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'ANCIENT ENIGMA' PRINT BY BARBARA SPITZ
PRESENTED TO UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA--

A print by Barbara Spitz entitled "Ancient Enigma" has been presented to the University of Montana by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the nation's highest honor society in the arts, through its Childe Hassam Fund. The University is one of 19 institutions chosen by the Academy for its 1974 Hassam Fund distribution.

The fund was initiated by Childe Hassam, leading American impressionist painter and member of the Academy, who died in 1935. He bequeathed a large collection of his work to the Academy with the stipulation that as they were sold the accumulated income be used to purchase work by contemporary American artists for presentation to museums in this country and Canada.

Commenting on the award, Dean Robert Kiley of the UM School of Fine Arts explained that the style of the print, the intaglio -- or etching -- represents much of current thinking in printmaking. An intaglio is made from a metal plate that is first selectively coated with an acid-resistant material and then placed in an acid bath which dissolves certain portions of the plate. Ink is then rubbed into the plate and the plate is run through a roller press under heavy pressure in contact with a piece of paper. The ink is transferred to the paper. Spitz' print makes use of stencils and photo images and is done on a scale usually associated with paintings rather than prints.

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Spitz was born in Chicago, Ill., in 1926 and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Rhode Island School of Design. She has had one-man exhibitions in Chicago at private galleries and has shown her work in national and international print exhibitions. Awards received by Spitz include a purchase prize and an honorable mention from the Library of Congress and from the National Collection of Fine Arts, and a grant from the State of Illinois.

The print will be on display for a limited time in the reception area of the President's office at the University.

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