

MRC *Courier*

The Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4

Fall/Winter 2009

Mighty Rescue Crew Saves the Day!

Submitted by Eunice M. Haugen •

In conjunction with the 2009 Association of Midwest Museums annual conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 27 - 30, members of the Midwest Registrars Committee (MRC) - aka the Mighty Rescue Crew (MRC!) - came to the aid of the Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD) at the University of Minnesota.

Like the Angels Projects of the American Institute for Conservation, the MRC volunteers gathered to assist a needy museum on a one-day collections project.

Thirteen MRC members conducted an inventory of GMD's historic apparel collection. Mighty Rescue Crew volunteers worked in groups of two and inventoried nearly 2500 objects, or 93% of the items stored on hangers in 51 of 53 cabinets. New ID tags were applied as necessary, and inventory sheets were created when objects were not found on the master list. Over 300 objects were documented that had not been on the master inventory. Collection objects not found were also noted.

This information will assist with updating collection records, with object retrieval, and to support future funding requests for upgraded storage equipment. In addition, it will support GMD's work with conservator Neil Cockerline of the Midwest Art Conservation Center and storage equipment consultants from Haldeman-Homme, Inc. in developing a detailed space plan and equipment proposal for this storage room. Accurate

numbers of objects and current locations will greatly aid in this assessment and further support funding proposals.

The Goldstein Museum of Design, part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, is the only academic design museum in the upper Midwest. GMD's 26,000 piece collection consists of apparel, decorative arts, textiles and graphic design.

Objects from the collection are annually studied by classes in apparel, interior design, graphic design and design fundamentals. In addition, scholars and professional designers see GMD's collection as a resource for research and inspiration.



This was the Mighty Rescue Crew's first rescue project, and it proved to be a success. Thanks to all who participated—we could not have done it without you!

Above, the whole crew; right, Claudia Jacobson and Louise Pfothenhauer



The *MRC Courier* is the Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee, published Quarterly. Members and Vendors, please submit news, articles, announcements, photographs, and ideas for future issues to Laura B. Henderson, Collections Manager/Registrar, Miami University Art Museum
Phone 513/529-2235, Fax 513/529-6555, henderlb@muohio.edu

From the Chair

Letter from the Chair

Submitted by Ann Sinfield •

What a fast and furious Fall this has been! I am still attempting to catch up after September's joint conference of the Association of Midwest Museums and the Minnesota Association of Museums in St. Paul. So, as the end of the year approaches just too quickly for comfort, here's a summary of this Fall's activities and an overview of upcoming events.

AMM Conference

In addition to some truly useful presentations by members in St. Paul, the MRC provided three travel stipends for conference attendance, held a well attended annual luncheon meeting, and coordinated its first-ever **Mighty Rescue Crew**.

Support from Terry Dowd, Inc. and the RC-AAM enabled the MRC to grant travel stipends to Tiffany Charles, with the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust in Illinois; Katie Nelson, from the Kingman Museum in Michigan, and Elizabeth Frozena at the Racine Art Museum in Wisconsin.

The annual luncheon meeting was held off-site at Pop! Restaurant and was attended by 25 members, including representatives from Terry Dowd, Inc., ArtWorks of Kansas City, and Holly Young from the RC-AAM. Although the raucous setting prevented lengthy presentations, the food was good and the setting provided a good opportunity to get to know our stipend recipients, vendors and colleagues.

Jackie Hoff, with the Science Museum of Minnesota, and Jane Weinke, of the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin, arranged the MRC's inaugural **Mighty Rescue Crew** event. With 12 volunteers from around the region we spent a day at the Goldstein Museum of Design in St. Paul inventorying 51 of 53 cabinets with hanging historic costumes. Of the objects inventoried, 2,495 were located, 348 were missing from the inventory and 296 additional objects were found. Congratulations and thank you to all of the volunteers.

We look forward to the next **Mighty Rescue Crew** at the 2010 AMM meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. If you are interested in coordinating this event or participating please contact me at sinfield@wisc.edu.

AMM 2010, Cleveland

In October 2010, AMM will partner with Ohio Museums Association (OMA) to sponsor a joint annual conference, *Museums Making Connections*, in Cleveland, Ohio. All proposals must be received by January 31, 2010. Some possible topics include:

- Controlled vocabulary/lexicon
- Understanding collections insurance



Ann Sinfield

- Digital imaging standards
- Emergency preparedness
- Hands-on exhibit materials
- Intern programs
- Legal issues
- Moving
- Off-site storage
- Recruiting good volunteers
- Revisiting your policies and procedures in a new age
- Social networking
- Working collaborative
- Crating/Packing

Forms to submit session proposals are available at <http://www.midwestmuseums.org/>

IRS3

MRC provided one travel stipend for attendance at the International Registrars Symposium 3 in Chicago during October. Karen O'Brien of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology was our recipient. We also supported attendance for two speakers—Chris Tabor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Rosemont, IL on the panel *New Perspectives on Transporting Endangered Species*, and Doug Britton, Transportation Security Administration Manager for Air Cargo Programs, on the panel *Intricate Cargo Certification Myths Dispelled*. Altogether, 39 people attended from the Midwest region.

Other workshops

Support was also provided this Fall for two state workshops—an October seminar on fine arts insurance in Iowa, and *Collections 101: A Basic Collections Management Workshop*, in Indiana.

Facebook

The MRC Facebook page is up to 35 members. We have posted some great images from the **Mighty Rescue Crew** in St. Paul and info on the Fall workshops. If you have workshops planned please feel free to share information on the site.

AAM 2010, Los Angeles

RC-AAM announced a new travel stipend for the 2010 meeting in Los Angeles. L.A. Packing, Crating, and Transport/Ashley Distributors is generously supporting a \$1500 fellowship for a museum collections management professional to attend the AAM Annual Meeting. This fellowship will recognize the work of an RC member who has made an outstanding contribution to professional meetings, conferences, and/or workshops at the regional and/or national level as a session and/or workshop presenter. Check the RC website for more info (www.rcaam.org).

Letter from the Editor

Submitted by Laura Henderson •

Although it seemed to take a lot longer to prepare for Thanksgiving this year than it ever has, it was a welcomed occasion considering how I spent last year's holiday—recovering from eye surgery! We had a lot to be thankful for this year, like still having a museum and also a job.

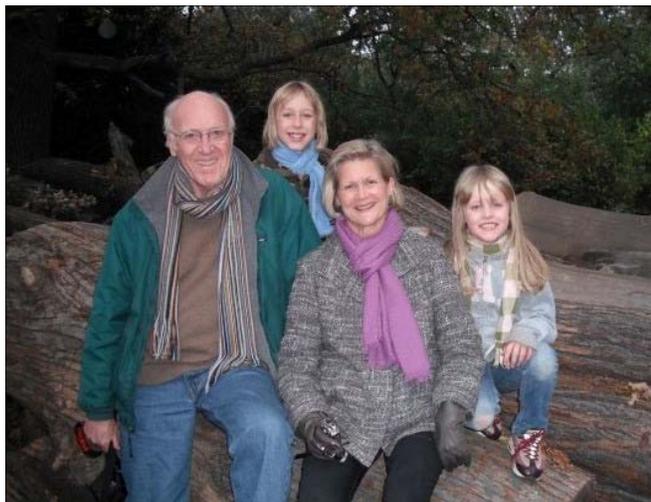
It started to feel like a museum around my house when I started looking for table settings and serving pieces. Everyone thinks I am crazy, but I actually *like* to polish silver. I like the results of the labor. I love the way it looks when it's all gleaming and shiny, and I love to use it partly because most of it was passed down to me by family. I have a lot of mismatched china and crystal bowls and glasses and linens from the same sources, and I pull it all out a few times a year.

Holiday time is a good excuse to find creative uses for it, such as arranging a centerpiece on a silver tray, or using a crystal pickle dish for pâté or a fancy sugar bowl for hummus. Yes, they call me “Martha,” and I got hammered this year for filling my little salt cellars with French sea salt. One of our guests joked, as he struggled with a tiny silver spoon, that he could salt his food one grain at a time.

The registrar in me wants to number it all and create a database, but that might make it too easy for my children to donate it to a museum when I die. They don't share my appreciation for material culture and are trying to avoid accumulating *stuff*, which causes the dilemma of who will become the next steward of the family treasures. Traditionally it was the women in the family. I wonder if they would protest if I threatened to donate it—probably not.

Preparing for holiday company also means tidying up the house, which is the part I do *not* enjoy. Fortunately I can enlist my husband to help (except toilets) and he also becomes the runner for the things I forgot at the grocery store. As I sort through piles of magazines his words reverberate in my mind, “You should cancel all of these—why do you keep so many?” Good question.

I have always been a big fan of magazines for their pictures, their short, interesting articles, their portability, their ideas and useful tips, their resources. I save them for that special bit that I know I will want someday. In a July 2005 *House and Garden*, one of my all-time favorites, now defunct, I found a spread



Laura Henderson and hubbie Roy Johnston in London with his granddaughters, Niamh and Erin Crisp

on The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Four pages of beautiful photos and an article by Martin Filler pop out suddenly and surprisingly. I kept that one (anyone at the Walker want it?), but a huge pile of magazines went home with one of my guests who just bought a little house. She was ecstatic!

Don't be surprised, Ohio members, when you receive a letter from me reminding you to renew your AMM membership and thanking you when you do. I recently agreed to be the Ohio State Rep for AMM Membership Service. And you registrars and collections people out there—don't forget to renew your membership with the MRC while you are at it!

Some great news: Michelle Hill, our Layout and Design Editor, has found her dream job with the



Michelle Hill

Army Corps of Engineers. She is in charge of the Visitors Center and the park area around the Soo Locks in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. Her title is Park Ranger/ Interpretive Specialist and hopefully she will tell

us all about her exciting new position in an article for the next issue. She has a long commute and a lot of challenges, but being around all those big beautiful boats must be heaven for a maritime historian!

Happy holidays, everyone!

A Few Words from the 2009 MRC Stipend Winners

A Great Opportunity

Submitted by *Tiffany Charles* •

This year's Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) conference in St. Paul, Minnesota titled *Inspiration and Innovation: Engagement in a Changing Landscape* was particularly significant because I was fortunate enough to receive a Midwest Registrars Committee (MRC) travel stipend to attend. There are so many aspects of the conference that made it especially useful and enjoyable, it is challenging to summarize here. From the wonderful opening reception and the Science Museum of Minnesota (and the brilliant Titanic exhibit), to the PIC breakfast and the amazing evening outings, it was such a great opportunity.

The most valuable feature of the AMM conference for me was the diversity of topics covered. Not only was I able to attend sessions in my own area, such as *Innovative Uses of Technology to Highlight Collections*, at which I took copious notes, but I was also able to partake in sessions outside the collections sphere. Having the opportunity to attend these allows me to bring new, cutting-edge ideas back to my colleagues at the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, who can use the information to expand education programs, enhance exhibit production and increase involvement and visibility within the community.

Christopher Leitch's presentation on his experience working with a closed site at *Interim Programming During Museum Renovation* was particularly interesting and timely because not only did I have the opportunity to visit the site during last year's conference in Kansas City, but, while not closed, the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust has been focused on establishing creative and engaging programs while we complete the most recent phase of restoration of the Robie House.

This year the Midwest Registrars Committee instituted the first Mighty Rescue Crew event which allows various collections related professionals from around the region to lend a helping hand to a museum or other collecting institution in the host city. This year we descended on the Goldstein Museum of Design at the University of Minnesota, where our group of registrars helped inventory their absolutely amazing costume collection. First of all, the collection with which we were working was such an unexpected treat, and also this endeavor enabled me to meet many colleagues in person for the first time. I would particu-



Tiffany Charles lending a hand as part of the Mighty Rescue Crew at the 2009 AMM Meeting.

larly like to thank Ann Sinfield for being a great inventory partner and sharing my enthusiasm for the collection.

The AMM's ability to bring together such a varied group and offer such an array of topics, events and opportunities year after year is truly impressive. I look forward to continued attendance of these very worthwhile meetings.

I would like to thank all those with the Midwest Registrars Committee who made it possible for me to attend this year's AMM conference. It was a truly memorable experience and I hope to see everyone next year in Cleveland.

First Professional Conference

Submitted by *Elizabeth Frozena* •

In September of 2009, I attended the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) annual conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. As a young Registrar, new to the profession, I have come to observe a recurring method of organizing information specific to this position: lists and more lists! That being said, I would like to share *my list* of observations from the AMM conference:

1. This was my first professional conference and overall first impressions were good. The conference was well organized and it was exciting to visit with the vendors and companies that work with museums.

2. The numerous museums in the Twin Cities made it a good location for the conference. Many participated in the conference and community interest in the conference was apparent.

3. One of the sessions held on Monday, September 28th, *Inside Out: Building Broader Audiences Through Public*



Elizabeth Frozena

Curation, presented information on the Community Light Project, a collaborative venture of the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work, both located in Saint Louis. During the summer of 2007, students from area schools, employees of the Saint Louis Science Center, members of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and other community institutions participated in the project. The goal was to engage the community in the curatorial process and explore the role that light and art can play in the process for community change. Under the guidance of commissioned Light Project artists, participants worked in teams to create light sculptures. At the end of the summer, the sculptures were brought together for a collaborative installation in front of Powell Symphony Hall, a large public space. The Community Light Project helped students appreciate the end product of their collaborative venture as well as the art-making process. Feedback from the community was very positive and the participants have made plans to work together again.

4. A session on finding jobs for museum professionals would have been beneficial. Even in the most stable economy, securing museum work can be challenging. Job websites, contract positions, options of returning to school, or other means to help an individual secure work in a museum could have been provided.

5. It was unclear *where* in the Rivercentre the conference was being held, and attendees were initially a little lost. Better signage and directions would have helped. Requiring speakers to pay the registration fee was also disappointing but understandable in our country's current economic climate.

My attendance at the conference was made possible through a travel stipend from the Midwest Registrars Committee, and I thank them for the opportunity. It was a pleasure to meet my fellow registrars and I look forward to participating with this group and learning about the profession in the future.

All Aboard: Next Stop Twin Cities!

Submitted by Katie Nelson •

I was very fortunate to receive funding this year to attend the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) Annual Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. Thank you, Midwest Registrars Committee! I opted to take the train from Battle Creek to St. Paul and I must put in a plug for Amtrak. If you can take the train for your next trip, then do it! There is lots of leg room, they have good food (no really, they do!), there is less

stress, and you help the environment by burning less fossil fuel!

The AMM Conference was a great opportunity for me to network, gape, and consume fermented beverages with museum professionals from around the Midwest. One of the best sessions I went to

was about putting your museum's collections online. The Minnesota Historical Society began creating podcasts for their website, <http://discussions.mnhs.org/collections>. They found blogs and podcasts to be an easy and relatively inexpensive way to post collections online. These one- to three-minute videos not only feature collection objects but they also share how important proper storage is and why you cannot just accept everything offered to you.

Kingman Museum has been working towards posting our collections online for two years. Staff, interns, and volunteers have just completed cataloging and inventorying the permanent collection. Last summer we began posting some information on our website with our Artifact of the Month section. Postings can be viewed at http://www.kingmanmuseum.org/feature_archive.cfm. Staff, interns, and volunteers are excited to start planning these podcasts; maybe a little too excited.

I was also fortunate to be able to participate in the first Mighty Rescue Crew. Having the opportunity to go through the Goldstein Museum of Design's clothing collection was awesome. I was tempted to pilfer the Don Draper suit for my boyfriend, but I managed to resist. It was also great to actually do some collection work! Most days I feel like anything but a Collections Manager at my museum.

St. Paul and Minneapolis are great cities with wonderful museums. The evening events I went to were exciting. What other conference will give you a drink with Absinthe in it? I enjoyed crawling like an ant and creating a thunder storm at the Minnesota Children's Museum. I tried to curse the Twins stadium (per a Detroit Tiger fan's request) while I was there, but I still need to work on my technique, I guess.



Katie Nelson spends some quiet time with her copy of the MRC Courier.

2010 AMM Conference for Cleveland: *Museums Making Connections*

Save The Dates!

**2010 AMM Conference
with the
Ohio Museums Association**



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

**October 6-9, 2010
Renaissance Hotel,
Cleveland, Ohio**

Submitted by Brian Bray ▪

The Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) will partner with the Ohio Museums Association to present the 2010 conference, *Museums Making Connections*. The conference is scheduled for **October 6-9** at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio and will feature timely and relevant sessions, sensational speakers and outstanding evening events. The evening events will include receptions and tours at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Great Lakes Science Center and The Cleveland Museum of Art, which is completing a major expansion and renovation project by noted architect Rafael Viñoly.

Linda Silver-Abraham, President and CEO of the Great Lakes Science Center, and Terry Stewart, President and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, will serve as the conference co-chairs. AMM and OMA are accepting conference session proposals—a Request for Proposals form can be found in this newsletter or can be downloaded from the AMM Web site at www.midwestmuseums.org.

Session proposals should address new audiences, new technologies and new best practices. The deadline for submitting a proposal is January 31, 2010. Please plan to attend the 2010 AMM conference!



2010 AMM / OMA Joint Conference Call for Proposals MUSEUMS MAKING CONNECTIONS

October 6-9, 2010 Cleveland, Ohio

A Joint Conference between the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM)
and the Ohio Museums Association (OMA)

Title of Proposal: _____

Author of Proposal: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Email: Phone: Fax: _____

In 2010, AMM will partner with OMA to sponsor a joint annual conference, *Museums Making Connections*, in Cleveland, Ohio. AMM and OMA encourage proposals that address new audiences, new technologies, and new practices, particularly given the current economic climate! Sessions should focus on best practices and innovative approaches that lead to new ideas and creative solutions for museums. Presenters representing a variety of disciplines and sizes of museums are encouraged to submit a proposal. Please include a brief, one-page description of your proposal and a list of presenters (with their contact information) with this form. All proposals must be received by January 31, 2010!

Please note that ALL presenters are expected to register and pay to participate in the conference!

Please indicate length of session and session format: ___ 1.25 hours ___ 2.5 hours

- ___ Roundtable: led by one or two presenters, offers informal dialogue on specific issues
 ___ Panel: led by a chair, this session offers different perspectives on professional issues by 2 or more speakers
 ___ Poster Session/Coffee Break: an informal opportunity to report on projects and demonstrate new practices
 ___ Student Panel Presentation: Students are encouraged to report on innovative research and/or projects
 ___ Workshops: Half day workshop that provides a more in-depth look at practices and technologies in the field
 ___ Other: (please explain) _____

Session Tracks: Please circle the area to which your session best relates.

Administration/Management	Education/Programs	Professional Development
Archives/Library	Evaluation	Publications
Audience Development	Exhibits	Securities/Facilities
Collections/Registrars	Finance	Small Museums
Conservation	Governance	Technology
Curators	Human Resources	Tribal/Ethnic Museums
Development/Fundraising	Marketing/PR	Visitors Services
Directors/CEOs	Museum Shops	Volunteers
Diversity/Access	Museum Studies	Other: _____

Mail, fax or email your proposal to: AMM, PO Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112

info@midwestmuseums.org or 314-746-4569.

Deadline for submission is Friday, January 31, 2010

AMM/OMA do not pay for travel expenses or provide stipends to the conference.

News From All Over

State Reports

Illinois

Submitted by Allison Heller •

National Hellenic Museum, Chicago

Exhibitions: *Crossing the Line: The Movement for a United Cyprus*

Part II: March 27, 2009 – Ongoing

The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 left the island physically and emotionally divided, with refugees from both sides unable to return to their homes across the Green Line. In response to this division, a grass roots movement called *Women Walk Home* developed. With the aim of one day living in a united Cyprus with freedom of movement, these women staged marches in an attempt to cross the Green Line. Their successes brought attention to “the Cyprus problem” while giving women a new found place in the political arena. By examining art, objects, documents and first-hand accounts, this exhibition will show how daily life on the island was disrupted by the invasion and the subsequent movement for reunification. This exhibition was curated by Daniela Bono of the Field Museum.



Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, Chicago

Adler After Dark, every third Thursday from 6 to 10 pm: Upcoming is *Big Bang*, December 17, 2009

Enjoy cocktails and appetizers against the award-winning view of the Chicago skyline seen only from the Adler. Amble around the Adler's exhibitions or take in a sky or space show. See Saturn's rings or Jupiter's great red spot with your own eyes using the Adler's telescopes.

Adler After Dark is the only time you can peek through the Doane Observatory telescope, the largest telescope in the Midwest accessible to the public. Great for groups and makes for a very original first date. *Adler After Dark* has something for everyone!

Indiana

Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen •

The Association of Indiana Museums (AIM) held a workshop sponsored by MRC, *Collections Management 101*, at the Monroe County History Center in Bloomington on October 24. Erica Kendall, the Collections Manager at the Monroe County History Center, was the speaker. She is on the Programming Committee for the Association of Indiana Museums (AIM).

Tiffany Hatfield, Coordinator of AIM, sent a report thanking MRC for its support of the program. Fourteen people attended and they got a great amount of information about the entire collections process, such as determining how to accept/decline an object, and professional standards on registration, cleaning, exhibition, storage and de-accessioning. Details will be forthcoming about the 2010 workshops.

Attendees represented a wide cross-section of the museum field, from those who have managed

collections for some time, to professors who teach some facet of museum studies, as well as those who are just placed in charge of a collection and graduate students in museum studies and archives.

“Thanks to MRC, six of the fourteen registrants attended at no charge except for their own transportation costs,” said Tiffany Hatfield, “and thanks to the staff of the Center for hosting and to AIM Program Chair Modupe Labode for organizing the event. I was very glad to announce MRC's support during the workshop!”

Erica Kendall leads a collections workshop in Bloomington, Indiana.



Iowa

Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik •

Madison County Historical Society, Winterset

The 40th Anniversary of the Covered Bridge Festival in Winterset, Iowa was held October 10th-11th, 2009. This was a historical weekend event, not only because of the anniversary, but also because of a record snowfall of three inches on Saturday. Even though the snow cancelled many events, spirits were good and those who braved the cold temps and snow had a great time.

Passport to the Past activities were altered due to the snow but were well attended. Carver Park activities were relocated to the Winterset Public Library meeting room, as was Abe Lincoln with his presentation from Monumental Park.

Thanks to a grant from Humanities Iowa, George Washington Carver met with guests telling everyone about his time spent in Madison County, the uses of the peanut, and his work with plants. The *Nature Walk with George* at the Cutler Covered Bridge had to be cancelled due to the weather, but he did take those interested on a nature walk around the courthouse on Sunday. He talked about the many uses of the peanut and sweet potato he discovered along with his time spent here in Madison County, Iowa. All appreciated his attention to detail and how he related himself to everyday life in Iowa. Since he was not able to do the Saturday nature walk he visited the Winterset Middle School Monday to do presentations in the classrooms. This was well received by the teachers and students alike.

Other activities over the weekend included Abe Lincoln (Stan Dehaan) speaking at the library meeting room, local historian Walt Libby at Monumental Park, local storytellers sharing in the Storytelling Tent, and Mayme Bevington (Maureen Korte, State Historical Society) sharing stories of growing up in Madison County.

The museum complex hosted a sheep dog herding demonstration, horse ferrier demonstration, tractor show and free horse shuttles between the museum and the town square.

We had over 200 children participate in the *Passport to the Past* program this year, with approximately 120 redeeming their passports for a prize. Numbers are about half from

last year but we feel this was still a great turnout despite the snow. We feel the project was successful in reaching the audience that attended. Of course we had planned for a much larger crowd, but the lack of attendees was due to the weather.

The *Passport to the Past* program has become synonymous with the Covered Bridge Festival over the past five years. Committee member Debbie Zacharias said, "Through grants received from Humanities Iowa it has been possible to bring in professionals such as Paxton Williams as George Washington Carver. For this we truly thank you. We look forward to planning the 2010 *Passport to the Past* program and hope for better weather next year!"

The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn Exhibitions:

Victor Borge: A Centennial Celebration, through March 8, 2010

To celebrate the centennial of Victor Borge's birth, The Danish Immigrant Museum has partnered with the Borge family and the American Scandinavian Foundation of New York to create a major exhibition of Borge's life and work.

Sampling the Collection: A to Å, March 27, 2010 - March 6, 2011

See some of the weird, wacky and wonderful pieces from the Museum's collection. Featured pieces will be a 1922 athletic club banner, dentures from the late 19th century and egg warmers in the shape of ducks!

Danish American Artist Series: Anni Holm, through January 10, 2010

This young Chicago-based Danish immigrant artist has a unique contemporary style that blends photography and digital media with the topics of immigration and identity.

Danish American Artist Series: Evelyn Matthies, January 23 - July 11, 2010

This show will feature paintings, watercolors and woodcuts inspired by international travels and the natural world.



Michigan

Submitted by Katie Nelson •

The American Museum of Magic, Marshall

The American Museum of Magic has appointed Jeffrey M. Taylor as its first full-time salaried director. He succeeds Betty Collins, who departed last summer after guiding the museum for many years, eventually becoming its first director. Taylor comes to the museum from service as the Curator of Collections at the Alfred P. Sloan Museum in Flint, Michigan. Under his guidance at the Sloan Museum, the care of the museum's historical collections improved and its popular Buick Gallery opened to the public. In Marshall, he will be responsible for providing overall leadership and guidance for the American Museum of Magic's growing programs, caring for its significant collections and serving as liaison between the community and board of directors. He will implement a newly adopted strategic plan and will be responsible for managing the daily operations of the museum. "I'm really looking forward to growing the Museum, and Marshall seems like it's the perfect community to nurture that growth," said Taylor.

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo

Exhibitions:

Woodcuts in Modern China, 1937-2008: Towards a Universal Pictorial Language, January 23 - April 18, 2010

The exhibition is the first organized in the United States to present a comprehensive overview of the beginnings and development of this important art form. This exhibition features 65 Chinese woodblock prints. Thirty pieces are drawn from the collection of the Picker Art Gallery's rare collection of modern Chinese woodcuts from the 1930s and 1940s. In addition, over 30 woodblock prints by eleven contemporary Chinese artists (1950s-today) are included. This exhibition is organized by the Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University and was made possible by a generous gift by Robert H.G. Ho. Its showing in Kalamazoo is supported by the Joy Light East Asian Art Acquisition and Exhibition Fund.



A work from *Woodcuts in Modern China*

Flint Institute of Arts, Flint

Exhibitions:

Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts, and Beyond, January 23 - April 18, 2010

This exhibit presents the creative vision of a master quilt maker and the artistic worlds in which she works. The exhibition explores Bendolph's inspiration and creative process, as well as her connection to the cultural practices and expressive traditions out of which her work arises. Bendolph's quilts are embedded with her pluralized senses of family, friendship, community, and a widely dispersed African American visual culture concept that, for her, exist in human contacts as much as they do in artworks themselves.

Kingman Museum, Battle Creek

Exhibitions:

Native American Vessels: Traditions in Transformation, February 6 - October 9, 2010

Kingman Museum staff is collaborating with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi and the Art Center of Battle Creek to present this exhibition. Topics covered include symbolism, technology and materials, and how some traditions have reflected the transitioning needs of the Native American Community. Southwest pottery and baskets collected by the museum's first two directors, E.M. Brigham, Sr. and Jr., and pottery and baskets from Native Michigan artists will be featured.

Mackinac State Historic Park, Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island

Lee Ann Ewer will be starting December 1, 2009 as MSHP collection department winter intern. She will be working in the Petersen Center Library processing maps, blueprints and books as well as organizing materials for their vertical file. These files will be used to house research materials, notes and other items of related interest. Lee Ann will also be assisting conservator, Jennifer Lis, with conservation projects on objects that will be going into the new Mackinac Art Museum. MSHP has acquired a number of new paintings and sketches for the art museum, all with Mackinac connections. The grand opening for the museum is scheduled for July 15, 2010.

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology, Ann Arbor

The University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology has been awarded a three-year National Science Foundation Biological Research Collections Grant. The grant will be used to upgrade storage cabinets and rehouse the Ethnobotanical laboratory. Upgrades include the purchasing of 17 archival cabinets for the comparative and



Jamie Merkel

archaeological specimens and six new herbarium cabinets. Collection specimens will be rehoused in new clearly labeled boxes and the inventory of the collections, started several years ago, will continue. As part of the project, the museum is digitizing the Ethnobotanical Laboratory Reports and inventorying the Gilmore/Jones/Ford library to make materials more accessible to students and scholars. They plan on making all this material available on the website by the end of the project in 2012.

Jamie Merkel was hired to oversee all aspects of this three-year project. Jamie comes from Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a degree in

Anthropology and Museum Studies from UW-Milwaukee. Previously, she worked in the botanical collections at the Milwaukee Public Museum and at the Art Museum at Beloit College. Please join us in welcoming her to the Museum Community!

Michigan Museums Association

This year's Michigan Museums Association (MMA) conference was held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Union Building on October 15th and 16th. The focus of the conference was *Museums in Challenging Times*. The conference was divided into several break-out sessions covering such topics as *Laughing in the Hot Seat: Living Life with Extreme Enthusiasm, Team Building Through Model Building, Copyright: New Media, New Collaborations, New Relationships*, and *What's Happening at IMLS?*

The keynote speech given by Elaine Heumann Gurian entitled *Embracing Change in a Changing World* was held in the newly and beautifully renovated University of Michigan Museum of Art. At the Executive Director's reception attendees were treated to a sneak preview of the recently renovated Kelsey Museum of Archaeology scheduled to reopen to the public in November. At the annual meeting the new Director of the MMA, Susan Steele, was officially introduced and the new Board elected. Next year's conference will be in Kalamazoo, October 4th - 6th in 2010.

Minnesota

Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis

The Hennepin History Museum offers a series of rotating exhibits focusing on everything from historic toys to technology; each exhibition is designed to reflect a piece of the Hennepin County story. The familiar Pillsbury Doughboy can be found on display at the museum quite regularly.



Minnesota Children's Museum, St. Paul

Permanent exhibitions:

World Works is an action-packed, hands-on environment that encourages investigating, experimenting, problem-solving and observing. Every area of this gallery is designed to foster observational skills and spark a passion for learning and exploring.

Habitot®: Toddlers love to reach, touch, creep, crawl, and cruise around in *Habitot®*, a world sprinkled with mats and pads for sensitive knees and toes. Each area stimulates kids' senses and provides hours of fun and fascination for growing minds.

Earth World is designed to promote thoughtful interaction that allows kids to gain a deeper understanding of the natural world around them. Kids can interact with the Museum's turtles and snakes that inhabit Minnesota's unique environments and learn about how they live and what makes them special.

Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, through January 3rd, 2010

New in St. Paul! The Science Museum of Minnesota features the worldwide debut of artifacts from RMS *Carpathia*, the ship that answered *Titanic's* distress call. These newly-recovered items paint a picture of the historic rescue that captured the imaginations of people around the world.

Missouri

No Report

Ohio

Submitted by Joanne Fenn ▪

Kent State University Museum, Kent

Exhibitions:

I never leave the house without a hat! The Savanna Vaughn Clark Collection, November 19, 2009 - October 10, 2010 in the museum's Alumni Gallery. Curators for the exhibition are the museum director, Jean L. Druessedow, and guest curator, Elizabeth Morgan.

Savanna Vaughn Clark has been wearing, collecting and enjoying hats all her life. She said she "never leaves the house without a hat." For Mrs. Clark, hats create a total look and she selects each one to complement a specific outfit. A generous donor to the Kent State University Museum, Mrs. Clark has given the museum more than 100 hats. Those selected for this exhibition date from the 1950s to the present day.

Gazette Kokoon Arts Club: Cleveland Revels, through February 28, 2010. This exhibition focuses on the extraordinary posters made for the masked balls, and on the costumes worn to them by members of the Kokoon Arts Club.

The Kokoon Arts Club of Cleveland, Ohio formed in 1911 by a small group of commercial artists employed at the Otis Lithograph Company. Meeting at night in the studio of interior designer Louis Rorimer, club members combined forces and finances to study and make art apart from their commercial work, seek venues to display their artworks, and importantly, to be modern. The Club became a fixture of the Cleveland art and social scene throughout the 1920s and 1930s, only to lose members and vitality during World War II and dissolve in 1953. During its heyday, however, the Kokoon Arts Club served as an important arbiter of Modernist artistic expression in Cleveland.

The exhibition draws on the Department of Special Collections of the Kent State University Library, with additional loans from the Western Reserve Historical Society and the Cleveland Artists Foundation.

Bedford Historical Society, Bedford

Since its founding in 1955, the Bedford Historical Society has collected, preserved and interpreted the history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve to enrich the lives of the community members and individuals interested in history.

Upcoming events:

Christmas in Bedford Falls Festival, Saturday, December 12, 2009, from noon to 4:00 pm
The Town Hall Museum will be open with a new exhi-



I never leave the house without a hat! runs through October 2010 at the Kent State University

bition, *Christmas Remembered*. There will be Christmas settings from Victorian times to the 1960s throughout the building.

Dividing the Township, Thursday, January 7, 2010, 7:00 pm at the Lyceum.

Volunteers and staff have been researching the archives for details about the division of old Bedford Township. In 1951, the new communities of Bedford Heights, Oakwood and Walton Hills were born and the old township ceased to exist. Learn about the details of this division, who the movers and shakers were, and who opposed the divide. This evening program will be held at the Community Center at 5615 Perkins Road, Bedford Heights, OH.

Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland

Lantern Tours, December 4 - 5, 11 - 12, 18 - 23

A lantern-lit trip to holidays past. Make us your tradition as you visit Hale Farm & Village. This is the best way to see, hear and smell the holidays as experienced in the early 19th century.

Reservations are required for this program. Admission is \$15 for WRHS Members and \$18 for non-members. Group rates are available for 15 or more people. Make your reservation before time runs out! For details call 330-666-3711.

Kennedy Museum of Art at Ohio University, Athens

The Necessary Friction of the Machine by Dan Price, October 27, 2009 - January 24, 2010

This exhibition was originally installed in Edwin Gallery, Hamtramck, Michigan where Dan Price worked with a group of unemployed, union-affiliated autoworkers from Detroit and the surrounding area.

(Continued from page 12)

The sculptural work was created over the course of the exhibition. The installation points to the dignity of shared labor and highlights the problematic nature of the labor/management relationship.

Selections from Permanent Collections, January 23, 2009 - ongoing

This exhibition juxtaposes pieces from the Kennedy Museum's permanent collections including weavings, prints, paintings, ceramics and African art, and treats visitors to the variety of the Museum's holdings. This ongoing exhibition will be updated from time to time to highlight the uniqueness of the collection. The current theme is Activism.

Art of the Zuni Abridged Exhibition, through January 10, 2010

This abridged exhibit draws from the larger exhibition, *Art of the Zuni*, which displayed examples from the full range of 20th century Zuni jewelry making and stone carving. Old Masters, Modern Masters, and their descendants are represented, emphasizing the continuity of important cultural practices. The exhibition is drawn from the over 600 Zuni jewelry objects that museum namesake Edwin Kennedy began collecting in 1954.

Calendar of events:

Inside/Outside: Art Talks:

March 5, 2010, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Nancy Couch, Sculptor

April 5, 2010, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

John Bohuslawsky, Lighting Designer

May 6, 2010, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

B. Deahl, Designer and Art Representative

Miami University Art Museum, Oxford

Once the 2010 Spring semester exhibitions are installed, the focus for the rest of the year will be preparing for AAM reaccreditation. The process has been started and all museum procedures and policies are being reviewed. We anticipate a busy year ahead!

Both written and photographic documentation of events, programs and processing is underway. During the recent Collections Development Committee meeting our deaccessioning procedures were reviewed and followed. The objects presented were unanimously voted out of the collection because of condition problems that made them unexhibitable.

Upgrades to the museum HVAC system were done in 2008 and the Standard Facility Report was updated to describe them. Now the SFR has to be converted to the new version that AAM has provided.

Upcoming exhibitions:

Luxury, consumption, excess—these are words that

describe personal habits and social responsibility as well as concepts of wealth, power and status. In a world of diminishing natural resources and trillion dollar debts, when notions of sustainability are increasingly discussed and put into motion, ideas of luxury, consumption and excess deserve renewed examination. Each gallery will focus on a different concept and, except for Gallery 2, will draw from permanent collection objects.

Gallery 1, *Art Glass: Sculpture and Possession*, January 14 - July 10, 2010

Featured glass objects—such as paperweights, pressed glass goblets and small sculptures—will be considered in both aesthetic and economic terms as objects of admiration and objects of consumption. Included is a portion of a recent major bequest from paperweight collector Dr. Carman Bahr, originally from Hamilton, Ohio.

Gallery 2, *Adornment and Excess: Jewelry in the 21st Century*, January 21 - July 10, 2010

This exhibition will feature creations lent by 21st century jewelers who incorporate common objects, recycled and re-manufactured objects, and found objects into their designs to emphasize the materiality of jewelry as a commodity, as a symbol and as a carrier of meaning.

Gallery 3, *Consuming Clay: Porcelain Wares from the 18th and 19th Centuries*, January 28 - July 10, 2010

Standards of luxury are often closely linked with objects. Emphasizing the relationship between consumer practices and luxury goods, this exhibition features historical tableware and decorative objects from premier Western European manufacturers such as Sèvres, Meissen, Höchst and Belleek, as well as Chinese export ware.



Kimberlie Tatalick, NEOclassic Neckpiece, Adornment and Excess exhibition

Wisconsin

Submitted by Nicolette Meister •

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison

Upcoming exhibitions:

Automata: Contemporary Mechanical Sculpture, January 16 - March 14, 2010

The delightful work of fourteen international artists will be displayed. Meticulously crafted to perform complex, surprising, and often comic movements, these mechanical sculptures tell quick fanciful tales of nature, myth and magic, the creative process, and sheer make-believe.

More than 25 hand-cranked, artist-designed automata, most loaned from the private collection of University of Arizona art professor emeritus Michael Croft, will be on view, and videos will play in the gallery to show the animated workings of the pieces. *Imaginary Architecture: Photographs by Filip Dujardin*, March 20 - May 16, 2010



Dean Lucker, Man Drinking in the Moon, Chazen exhibit **Automata: Contemporary Mechanical Sculpture**

Wright Museum of Art, Beloit Hollensteiner Gallery Opens

Wanda and Jim Hollensteiner, of Barrington, Ill., generously provided funds to renovate the main gallery at the Wright Museum of Art, which reopened on October 22, 2009. Upgrades to the gallery included the installation of a new climate-control system and a new security system, as well as museum quality pedestals and movable walls. These additions greatly enhance the museum's exhibition potential and provide a stable environment for the exhibition of works of art from the permanent collection. Wanda Hollensteiner graduated from Beloit College in 1954. The Wright Museum of Art gratefully acknowledges the Hollensteiners' significant contribution to the Wright and to Beloit College.



Join the Midwest Registrars Committee

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

The MRC newsletter **Courier**, membership and services directory, stipends for workshops and conferences, news on Association of Midwest Museums activities, access to materials from the Forms Exchange and Information Clearinghouse, and a network of associates who provide support and knowledge.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

VOTING

- New
 Renewal

NON-VOTING

- New
 Renewal

Annual Dues: **\$ 10.00**
 Contribution: _____
 Total Enclosed: _____

Send this form and a check payable to
Midwest Registrars Committee to:
 Devon Pyle-Vowles
 Collections Manager
 Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum
 1300 South Lake Shore Drive
 Chicago, Illinois 60605

Midwest Registrars Committee Board List

CHAIR

Ann Sinfield, Registrar
Chazen Museum of Art
University of Wisconsin-Madison
800 University Ave, Madison, WI 53706
ph: 608-263-3722
fax: 608-263-8188
email: asinfield@chazen.wisc.edu

VICE-CHAIR

Angela Stanford
Collection Manager/Registrar
The Danish Immigrant Museum
2212 Washington Avenue
Elk Horn IA 51531
ph: 712-764-7001 fax: 712-764-7002
email: registrar@danishmuseum.org

SECRETARY

Laura Gharst, Collections Manager
Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences
1125 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614-5985
ph: 309-686-7000, ext. 133
fax 309-686-0280
laura.gharst@lakeview-museum.org

TREASURER

Devon Pyle-Vowles
Collections Manager
Adler Planetarium and Astronomy
Museum
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago IL 60605
ph: 312-322-0821 fax 312-341-9935
email: dpvowles@adlerplanetarium.org

NOMINATIONS CHAIR

Cristin Waterbury, Registrar/
Collections Manager
Wisconsin Maritime Museum
75 Maritime Dr., Manitowoc WI 54220
ph: 920-684-0218 email:
cwaterbury@wisconsinmaritime.org

ARCHIVES

Jane MacKnight, Registrar
Cincinnati Museum Center
1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45203
ph: 513-287-7092 fax: 513-455-7169
email: jmacknight@cincymuseum.org

ILLINOIS

Allison Heller, Collections Manager
Hellenic Museum & Cultural Center
801 West Adams, 4th Floor
Chicago IL 60607
ph: 312-655-1234
email: aheller@hellenicmuseum.org

INDIANA

Lana Newhart-Kellen, Registrar
Conner Prairie
13400 Allisonville Road
Fishers IN 46038-4499
ph: 317-776-6000 fax: 317-776-6014
email: newhart@connerprairie.org

IOWA

Jennifer Kovarik, Registrar
Vesterheim Norwegian-American
Museum
523 W. Water St., Decorah, IA 52101
ph: 563-382-9681 fax: 563-382-8828
email: jkovarik@vesterheim.org

MICHIGAN

Katie Nelson, Collections Manager
Kingman Museum
175 Limit St., Battle Creek MI 49017
ph: 269-965-5117
email: knelson@kingmanmuseum.org

MINNESOTA

Jackie Hoff, Director, Collection
Services
Science Museum of Minnesota
120 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul MN 55102
ph: 651-221-9435
email: jhoff@smm.org

MISSOURI

Angie Bell-Morris, Registrar
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64111-1873
ph: 816.751.1ART
email: abell@nelson-atkins.org

DEVELOPMENT

Ann Sinfield, Registrar
See **Chair**

OHIO

Joanne Fenn, Museum Registrar/
Collections Manager
Kent State University Museum
P. O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242-0001
ph: 330-672-0305
e-mail: jfenn1@kent.edu

WISCONSIN

Nicolette Meister, Curator of Collections
Logan Museum of Anthropology
700 College St., Beloit WI 53511
ph: 608-363-2305
email: meistern@beloit.edu

TRAVEL STIPENDS

Vacant

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Laura Henderson, Collections
Manager/Registrar
Miami University Art Museum
801 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford OH 45056
ph: 513-529-2235 fax: 513-529-6555
email: henderlb@muohio.edu

Layout and Design Editor:
Michelle Hill, Park Ranger
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
312 W. Portage, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
ph: 906-632-3311
email: michelle.l.hill@usace.army.mil

Change of Address?

Please notify MRC to ensure
that you have uninterrupted
MRC services.

Contact:

Laura Gharst, Collections Manager
Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences
1125 W. Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614-5985
Phone: 309-686-7000, ext. 133
Fax: 309-686-0280
laura.gharst@lakeview-museum.org