

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

THE LINDBERGH BUST

Illi robur et aes triplex circa pectus erat.—QUINTUS
HORATIUS FLACCUS, Ode 3, Book 1

IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE to quote a Roman poet in describing the newly completed bronze bust of Congressman Charles A. Lindbergh. There was much of early Roman simplicity, honesty of purpose and method, and concern for the republic in this Cincinnatus from a Minnesota farm. Truly, to translate Horace, "triple oak and bronze walled his heart," which, though great and tender, could not be swayed by fear or favor from the course that he deemed best for America.

Marble figures typify Greek sculpture in the minds of most persons, and probably bronze busts, by the same token, suggest the art of Rome to the majority of moderns. The bronze, life-size bust of Lindbergh on a simple pedestal of Minnesota granite has been placed in a corridor of classic lines in the Minnesota Historical Building, where it seems to carry on into the indefinite future those Roman virtues for which he is remembered.

The sculptor is a Minnesota man, Paul Fjelde, now of New York City. He was born in Minneapolis on August 12, 1892, the son of another sculptor, Jacob Fjelde, and a music-loving mother, both of whom migrated to America from Scandinavian countries. He studied at the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts, at the State Teachers College of Valley City, North Dakota, in the studio of Lorado Taft, with the Art Students League at the Beaux Arts Institute, New York, at the Royal Academy at Copenhagen, and at the Academie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. He has a studio in New York, and teaches sculpture, life drawing, and anatomy in Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

Mr. Fjelde has to his credit many pieces in many parts of the world. Among his works are monuments of Abraham Lincoln at Oslo, Norway, and Hillsboro, North Dakota, and of Colonel Hans Heg at Lier, Norway, and Madison, Wisconsin. He is probably at the peak of his ability in his architectural work—in the bronze spandrels on the Federal Street Building in Boston, and in decorations on the East Cambridge Savings Bank of Boston, on the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Springfield, Massachusetts, and on other buildings. His pieces of ideal sculpture include many garden figures, such as the one in the Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina.

His busts and heads are many, including portraits of the late T. B. Walker of Minneapolis, Dr. Hans G. Stub of St. Paul, Mr. Henry Hornbostel of Pittsburgh, Mr. Joseph P. Day of New York, Jonas Lie, late president of the National Academy, and Dr. Harry Colony of Boston. He also has made many portrait reliefs. In 1939 he designed the medals given by the Eastern Arts Association for outstanding contributions to art education.

Mr. Fjelde began work on the Lindbergh bust in the autumn of 1939. As a fellow Minnesotan of Scandinavian ancestry, he has been able to catch the typically Scandinavian elements in Lindbergh's head and countenance. It is always a difficult task for a sculptor to model only from photographs, members of the family who resemble the subject, and criticisms and suggestions of friends and relatives of the subject. Yet Mr. Fjelde has overcome this very real obstacle and has produced a bust that closely resembles the Congressman. In addition it catches the spirit of the man and enables posterity to glimpse the indomitable courage of a simple but very wise farmer, lawyer, businessman, banker, politician, author, and economist.

GRACE LEE NUTE

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