New Englander Chosen Philbrook Museum Head

By MALVINA STEPHENSON
Of The World Staff.

Eugene Kingman, young muralist and art critic of Providence, R. I., has been named director of Tulsa's new Philbrook art museum which is expected to open this fall, officials announced Saturday.

Selection of Kingman was made by the Southwestern Art association board, museum sponsor, of which A. B. Butler, jr., is president. The museum is the gift of Waite Phillips, Tulsa capitalist and philanthropist, and Mrs. Phillips.

Kingman, with his bride, the former Mary Elizabeth Yelm, will return here the middle of the week from Denver, Colo., where they were married Saturday. Kingman will formally accept the position and the couple will meet the museum sponsors.

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In launching the museum project, for the art and culture of the southwest, Kingman will have a capable "first assistant" in his wife. An authority on the Indian culture of this area, Mrs. Kingman has been a curator in the Mesa Verde Indian museum and has received her Ph. D. degree from the University of Denver.

Although only 30 years old, Kingman has already built up an enviable reputation as an artist and teacher and was commissioned by the government to do seven paintings of the Paris, France, Colonial exposition in 1931. He has been serving as instructor of mural paint-

Continued on Page 2, Column 5

TULSA DAILY WORLD, SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1939

NEW ENGLANDER TO HEAD MUSEUM

Rhode Island Man Chosen Director of Philbrook Institution Here

Continued from Page One

ing at the Rhode Island School of Design.

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Kingman is a big, husky fellow who has made frequent western trips and has been extremely interested in the geology of the area. Butler was very impressed with a series of 13 paintings illustrating an article on "Crater Lake and Yosemite Through the Ages" in the March, 1937, issue of the National Geographic magazine.

In these 13 oils, Kingman traced the geological stages of the area through the different periods and presented it in vivid, interesting colors that have wide appeal both to the geologist and the public.

"It is fortunate that we have obtained a fine, young fellow with enthusiasm to build a museum and with the interest in geology which is particularly significant in the 'oil capital," Butler observed.

Highly recommended by the Yale university of which he is a graduate, Kingman also is a personal friend of Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, president of Clark university. Doctor Atwood reported that Kingman had accompanied him on two geological field trips, one in 1930 through the high Sierras and in 1934 through the Wind River mountains.

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"Kingman would only have a short while between times to do his painting, but I would be amazed with what he produced," Atwood wrote to Butler. "The boy's painting showed amazing freshness and vigor with a deep understanding."

Before entering Yale, Kingman attended the Moses Brown school, Providence, the Rhode Island school of Design, and the Fogg museum classes, Cambridge, Mass. He received his bachelor of arts and bachelor of fine arts at Yale in 1932 and 1935, respectively.

At Yale, Kingman belonged to the Elihu club, the Elizabethan club, and the Yale Dramatic association. He was art editor of the Yale Record and the Yale Literary magazine.

Although he has done many paintings and murals for the park service and for post offices and other buildings, Kingman's most recent mural was for the Rhode Island building at the New York world's fair.

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He has had one-man exhibitions at the Yale Gallery of Fine Arts, the Vose gallery in Providence, the American Association of Museum in Washington, D. C., Vassar college, the Mesa Verde national park, and in several New York museums and libraries.

His lithographs were included in print exhibitions of the Philadelphia Art alliance in 1936 and 1938, in the National Academy of Design in 1937 and 1938, in the San Francisco Art museum in 1937, and the World's fair in New York.

The Kingmans will be in Tulsa only briefly and then continue their honeymoon trip through the southwest. They will visit museums and attend the meeting of the American Association of Museums in San Francisco, the latter part of June.

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Ralph O. Dietler was chairman of the association committee for the employment of a director. The committee corresponded with about 40 prospective directors and personally interviewed at least a half-dozen.

"We wanted to be sure to get the right one," Butler explained Saturday. "We don't want to have just another museum, something that will be looked at once and have no more interest. We want to have a project that will see continuous growth and that will be of particular significance to this area."

Although only general plans have been discussed, Butler said that the phases of the museum project will cover the historical and the archaeological development of the southwest. The art exhibits will feature the southwest and Oklahoma but will necessarily touch on all major periods and movements in order to show the relationships. In the four classrooms, art instruction will be given.

The museum will be run as an entirely private project but the grounds have been given to the city and will be taken care of by the park department.