

## H Beresford Menagh

When Beresford Menagh retired from an active life in the arts, he tried to find something creative to fill the void. He had designed dozens of theatre stage settings; had directed many plays; founded two symphony orchestras (St. Cloud and New York City); organized the first annual college theatre festival at the Kennedy Center; had been a college professor, fine arts dean, C.E.O. of a major, national professional association; and president of a performing arts school. In retirement he conducted several overseas tours of a folk music group; operated with his wife, Margaret, an antique business; and volunteered in various community activities.



In 1996 when he was 78, Berry, as he is known to friends, and Margaret moved to Albuquerque. He started making greeting cards, mostly for Margaret, commemorating birthdays, wedding anniversaries (they were married in 1942), Christmas, St. Valentine's and so forth. The inspiration and subject matter came from his study, undertaken for his doctoral dissertation, of Navajo belief, myths, and ceremonial. He was deeply impressed by the beauty of the stories, the poetry, and the visual arts. He shared some of his understanding and appreciation occasionally with friends who told him time and time again that the beauty he saw and expressed in greeting cards should be presented to a wide audience. The friends prevailed and now he exhibits at Weems Galleries.

