



BONJOUR!

Welcome to this month's Legacy of Rodin Society Newsletter! In this issue we are bringing you remarkable insider information about the very first Alex Ettl Grant "Lifetime Achievement Award in American Sculpture" awarded to ML Snowden. We will take you back through American Art history, 18 years ago, when Alex Ettl established his Grant through the National Sculpture Society (America's most senior professional arts organization), and began what is known as one of the most prestigious sculptural awards in the world of fine art. Ettl's deep appreciation for George Snowden and his gift for sculpture profoundly impacted ML Snowden and inspired her onward in the creation of her own masterful works. Ettl recognized ML's profound artistic greatness in the first moment he set eyes on Tectonics Study. We also share with you special excerpts from Snowden's monograph, as she reflects on her father's influence during the very precious time of her youth where she was sculpting alongside him. It is with great reverence that we unveil these most personal mementoes of ML Snowden, bringing her living legacy into your collections and homes.



M.L. Snowden working in the Foundry.

THE LEGACY OF RODIN

THE FIRST ALEX Ettl GRANT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED TO M.L. SNOWDEN

The Alex Ettl Grant was created by Alex Ettl who was the founder of Sculpture House, the foremost sculpture materials supply company in the United States. Early on in the 20th Century, Ettl was the first importer of European finished sculpture tools in America. Before the advent of his company, sculptors in America and abroad fabricated their own tools by hand. The Rodin tools may have been constructed by Rodin himself!

Additionally, Ettl was noted for inventing a non-drying sculpture clay, Roma Plastilina, that to this day bears his signature on its packages. Ettl established his grant to affirm the highest standards of excellence in representational sculpture through an award that would go to one particular artist who showed a lifetime commitment to sculpture that would be judged across an artist's entire oeuvre. Offering the highest monetary reward of all American sculptural prizes, Ettl announced the establishment of his grant by taking out full page advertising in every major newspaper across the nation. The award remains established through an endowment under the auspices of the National Sculpture Society in New York, the nation's oldest professional arts organization as well as the National Academy of Design.

The National Sculpture Society and National Academy of Design house historic archives on Snowden's father, George Holburn Snowden (1901- 1990); the National Society maintains archives as well for Robert George Eberhard and M.L. Snowden. In 1989, M.L. Snowden won the first Alex Ettl Grant after a professional juried review of her entire lifetime works.



The National Academy of Design

THE LEGACY OF RODIN

The Officers and Directors
of the
National Sculpture Society
proudly present

The Alex J. Ettl Grant
to

Mary **L**ouise **S**nowden

for notable achievement
in American sculpture
through a
distinguished collection of work.

December 5, 1989

W. P. Vung
President

Domenico Facci
Secretary



*The Alex J. Ettl Grant awarded to ML Snowden for
"Lifetime Achievement Award in American Sculpture"*

THE LEGACY OF RODIN

ML REFLECTS ON HER ARTISTIC PROVENANCE

An excerpt from the book, ML Snowden, The Rodin Tools, Reflections on a Sculptural Heritage

"I knew I had inherited my father's abilities. I innately understood that his great mastery from the important studios could never be communicated in a school - in Yale, or the École des Beaux-Arts - but would only be accessed in particular advanced stages witnessed in the building of important works such as the sculptural programs I saw arise for the largest religious edifice in North America - my father's sculpture for the Shrine in Washington D.C. These were - and these will continue to be - works that when witnessed in their building become defining places for a lifetime; the kind of experience Eberhard must have had working with Rodin in his later days at the turn of the 20th century. Certain private places in the sanctum of a master studio can get a sculptor accessed into places that elude the normal sphere of perceiving. But I must say, I also made a stand to never reproduce the sculptural planar and volumed evocations I witnessed in my father's work and he knew my resolve and rejoiced that I was my own person. For this, I credit my Mother for her early protection of me. Over the years, I undertook my own solitary path developing my own independent vision. I count that the works of Jouffroy, Rodin, Eberhard, Saint-Gaudens, A.A. Weinman, the works of my father and those I have formed will never be confused with each other.

Each of us is his own artist but the underlayment, the methods, the recounting of Rodin's words on building advice, which underscore and summarize the precepts of other sculptors in my line - and yes, the formulas, the master ways of working - all these things still run true from hand to hand, down through time."

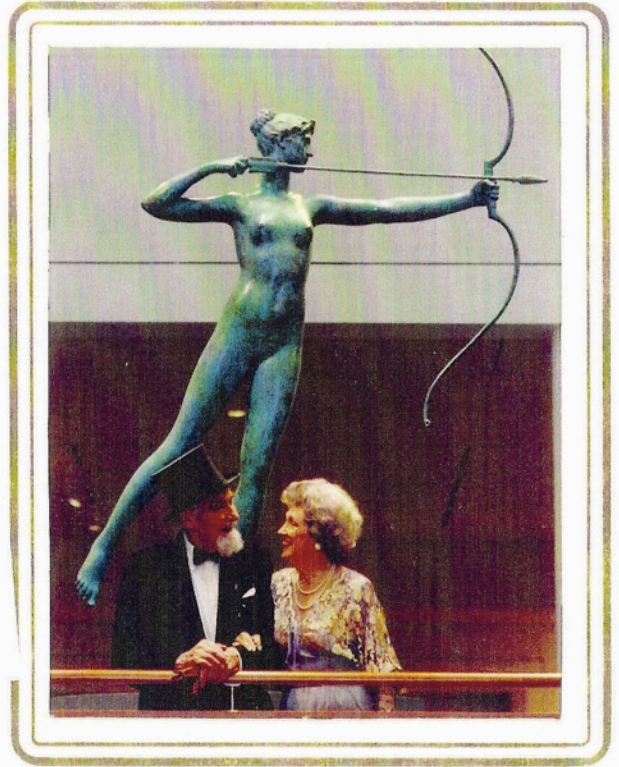


The National Shrine of the Immaculate Collection

"For this, I credit my Mother for her early protection of me. Over the years, I undertook my own solitary path developing my own independent vision."

THE LEGACY OF RODIN

Dear Snowdens we wish you all
the wonderful things ahead and
Merrie Christmas + Love to you
and your very talented daughter
Katherine + Alex Ettl
1990



Here is a photocopy of a historic personal greeting card sent by Alex Ettl and his wife to M.L. Snowden's parents, George and Louise, one year after the date that M.L. Snowden won the inaugural Alex Ettl Grant. Ettl's card arrived on the day Snowden's father died – December 15, 1990. The card reads, "Dear Snowdens we wish you all the wonderful things ahead and Merrie Christmas and love to you and your very talented daughter." Signed, Katherine and Alex Ettl 1990

MERCI FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!

We hope that you have enjoyed this month's Legacy of Rodin Newsletter. We look forward to sharing with you April's issue! We will be featuring the very first sculpture in the geological series: Tectonics Study, and sharing never before seen photographs and writings!