

POSTERIZE 'EM

by CORINNE ABATT

If your visions of sugarplums are linked with dollar signs, then it's time to think paper for gifts. Not greenbacks, but rather posters and books. And more specifically, think Michigan, and the ride on your budget could be easy.

All it takes is some traveling and the name of a friend on your holiday gift list who has a blank wall and/or an unfilled coffee table.

Posters can satisfy many a taste; there are so many and a lot of them may someday fall into the collectible category. Look what happened to posters of Paris night life by Toulouse-Lautrec. In the short span of 80 years, they've appreciated dramatically. If you don't care to wait 80 years, you might like to buy just for fun.



The latest of the Cranbrook posters celebrating that Bloomfield Hills institution. (Photo/Stephen Cantrell)

IF YOU'RE OF the "think Michigan" breed, there's a respectable selection of posters which glorify this state and, in particular, the metropolitan-Detroit area.

The Poster Gallery in the Fisher Building in Detroit's New Center area still has a supply of the elegant Mackenzie House poster which has an architectural drawing quality to it.

The gallery also has several attractive posters by the Michigan Watercolor Society, two different ones of the Renaissance Center and two of the Dodge Fountain.

One features a scene of the Detroit Institute of Arts while another has scenes of the city and its people in a soft montage with the slogan, "Meet America in Detroit."

UNFRAMED, THESE RANGE in price from \$5-\$15. Naturally, literally hundreds of other posters are available, from the charming Polish "Cyrk" circus posters to those designed by some of the great contemporary artists. Poland, incidentally, is one of the few countries where poster art is highly respected and consequently provides excellent schools for poster artists.

The gift shop at the Detroit Institute of Arts is another mecca for the poster shopper, who might be expected to digress from poster hopping to look at the fine selection of art books, stationery, cards and other gift items.

Pittman Galleries in Renaissance Center carries most of the local posters published along with a pleasant selection of graphics by Michigan artists, most of which are delightful and modestly priced.

SUBURBAN SHOPPERS will find that many art galleries carry posters as do framing shops. Among the galleries which have a better-than-average selection are: Rubiner Gallery, Royal Oak; Troy Gallery, Top of Troy concourse; Kochipilli Gallery, Rochester; Austin Galleries in Lakeside Mall, Fairlane Town Center and Great Oaks Mall; Art Alcove, Farmington; the Print Gallery, Southfield; and Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum gift shop.

The Print Gallery, with thousands of prints from throughout the world arranged in a library-like manner, is a wonderful place to start curing the blahs which come with blank walls.

Best buys in town just may be the Cranbrook posters in the museum gift shop on the Bloomfield Hills campus. The most recent Cranbrook poster sells unframed for \$4 and several others are \$5 or less. The gift shop also has a large selection of art books and paper gifts.

IF BOOKS ABOUT ART are on your list, then pop into Galerie de Boicourt while still in the Fisher Building. The selection there is sizable and attractive and

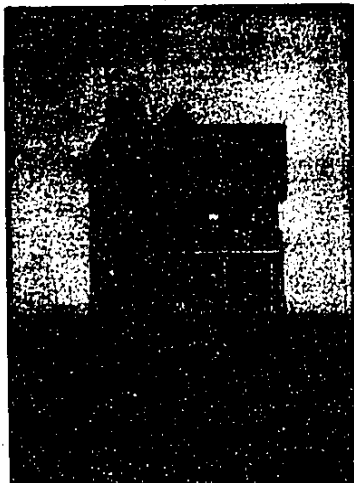
so are the charming folk-art items of Christmas from around the world.

One of the newest books on Michigan,

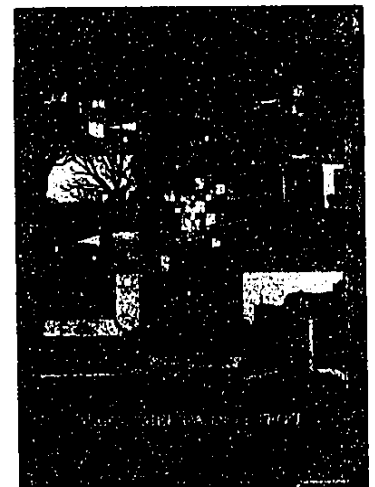
published by Baker Book House and just now being distributed to the book stores, is "A Sketchbook of Michigan." It was produced by Rey Weidenaar, Grand Rapids printmaker and painter, and Anne Zeller, writer.

The Muskegon Museum of Art came into its own with the publication of a stunning catalog, "American Painting," by J. Gray Sweeney. It's on sale through the museum, 296 W. Webster, Muskegon 49440, for \$6. It's full of excellent color and black-and-white photographs with a well-documented text. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Michigan Council for the Arts aided the publication.

So, whether your taste is kitsch or classic, avant garde or old-time nostalgia, there's a poster out there, just waiting for a wall.



Available around town is this blue-print-like poster of Mackenzie House. (Photo/Stephen Cantrell)



Mixed cultural heritage is the subject of "Meet America in Detroit."