

# Brandt Expounds On Barker; Tells Of His Life And Work

Mr. Brandt on Mr. Barker  
by Logan Vaught

"Chance certainly can make people's paths cross!" Mr. Brandt philosophized, as he leaned back in his chair, and, at the order of the interviewer, began to talk about Mr. Barker. Mr. Brandt declared firmly that he didn't know exactly what to say about his fellow art teacher, but the "interesting angle" of their friendship was their chance meetings.

Mr. Barker, born in Germany, went to high school and Washington University in St. Louis before the beginning of the war. He met Mrs. Barker, who is a fashion artist, when she happened to be in his art class, and they were married when they were both twenty. Then the war, and Mr. Barker began a varied career in the Army as an M. P.—in England, and Belgium, a "sort of civilian-clothed investigator for the Army", and a soldier in the "Battle of the Bulge". While he was an M. P. he was sent into Germany in charge of a group who brought the German generals to the allies to sign the surrender papers.

Mr. Barker was chosen for Officer's Candidate School, but the war ended and he returned to Washington University. There he became, in two years, their "outstanding pupil", and, when he was a senior, he won first prize in the



Missouri show—a show taking in many artists from adjoining states. "Here, Mr. Brandt said, began our series of meetings". They happened to be in the same class, and both won prizes in the Missouri show.

Mr. Barker studied under Fred Conway, Philip Guston, and Max Beckman. When he graduated from Washington University he won the Milligan Travel Fellowship jointly with Mr. Brandt. Mr. Barker got his Masters in Fine Arts at Indiana University.

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# Hummingbird

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up on the sidewalks. They sell pins, ribbons, combs, fish, mangoes and pineapples.

The people of Trinidad are East Indians. They are short people with dark skin and black eyes and hair. The women wear the original East Indian costumes which consist of bright colored shirts and blouses or big pieces of cloth wrapped around them in sarong fashion, and a shawl. The men, who wear regular American clothes, walk ahead of the women and make them carry all of the bundles. When the women are in the presence of men, they must keep their heads covered with a shawl. The people live in mud huts with palm thatched roofs. The huts are never larger than three rooms, which must hold as many as ten members in a family. All of the pigs, chickens, dogs, ducks and goats roam around the yard.

Mohammedanism is the chief religion. The countryside is filled with small, one room temples to Mohammed. These temples have nothing in them but flowers and a picture of a terrible looking man with an elephant's snout for his nose and four hands coming out from his head. The priests of these temples wear white sheets wrapped around them. Every morning they put fresh flowers, usually hibiscus, in the temples. They also put vases of perfume among the flowers. The outside walls of the temples are

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Here are the various comments given by Mr. Barker on Mr. Brandt.

"The first time I saw him was in an art gallery in St. Louis. I thought that he was a policeman off duty.

"He is the kinda guy that can paint a picture or drive a car in his sleep. He's been doing both so long that they've become automatic. 'Oh, he can teach in his sleep too.

"His father was at one time Mayor of Greensboro and owned

and managed the first professional League in the South. I think he must have inherited his Father's spirit.

"When he was in Italy the people thought he was a Russian and when he went to France they thought he was Spanish. He is sort of Latin—that is, he has a southern temperament. He fits in well in France and Italy.

"Mr. Brandt has attended more schools than anybody I know. The list of them seems endless—Pratt, Art Student's League, St. Miguel, Washington University School—then Italy—then France—then Carolina and there are dozens of others.

"Before the United States entered the war he enlisted in the French Army as an ambulance driver.

"He's a good cook. He married a home town girl. They had lived in Greensboro two blocks from each other for years but hadn't met. That seems impossible.

"He's a humanist in his painting, you know, he has a definite sympathy for people of all kinds, but he backs this up with an appreciation of formal values. Critics think he is very promising."

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