Philbrook Museum Directors Here, Eager to Begin Project

Tulsa Tribune 6-14-39



Tribune Staff Photo

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kingman, newly appointed directors of Tulsa's Philbrook museum, glance through a museum bulletin as they discuss their plans and ideas for Philbrook. They are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Butler, jr., 3311 S. Zunis av., and were honored this afternoon when Mr. and Mrs. Waite Phillips entertained at tea at Philbrook.

By SARA ANN MOTT

Easy to know and easy to like, young, blond Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kingman are in Tulsa today looking over their new job as director and "associate director" of Philbrook museum, Waite Phillips' gift to Tulsa.

Kingman, in addition to acquiring the new position, last Saturday acquired a wife who is just as talented, just as interested and just as full of ideas as he.

Tall, blond with blue eyes, Kingman sat on the porch of the A. B. Butler, jr., home this noon and eagerly discussed the possibilities of the new museum.

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Museum Directors Ready to Start

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museum. It'll be a place to come and stay and return to again and again,' he said.

His wife is almost as tall, and almost as blonde and the green of her smartly tailored dress was reflected in her eyes. She uses her hands to emphasize her statements and looks to her husband for acceptance of what she is saying.

"The exhibits will be a painless education for the layman and student alike," she explained. "It will be a regional exhibit, not just a collection of interesting items. The exhibits will tell a story, as simply, as interestingly as possible."

This is Kingman's first job as director of a museum. He is interested, primarily, in art and painting and in their scientific relation to history. He's not a trained scientist, not a trained critic, but he understands what Philbrook museum is to represent and he's impatient to get started on it.

Mrs. Kingman, the former Mary Elizabeth Yelm (he c alls her "Betty"), of Denver, holds an M. A. from the University of Denver and was for five summers an assistant in the museum at Mesa Verde national park, Colorado.

It was at the Mesa Verde national park that the Kingmans met, two summers ago. He was painting there and she was working in the museum.

They were married last Saturday and are now on a combination honeymoon and business trip. They plan to leave Tulsa Thursday morning and go to see museums and to attend the American Association of Museums convention in San Francisco.

Studios and Dark Rooms

"Philbrook museum will be one of the few in the country to specialize in regional art," Kingman said. "The galleries on the second floor may be used for itinerate collections that have nothing to do with art in the southwest. There will be, also, classrooms for school children, studios for artists, and dark rooms where amateur camera fans can develop and print their pictures. We'll have exhibits of their work, too."

"It's an ideal place," Mrs. Kingman interrupted. "Philbrook has none of the atmosphere found in so many museums. It's inviting and informal. You feel at home there. You'll want to wander in the gardens and rest there, and then look through more of the exhibition rooms. You'll understand the exhibits and like them. It'll be ever-changing, ever-new."

Mr. and Mrs. Kingman will set up housekeeping on the grounds in what was formerly the caretaker's house. The cottage is being remodeled and redecorated for their use.

They plan to have publications and bulletins about the transient exhibits. On Sunday afternoon there may be organ concerts, for the museum already has an organ. Music will have its place as well as art—but just how the Kingmans do not know.

Will Return in August

The first job Mr. and Mrs. Kingman will undertake when they return to Tulsa in August, is the public opening of the museum, in late fall, probably in October.

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THE EVENING BULLETIN, PROVIDENCE, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1939

KINGMAN TO HEAD MUSEUM IN TULSA

Eugene Kingman, son of Eugene A. Kingman of this city, has been appointed director of the recently created Philbrook Art Museum of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The museum is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Waite Phillips of Tulsa to the Southwest Art Association. Over 20 acres surrounding the building have been presented to the city to be developed as a botanical garden.

The museum will be devoted chiefly to the story of the Southwest Plains from earliest geological times to the present. This story will be told by means of mural paintings, dioramas and various collections. There will be galleries devoted to exhibitions of paintings, sculpture and the graphic arts and crafts.

Mr. and Mrs. Kingman will make their home in a house on the museum grounds and will start preparations the latter part of August for the opening exhibition, to be held in the fall.

Mr. Kingman, who for several years has been an instructor of mural painting at the Rhode Island School of Design, was chosen for this new position from among 40 candidates.

SECOND SIGHT

Havelock, Ont., July 6.—(AP)—Mrs. Andrew Quackenbuch, who celebrated her 98th birthday here, remarks her eyesight has improved greatly. She has discarded a thick glass she used for her one eye.

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