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Portraits in Sculpture

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Virginia Carter describes Christian Petersen's bas-reliefs and relates highlights of his life.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN, Iowa State's sculptor in residence, expresses individual feeling and character in the collection of portraits in bas-relief shown on this page.

His bas-relief of a curly-headed child (right, above) was made during a visit in the home of friends. The childish body curves, the dimpled smile, the tousled hair and the eagerness accentuated in the eyes characterize the infant.

The two children (right, middle) and the group of three (below) also illustrate Mr. Petersen's sensitive modeling of children.

In the bas-relief of his wife's parents (right, below) Petersen catches the differences in personalities in the husband and wife.

Now listed in "Who's Who in Art," Christian Petersen came to America from Denmark at the age of nine. He studied in art night schools in New York and New Jersey.

His fine arts background was acquired in the Technical School of Newark, N. J., and the Fawcett School of Art. At the Art Students League in New York City, he studied under George Bridgeman. Petersen was also a student at the Beaux Arts and H. H. Kitson Studios.

At 28 Petersen was a successful steel engraver, but he left that profession to become a sculptor. He began his career as a sculptor in Boston.

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