

MONUMENT BOARD SUED BY DESIGNER

Sculptor Demands \$8,000, Claiming Agreement Broken

Until Joseph Pallia, a New York city sculptor, began an action in supreme court for \$8,000 damages, the troubles of the Columbus Monument association had been confined to reaching an agreement upon a site for the proposed monument to Christopher Columbus, discoverer of America.

Pallia started the action in New York city early in the week and the papers were served on several members of the former board of trustees of the monument association by Deputy Sheriff Otto yesterday.

The model that Pallia submitted in a competition last fall was accepted by the committee of judges October 19, he claims, and it was understood that he would be paid \$20,000 when the monument was completed.

Refused Contract

The committee representing the association later refused to carry out an alleged agreement by signing a formal contract that would give to Pallia the unquestioned right to go ahead with the work on the monument, according to his claims. The mate of his loss thru neglect of other work in anticipation of receiving the contract from the association.

Anthony J. Valentine, president of the Columbus Monument association, said last night that a special meeting of the present board of trustees has been called for tomorrow night to discuss the course of action in regard to Pallia's suit.

Competition Held

"Pallia, like a number of other sculptors, was invited to submit a model in the monument competition," Mr. Valentine said. "It appeared the design was appropriate at the time the plan was under consideration of placing the monument to Columbus on a knoll in Onondaga park.

"There was no acceptance of Pallia's model by the board or trustees and no contract was ever signed with him. It is out of the question to pick a design for the monument until the site is selected."

The city offered the association a site in Columbus park but this has not been accepted as several of the members of the board of trustees have not swerved from their original idea that St. Mary's circle is the ideal place for the monument.