

Historical Note: The Passion for Art
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The Art Section was one of the first interest sections of the FWC, Established in 1923. The section was originally divided into Art History, Art Study I and Art Study II and some time later, as interest grew, it expanded into groups that covered all aspects of the art field, Creative Arts and Crafts, Art Tours, Contemporary Art and Painting.

Art Study I and II continued to be evening groups, which were more convenient to their life style and gave the members an evening of social activity and intellectual enrichment. There is a very old but still legible congratulatory report written on April 24th 1924 stating: “We are already one year and four months old”.

Sadly, little about Art Study I has been documented over the years, and it is not clear if with time the groups Contemporary Art and Art Tours merged their membership with Art History and Art Study II or disbanded. The Painting section continued to maintain a vibrant and productive membership, while Creative Arts and Crafts became part of the Home Section.

During the mid to late 1940s the two Art Study groups merged to become the section we know today as Art Study. However, over time dues have risen from the original 25

cents per member to the present \$3.00. What a small expenditure for a year of enrichment and camaraderie.

Every year both the Art History and Art Study sections top the previous year with ambitious and wonderfully researched programs. Often the time period selected by the group will require an in-depth two-year analysis. At other times the program is a potpourri of members' selections. Over the years the programs may sound similar but each presentation carries the particular focus of the member. Although they may call themselves amateurs, the members' research reflects scholarly ability to assemble and present excellent programs. It is clear to these dedicated members that art is a passion of the mind and food for the soul.

Many of the original members are no longer with us, but in their memory, art books have been donated to the Ann Arbor District Library. The Art History and Art Study combine the memorial gift donation if the member enjoyed belonging to both groups.

In 2003 the Art Study section paid tribute to Georgia Haugh who passed away last spring. According to many of the section's members, Georgia was a gracious and generous lady who acted frequently as their photographer. On her own, she kept a photograph album of the many group activities and was known to give a snapshot to the guest speakers as a remembrance of the event. Her many talents are well known to the group and her album will be added to the FWC historical archives at the Bentley

Library. It is a wonderful documentation reflecting many years of fun and friendship.