



**GARDEN OF MUMS**—Imogene Ross, a junior in home economics at Kansas State university, sits in an experimental chrysanthemum garden at the university's Manhattan, Kan., campus. There should be more than 200 varieties of mums in full bloom for homecoming visitors on Oct. 26. (UPI)

## Italian Portraitist Says Man Will Spurn Abstract Art

By ERNEST SAKLER  
United Press International  
FLORENCE, Italy (UPI) — Painter Pietro Annigoni, portraitist of the British royal family, says the day will come when "the Christian man" will spurn abstract art and no longer be "ashamed of his own face."

Annigoni, whose art has been attacked by some critics as academic and photographic, issued an impassioned manifesto against "materialism." It was in the form of an introduction to an art book which includes 30 reproductions of paintings by Annigoni's young disciple, Luciano Guarnieri.

The 53-year-old Milan-born painter said he did not consider himself unmodern because he sought "advice and support" from the great masters of the past. Artists such as he and Guarnieri, he said, are just as "characteristic of our times" as abstract painters.

"To belong to one's time, to present one's time — these are ambiguous formulas," Annigoni wrote. "They are obvious if one considers that whatever a man does, he belongs to his time, whether he likes it or not, and he represents one of its aspects. They are very questionable when one intends through them to solicit artists, if not actually to impose on them a task or an obligation . . ."

"Obviously even the times can be condemnable . . . There is a desolation in the air, an

unconquerable nausea, one would say, over the old fact of being men."

Copying nature faithfully as he is doing, Annigoni said, is a bit like copying God and paying tribute to Him.

"I, Guarnieri and his companions belong to a group of pilgrims, also characteristic of our times — even though contemporary culture denies it — who in smaller numbers, in far smaller numbers, felt the need to turn for advice and support to the great masters of the European tradition," Annigoni wrote. "And this is because we are full of nostalgia for the Christianity which supported those masters, and full of nostalgia for the man they conquered and revealed, and whom we think it is neither right nor desirable to consider outdated."

"Certainly life, which is continuing its course, is opening its way with a ram made of coarse materialism. Many things will change, almost all the past will be swept away, cities will be cement and glass, walls will be as shiny and smooth as the steel plates of automobiles. Speed will devour time and leave little margin for meditation.

"However, the Christian man will pass through all this and will reassert himself, without disgust for his own likeness, happy to be able to intuit something infinitely superior to himself which he can admire and love."

Although Annigoni's words were belligerent, they weren't quite as strong as those he addressed to the Florence city council in 1956.

Recognized Leader  
Annigoni at the time was the recognized leader of a crusade against the planned shipment of brittle Renaissance masterpieces to the United States for exhibition. Annigoni and his followers said the change in climate could cause the old oils to disintegrate. They eventually forced cancellation of the plan through street demonstrations and a sit-down strike in the City Hall.

Before they succeeded, however, Annigoni attended a City Council debate on a resolution which protested the planned shipment in terms he considered too weak.

"That's too little. Buffoons," Annigoni shouted, and left the hall.

A Florence court the following year sentenced him to two months and 20 days suspended for "contempt of an administrative body."

But the paintings stayed in Florence.

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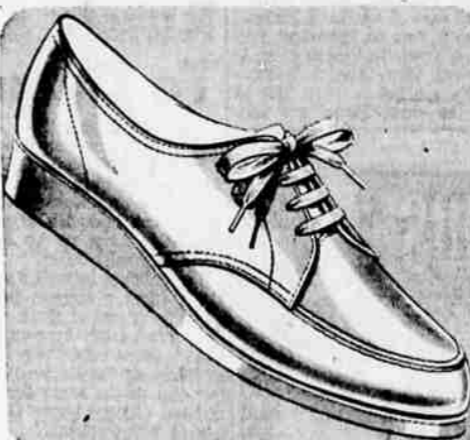
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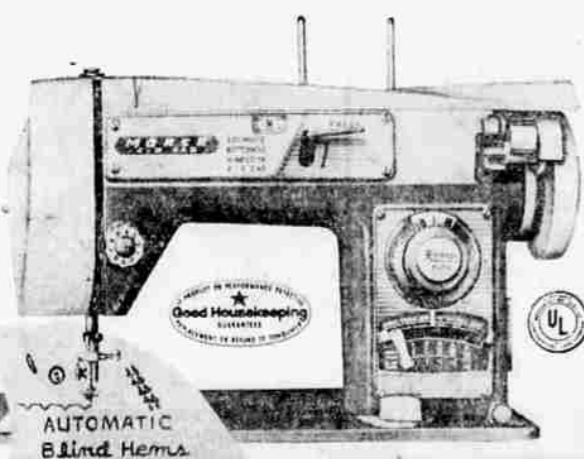
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