Fulda Art Congress

By DR. LEO WEISMANTEL
Director, Teachers Training College, Fulda

The first congress of art instructors in Germany to convene since 1929, took place at the America House in Fulda from Nov. 27 through Dec. 3. Sponsored by HICOG the one week program consisted of lectures and workshops in art educational fields.

A comprehensive exhibit showing representative art work from the kindergarten to the art academy was a special highlight of the congress and included work from schools in the western zones of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Among the exhibitions was a selection of American children's drawings on display at the America House. Other exhibits were spread throughout nine different buildings in Fulda.

Methods of art teaching in the fields of fine arts, language and poetry, music and gymnastics were discussed by art education leaders from more than 60 institutions.

* The Art Pedagogical Congress at Fulda, in Hesse, was organized by Dr. Weismantel.
The congress was called primarily to revive the art pedagogical meetings which had begun at the turn of the century in Germany and at which art instructors from all over the world met for an exchange of ideas. Although only from 300 to 400 guests were expected at the congress, more than 1,500 visitors attended the lectures and exhibitions.

The congress attracted wide attention throughout western Germany and during the week numerous telephone calls were received from various cities offering to play host for the coming 1950 session. UNESCO representatives are expected to attend this meeting.

The art pedagogical movement seeks to discover the organic creative powers inherent in the human being from childhood on and to release and develop these powers through instruction.

Although the movement was suppressed under National Socialism the Fulda exhibit showed that since 1933 the teachers who attended this congress have achieved an enormous development in the artistic conception and mastery of form.

The meeting highlighted strong differences of opinion concerning developments in various art fields and accentuated the differences of those who advocate a practical approach to art teaching and those who take a more intellectual approach.

(Photos by Jacoby, PRD HICOG)