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1923

## **Valentin Henneman, Snow Sculpture Artist, Bangor Maine 1923, Newspaper Articles**

Valentin Henneman

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# HENNEMAN NO GERMAN

*Commercial April 24/1918*

For kicking over the easel on which Valentine Henneman, a Bangor artist, was drawing, in Haymarket square, Tuesday afternoon, as related in the Commercial, Tuesday, Percy Lanpher of Bangor was fined \$1 and costs in municipal court late Tuesday. Lanpher thought he was preventing a German spy from making strategic drawings of the square and considered it a patriotic action to stop it. But as Mr. Henneman is a Belgian, he is not only not a German sympathizer, but very much the other way. Action to recover for the value of the painting and easel that were damaged may be taken up in the civil courts later on.

# FASHIONS LIFE LIKE

## STATUE IN 'SNOW

*Commercial Jan. 23, 1913*

Scores of people were brought to a halt Tuesday on Main street, opposite the Bangor House to admire the snow sculptural work of Valentine Henneman, who had fashioned on the lot in front of his home a large life bust of that famous French painter, Jean Paul Lawrence, who died some years ago.

Monday afternoon Mr. Hennemen taking only a coal shovel and a carving knife, went out on his lawn, shovelled a bunch of snow together, then went out back of his house, bunched up some more snow and in an hours' time he had executed the bust, in the shape of a snowman, of the famous Lawrence of France with such a skill and marvelous touch of an artist that pedestrians from the smallest child to the oldest adult stopped on their way to and from their respective duties Tuesday to admire with awe the skill of a master's hand.

In the construction of this snow image, which is a bit over life size, perhaps, but proportioned to perfection, a pedestal consisting of three parts and of Roman distinctiveness at the base, furnishes the foundation for the bust. The head shows keen skill on the part of the artist with a bulge of hair, the moustache, prominent nose and other features set forth so prominently that to the many admirers of the creation a manner of spellbinding awe is significant.

Mr. Henneman is very much interested in encouraging art in this city and the snow image constructed by him was for this purpose. Providing snow conditions are favorable in the future it is possible that those passing by his home may be favored with other interesting images.

them from all angles.

Mr. Henneman is planning on making something special for the benefit of the visitors who will be in town the week of the Shriners' Circus.

*Commercial Jan. 27, 1923*

Chief of Police Knaide has placed a ban on smoking in the City Hall corridor on the ground floor of the building and No Smoking signs have been displayed. Cigarette butts which have dropped in large numbers in this corridor of late constitute a fire menace as well as a nuisance and Chief Knaide intends to put a stop to this practice.

*News Jan. 29, 1923*

Valentin Henneman, the artist, has added another group to his snow art gallery at his home in Main street opposite the Bangor House—a kangaroo with young being his latest at sculpture in snow and ice. His work interests every adult who passes and the children are having a great treat in inspecting his statues and monuments. They appear so real from a short distance that many people have been fooled in thinking they are real marble statues. Many people have gone from a distance to see them after hearing about his snow sculpture, in which Mr. Henneman has certainly made a distinct hit.

**GIFT OF SWEATERS**



interesting objects from time to time.

*New* Feb. 1, 1923

Valentine Henneman, the Belgian artist, has added two more figures to his collection of snow statuary at his home in Main street opposite the Bangor House, and people are journeying there from all sections of the city to see and admire. Another bust of an eminent person and a figure of Mercury added to those already on exhibition make a large collection for one yard, but the talented artist will add others as the weather conditions favor. Young and old, high and low, stop and admire the novelty.

# ACHIEVES DIFFICULT

## SCULPTURAL FEAT

*Commercial*

*Jan. 31, 1923*

MR. HENNEMAN DOES WITH  
SNOW WHAT HAS NEVER BEEN  
DONE IN MARBLE

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Valentine Henneman's latest addition to his snow family, the model of a boy racing on skates, is pronounced by the artist as being his greatest piece of work in snow construction and all who have seen it declare it a remarkable piece of snow sculpture.

Sculptors throughout the country have attempted to make this model from marble but owing to the weight which falls on one foot, they have never been able to accomplish it. Mr. Henneman however, mapped out his plan of the skater, and successfully constructed the model and Wednesday morning put it on display on a pedestal in front of his home on Main street, across from the Bangor House and it is without doubt the cleverest and most unique snow model that has ever been seen in these parts at least. It stands about three feet high.

This makes the eighth addition to his snow family, the bust of Victor Hugo, modeled from memory after the work of the famous Roden, and placed on exhibition Tuesday, making the seventh.

Mr. Henneman asks all who view his models to kindly "keep their hands behind them." If the public will only fulfil this one request he promises, weather permitting, to offer more interesting objects from time to time.



# Images of Snow Form Interesting Outdoor Family



*Commercial*

VALENTINE HENNEMAN'S SNOW FAMILY

*Feb. 3, 1923*

From left to right: Statue of Jean Paul Lawrence; Papa Elephant and his two baby elephants; the racing skater; bust of Victor Hugo; Kangaroo and young.

ment and direction of the pageant.

## DESERT SETTING FOR

### THE HENNEMAN CAMELS

*Commercial Feb. 5, 1923*

The big life sized camel modeled out of snow in front of the Bangor Motor Co., by Valentine Henneman Friday has a companion. Saturday evening, Mr. Henneman, assisted by George E. Wilcoz, sales manager of the company, constructed another camel reclining on a snow pedestal a few feet from the standing figure. Both are wonderfully fine pieces of sculpturing and are attracting no end of attention. The animals, in spite of the thousands of miles that separate them from their native desert home, weathered the frigid weather of Saturday and Sunday nights very well and are fast becoming acclimated.

The standing camel is sporting a shrine fez placed on its head by Manager Eldridge who was fearful that continued exposure to the elements might incapacitate it for the shrine circus events this week.

Monday afternoon Mr. Henneman started work on a desert setting for the camels, an elaborate background of trees to be made of snow being planned.



**Bangor Artist Accomplishes**  
**Difficult Feat in Snow Modeling**  
*Commercial Feb. 6, 1923*



**THE RACING SKATER**

Fashioned From Snow by Valentine Henneman, Now on Exhibition With  
Other Models in Front of His Home on Main Street

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# *Sure, Anah Temple Had a Camel!*

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ONE OF ARTIST HENNEMANN'S DROVE

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# ARTIST HENNEMAN

## MAKES LINCOLN BUST

*News — Feb. 12, 1923*

Valentin Henneman, artist in oils and sculptor in snow, has added a bust of Abraham Lincoln to his outdoor gallery of celebrities, in honor of Lincoln's birthday. The likeness is most striking. A dog amused bystanders the other day by mistaking the snow statue of bear for the real article. The dog's hair bristled up and he approached the terrible white bear with great caution and many deep growls, finally breaking into fiercest barks. No more thorough compliment could be paid to the genius of the artist, perhaps.

Nothing seen in the movies or the illustrated supplements of the big newspapers of snow statues has come within range of Mr. Henneman's work, which surpasses anything ever seen here and as far as known anything produced in this section of the country this winter.

Such a fine working out of detail and such a perfect accomplishment of proportion in work in wet snow is most astonishing in its success. People of artistic tastes and education have marvelled at the proportion of all statues and busts produced by Mr. Henneman.



# HENNEMAN'S PAINTING

## ATTRACTS WIDE ATTENTION

*Commercial April 19, 1913*

Another handsome oil painting by the talented Belgium artist, Valentine Henneman who is now residing in this city, was placed on exhibition in the show window of the Farrar Furniture Co. on Main street Wednesday forenoon and was most favorably commented upon. This picture was painted for the Modern Cafe on Main street, and is a companion picture to one which was recently exhibited in the Farrar window and which is now hung on the wall in the cafe. The latter picture depicted a mackerel fishing scene several miles from Monhegan island while the new painting shows the fishing smacks returning to Boothbay harbor at the close of the day.

The new painting, which is ten feet long and four feet wide, is another triumph for Mr. Henneman. It displays an impressive manner his delicate understanding of the beauties of nature and his ability to reproduce them. The scene shows Boothbay harbor at sunset with three fishing smacks in the foreground, two more trailing along in the rear and several more in the distance. The golden tinged clouds with their indefinite forms blend with the blue hills and sky to form a most pleasing and realistic effect while another touch of color is lent to the picture in the form of several seagulls riding on the water while one is seen perched on a buoy. The more the picture is studied, the more beauties can be found in it for it is indeed a masterpiece, the work of master artist.

of master artist.

Mr. Henneman's art is based on a wonderful talent fostered by hard study with some of the greatest painters of Europe. He studied under Karl Verlat and Pier van der Auderaa and Juliaan de Vriend at the Superior Institute of Fine Arts at Antwerp and at Paris under Fritz Chaulauw. He also studied at Bruges under Eugeen Copman, Leon Depope and Desired Mergaert.

His paintings have been exhibited in the leading art galleries in Europe and England, including the Paris Salon, the National Academy at London, the gallery of the Glasgow Art club, galleries at Barcelona and all the leading galleries in Belgium, which have won him great distinction in European art circles.

Before coming to this country he exhibited at the World's Fair at St. Louis and also painted a large picture representing The Holy Family for a Catholic church in Hellena, Montana.

Mr. Henneman first came to this country in 1906 and up to the beginning of the World war made a practice of returning to Europe each year for study and to exhibit his work, but since the war has confined his talents to this country. Next year he plans to spend several months in travel over Europe, visiting the art galleries.

forming the local contingent.

## MR. HENNEMAN TO MAKE

### HANNIBAL HAMLIN BUST

*Commercial April 19, 1923*

Valentine Henneman, the Bangor painter and sculptor, has been engaged by the Hannibal Hamlin memorial committee to submit plans and sketches for a bust and pedestal which the committee hopes to erect on the Public Library lawn and will shortly submit to the committee sketches and estimates of cost. Mr. Henneman has offered to do this work practically at no expense for the sake of art in the city of his adoption.

Mr. Henneman has suggested to the committee that the pedestal and bust occupy not more than seven feet, believing that a natural height and not a domineering one would be the most effective and as he stated, "it would not appear as a commercial thing but as an original bust." He suggests that evergreens, flowers and shrubbery be employed in an attractive setting to invite the public to closer inspection.

Mr. Henneman will go to Providence, R. I. shortly to attend an art gathering and while on the trip will investigate the matter of cost of material for the statue.

## COLORED LODGEMEN

# COMPLETES BUST

## OF HANNIBAL HAMLIN

*Commercial*

*No. 2. 1923*

V. HENNEMAN EXECUTES

### STRIKING LIKENESS OF FAMOUS STATESMAN

Artist Valentin Henneman, whose beautiful painting of the mad Ophelia some of our townsmen were privileged to see a week or two ago before shipment, has recently put the finishing touches to a very fine bust of Hannibal Hamlin, which is to be cast in bronze and presented to the city of Bangor, writes Richard Arthur Hallet, in the Boothbay Register.

Mr. Henneman has many irons in the fire. That he has a philosophy of art, that he is a man deeply interested in the "origin of originalities" as he expresses it, we can testify of our own knowledge. As an artist, he is master of more than one medium, and more than one genre. He is perhaps best known in Europe for his portrait painting and some very fine examples of this branch of his art are now hanging in his studio here.

But he has not confined himself to portrait painting. His talent is versatile and impatient of the limitations which any one field would impose upon it. His more recent brush work includes some of the mellowest landscapes it has been our privilege to see in a long time. He is a colorist of more than respectable attainments. Some of his sea and shore pictures have the translucent golden quality of the canvases of the Spaniard, Sorollay Bastida, so recently dead. He can paint atmosphere, without sacrificing one jot of his artistic restraint. He understands the emphasis of understatement.

understands the emphasis of under-statement.

It had not perhaps been so well known that Mr. Henneman is a sculptor as well as a painter; although his snow-images last winter gained nation-wide appreciation. But the fact is so. His bust of Hannibal Hamlin finally worked out in clay is now ready for the mould which in turn will give way to the bronze cast of the great statesman of which the city of Bangor may be justly proud.

There is hardly need to recall to citizens of Maine the high place of Hannibal Hamlin in our country's history. Born at Paris Hill in 1809, his political career of nearly half a century began with his election in 1835 to the lower branch of the Maine legislature. In 1842 he was elected to the 28th National Congress, where he was at once distinguished for his anti-slavery sentiments. Elected to the United States Senate in 1848 he was not afraid to oppose compromise measures of the redoubtable Henry Clay. He took an active part in founding the Republican party; and remained in the Senate, with only the break of a year as governor of Maine, until 1860 when he was elected as vice president on the ticket with Abraham Lincoln. His political life ended only with his ministry to Spain in 1861.

Mr. Henneman, working only with a few photographs of Hamlin, has produced a head which strikingly agrees with the portraits of the great statesman showing him in the prime of life. The dignity, the poise, the intellectual quality are here caught into the clay with deft fingers. The artist by the skillful massing of the clay, has brought out the rugged strength of the man, a man whose strength was

vital to the republic in the days of her great crisis. We see in this head the inflexible will, the firm address, the unwavering respect for principle, which must have been so visibly written on that brow when Hamlin was introducing the famous Wilmot Proviso and securing its acceptance by the House.

Mr. Henneman is to be congratulated on this signal achievement. It is to be hoped that his devotion to painting will not prevent him from very soon giving us other examples of his talent for modeling in clay.



# Fashions Fine Likeness in Clay of Hannibal Hamlin

*Commercial* Jan. 24, 1924

## VALENTINE HENNEMAN COM- PLETES HEROIC BUST OF BANGOR'S FAMED CITIZEN

At the studio of Valentine Henneman on Main street, Thursday afternoon, an inspection was made by a committee of five men, of the bust which the artist has been modeling in clay of the late Hon. Hannibal Hamlin of Bangor, vice president of the United States under Abraham Lincoln. If the bust is acceptable, as it is expected to be, a bronze statue will be made and placed upon a pedestal on the grass approach to the right of the post office building.

This clay bust has already been approved by the Hamlin family. Wednesday afternoon, Hon. Hannibal E. Hamlin of Ellsworth, son of the late vice president, inspected the bust and declared it to be a fine likeness of his father.

The committee consists of General Henry L. Mitchell, Dr. O. B. Humphrey, Elmar T. Boyd of the Bangor Public Library, Frederick M. Woodman and Col. I. K. Stetson, advisory member of the committee.

This committee was established about 15 years ago, and new members have been added from time to time as the original members died or left the committee. Librarian Boyd took the place of Charles F. Flagg, former head of the library, whose death occurred a few years ago.

The clay statue consists of head and shoulders heroic in size as the bronze is to be placed on a high granite base. The bust is constructed in proportion to a man eight feet high. Mr. Hamlin is represented as wearing no hat, with an old fashioned "choker" and high collar. A full face view is given.



Valentine Henneman's Bust of Hannibal Hamlin.

A fund of \$1,000 was raised a number of years ago and another thousand is needed. The campaign to complete the budget of \$2,000 will start as soon as the bronze statue is made and accepted. No difficulty is anticipated in obtaining the sum, as Bangor people are proud of the record of the late vice president.

# LINCOLN AND WILSON

## SCULPTURED IN SNOW

*Commercial Feb. 16, 1924*

Images sculptured from snow of Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson were placed in front of his residence on Main street Saturday by Valentine Henneman, the Belgian artist, who has fashioned many remarkable snow images for the pleasure and entertainment of Bangor people. Lincoln is shown in a full length statue while the Wilson image is a large bust of heroic size.

Another snow set that is attracting much favorable comment is that of three cats, small in size but full of action for two of them are in fighting pose and the other is an interested onlooker. In the law school, he had shown himself the



# SNOW STATUE OF THE FAMOUS U. OF M. MASCOT

*News* ——— *Feb 18, 1924*

Valentin Henneman, the Bangor artist and sculptor, added a novel feature to the University of Maine

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BANANAS IV.

Modelled by Valentin Henneman.

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carnival, by amusing himself and the crowd by making a snow statue of Bananas IV, the mascot, near the hockey rink. The artist worked from memory as the bear was not there to pose, being still sleeping out the winter in his den in the bear-house, but it is a good likeness, of heroic size and shows what an artist can do with snow. Mr. Henneman was given the college cheer in appreciation.

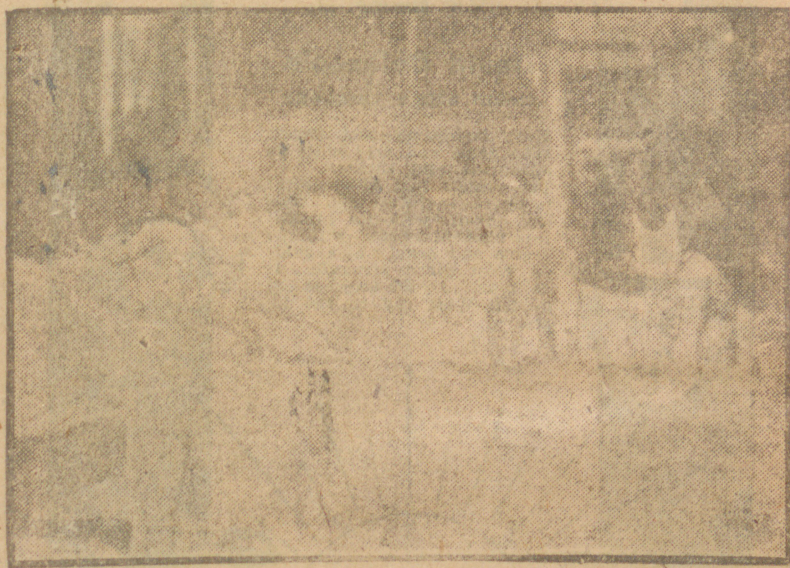
the football season last fall he was group of players.

## Some Snow Images By

# Bangor's Versatile Artist

*Commercial*

*Feb. 29, 1924*



CATS IN ACTION



VALENTINE HENNEMAN



WOODROW WILSON

At Work on His Remarkable Statue of  
Abraham Lincoln.