

Louis Rosenthal Miniatures On Exhibit Here

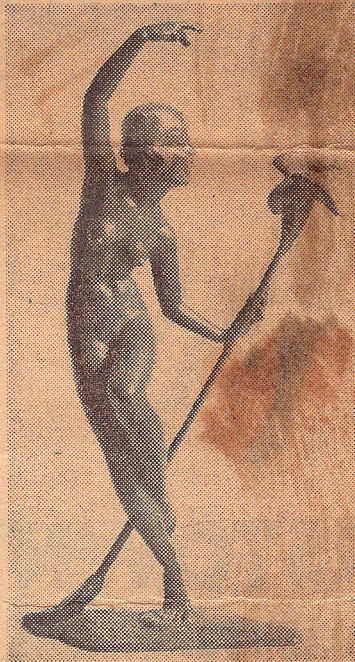
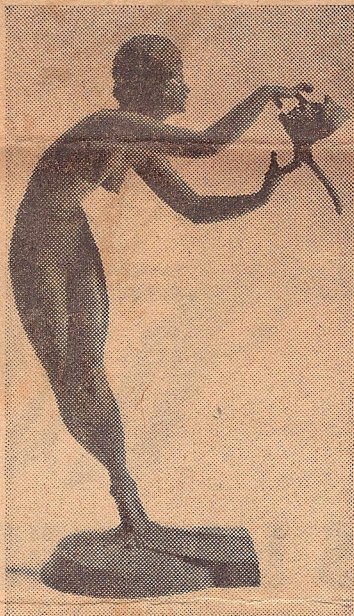
Immortal miniatures created by the hand of the only American to become a member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers of England, and once called "the most famous miniature sculptor the world has ever known," are on exhibit during the month of November at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.

Rarely in a lifetime would an art lover have the opportunity of observing and evaluating a more priceless and exquisite collection of miniatures ranging in size from half an inch to no more than eight inches. The group in itself is a treat and the individual details flawless and delicate.

Louis Rosenthal is a Baltimore sculptor with a Lithuanian heritage. The story of his life is a dramatic fairytale interspersed with real tragedy. He was born the son of a rich landowner and spent much of his childhood when he was not studying roaming in the "dark, mysterious" Lithuanian forests where he had for "companions of his fancy" centaurs, dryads and fauns, many of which he has brought to life in his graceful sculpture.

While he was still young his father died leaving the family poor. In time they all moved to the U. S., to Bird's Nest, Va. Family quarrels drove the sensitive young artist to seek a home in Baltimore. There he persuaded his uncle to take him to the Maryland Institute as he had already discovered that his talents were creative. Ephraim Keyser, head of the Rinehart School, recognized his talent and gave him a four-year scholarship. While a student he met his wife.

However, it wasn't until after many years of heart-breaking disappointments, poverty and unsuccessful attempts to find the only method of casting his delicate black wax figures that he gained the reputation of a successful art-



These are two from among the famous collection of over 40 miniature sculptures by the Baltimore sculptor, Louis Rosenthal, on exhibit at the Washington County Museum through November.

ist. He was actually down to his last 15 cents when he read his name in the headlines of a newspaper and ran 35 blocks to the library to discover he had suddenly become famous.

In 1918 he realized that black wax was his metier but because of its tendency to shrink under normal casting conditions, he was forced to find and perfect his own method of hollow-casting. He now casts his precious figures in bronze, silver and gold but is only able to cast them a few times because of the fragility of the wax models. His only carving instrument is a pearl-handled pen-knife.

He draws his subjects from mythology, folklore, history, sci-

ence, and happenings of the day. He has created such figures as Bacchante, Devil on Ice Skates, Orpheus, pure fantasies; Lincoln, Foch, Pershing, Beethoven, all portraits in characteristic poses; Loveliness, Happiness, states of mind portrayed in poses and expressions of the figures; Pieta, Warning, Meditation, Courting, acts in showing their graceful lines the action suggested by the title.

All these and many more exquisite examples of workmanship attest to the creative prolificacy and richness of subject matter from which the artist draws. All those mentioned and many more are on exhibit at the local museum throughout the month of November.