



Campus Sculptor

Christian Petersen

honors

Veterinary Medicine

Jim Johnson Dick Kirchgatter

Christian Petersen — creator, teacher, inspirer. Those are just a few qualities of a famed contributor to the beauty and grace of our Iowa State University campus.

At the age of nine, Christian Petersen and his parents left Denmark and came to the United States. Seven years later he began working in a New Jersey jewelry factory where he learned the art of steel engraving and die casting. He continued in this field and at the age of thirty he was one of the best steel engravers in the nation. During this time, he also studied sculpturing at night and later opened his own sculpture studio in Boston.

In 1933, he was asked by Dr. Raymond M. Hughes, then president of Iowa State College, if he would be willing to design a fountain for the Dairy Industry Building courtyard under the grants of the WPA. Mr. Petersen accepted the challenge and did his designing for the dairy court fountain at Iowa City, Iowa, where other artists were also working under the WPA. The terra cotta (fired clay) was finished at the ISC ceramics department with the help of students.

The completion of this task was just the beginning of Christian Petersen's long and gratifying career here at Ames. The administration offered him a faculty position which allowed him to teach and also to continue sculpturing. Mr. Petersen ac-

Johnson and Kirchgatter are Junior students in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

cepted the offer and in so doing helped to establish an appreciation for art and culture in the Midwest. His office and workshop were in the Veterinary Anatomy Building. He remained a faculty member here for 25 years until his death on April 4, 1961.

During his stay at Iowa State, Christian Petersen's creations were many. One, the statue and bas-relief panel pictured on the opposite page are found in the courtyard of the Veterinary Medicine Quadrangle and are familiar sights to students and visitors alike. The impressive statue of a mother dog, a hurt puppy, and a gentle doctor with the bas-relief panel depicting man's gifts to the animal and, in return, the animal's gifts to man, truly serve as monuments to the veterinary medical profession.

Christian Petersen's hands have left us with many wondrous creations. Besides teaching students the mechanics of art, his most outstanding contribution is that he inspires us through his creations to more fully appreciate the values of art and culture.

Small scale duplications of the statue on the opposite page are now available. They stand approximately 15" tall and cost \$10.00. For all those interested in purchasing one of these statues, please write:

ISU Veterinarian
Veterinary Medicine Quadrangle
Ames, Iowa