

# WILLIAM A. BOUGUEREAU

## Fifty Years of Painting

**T**he story goes thus:

Cezanne and Bouguereau having died, were ushered by St. Peter into the presence of God. The benevolent Elder beamed: "I understand, gentlemen, that both of you are interested in painting."

To the surprise of the well-informed of today, Posterity may cast a rather similar judgment. Much has been said of Bouguereau's technical perfection. And indeed his craft is astonishingly sound and will appear more so, as time elapses. His ideal, severely opposed to the creeds in fashion, appeal for that very reason to the younger generation of artists, tired of the too individual and often obscure language of the masters of modern art. Tired, too, of the strange distrust of nature as it is, that characterizes the best of our living artists. Bouguereau's splendid impersonality, his faith in description and even in story telling, appeal to them as much as does his perfect elocution.

Wise and cool, Bouguereau's work may have a soothing effect and remind one that men of great talent need not behave like madmen.

JEAN CHARLOT.