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Introducing... Marjorie Garfield, Irene Nettleton

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DESIGNING plans for complete homes and college and dormitory rooms was only part of Miss Marjorie S. Garfield's work as a private decorator.

Miss Garfield, new head of the Department of Applied Art at Iowa State, believes that “interior design is more than merely decorating rooms, because it includes the complete planning of the whole unit, from the built-in requirements to the color and arrangement.” She was formerly head of the Interior Design and Decoration Department in the College of Fine Arts at Syracuse University.

Painting historic room portraits is a natural foil to interior design, according to Miss Garfield. In Yugoslavia, as well as other foreign countries and America, she painted many old houses and found that this gave her a greater appreciation for the humble and sophisticated beauty found in old homes. Longfellow’s Wayside Inn is one of about 300 portraits of historic homes that she has painted.

“Painting interior portraits in old houses is extremely interesting because sometimes I have an opportunity to move into the house and live with the owners, and thereby I get the feel of the house,” said Miss Garfield. In order to plan and decorate rooms, it is necessary to appreciate the qualities of the old rooms. She lived in a Spanish Colonial Palace in Guatemala one whole summer, thereby saturating herself with the feel of it. Another time several weeks were spent living and painting in an eleventh century villa near Florence, Italy.

While photography is not an unusual hobby, Miss Garfield gives it an unusual slant. Instead of photographing glamour girls, babies or animals, she concentrates on old doorways and color shots of interiors. Her hobby has taken her to Guatemala three summers on a Fellowship, here she photographed old Spanish Colonial furniture.

Simplifying the job problem of graduates is one of the duties of Miss Irene Nettleton, assistant professor in charge of the Home Economics Placement Office at Iowa State.

Her job consists of placing graduates of current and past years in positions for which they are qualified. Often much experience is necessary for these positions, so it’s important to have a file of those past graduates who are interested in changing positions.

Home Economics 400, a course in professional relations for women, is being inaugurated this year. Miss Nettleton will work closely with Dean P. Mabel Nelson and others in the Home Economics Division on this project.

While working on her M.A. degree at Columbia University, Miss Nettleton assisted the director of student employment there. “The whole experience was so exciting, things moved fast and we constantly worked against time. Many of the students we placed were earning a part or all of their expenses, and it was essential for them to work in order to continue their graduate studies.”

“Through this work I met many foreign students, and it gave me a finer appreciation of people of all races, colors and creeds,” she added.

“Some winter I'd like to go to Sun Valley to do some skiing,” Miss Nettleton remarked. After getting her B.S. at State Teachers College in Trenton, New Jersey, she taught junior high, senior high and then junior college. During Christmas vacation she spent her time learning to ski, and discovered that the mountains in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts offered excellent ski grounds. “But Sun Valley would be marvelous.”

“After I get to Sun Valley and back, I’m going to concentrate on the construction of marionettes,” Miss Nettleton said. “I took a course in marionette and puppet making and manipulation, and I really would like to find time to apply what I have learned.”