

Cameron photos in 2 museums

Thursday, November 29, 1984 O&E

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An Oakland University scholar has achieved the dream of seeing his life's work in the permanent collections of two major galleries — the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Getty Trust's Art History Foundation in Los Angeles.

John Cameron, chairman of the OU Department of Art and Art History, said both museums are purchasing jointly some 55,000 prints of his photographic archive of medieval architecture and architectural decoration.

Cameron has collected the negatives since his early graduate school days in 1955, and today has some 70,000 negatives. He has been told it is the largest private photographic collection of medieval material in the world.

BOTH MUSEUMS are taking an 8-by-11-inch photograph of every decent negative, Cameron says, and that should be 55,000 prints. Some of his photographs have been damaged and others were taken "just to record

something for history, not because they would be good photographs," he said.

Some 4,000 prints will be pulled from the collections by October of 1985 under contract with a Pontiac photographic studio. To photograph the entire collection represents a decade or more of work, the medieval expert said.

While he has concentrated on the medieval monuments of France, his collection contains a few thousand negatives of northern Italy and England as well.

"It is very rewarding to me and to OU to see this kind of endorsement of my research activities," he said.

He feels his collection was singled out not only because of its size, but because of his approach, that of looking at each detail as an indicator of architectural history and not simply as sculpture, and the providing of painstaking detail as to just where each photographed piece stood in relation to other details in the structure.

CAMERON HAS been amazed that almost all photographic records concentrate on the artistic or sculptural quality of a base, capital, molding, rib or bay, but never bother to provide much detail about the piece in relation to the structure itself.

Cameron's schematic system is like a blueprint about the building and its architectural history. It is as simple as asking a current college student to recognize the difference in styling between a 1955 and 1985 model car, he said. Cameron believes his collection is the first to be catalogued with such detail to function and location.

Cameron has been in contact with the International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA) to establish a uniform sys-

tem of topographical nomenclature and computer encoding and he hopes the system will be used internationally.

THE QUESTION of uniform nomenclature will be discussed under Cameron's direction this May at the Kalamazoo Conference, the largest medieval conference in the world.

From this meeting, Cameron hopes a recommendation will go to the board of directors of the ICMA and that the system will be published in the center's journal, "Gesta."

Carl F. Barns Jr., OU professor of art and art history, is a past president of the ICMA, and currently on the board of directors of the ICMA.

UM-D holds preview days

Prospective students and their parents will have an opportunity to visit the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus for "preview day" on two Fridays, Dec. 7 and Jan. 25.

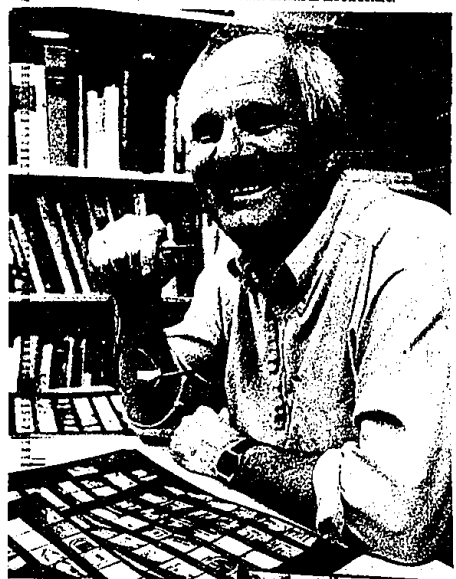
Programs will run from 9:30 to 4:30 p.m. in room 1091 of the University Hall. The UM-D campus is on Evergreen south of Ford Road in Dearborn.

They may view the campus and attend three free sessions on these areas: liberal arts, co-op, financial

aid, pre-professional planning, computer science, teaching, engineering, business and "undecided." Administrators and faculty members will answer questions about their departments.

An optional tour of the campus will start at 1:30 p.m. from room 104, classroom and office building.

Interested persons should reserve space no later than one week prior to the preview by calling the admissions office at 593-5170.



John Cameron

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NOTICE OF CORRECTION

The Accents advertisement which appeared in the Oakland County editions on November 20, 1984 was partially in error.

The Copy:

"4-pc. place setting, the ultimate of Christmas dinnerware...13.95"

Should have read:

"4-pc. place setting, the ultimate of Christmas dinnerware...43.95"

This was an error in newspaper composition, and not an attempt on the part of Accents to misrepresent itself or its merchandise. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused Accents, its staff or our readers.

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