

Designs for Richer Living

by Marie Larson

STOP for a minute on your way through college to become an appreciator of fine art, for it costs nothing and will follow you forever. "Every day, unconsciously, as the Iowa State student looks at many beautifully sculptured forms, he is drinking in an education that will become part of his consciousness."

This statement was made by Lilian Hall Crowley, well known art critic. She added further, "Iowa is rich in many ways, but especially in her desires for the finer things of life. An example of this is seen in the panels of the facade of the library building of the State College at Ames." These panels, carved in low relief at the corners of the upper part of the facade, were done by a noted sculptress, Nellie Walker, of Chicago. And what is more interesting is that she was born in Red Oak, Iowa.

Since these reliefs were cut after the stone was in place, it was necessary to erect high scaffolds so that Miss Walker could work from the outside. The panel to the left, as one faces the building, symbolizes the activities of the men at Iowa State, while the one to the right represents the interests of the women.

Our library is one of the finest in the Middle West. How many are really conscious of the effort put forth to make it the thing of beauty that it is?

The library is further enhanced by the works of one of the foremost contemporary artists in the Middle West. Grant Wood, also an Iowan, has painted the murals on the walls of our college library. He chose, in this series of murals, to develop Daniel Webster's text, "When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."

First of the panels is a pioneer plowing scene; next comes the three barnyard murals and, finally, those devoted to the exposition of the useful arts. On the second floor six more murals will represent the fine arts.

In Fortune magazine, February, 1935, these murals were reproduced in natural color. These observations accompanied it: "Look twice at the seams of the overalls, the twitting of the horses, the grain of the wood, the flooded curves of the light in balance, the very faces of the men, and it will become clear to you that one essence of art can be the generalization of the particular."

As the sketches were worked out, every detail was carefully checked and rechecked by members of the college faculty. The kind of hay, the breeds of hog and horse, the chemical experiments in progress—all such details were selected not merely for aesthetic reasons; they all are exactly reproduced. Even the blueprint on the wall is a real blue print, an actual bridge.

By the success of your attempts to answer the following questionnaire, you can see if you deserve an "A" or "F" in campus art education. You may find the answers to the questions which completely baffle you on page 15.

DO YOU KNOW:

1. What present Iowa State woman student posed for Grant Wood's mural in our college library symbolizing the textile phase of Home Economics?
2. By whom were the colorfully decorated tile fountains in Home Economics Hall designed?
3. What is the name of the huge statue which is placed in the front entrance of Home Economics Hall?
4. What man, a former president of Iowa State College, has given approximately 200 prints of famous pictures to the college in memory of his wife?
5. What group of people on the campus is responsible for the selection and placement of the some 350 pictures

which are hung in buildings throughout the campus?

6. By whom was the huge mural in the capitol building of the state of Iowa painted?

7. What famous woman sculptress, a native Iowan, carved the bas-reliefs on the front of the Iowa State library?

8. What sculptor of note is on the teaching staff of Iowa State College at present?

9. What member of the Art Department of our Home Economics Division has been superintendent of the Iowa Art Salon of the state fair of Iowa for twelve years?

10. What two members of the Applied Art Department exhibited some of their work in the Art Salon at the state fair of Iowa this fall?

HAVE YOU NOTICED:

1. The beautifully molded plaster ceiling in Catherine MacKay Auditorium?
 2. The chandeliers in the main study room of the upstairs of the library?
 3. The terra cotta figures in the court yard of the Dairy Industry Building?
 4. The artistic wrought-iron gates at the entrance of the main lounge in the Memorial Union?
 5. The bas-reliefs by Christian Petersen on either side of the entrance to the Dairy Industry Building?
 6. The athletic figures executed in terra cotta on the north side of the gymnasium?
 7. The terra cotta panel by Christian Petersen in the Veterinary Quadrangle?
 8. The bust of Dr. O. H. Cessna, member of Iowa State's first graduating class and former chaplain of the college, in the Y. W. C. A.?
- This bust was sculptured by Rose Roberson of Ames, who formerly studied at the Art Institute of Chicago under Lorado Taft.

