

THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM
EASTERN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11238

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ENCHANTING HOLIDAY SHOW, "LITTLE HOUSES, BIG ROOMS," OPENS AT BROOKLYN MUSEUM ON NOV. 25

*Public Invited To Cider and Doughnut Party from 4-7 P.M.

Footprints gleam in the fresh snow in front of the imposing Saratoga, N.Y. residence of Col. Robert J. Milligan and wagon tracks are visible in the street alongside but nearby the sunlight filters through the moss-fringed trees shading the gracious Perry Plantation home in Summerville, South Carolina. This apparent paradox is resolved when LITTLE HOUSES, BIG ROOMS opens at The Brooklyn Museum on Wednesday, November 25. On view will be seven minutely detailed models of the historic American houses from which the Museum's period rooms were acquired, along with scale models of some of the rooms, completely furnished and decorated in miniature. The entire community is invited to celebrate the Thanksgiving Eve opening of LITTLE HOUSES, BIG ROOMS from 4 - 7 P.M. and cider and doughnuts will be served.

This enchanting excursion into other times and other places is the work of Albert Fehrenbacher, master woodcarver from the Black Forest in Germany, who has spent several years on the Museum's fourth floor, recreating the past from old photographs and drawings.

Prior to World War II, Fehrenbacher was employed as a modelmaker at Berlin's Museum of World Science. Taken prisoner during the war, he spent five years in a Russian camp during

which time he began work on a panoramic Nativity scene, designed to carry the message of peace and brotherhood for all. Upon his release, Fehrenbacher joined the staff of the Linden Museum in Stuttgart where his Potola Model for the Tibetan Exhibition in 1956 won him international recognition.

However, Fehrenbacher was still dedicated to his plans for an international Nativity scene, which he completed and exhibited extensively throughout Europe. In 1965, he came to this country with his magnificent work which has since been shown in almost 150 churches and community centers.

Grateful for the friendliness with which he has been received in the United States, Fehrenbacher said, "This country, it has been good to me. I am happy in this work I do for the Brooklyn Museum." Hastily he added, "It is not all finished yet...at least four more houses I have to do." Then smiling shyly, he apologized for "having much trouble with speaking English...but I hope I speak from heart to heart with my models."

The models included in LITTLE HOUSES, BIG ROOMS offer a survey of various types of American homes from 1675 to 1885. The earliest example is the Jan Martense Schenck House, a two-room structure, which has been rebuilt in its entirety on the fourth floor of the Museum. Its one-story central chimney construction, with steep, sloping roof, is characteristic of Dutch houses in both the old and new worlds. It was originally built about 1675 on Mill Island in the town Flatlands, now a part of Brooklyn.

The most recent example is the John D. Rockefeller House, from West 54th Street in Manhattan, originally built in 1860 and remodeled in 1885. The Rockefeller house has been replaced by the

LITTLE HOUSES, BIG ROOMS

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Museum of Modern Art. Also included are the Reuben Bliss House, the Francis Corbin House, The Col Robert J. Milligan House, the Perry Plantation House and the Nicholas Schenck House.

LITTLE HOUSES, BIG ROOMS will be on view in the lobby of The Brooklyn Museum through January, 1971. Subsequently the models will be installed as part of the permanent collection on the Fourth Floor. Other current exhibitions at the Museum include JAPANESE PRINTS OF THE EDO PERIOD (through January 10) and MULTI MEDIA 70 (through November 29).

Located on Eastern Parkway & Washington Avenue, The Brooklyn Museum is easily reached by public transportation. There is a 7th Ave. IRT station - EASTERN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN MUSEUM - located directly in front of the building and ample parking space is available in the rear to accomodate visitors. The Museum is open daily from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and on Sunday and Holidays from 1-5 P.M. Closed on Christmas Day.

From: Jan Henry James
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