

Cowboy-turned-engraver's work displayed at Love

By Josh Krauter

Staff writer

Edward Borein was born the son of a deputy sheriff in a cattle town in California and spent several years as a cowboy. He died a well-respected artist who documented the Old West, making friends along the way with Jack London and "Buffalo" Bill Cody.

An exhibit featuring 44 of Borein's drawings, etchings and watercolors opens today at the Great Plains Art Collection in Love Library.

Martha Kennedy, curator of the Great Plains Art Collection, said Borein was rare among Western artists for creating etchings.

"He was unusual in artists of the American West in his great mastery of the etching process," she said. "Not that many had turned to that media."

An etching is a print made from a metal plate covered with an acid-resistant waxy covering. The artist draws an image on the plate with an etching needle, removing the wax covering wherever the needle touches the plate. The plate is then dropped into an acid bath, which exposes the lines etched into it.

Borein was also rare for the prolific nature of his work, Kennedy said, but it was hard to trace when the work was created.

"Not many (pieces) have specific dates," Kennedy said. "We know they date between 1907 and his death in 1945. Four hundred etchings have been

PREVIEW

Edward Borein: The Artist's Life and Work.

WHERE: Great Plains Art Collection, 215 Love Library, 13th & R Streets
WHEN: Jan. 12- Feb. 18
COST: Free
THE SKINNY: Art with an Old West theme stampedes into Lincoln.

documented, and 1,000 watercolors. He was a really productive artist."

The cowboys, American Indians and steer that populate Borein's art come directly from his experiences.

"These are classic Western themes by an artist who depicts them very well," Kennedy said.

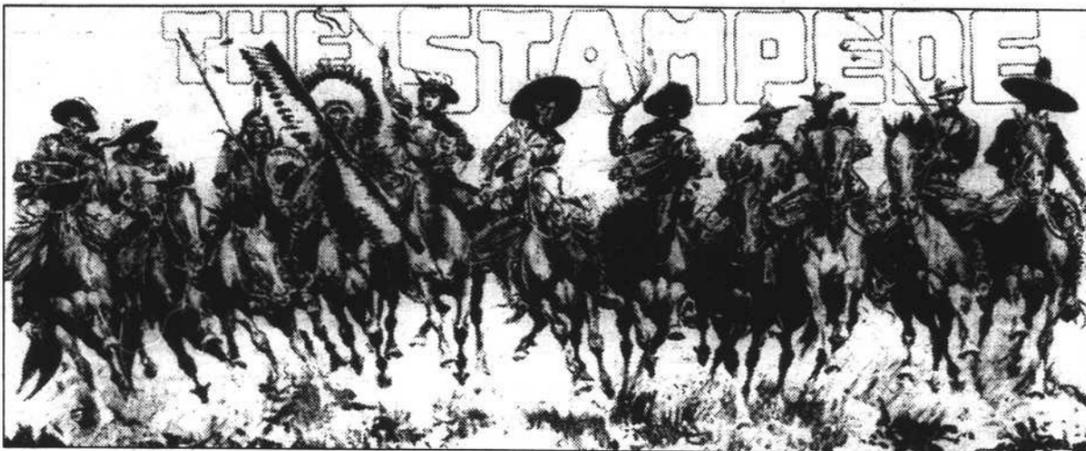
Drawing since the age of five, Borein was encouraged by his parents to pursue art. He attended the San Francisco Art Association Art School, but he quit to work as a cowboy.

"He did know what he was making art about," Kennedy said.

Largely self-taught, Borein was encouraged by his fellow cowhands to submit his drawings to magazines, which printed his work often.

After this early encouragement and success, Borein threw himself into his art head-on.

He became good friends with fellow Western artists Charles Russell and



Courtesy Photo

"The Stampede," a work by artist Edward Borein, represents the true life experiences the artist had throughout his life. Borein's work goes on display today at the Great Plains Art Collection.

Maynard Dixon and set up studios in Oakland, Calif., and New York City. He moved back and forth between the two cities for much of his life, and the studios became a meeting place for the art community.

Borein got another taste of formal education in New York. He attended the Art Students' League, studying etching for a brief time.

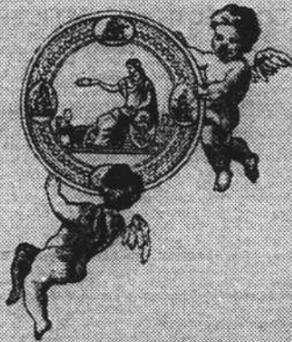
Borein also traveled with cowboys and sketched what he saw. Two extensive trips to Mexico, once from 1897 to 1899 and once in 1903, inspired a fascination with Mexican themes that became a pervasive theme in his work.

"I think this exhibit gives people a unique and rare opportunity to see some outstanding examples of classic Western art," Kennedy said.

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 Episcopal (Anglican) 13th & R
 Sunday Services: 8:30, 10:30, 5:00
 Tuesday Service: 12:30 p.m. (Lady Julian Chapel)
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 Pastor Matt Culbertson
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