



## THE FOREST PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS

### THE "GREAT SUN" WINDOW

At the completion of the addition to the Forest Park Public Library in 1960, it was the great hope of the Library Board that the adult reading room be provided with a "view" in the form of a decorative window toward the east. The culmination of this dream is the "Great Sun" window installed in time to highlight the 1963 observance of National Library Week.

The theme of this window is man's never-ending search for meaning and understanding of his universe, using the physical elements of the solar system to depict this goal. Just as the sun is the source of all light, energy and life on the earth, enabling it to be productive and habitable, so the "great sun" of knowledge based upon truth is the source of man's intellectual and spiritual growth.

This theme has been developed by portraying, at the top of the window, the sun with its tremendous energy; below, the earth, with its green growing things, its darker water areas and its rain and cloud blankets. The artist also suggests man's conquest of space through the depiction of a satellite in the lower left corner. To the right, the moon reflects the light of the sun.

Lettered in glass, the quotation: "Knowledge in truth is the great sun in the firmament" comes from a speech by Daniel Webster at the dedication of the Bunker Hill monument in 1825.

It is most fitting that this artistic representation of the "great suns" of nature and of learning be a prominent feature of our Public Library, for all to enjoy.

The window was designed and created by the Emil Frei Associates, a St. Louis firm established in 1910 that has been responsible for some of the best work in contemporary glass being done in this country.

This type of glass treatment has been variously termed slab, chunk, sculptured or faceted and is a comparatively new process, made by laying out a design of many pieces of brilliantly colored glass fragmented by a hammer from a slab of glass placed on an anvil. Around this design a binder of sand and epoxy resin is poured and allowed to harden. The slabs of colored glass are for the most part obtained from France and Germany.

The funds for the window were derived from various sources of which the largest contributions were from the Centennial Committee and the Forest Park Woman's Club. Other sums were from donors who preferred giving to the window fund rather than for memorial books.

At this time the "Great Sun" window is dedicated to man's quest both for beauty and purpose, and to the public library's role in helping him.