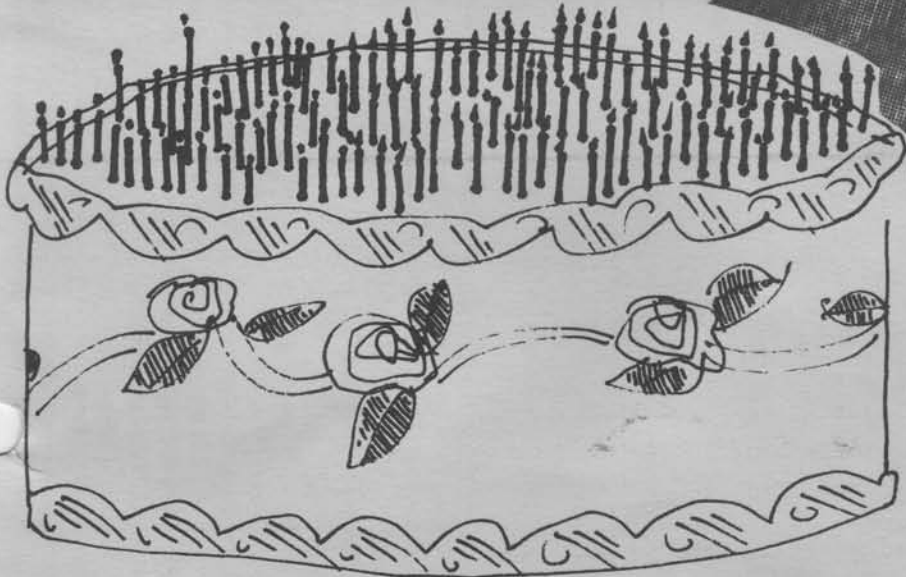
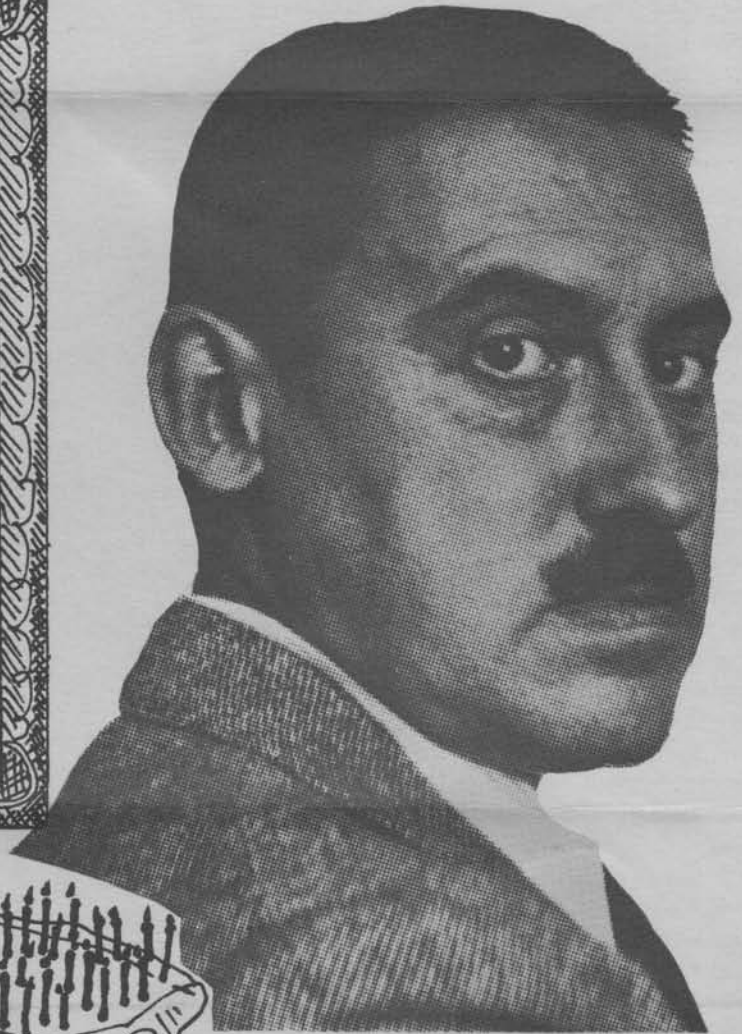
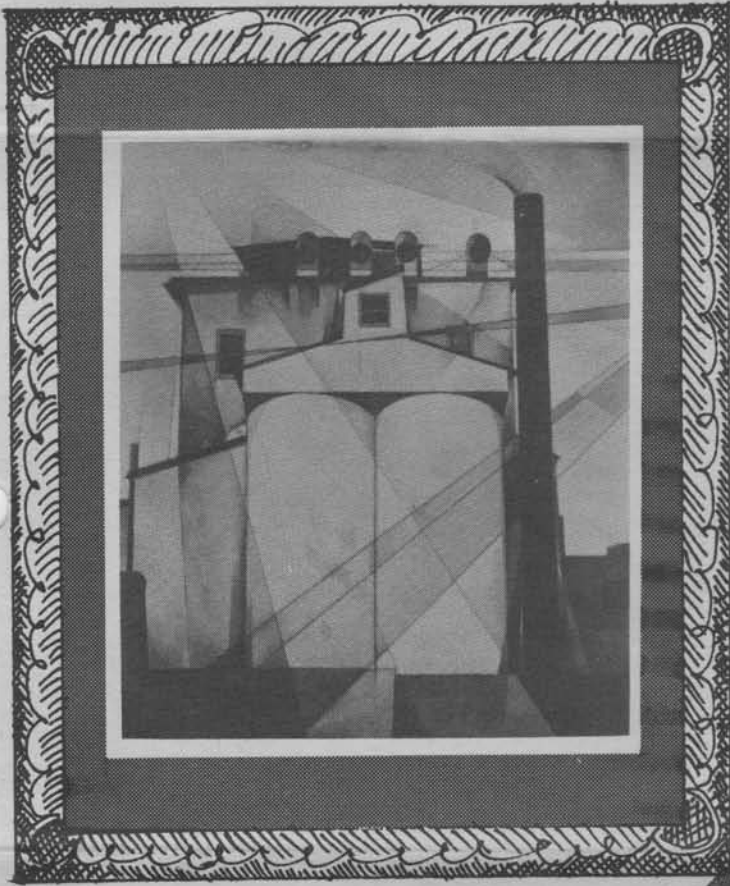
D I A L O G U E



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CENTENNIAL ISSUE FALL 1983



DEMUTH
CENTENNIAL

November 8, 1983

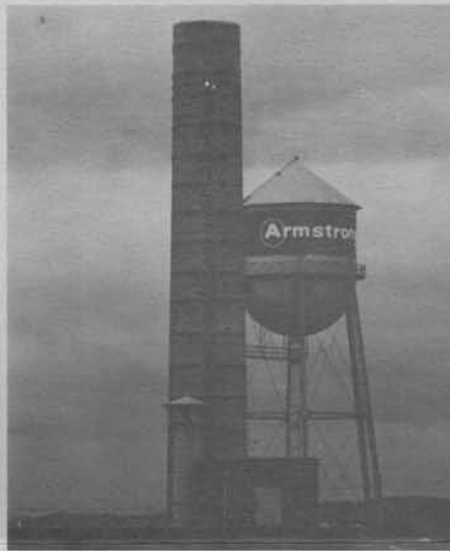
RESEARCH DISCOVERS PAINTING VIEWPOINT

by Sue Engle
Research Committee Chairman

I made a discovery about Demuth right in my own family room. In July, I brought home the catalogue from the show **Pennsylvania Modern: Charles Demuth of Lancaster** and showed it to my husband, Lew. He looked through the catalogue, admiring the works, but when he came to the paintings *After All* and *Chimney and Water Tower*, he said, "I know where those pictures were painted! They're buildings from Armstrong's Floor Plant." As we checked the text of the catalogue, we found that the buildings Demuth based these works on had not been identified. However, it was assumed that one of the factory complexes in Lancaster could have served as the model.

After All is a painting of the cork mill and surrounding structures. To photograph the scene, we stood on the south side of the Manheim Pike near the ACM Office Equipment Co. and looked south across the railroad tracks to see the image that Demuth had painted. The resemblance was incredible! Every detail is still there: the oddly-shaped cyclone separator, the zigzagging fire escapes, the brick elevator shaft, the black iron cat walk, the huge square windows, the two towering smoke stacks and even the criss-crossing power lines in the foreground.

The other painting, *Chimney and Water Tower*, also includes the cork mill, but from a different view. To paint this picture, Demuth would have stood at the Lincoln Street gate to the floor plant and looked West. However, today the view is obscured by a 10-story warehouse. To photograph this site, Lew had to stand on top of the warehouse and shoot west to capture the scene Demuth saw. Again, the likenesses



The Engle's recent photograph taken from the vantage point of *Chimney and Water Tower*.

were unbelievable! The water tower has the same features: cone-shaped roof, cylindrical tank with spherical bottom, access ladder, and cross bracing between the legs. The dominating smoke stack is the



The 1931 painting by Charles Demuth, oil on composition board on loan since 1949 to the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

same as the one in *After All*. The cork mill is part of this picture, too, but it's tucked in the corner.

Both paintings were done in the early thirties, and it took this long to identify them!

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON



The Sound of Roses, Bell Telephone Band, provided swinging music for dancing at the gala celebration held Friday, September 30 with a preview of the exhibit.

SPECIAL LECTURE

The Demuth Foundation will host a lecture by Dr. Dickran Tashjian entitled "The Province of Lancaster and its Relation to the Avant-Garde World" on Wednesday, November 2nd at 2 p.m. at Fondersmith Auditorium, Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster. This lecture is part of the centennial celebration for Charles Demuth and will be offered free of charge under the sponsorship of the Junior League of Lancaster.

Dr. Tashjian is a cultural historian with a special interest in the American avant-garde. He is Professor of Comparative Culture at the University of California, Irvine. He is co-author with his wife, Ann, of a study of early New England gravestones entitled *Memorials for Children of Change* which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He has also written *Skyscraper Primitives: Dada and the American Avant-Garde, 1910-1925* and *William Carlos Williams and the American Scene*, a catalogue which accompanied an exhibition of the same title at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1979. William Carlos Williams was a friend of Charles Demuth and the painting, "I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold" was inspired by a poem of Williams'. Dr. Tashjian is currently at work on a study of Surrealism and American art and literature.

CENTENNIAL POSTAL CANCELLATION

A special postal cancellation honoring Charles Demuth will be offered on November 8, 1983, the 100th anniversary of his birth. This cancellation will be available at the downtown Post Office, West Chestnut Street, Lancaster. The cancellation shows a woodcut likeness of Demuth and will be marked with the date and Lancaster, PA.



Rick Bomberger, who graciously provided the location for the gala and entertained with a light show as well.



Gerry Lesz introducing Dorothea Demuth. Some Demuth relatives traveled from as far as Nebraska to attend the gala.



Sandy Hershey, who performed a hula.



Warren Rohrer, one of the panelists at the symposium held Saturday, October 1.

JR. LEAGUE PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Junior League of Lancaster, two works by Charles Demuth were presented to the Demuth Foundation in September.

Funds used to purchase this gift represent a portion of the third \$20,000 installment of the original \$60,000 pledge made to the Foundation at its founding in 1981. Both pieces were bought from the Salander-O'Reilly Gallery in New York City.

The view from Demuth's second floor studio of his mother's garden and the courthouse across the street from his 120 East King Street home provided the inspiration for the two artworks presented. One is a water-

color painting, "Flowers White and Brown" and the other is a pencil sketch of the Lancaster County Courthouse.

Junior League President, Anne McGrann presented the pictures to Gerald Lestz, president of the Demuth Foundation, at the League's September business meeting.

Mr. Lestz formally thanked the League membership for its continued support both financially and with the contribution of volunteer hours.

REMINDER

Pennsylvania Modern: Charles Demuth of Lancaster will be exhibited through November 13th at the Heritage Center of Lancaster County, Penn Square, Lancaster.

HISTORICAL MARKER

An historical marker honoring Charles Demuth will be unveiled on Tuesday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Demuth House, 118 East King Street, Lancaster.

The marker is being erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on the occasion of Demuth's 100th birthday and will read as follows: CHARLES DEMUTH. Born in Lancaster November 8, 1883. Demuth received international fame for his precise modernist paintings including "My Egypt" and "I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold." He traveled in the U.S. and abroad but resided after 1889 in this house. Here he died in 1935.

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

Memberships are 12 months from enrollment.

I wish to volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please mail to DEMUTH FOUNDATION, PO Box 328, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Membership contributions are tax-deductible!

Categories of Membership

- Active \$15
- Household/Associate \$25
- Student \$5
- Contributing \$100
- Supporting \$250
- Sustaining \$500
- Sponsor \$1,000

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