

IN MEMORIAM 2008

Dora Pétery-Hunt

I remember Dora de Pétery-Hunt

I met Dora de Pedery-Hunt in the early 1960's. She was accompanying "The Girls" (Frances Loring & Florence Wyle) to one of their exhibitions. I learned about a course she was giving and she became my first sculpture teacher.



In 1997, I was looking for a small project to explore as the years were creeping up on me. I asked Dora to recommend a book to explain the process of medal making. She said "I am the book" and proceeded to help me with my first art medal.

Dora had been the Canadian Delegate to FIDEM for 35 years. She had attended many congresses including those at Neuchatel, London, Budapest, Helsinki, Prague, Paris and the Haag. Attending the congresses and seeing old friends from around the world was a great joy for her. In 2000, she asked me to become the vice-delegate and together we attended the congress in Weimar, Germany. At this congress, she gave her "Swan Song" speech and I became the Canadian delegate to FIDEM.

In the late 90's we discussed the possibility of forming an art medal society for Canada. We were both members of BAMS (British Art Medal Society) and AMSA (American Medallic Sculpture Association). On July 16, 2000 we had a meeting with several sculptors and the Medallic Art Society of Canada (MASC) was born. Dora, as Canada's foremost medallist was the spirit behind the medal society.

In October of 2002 Dora gave the welcome address at the inaugural MASC exhibition held at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. It was the largest art medal display ever presented in Canada and was on view for over six months. This was one of many talks that I heard her give. They were always interesting, humorous and entertaining. She often pointed out that she had lived through two world wars and several revolutions.

With such a long relationship we always had much to discuss. Even during my last visit at the hospital she was chatty and interested in what I was creating. It is hard to lose a good friend but the memories are very fulfilling. I consider myself fortunate to remember the great Canadian artist, Dora de Pétery-Hunt, my teacher, my mentor and my friend.

Del Newbigging

Irene Villar (1931-2008)

The Portuguese sculptor and medal artist, Irene Vilar (born 1931), a member of FIDEM for many years, died on May 12th, 2008.

She was a permanent collaborator of the Portuguese Mint and has made many coins and medals for them.

Berndt Helleberg (1920-2008)

The Swedish sculptor and medal artist, Berndt Helleberg (born 1920) died on June 10th, 2008.

Helleberg was a member and the Swedish delegate of FIDEM for many years. He attended his first FIDEM exhibition in 1955. The last one, was the Paris congress in 2002.

Helleberg was one of the leading artists who worked for a modern medal. His style was considered in 1955 to be of a very radical and extreme kind. He also brought modernity and the unexpected to the shape of the medals. Many followed his lead.

Helleberg received many commissions both in Sweden and abroad for his monumental and his small sculptures. He had won a great international reputation.

