

Report on
Alois Lidauer
Submitted by
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Alois Lidauer, famous 20th Century sculptor, was born in Austria in 1908 and died in 1975.

He began lessons in sculpturing when he was 8 years old. At age 14 he began a four year apprenticeship to a woodcarver. His formal schooling was completed at the Art Academy in Weimar, Germany under Prof. Richard Englemann and at the Royal Academy of Arts in Stockholm, Sweden under Prof. Sjogren. He also studied in Vienna, Florence, and Rome.

From 1936-1940 Lidauer was a free lance artist and sculptor working from his own studio in Salzburg.

When Austria was annexed by Hitler during World War II, Herr Lidauer was drafted into the Luftwaffe. He saw action on the Eastern, Western, and Southern fronts. The Russians captured him, but Lidauer escaped by jumping off of the train.

After the war he resumed his sculpturing and continued as a free lance artist. From 1960-1972 Lidauer was the President of the Art Association in Salzburg. The importance placed on the Arts in Europe makes this honor equivalent to being a member of the President's Cabinet in the United States.

Marble, granite, Indiana limestone, bronze, and wood were the materials used by Lidauer. In Austria he often chose the stone before it was quarried.

All Austrian public structures, including elementary schools and bridges, are decorated with a work of art. Consequently Herr Lidauer has many pieces of sculpture scattered throughout Austria. His most famous Austrian works are: "The Flute Player" for which his son modeled; "The Mounted Crusader, King Richard the Lionhearted" carved out of granite and located near Vienna on the Danube; and a Statue of St. Rupert, the patron saint of Salzburg.

Herr Lidauer's first commission in the U.S. was in the early 1950's when he sculptured the "Stations of the Cross" for a Roman Catholic Church in Buffalo, N.Y. This sculpture was completed in Austria and shipped to the U.S. He came to the United States in 1966 when he was commissioned to do a piece at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. This piece, "The Instructive Christ", was done from a seven foot, one ton piece of Indiana limestone. In 1968 he returned to the U.S. when the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Paxtang, commissioned him to do "The Resurrected Christ". This piece was made from a mold filled with concrete and reinforcing wire. Lidauer's last trip to the U.S. was in 1974 when Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Lancaster, commissioned him to do a piece. "The Good Shephard" was done from a twelve foot, six ton, block of Indiana limestone. During this same visit he was commissioned to do another two and a half ton piece of limestone into "The Good Shephard at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill.