

Steinmetz Made Immortal In Work Of Local Sculptor

Scientist's Death Symbolized In Bronze Is Included In Rosenthal Collection At Museum Of Art

"Steinmetz was dead; Steinmetz to me was next to God! I dropped everything else I was doing and went to work."

So explained Louis Rosenthal, Baltimore sculptor internationally celebrated for his miniatures, as he was standing yesterday beside a small box in the Baltimore Museum of Art. The case contained twenty-two of his bronzes lent to the Baltimore Museum of Art by Jacob Epstein.

In the collection was a group of miniature figures symbolizing the death of Charles P. Steinmetz, wizard of electricity.

Sculptor's Tribute

An Angel of Death, scarcely a half inch high, is carrying Steinmetz in his arms, while the finger tips of the world-famous scientist are pointing to symbols representing the four elements—wings representing air, a torch representing fire, a globe representing the earth, and the tail of a fish representing water.

Mr. Rosenthal, who is at the museum to give titles to his works of art, passed quickly, however, to another mood—one suggested by two little bears. He had seen them at a zoo show on East Fayette street.

Someone threw a bottle to the two cubs. One caught it and refused to give it to the other. The episode suggested to the sculptor a none-too-admirable trait in human beings, and he modeled the two bears in their scuffle and called the minute statue "Selfishness."

Animals In Allegory

He likes animals. There is a monkey on the back of a goat; there is Samson and the Foxes.

"I haven't seen that for so long," said the sculptor. "Aren't the foxes too big?"

Animals and people—are they so dissimilar? What was it that was said during the World War? All the English-speaking people should stick together?

Well, that was why he modeled two goats, one directing its gaze toward the hoof of a satyr. The satyr sees the resemblance, too. Different? Yes. But not so different after all!

Three Graces Depicted

There are the "Three Graces" with a shepherd judging their beauty.

"The shepherd represents nature,"

said Mr. Rosenthal. "They had to go back to nature for a decision."

It was strange to Mr. Rosenthal how one awoke out of sleep, returning to conscious thought. He depicted it in sculpture. There it was in the case—an angel touching and quickening a half-reclining figure on a couch.

And Beethoven—the great musician stirs the sculptor always.

"Creating such a masterpiece as the Ninth Symphony, and deaf to sound! You see there are the notes to represent the sounds he cannot hear, and above them the symbolic figure representing the great masterpiece, while above the figure is the divine light."

Caught War's Tragedy

In his miniature art, in which many critics have said he has excelled even the great Cellini, he has caught the tragedy of the World War in the "Unknown Soldier," one cast of which is now owned by the Greek Government. The face of the soldier is covered by the shield of Victory hovering over him.

There is a very small bronze, a Pieta, and Mr. Rosenthal has let the Mother's head droop, grief stricken, while she holds up the head of the dead Christ.

In a book, "Immigrants' Gifts to America," written by Allan Eaton and published by the Russell Sage Foundation, is a sketch of the Baltimore sculptor. A long time ago he was honored by being made a member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Engravers.

Still in his studio at 401 North Charles street the sculptor works with black wax and a pocket penknife when his models are miniature. But in the last few years his work has been often on a larger scale.

There is a life-size head of Beethoven in clay yet to be cast, and heroic hands of Michelangelo yet to find their way into bronze.

APPLE WORKER FOUND DEAD

Claude Files, 39, Victim Of Acute Indigestion, Coroner Says

Martinsburg, W. Va., Sept. 11—Claude Files, 39, apple factory worker, was found dead yesterday afternoon under an apple tree between the factory where he worked and the small home where lived, alone, near Sharpsburg, in the western mountain section of this county.