

10-31-1997

10/31/1997 - Alumna Gift to Benefit EIU Tarble Arts Center

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1997

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/31/1997 - Alumna Gift to Benefit EIU Tarble Arts Center" (1997). 1997. 384.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1997/384

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1997 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

97-293

October 31, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ALUMNA'S GIFT TO BENEFIT EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S TARBLE ARTS CENTER

CHARLESTON -- More than a decade ago, as Eastern Illinois University alumna Mildred Grush Timmons was attending her 50th class reunion, she became enamored with the university's Tarble Arts Center.

That affection -- coupled with Timmons' life-long interest in education and the arts -- sparked her decision to share her life's good fortune with her alma mater and the thousands of future university students and children who will attend there.

Jointly, Jim Hanna, Eastern's chief advancement officer, and Barbara Hilke, executive officer of EIU's Foundation, now announce that they have accepted a gift from Timmons on the university's behalf. Upon her death, as spelled out in a trust agreement, Eastern will receive her entire estate; from that will be created the Mildred Grush Timmons Collection of American Regionalist Art.

James K. Johnson, dean of Eastern's College of Arts and Humanities, proclaimed "this will be an extremely valuable addition to the permanent collection of the Tarble."

The collection will be considered a sub-collection of the Tarble Arts Center's permanent collection, and will feature works of art on paper by artists identified with the American Regionalist movement of the 1930s and 1940s, artists who influenced the development of this movement, and American artists who continue in this tradition.

-more-

According to Michael Watts, director of the Tarble Arts Center, American Regionalist art was part of a movement that developed in the 1930s and lasted until about the end of World War II. It is considered by some to be the first art movement to originate in America. Regionalist artists sought to create an art form that represented American values and themes, free of European Modernist influences, using a realist rather than an abstract style. Some of the more notable artists associated with the American Regionalists are Grant Wood, Thomas Hart Benton, John Steuart Curry, Rockwell Kent, Reginald Marsh, and Raphael Soyer. Precursors to the movement include Edward Hopper and John Sloan. American Regionalism became the unofficial style of art produced through various WPA/FAP art programs during the Great Depression.

Grant Wood, Watts said, is one of Timmons' favorite artists.

Timmons, a native of Northern Illinois and a 1934 graduate of Eastern, received her degree in elementary education when the university was still known as Eastern Illinois State Teachers College.

She was a teacher during her entire career, and taught in Lombard, Robinson and Hinsdale while still residing in Illinois. Seeking new adventures, she taught one year each in American schools in Venezuela, Panama and Colombia. Returning to the United States, she continued her career in schools in California, Colorado and Salt Lake City. She was also selected as a traveling teacher for youngsters associated with the Youth Opportunity Program affiliated with the Horace Heidt orchestra.

After her retirement from teaching, Timmons served 11 years as a volunteer in the gift shop of Holy Cross Hospital and, at age 88, continues to assist in the Utah State Library's Multi-State Program for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, all located in Salt Lake City.

In her spare time, Timmons remains an avid reader and enjoys literature, political analyses and current trends. She also enjoys antiques.