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MASC

# behind the MASC

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDALLIC ART SOCIETY OF CANADA

Fall Edition, Issue 34

## President's Message *by Sarah Tohill*



Dear fellow MASC members.

The passing of Del Newbigging this Fall was unexpected and immensely sad. He asked Kris and I if we would speak at his memorial service on behalf of MASC, and we were honoured to do so. It was a beautiful celebration of his life and the rafters were literally filled with family and friends, with over 100 guests. The family graciously asked people to donate to MASC in lieu of flowers, and over \$900 has been raised. We have put this money aside and the family will be giving us ideas on how they would like to see this money put to good use, likely as some sort of education fund. We will keep you posted.

There was definitely a recurring theme at the celebration: Del had helped so many people to believe in themselves when others hadn't. He was a teacher through and through and touched many, many lives, for which we are all grateful.

Del told me he was very happy with the way things were going with MASC, which was wonderful news, as it meant I had achieved one of my objectives.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as President of MASC. The Council have been wonderful to work with, and I couldn't do it without them. I am gradually meeting more and more of our members, even meeting some for the first time at Del's celebration. As Del's FIDEM medal says, "Making medals, making friends." Long live MASC!

## Council News

- Ildiko Hencz has agreed to assist MASC in putting together a show celebrating the 100th birthday of Dora de Pédery-Hunt, which will occur on November 16, 2013.
- Kris and the MASC Council want to give a hearty thanks to everyone who submitted designs to the Logo Project. MASC received 43 submissions in response to the call-out, the farthest coming all the way from Bulgaria! Council is working with the finalists and the new logo will be revealed in the new year!
- MASC is doing a trial with PayPal, and the 1812 book will be on sale through the website soon!
- MASC is working with FIDEM Canada on a proposal to bring the next FIDEM congress to Canada.

### *Inside this issue ...*

President's Message <i>by Sarah Tohill</i> .....	1
Council News .....	1
Del Newbigging and MASC <i>by Sarah Tohill w/Kris Bovenizer</i> .....	2
MASC Memorable Moment <i>by Del Newbigging</i> .....	3
Dedications and Awards <i>by Kris Bovenizer</i> .....	3
My Favourite Medals <i>by Kris Bovenizer</i> .....	4
A Selection of MASC Members - FIDEM XXXII - continued.....	5
Fidem XXXII Congress Glasgow Scotland <i>by Lynden Beesley</i> .....	6
Fidem XXXII Congress Glasgow Scotland -continued .....	7
MASC Mission Statement.....	8
Meet the MASC Council .....	8

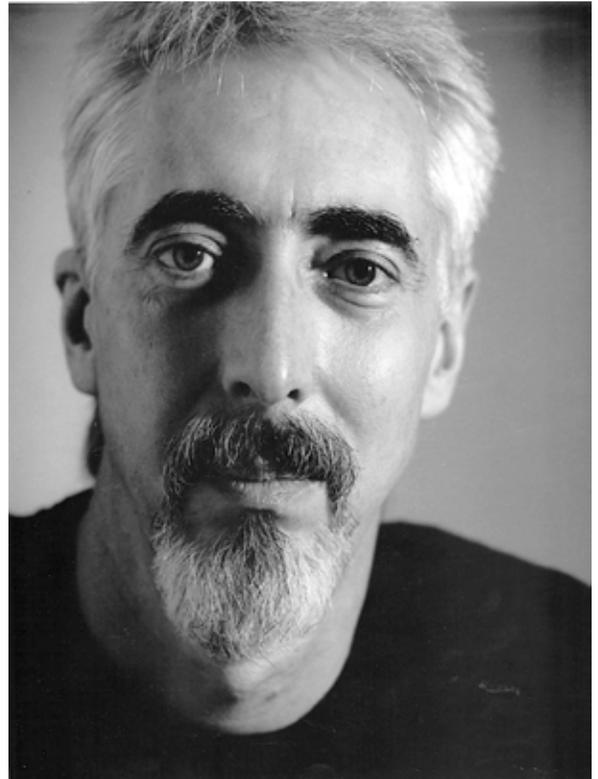
## *behind the* MASC

### **Del Newbigging and MASC by Sarah Tothill w/Kris Bovenizer**

Del Newbigging was born in Listowel, Ontario. At 3, his family moved to Britton to take over the family farm. Del attended a one-room schoolhouse, graduated from the then brand new Listowel District Secondary School and completed Teacher's College in Stratford. His first position, at age 18, was in a one-room school, teaching all subjects across 8 grades to over 40 students. He went on to many teaching jobs around the province that included Visual Arts Department Head at various secondary schools.

In 1965, Del married Eva Ardiel and together they had Martha and Joey. After coming out as a gay man, Del met his love, John Carolan. Del and John shared the last 32 years with their family, recently becoming a legally married couple in 2010.

After Del retired in 1989, he was able to devote his attention to his own artwork. The story of the Medallist Art Society of Canada (MASC) begins with Del's friendship



**Del Newbigging (1934-2012)**

with Dora de Pédery-Hunt. Dora was Canada's foremost medallist and Del's first sculpture teacher who introduced him to the fine art medal. In 2000, Dora, Del and 6 other artists formed MASC, with an original membership of 40 people. MASC today has over 70 members.

For many of us, Del was the heart, soul, and spirit of MASC. As you know, Del was well practiced in the art of "Del"-egating, and this is how many of us got our start in MASC. When asked about taking on the Presidency and Vice Presidency, our only condition was that Del was our mentor, and it is through this that we really got to know and love Del.

Del was a teacher through and through, and many of us benefited from his knowledge and eagerness to share what he knew. He was truly an honourable man, and taught many life lessons as well. We only wish we had known Del longer. We are both dedicated to carrying MASC into the future, building on the solid and successful foundation that Del built along with others who have steered MASC through the years.



Flowers adorn Del's Alexander Wood statue to commemorate his passing  
(Photo: Adam Coish, originally printed in Xtra magazine)

## *behind the* MASC

### **MASC Memorable Moment by Del Newbigging**

In 1997, I attended a weekend conference in England and joined BAMS (British Art Medal Society). The guest speaker was Leonda Finke, an American sculptor and member of AMSA (American Medallist Sculpture Association). She encouraged me to attend a week-long workshop in Pennsylvania in June 1998. At this workshop I was asked to form a Canadian group to be a part of AMSA. Rather than joining the American society I thought I would explore the possibility of having a Canadian art medal society.

In July 2000, I invited several artists who were interested in the art medal to come to my home to discuss the possibility of forming a Canadian medal society. Those who attended were Dora de Pédery-Hunt, Anne Lazare-Mirvish, Susan Taylor, John Carolan, Elizabeth Bradford Holbrook, Christian Cardell Colbert and his partner who took the minutes of the meeting. The meeting was reported for the National Post newspaper by reporter Joe Fiorito. We sat at my round dining table and discussed the

need for a society, its purpose, levels of membership, annual fees and members' credentials. Some decided that it was not for them but others decided to go ahead and MASC was born.

This first meeting remains in my memory because of the high pressured, artistic personalities in attendance and the very opinionated ideas that were expressed. Those who believed in their ideas were not averse to talking over one another. Yes, it happens, even in Canada. Some had a past history that sometimes bubbled to the surface. In the end we decided to move forward and the meeting closed as we enjoyed John's egg-salad sandwiches and coffee. The meeting had brought about the forming of an art medal society in Canada. Had I suspected the mountains of work that lay in the future I might have headed for the hills. Twelve years later I have happily handed over the society to young, energetic and creative artists who are keen to guide the society. Long live MASC.

### **Dedications and Awards by Kris Bovenizer**

The last time Sarah and I met with Del, we sat around his dining room table talking about all sorts of serious topics. Then Del pulled out a small box, and a huge grin appeared on his face. Del then presented Sarah with one of the "MASC medals", done with the original green patina. Del was very happy to have found it, and to have been able to give the medal to Sarah himself. It was a wonderful moment. Del thanked Sarah for giving him the peace of mind that MASC was going to be okay, that there were dedicated people to see MASC into the future.

But the council wanted to make sure that Sarah knew that we are all appreciative of the work she is doing for MASC. I already knew that Sarah had not worked in bronze for some time. We took that .... And we ran with it!

At the last council meeting, I had the opportunity to present Sarah with a certificate of appreciation. We have opened up an account at Artcast in her name and added the sum of \$125 credit to the account. Sarah may use this any time she would like to try her hand at another bronze medal.

Sarah, we want to thank you again for your hard work, your spirit and your warmth. To quote Del, "LONG LIVE MASC!"



## My Favourite Medals by Kris Bovenizer

Del Newbigging had a mantra about what made a successful medal. A good medal needs to have the five following traits.

- 1) There has to be a strong relationship between the obverse and the reverse.
- 2) It needs to fit comfortably in the hand
- 3) It needs to have 1 or 2 sides, preferably 2
- 4) It should have lettering
- 5) It needs to have a message

Here are two of my favourites of Del's medals. These are the types of medals that inspired me to pick up wax and start *my* first medal.



Making Medals/Making Friends, Bronze, Double Sided, 2012, 77mm. From FIDEM XXXII. The foreshortening and planal sculpting creates an expert study in depth with no undercuts. I love the message this medal brings.



Death of Icarus, Bronze, Double Sided, 75mm x 120mm x 5mm (entire edition of 10 has sold out). This is the most beautiful medal. It is so delicate, but its message is so powerful. The medal was created with wax and then became molten bronze, an echo to the themes being explored. Another lesson learned with this medal: You need not be confined to the traditional circular medal.

## A Selection of MASC Members Medals - FIDEM XXXII



Susan Taylor, Vanquished, 2011, 150mm, Epoxy with nickel silver and a steel pin



Pauline Dalby, Existential Suffering, 2011, 100mm, Bronze (Reverse)



Lorraine Wright, Medusa, 2011, 100mm, Winterstone

*behind the* MASC

**A Selection of MASC Members - FIDEM XXXII - continued**



Benjamin Trickett Mercer,  
Portrait of Sculptor Christian Corbet,  
2010, 95mm x 84mm, Bronze



Geet Maas, Extended Family 1/24,  
2011, 140mm x 105mm, Bronze



Lynden Beesley, Okanagan  
Symphony 50th Anniversary,  
2011, 145mm x 159mm, Bronze



Hilary Quigley, The Beaver,  
2010, 81mm x 86mm, Bronze  
(Obverse)



Jeanne Bates, Rocky Mountain Moth,  
2011, 130mm x 165mm, Bronze



Art Ellis, Experimenting in Lettering,  
2010, 95mm, Bronze  
(Obverse)



Left:  
Yoshiko Sunahara,  
Gatekeepers,  
2011,  
100mm x 85mm,  
Sterling Silver, Titanium,  
Porcupine Quills

Right:  
Magdalena Lesniak,  
New Game,  
2010,  
100mm x 100mm,  
Brass



## **Fidem XXXII Congress Glasgow Scotland by Lynden Beesley**

Greetings to all. Another wonderful congress with great opportunities to meet like-minded people. My husband Henry and I drove up to Glasgow for the Congress from London. Glasgow's narrow streets however meant that once parked we were afraid to move the car for fear of being unable to find another parking space!

Sir Kenneth Calman, Chancellor of Glasgow University, formally opened the Congress on July 11th 2012, in the Kelvin Gallery of the Hunterian Museum. President Ilkka Voionmaa thanked Glasgow University for hosting the Congress. The event organizers were Mr. Philip Attwood, Mr. Ron Dutton, Mrs. Sally Ann Coupar, Mr. Donald Bateson and President Ilkka Voionmaa. The Scottish liquid sunshine was relentless and even the Chancellor joked that when the sun finally came out a medal would be struck in its honor. We all sat in the lectures steaming as we dried off. However inclement the weather, it did not dampen our spirits and all events were well attended.

On July 10th after registration I attended the delegates meeting where all delegates were asked to give a general update on what had been happening in their countries over the past year. I spoke about Mr. Del Newbigging's legacy. I also asked about the website payment system. We discussed the next potential place for the FIDEM congress. Bogomil Nikolov is looking into organizing it in Bulgaria in 2014.

The medals were displayed in glass cases along either side of the Kelvin Hall. In all there were 956 medals made by 446 artists from 29 countries.

On the 12th of July, all attendees were invited to a formal civic

reception in Glasgow Town Hall. The Provost and her worship the Mayor spoke to us and welcomed the Congress to Glasgow.

On July 14th, I attended the two General Assembly meetings. At this time the presidency was handed over from Ilkka Voionmaa to Phillip Attwood. I am looking into Canada hosting in 2016 .

There were two workshops this year. One group visited the studio, workshop and home of Malcolm Appleby who was the artist chosen to produce the congress medal this year. I know that they all had a very interesting visit. Art Ellis and I chose to go to the blacksmithing workshop, which was quite informative. I even tried my hand at beating the hell out of a piece of steel and I am captured below trying to flatten the heated metal with a hammer. Not for the faint of heart I might say.

The splendid Bute Hall was the site for the final dinner. The meal was lovely and included salmon mousse, and venison with neaps and tatties. The students who had been awarded FIDEM scholarships were introduced and presented with a



Lynden Beesley, Canadian FIDEM Delegate

## Fidem XXXII Congress Glasgow Scotland -continued

diploma. Mr. James Malone Beach attired in a Scottish kilt complete with sporran and silver buttons presented his 4th knighthood of the Chiquita to his wife who was unable to attend. The Cuhah Prize for young artists was presented to Kate Ivy and Phoebe Stannard (British artists). The overall winner who received the FIDEM grand prize was Mr. Tetsuji Seta from Japan. He was so elated and beaming as he held up his medal.

All participants were given two-day bus passes, the hop on and off variety. This allowed Henry and me to visit quite a few of the sights around Glasgow including the Kelvingrove Museum, the Botanical Gardens, the Glasgow Science Centre, the Riverside Museum and the Willow Tea House. The whole tour on the bus took over a couple of hours

Most evenings we were able to find an interesting place to eat. We visited the Bothe, the Ubiquitous Chip and Jamie Oliver's Italian Restaurant. These informal times were spent with our various friends in FIDEM. Friends who hail from such places as Portugal, Israel, Finland, USA



Art Ellis and his Thistle

and, of course Canada. We were also delighted to get acquainted with Canadian member Art Ellis and his lovely partner Helen. Note his Scottish Thistle above.

The British Medal Association BAMS held a reception at the Glasgow School of Art after the tours. There was an exhibition of medals entitled Taking Sides created by the students of the BAMS Student Medal Project. During the reception Bogomil Nikolov was presented with the Presidents Medal and Marsh Award for the encouragement of medallic art. Finally in closing I would like to introduce the new president of FIDEM, Phillip Attwood. Phillip is the Keeper of Medals at the British Museum as well the president of BAMS, the British Art Medal Association.



Phillip Attwood, new FIDEM President

# behind the MASC

## MASC Mission Statement

*The Medalllic Art Society of Canada is dedicated to the creation, promotion, appreciation and education of the fine art of the medal*

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## Meet the MASC Council

**President:** Sarah Tothill  
**Vice-President:** Kris Bovenizer  
**Recording Secretary:** *open position*  
**Treasurer:** Ray Scott  
**Membership Secretary:** Andrea Yermy  
**Newsletter Editor:** *open position*  
**Webmaster:** Paul Petch  
**Honorary Directors:** Del Newbigging 2003-2012  
Dora de Pédery-Hunt 2000-2008  
Anne Lazare-Mirvish

**Directors:**  
Eric Knoespel  
Eleanor Konkle  
Antonio Louvado  
Geert Maas

**Past Presidents:**  
2010-2011: Doug Taylor (interim)  
2008-2010: Paul Petch  
2006-2008: Saulius Jaskus  
2003-2006: Susan Taylor  
2000-2003: Del Newbigging

**Rodman Hall Liaison:**  
Art Ellis

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“The War of 1812”, 95 x 5 mm



“Tecumseh”, 2012, 75 x 85 x 8 mm



“Laura Secord”, 50 x 100 x 15 mm

**Artwork by  
Del Newbigging, 2012**  
Bronze, patinated medals  
currently on display at the  
Rodman Hall Art Centre