

Arnold Geissbuhler, 96; noted Cape artist

Sculptor, teacher; art is in collections around the globe

DENNIS — Arnold Geissbuhler, 96, a Swiss-born American sculptor, died Saturday at Scargo Pines, his home in Dennis.

Mr. Geissbuhler's artistic training began in Switzerland and continued in Paris.

Following his emigration to the United States in 1933 with his American wife, Elisabeth Chase, he lived and worked in Provincetown, New York, Boston and Dennis.

Mr. Geissbuhler was a member of the Sculptors Guild and the Beachcombers of Provincetown, and was the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his art work, which is in the collections of the National Gallery of Art, the Fogg Museum, the Kunstmuseum Bern, and numerous smaller museums in America and abroad.

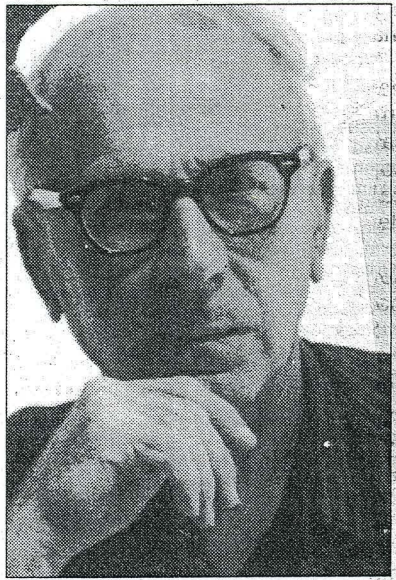
Born in Delemont, in the French-speaking region of Switzerland, in 1897, Mr. Geissbuhler began his formal artistic training in Zurich at age 17. By 1919 he arrived in Paris amid the postwar confusion; war and its destruction was a dominant theme in much of his work.

Mr. Geissbuhler's first American exhibition was in 1928 at the Whitney Studio, now the Whitney Museum, in New York. His first one-man exhibition in the United States was in 1929 at the Kraushaar Gallery in New York. It was also at this time that Mr. Geissbuhler began his long career as a teacher of drawing and sculpture, instructing at the New York School of Design, the Stuart School of Design in Boston and ultimately, at Wellesley College.

In 1958, after 20 years at Wellesley, Mr. Geissbuhler retired to Scargo Pines, his longtime summer home in Dennis.

In the years between 1958 and 1972, he and his wife traveled often to Switzerland and Paris, where he maintained a winter studio.

During his years on the Cape, from 1952 to 1972, Mr. Geissbuhler designed and constructed his home and studio on Scargo



ARNOLD GEISSBUHLER

Lake. In addition to building the house himself, he also designed many of the furnishings.

Mr. Geissbuhler began experimenting with ceramics in the early 1950s.

In the early 1980s, he donated 40 choice works as the bedrock of the newly formed Cape Museum of Fine Arts in Dennis, which was co-founded in 1981 by his son-in-law, sculptor and potter Harry Holl, as a way to preserve Geissbuhler's work and that of other prominent Cape artists in the area which inspired their creativity.

The Geissbuhlers were intimate with many of the most prominent artists of their day. While living in Provincetown in the 1930s, Mr. Geissbuhler was a member of the Beachcombers, an informal club of local artists that included painters Edwin Dickenson and Karl Knaths and writer John Dos Passos.

The Geissbuhlers were also particularly close with poet Conrad Aiken, anthologist Houston Peterson, and documentary filmmaker Tom Bouchard, all of whom summered on the Cape.

Surviving Mr. Geissbuhler are his wife, Elisabeth Chase Geissbuhler of New York and Dennis; two daughters, Mirande Holl and Christine Dupuy; and 16 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on the Cape at a later date.