

Eagle for London Takes Wing

Sculptured Symbol for U. S. Embassy Leaves Here

By IRA HENRY FREEMAN

A faceless, one-legged aluminum eagle with a thirty-seven-foot wingspread and drain holes for rainwater in its tail was carved into three pieces yesterday and trucked out of its native Brooklyn.

The big bird had been hammered out and welded into shape by Theodore J. Roszak, a modern sculptor, to decorate the facade of the new United States Embassy in Grosvenor Square, London.

Some members of Parliament have protested against the sculpture as too big, too modernistic and too gaudy for the Regency architecture and time-mellowed colors of the square.

Mr. Roszak, a 53-year-old New Yorker who has won international prizes for his abstract metal sculptures, defended his latest creation yesterday.

"The form is immediately recognizable as the American eagle. There is no right foot, because it is not necessary; there is a kind of horn-form instead, which carries out the composition better. There are no features on the face for the same reason."

The sculpture will be gold-plated in a shop at Wappingers Falls, N. Y., to which the eagle was hauled piecemeal in three huge trucks yesterday, before shipment to England in about ten days.

"But it won't be a glitter color," Mr. Roszak explained. "It will be a soft, greenish gold, something like a tarnished nickel, and it will weather beautifully in the damp London atmosphere. We want the eagle to match the anodized alumi-



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Theodore J. Roszak, sculptor, is present for the removal of his aluminum eagle from a Brooklyn sheet metal shop.

num trim of the embassy building."

In his studio at 1 St. Luke's Place, Mr. Roszak made eight models, in the scale of one inch to one foot, before he and Eero Saarinen, the architect of the building, were satisfied. Then, with four young assistant sculptors, Mr. Roszak built a full-scale mockup of cardboard and wood in the sheet metal shop of the A. J. Burrows Company at 26 Willow Place, Brooklyn.

After that, the sculptors and a crew of seven mechanics and welders fabricated the aluminum skin, welding it over a frame of structural beams and tubes.

The seventeen-foot wings were unbolted from the body yesterday, and each piece was lowered to Columbia Street out a rear window of the shop. Mr. Roszak joined a small crowd of spectators to watch a dozen husky moving men strain at the ropes.

The sculptor said the eagle weighed 2,200 pounds, took two years to complete, and would withstand hurricane winds of 120 miles an hour.

He gets a little weary of explaining why the bird has no right foot.

"I tell questioners now," he said, "that he lost it in the war."