

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

CLYDE EDWIN BURT

February 5, 1922 - December 2, 1981

Associate Professor of Fine Arts

Clyde Edwin Burt, associate professor of fine arts, died on December 2, 1981, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Anita G. Burt; a son, Ronald E. Burt; a sister, Claudine Thompson; and a brother, Donald D. Burt.

Professor Burt began his lifetime of work in art conventionally, with painting, but it was to ceramics that he was to dedicate most of his time, and it was in clay that he was to display his greatest talents. He studied ceramics for many years--sometimes formally, at the Fort Wayne Art Institute, the Cranbrook Academy of Art, the Cape Cod School of Art, and the Langors Commercial Art School, but mostly informally, through personal experience and experimentation, necessities at a time when ceramics had neither developed the modern techniques it now routinely uses nor earned the esteem it now receives. That ceramics is currently recognized nationally as a major art form is due in significant part to the pioneering work Burt produced while experimenting with techniques and glazes and clays.

Professor Burt's teaching career began when he was no longer content merely creating his own work in his Melrose, Ohio, studio, located on land his family had owned and farmed for four generations. Intent on developing the talents of other artists, he became in the mid-1950's the model and the instructor for artists-in-training. Before becoming a full-time member of the faculty of the Fort Wayne Art Institute prior to its merger with Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, Burt traveled among three part-time teaching jobs in Fort Wayne, Toledo, and Detroit. His students everywhere noted his unusual sensitivity to clay and to people.

To develop the ceramics program at the Fort Wayne Art Institute, he built much of the school's equipment by hand. The first studios, in the basement of the old building, were soon outgrown, and he redesigned them to fit in larger, temporary quarters. When the new, permanent department of fine arts facilities were being planned, he designed the studios that still serve the ceramics program.

His professional memberships reflected his love of art, artists, and art students: He belonged to the Ohio Designer Craftsmen, the Defiance Society of Artists, and the National Council on Education for Ceramic Artists. He was also a very active member of the Audubon Society. From his home along the Maumee, he led a campaign to preserve the river banks and the natural environment, the sources of much of his art and the recipients of much of his love.

Recognition for Burt's work includes commissions from many corporations, among them L. S. Ayres, Lincoln National Life Insurance, General Motors, and General Telephone; invitations to organize one-person shows and to exhibit in prestigious national and international forums; and citations in several arts publications. The Detroit Institute of Art, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Everson Art Museum are among those collecting his works, and his ceramics received many awards in local, state, and national competitions.

As in his elemental creations, naturalness and humanitarianism controlled his relations with students and friends. In his classes, he established connections between the colors and forms of nature and those in art; his students and his colleagues learned easily that he was kind and patient, simple and gifted and unassuming. His life and his art were in harmony.