

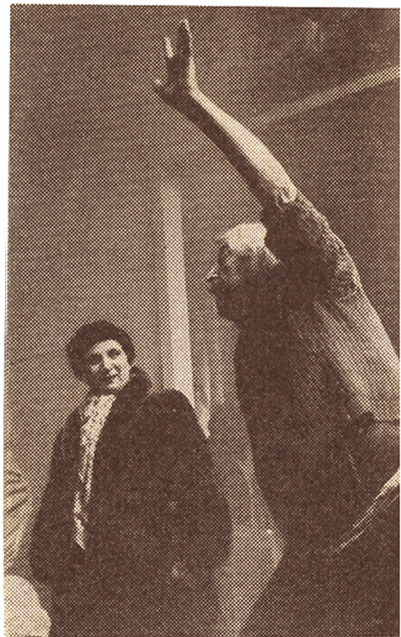
'THE KISS'



Libero Nardonne, who posed for Rodin's controversial statue 60 years ago, looks with pride at the work of art he helped immortalize. Now 87, he recalls when he had "the finest body in Paris." ➡

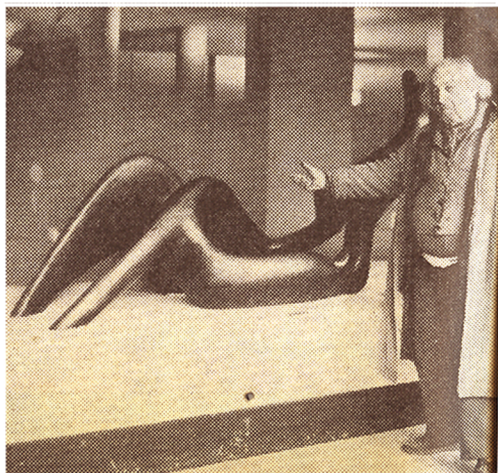


Nardonne modeled frequently for Rodin and his contemporary, Bourdelle; still poses for artists and sculptors. He modeled Rodin's famed memorial to Balzac (above). A copy of it now stands in the N. Y. Museum of Modern Art.



"BOURDELLE POSED ME LIKE THIS"

"MODERN ART? NOT WORTH A FIG!"





NARDONNE ADMIRES HIS OWN BACK, RE-ENACTS POSE FOR FRIEND

Despite his contribution to art, Nardonne is impoverished today, lives in a poor suburb of Paris. But he still has a passion for life and the world of art. Each day he lunches on bread, sausage and red wine at the deserted studio where he started modeling 70 years ago.

BRONZE HAND (l.) IS HIS OWN; HE RECENTLY MODELED FOR STATUE

