

**SPRINGVILLE MUSEUM OF ART
PAST CURATORS and DIRECTORS**

0. PHILO DIBBLE, LARS EGERTSEN

In a sense Dibble was the oldest founder of the Museum, in that he talked about the Gallery so often that it "had" to come into existence. Eggertsen was the principle at the time of the SMA's founding and named the art committee that did all the early work.

1. BENT FRANKLIN LARSEN (1882-1970)
September 1907 to June 1908 [one year]

The first director of, what was then called the "Springville Art Movement," was also its best artist and most famous celebrity. He left teaching at the High School to take over the BYU art department. Larsen was a painter of colorful landscapes.

2. (AARON) WAYNE JOHNSON (1872-1950)
September 1912 to June 1939 [27 years]

The grandson of the founder of the city, Aaron Johnson, Wayne Johnson was born in Mapleton, taught at Price and came to teach at Springville and stayed for the rest of his career. The crowning and last great achievement of Mr. Johnson was the dedication of the new Museum facilities in July of 1937. Johnson was a painter of tonal landscapes.

3. GLEN H. TURNER (1918-1993)
September 1939 to June 1947 [8 years]

Glen was the nephew of B.F. Larsen, studied at the BYU and came to teach at the High School when he finished his student teaching. Until the High School moved to its new campus, the art teacher was the director of the gallery. He was a landscape painter, film-maker and old car restorer. He moved on to the BYU art department where he finished his career.

4. RICHARD "DICK" LEROY GUNN (1918-)
September 1947 to June 1948 [1 year]

Principal Paul Walker called "Dick" at Dixon Jr. High in Provo and invited him to teach at the High School. A great teacher, his reputation landed him a job at the BYU "Art Ed" department the next year. He continued, as did Larsen, Johnson and Turner to promote the Art Gallery thereafter.

5. OLIVER HORACE PARSON (1916-)
September 1948 to June 1954 [6 years]

Oliver was teaching at Ricks College in Rexsburg before coming to Springville. A beloved teacher and painter of landscapes he continued to support the Museum and this month had an exhibition of his and his three son's [Del, Leon and Nolan] artwork at the Museum.

6. STANLEY CLARK BURNINGHAM (1922-2002)
September 1954 to June 1967 [13 years]

Raised in Farmington and Provo, Stan became the art teacher, and art conservator to a growing collection of paintings. He remained the gallery director until the high school moved to its new campus. It became impossible after that for the art teacher to be the director. Stan continued to teach and even after his retirement he still serves on the Museum's Permanent Collection Committee to this day.

7. MAE BURT HUNTINGTON (1890-) & MELBA HARRISON
(acting directors) June 1967 to August 1967 [3 months]

"Mrs. Art" is an apt title for Mae Huntington. An able administrator she was the "heart and soul" of the Gallery from about 1903. With the help of Melba Harrison, she saw the Museum through this period of change.

8. BRUCE BRAITHWAITE
14 August 1967 to October 1969 [2 years 2 months]

Bruce was the first independent director, not associated with the High School, yet still a Nebo School District employee.

9. PEGGY HAWKES FORSTER (1925-1987)

(acting director) December 1969 to April 1970

(Director) 18 April 1970 to 8 June 1975 [5 years 2 months]

Peggy was a native of Ashton Idaho, studied BYU, was heired because she would work for the lowest salary. The first woman director, wife of BYU art professor, Paul Forster, she was a strong and determined leader. The annual quilt show was founded by her because she believed it was a fine art.

10.RELL GARDNER FRANCIS (1928-)

(acting director) 1 July 1975 to August 1975 [1 month]

After Peggy's departure, Rell ably kept the ship stable while the Board interviewed 29 applicants for the directorship. About this time the City acquired the land and building from the Nebo School District as a home for the Art Association's collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures.

11.ROSS JOHNSON (-1980s)

3 September 1975 to August 1977 [2 years]

Like the very young Braithwaite, Johnson did not last long in the position. He was very young and other interests beckoned him.

12.TIMOTHY G. ROSE (1944-)

August 1977 to August 1980 [3 years]

Like Braithwaite and Johnson he was very inexperienced when he assumed the position of director, during a moribund period of the Museum's history.

13.VERN GROSVENOR SWANSON (1945-)

1 August 1980 to 2010

Swanson became the first professionally trained and experienced director. He had worked at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. Swanson studied art at BYU and had a master's degree in art history from the University of Utah under Dr. Robert S. Olpin. He then taught art and art history for three years at Auburn University in Alabama (1972-1975). He completed his PhD at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London in England. (1878-1994)

