Coming This SUMMER!

The Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) 2011 conference, Museumpalooza: A Celebration of Cultural Tourism and Communities is quickly approaching. Scheduled for July 24-27, 2011, Museumpalooza has moved from the traditional Fall period to the Summer. Primarily, the move will provide AMM members with fewer conflicts with other state, regional and national museum conferences. It will also provide participants with an opportunity to combine the conference with their vacation plans.

AMM has selected a distinctive property as the host venue for the conference. The 25-story Beaux Arts style Palmer House Hilton is a beautiful, historic hotel within walking distance of some of Chicago’s best attractions.

AMM has partnered with both the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) and the Visitors Studies Association (VSA) to present an exceptional conference experience. Following an opening reception at the Art Institute of Chicago’s Modern Wing, there will be outstanding sessions, inspiring speakers, and receptions and tours at many of the cultural institutions in Chicago, including the Chicago History Museum, Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, and the Museum of Science and Industry.
FROM THE CHAIR

Submitted by Ann Sinfield

This issue of the Courier contains annual reports that were presented at the Cleveland meeting in October 2010. These reports provide an overview of activities in the region and demonstrate the MRC continues to be a vital organization. Our membership numbers are up from last year and we maintain a strong financial position.

We also have a dedicated core of volunteers. My thanks to our brand new newsletter editor and designer, our state representatives, and our board members for their continued dedication and service. You are a joy to work with!

Great news as we prepare for the Association of Midwest Museums conference, to be held July 24-27, 2011 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. In this year of unsettling economic news, MRC is offering multiple travel stipends of $750 each. We have five stipends to award so far--a breathtaking increase beyond our usual number. Thank you to the following incredible vendors for their support of this year’s travel funds:

- Huntington T. Block
- Masterpiece International
- Terry Dowd, Inc.
- Tru-Vue
- US Art

Make sure to look for the travel stipend application in this newsletter and send it in by May 15th. If you are a vendor who is interested in supporting another travel stipend please contact me ASAP!

The MRC will again host the Mighty Rescue Crew at the conference in Chicago. This is a day-long volunteer event where members have an opportunity to contribute hands-on work for collections in the local conference area. Chicagoland museums are encouraged to submit projects for consideration by May 27th. If you know of someone that could use a group of collections professionals for the day please let them know about the program. More info is available from our Rescue Crew Coordinator, Devon Pyle-Vowles.

Although details are still in the works, I hope you are looking forward to attending the MRC annual breakfast meeting. Give yourself a break from the conference hotel and join us at an as of yet unnamed off-site restaurant for food, conversation, and annual reports. Most importantly, this year’s luncheon is generously sponsored by Huntington T. Block, so MRC voting members attend at no charge. Non-voting members pay at the door. RSVPs are required. To reserve your spot email me before July 15th at sinfield@wisc.edu.

“The Museum of Tomorrow” is the theme for the 105th AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo, May 22-25, 2011 in Houston, Texas. If you are able to attend please share your experience with MRC members. Contribute a session review, pictures, or a story from your trip. Send submissions for the next issue to the editor, Jamie Merkel, at jmerkel@umich.edu.
FROM THE EDITOR

Hello fellow MRC members! In accordance with a popular sentiment in cultural anthropology, “the only static is change,” the MRC Courier is currently undergoing some transitions of its own. After five great years of service, Laura Henderson of the Miami University Art Museum and Michelle Hill of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, have stepped down from their positions as the MRC Courier editor and designer, respectively. We are sad to see them go but they will undoubtedly still be contributing to the Courier and we look forward to hearing from them as their lives become (hopefully) slightly less hectic! One of the positive factors of such a change is it gives other museum staff members, including myself, a chance to get more involved in our professional community. It also stands as an open invitation for new ideas. I am therefore very excited to introduce myself and Tamara Lange as the new editing and design team of the MRC Courier.

I am fairly new to my career as a museum professional but I love the field and am dedicated to doing my part to make it a meaningful career, both for myself, and for the greater good of museum collections and the people whose lives they affect. I currently work at the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology as an Assistant Collections Manager, and my job is to rehouse the Ethnobotanical Collection of approximately 35,000 objects. As a fellow museum professional you probably understand all that is entailed under the umbrella of “rehouse:” new cabinets, new boxes, new labels, new catalog cards (this one was not expected but alas most of our objects in the Ethnobotanical Laboratory currently don’t have them), entering and updating data into our database, and oh, training and managing student workers. It goes without saying that I love organizing and I love taking on big projects; so being the new editor for the Courier is yet another way in which I can approach and manage large things! Another appealing aspect of editing is it gives me an opportunity to stay in touch with other museum professionals. I find it exciting and invigorating to read about other people’s projects, questions, and experiences in the museum world.

The MRC Courier is meant to be a resource for all MRC members. This means highlighting the MRC Annual Reports and keeping you up to date on the latest news from each state, but it doesn’t need to end there! Laurie Booth, an objects conservator and President of Midwest Conservation Service, has offered to continue to answer your questions that pertain to conservation issues in her column, Conservation Corner. I would also like to begin a new column entitled What I Love About My Museum. To be effective, however, these columns need your input! They need your questions and your stories! So please, the next time you come across a situation at your museum in which you find yourself thinking, “Now what?” write down the reason for the question, email it to me, and hopefully Laurie will be able to help! And when you are driving or walking home from work with a huge smile on your face because you just hung a great exhibition, planned an exciting event, or saw your favorite object in storage, take that happiness and turn it into a story we can all sink our museum-loving teeth into. I look forward to hearing from you!
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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,

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Send this form and a check payable to Midwest Registrars Committee to:
Devon Pyle-Vowles, Collections Manager
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Chicago, Illinois 60605
“The time to hesitate is through....”

▪ Submitted by Tamara Lange ▪

As I was contemplating writing a brief introduction for the debut of Jamie’s and my first MRC newsletter, Jim Morrison kept popping into my head. I have been contemplating becoming more involved in the larger professional organizations of the field for a long time now. Though for many years I have dutifully kept up my professional memberships, I am also a strong advocate for the importance of sharing talents, not just dollars, and it was time for me to act on this belief. Perhaps it was fate, but the opportunity to help edit and design the MRC Courier came at a time when the desire to become more involved was at the forefront of my mind and seemed to call my name.

Although my journey has been a bit circuitous, I have happily landed at the Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum. I will spare you my technical title, but suffice it to say my primary duties entail the care and management of our collections. I am the proud caretaker of several historic buildings, oversee tens of thousands of artifacts, manage numerous educational and exhibition support materials, guide exhibition design, and have recently also incorporated all registration duties into my job. Occasionally, I also make guest appearances as educator, technology interpreter, and general jill-of-all-trades.

I am always open to thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and criticisms – just be gentle! Need different colors? Want an easier to read font or more pictures? This is OUR newsletter and it is only through the efforts of the members of MRC that it truly becomes reality. I am here to make your content shine!

Conservation Corner is here for you!

Laurie Booth is an objects conservator and President of Midwest Conservation Services, Inc., now located in the Southeast suburbs of Cleveland. Laurie established Midwest Conservation in 1990 to provide objects conservation services to the region. Laurie has kindly offered to continue writing her column Conservation Corner for the Courier, but to do so she needs your help! Specifically, she needs your questions! So next time you find yourself wondering what to do (in a conservation related way) write down your question and submit it to the editor, Jamie Merkel, at jmerkel@umich.edu. Thanks!
The AMM Conference of 2010 was held in Cleveland, Ohio. The MRC awarded travel stipends of $750 each for the attendance of three MRC members at the conference. It was a great conference and the stipend recipients, Nicolette Meister, Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College; Jamie Merkel, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology; and Teri Van Dorston, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art; have reviewed one of their favorite sessions (well, Nicolette Meister reviewed two!) at the conference for the MRC Courier. Inspired? Look for the Travel Stipend Application in this issue for your chance to attend the AMM in Chicago, Illinois, courtesy of the Midwest Registrars Committee!

Against the Grain:
Modernism in the Midwest
• Submitted by Jamie Merkel •

As a museum professional who has previously worked in a university art gallery and a small college art museum, I was immediately drawn to the AMM session entitled, “Against the Grain: Modernism in the Midwest,” when I was reading through the AMM conference catalog. I no longer work in an art museum, so in some ways the session topic didn’t relate to my current position, and for this reason I felt a little guilty and indulgent in wanting to attend the session. The underlying current, however, is one that most museums can relate to, and that is this: how do we make our collections and exhibitions relevant to the community? So I went.

The session was led by Jill Malusky, Head of Education and Outreach for the Massillon Museum. Malusky began by explaining the general character of Massillon, which is primarily a blue-collar town that is by and large enamored with their nationally famous high school football team, the Tigers. The challenge here, then, is how to get the people of Massillon interested in the somewhat seemingly obscure topic of modernist art? One aspect, which was spear-headed by Massillon Museum Executive Director Christine Fowler Shearer, was to make the exhibition pertinent to the people of Massillon and other Midwestern towns by curating a show that put the development of Modernism in the Midwest in the limelight. The show thus focused on art-
works that were created between 1900 and 1950 by artists who were born, studied, or worked in the Midwest. The other aspect, which was the crux of the session, was how Malusky went about facilitating the public outreach for the exhibition.

Aside from knowing her audience the first thing Malusky did was apply for a grant from Arts in Stark to support the education and outreach aspect of the exhibition. Once the grant was secured Malusky was given a bit more room to come up with creative ways to engage with the community. There were free workshops, a nicely constructed activity book for kids, and my favorite: a nearby boarded up building with brightly painted murals that were abstracted representations of the paintings in the exhibition. The murals were sketched out by personnel at the Museum, worked on by members of the public during a workshop at the Museum, and then hung in the vacant windows of a recently fire-devastated building for everyone in Massillon to see. Talk about brilliant! The murals received a lot of attention from the press and public alike, and went a long way in making the exhibition feel accessible to a more general public that might otherwise not be interested in, or feel separated from, the notion of modernist art.

I found this session to be insightful and captivating. It demonstrated how knowing one’s audience and taking the time to craft an exhibition that is tailored to one’s community, is not only possible, but is extremely rewarding as well, both for the Museum that created the exhibition and the people who attended it.

**Connecting to Conservation**  
*Submitted by Nicolette B. Meister*

This session was somewhat misrepresented in the AMM conference catalog, but nonetheless offered valuable information to anyone in-
ning, environmental control, disaster preparedness, and storage and handling. NEDCC also helped to develop dPlan, a free online program to help institutions write comprehensive disaster plans. dPlan provides an easy-to-use template that allows museums, libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions of all sizes to develop a customized plan.

Overall, this session was very informative and conveyed an excellent tool kit of preservation resources. Below is a list of resources and web links for the resources discussed in this article:

- Ford Conservation Center, Saving Your Treasures: [http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/treasures/index.htm](http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/treasures/index.htm)

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**No Easy Answers: A NAGPRA Discussion**

*Submitted by Nicolette B. Meister*

2010 ushered in the 20th anniversary of the passage of NAGPRA. The three collections managers who organized and participated in this session—Katie Nelson, Kingman Museum; Marilyn Merdzinski, Grand Rapids Public Museum; and Karen O’Brien, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology—demonstrated that despite the twenty year window, there are still no easy answers regarding NAGPRA compliance and consultation.

This was a particularly insightful session primarily because each of the panelists’ perspectives were grounded in years of first hand experience complying with NAGPRA and each represented institutions of varying size, type, and governance structure. The Kingman Museum is a natural history museum and planetarium located in Battle Creek, MI. Like many small museums, the Kingman needed assistance compiling NAGPRA inventories. Katie worked with anthropology faculty from Western Michigan University to complete inventories of culturally affiliated and culturally unidentifiable human remains and consulted with MACPRA, the Michigan Anishinabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance, an organization that is comprised of members from the twelve federally-recognized Tribes of Michigan and two state historic Tribes. The case study presented by Katie Nelson focused on culturally unidentifiable human remains removed from Muskegon County, MI. In 2008 she appeared before the NAGPRA Review Committee and successfully petitioned for the Committee to recommend disposition of the remains to members of MACPRA. This case study illustrated how one staff member at a small museum negotiated a complex and time consuming system, successfully consulted with a tribal consortium, and ultimately was able to return cultural unidentifiable human remains to their county of origin. All of this occurred before March 15th, 2010, when the Final Rule on the Disposition of Culturally Unidentified Human Remains was posted in the Federal Register.

The second case study, presented by Marilyn Merdzinski, Director of Collections and Preservation at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, revealed how one institution’s position on NAGPRA evolved through time. Marilyn provided a brief overview of the Museum’s 150 year history of collecting and explained how in the 1980s the Museum actively built relationships and consulted with many Michigan
Native Americans and tribal communities in conjunction with a new exhibition—Anishinabek: The People of This Place. During the Museum’s NAGPRA consultations in 2009 with members of MACPRA, many of the same tribal representatives who were involved in the Anishinabek exhibition were now involved in the NAGPRA consultations. The closeness fostered during the Anishinabek exhibition was now replaced by distrust and feelings of distance. Tribal members were dismayed that the museum wasn’t transparent about the presence of human remains in its collection during the exhibition consultation process. It’s easy to compartmentalize projects and to forget that the collecting history of our institutions and the collections we curate are entangled with the present and that our stewardship responsibilities extend well beyond preservation and collections management. Ultimately, consultations with MACPRA resulted in the repatriation of human remains and funerary objects in September of 2010, but more importantly, offered an opportunity for healing for both the Museum and local tribal communities.

The panel culminated with a presentation by Karen O’Brien about the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology’s troubled past with NAGPRA. Unlike the Kingman Museum or the Grand Rapids Public Museum, the Museum of Anthropology curates over 3.5 million objects and is first and foremost a research institution. The museum’s “troubled past” is the result of a variety of factors: (1) lack of substantial university support for NAGPRA compliance efforts; (2) a reactionary rather than proactive approach to consultation; and (3) the perceived clash between science and the spirit of NAGPRA. These factors fostered tribal perceptions that the museum was not forthcoming with information, or worse still, was hiding information. The University is currently taking steps to transform the Museum’s NAGPRA compliance efforts. The University’s Vice President for Research has been named the official NAGPRA liaison and established a new Advisory Committee on Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains. In addition, a new collections manager was hired to oversee the care and continued documentation of the museum’s NAGPRA collections. The NAGPRA Collections Manager works with the curators, director, and Office of the Vice President for Research in tribal consultations, repatriation, and disposition claims. New consultations have been initiated and talks have begun about how to move forward and heal past distrust. Karen ended with a final question to the audience, “how do you balance research and morality issues?” The Museum of Anthropology will always be a research institution, but the University is making strides toward developing new university-wide policies and procedures that address this key question, to which there is no easy answer.

Strategies for Revitalizing an Historic House – With No Budget!

Submitted by Teri Van Dorston

“Strategies for Revitalizing an Historic House – With No Budget!” was presented by Tova Brandt, Curator of Exhibitions; and Angela Stanford, Curator of Collections and Registrar; both with the Danish Immigrant Museum located in Elk Horn, Iowa. I was attracted to this session because I work at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, which also owns and operates a separate historic structure, the Grant Wood Studio. Like the Danish Immigrant Museum’s historic structure the Bedstemor House, the Studio is off-site and blocks away from the main Museum, posing many of the same challenges that Tova and Angela highlighted:

- How to effectively promote the House through digital and print formats
- How to create exhibition panels and interpretive material that will engage and edu-
cate visitors
- Development of programs to revitalize the House
- Accomplish all of the above with high regard to museum standards, yet no budget

The presenters went into depth about many of the obstacles that needed to be untangled before the above could even be explored, including how to staff/volunteer the House, how to keep up with the maintenance of the 102 year old structure, and how to deal with collection management issues surrounding the artifacts or “contents” of the House. The existing staff put all this and more on the table in 2009, when what amounted to a strategic plan was formed.

In 2010, the strategies were implemented and Tova Brandt was hired to hone the Museum’s vision. Interns were also greatly utilized to untangle artifact issues and conduct extensive research. New exhibition panels and interpretive materials were created and placed in the house. Printed brochures that mirrored exhibition panels to coherently tie the research and exhibition material together were also created. Multi-media tools were utilized for engaging interpretation needs and complimenting traditional marketing strategies. A three-part video was created that is played at the house and is also available for viewing on YouTube, though a link from their website: http://www.danishmuseum.org/bedstemors-house.cfm.

Marketing now stretched from stand-alone sandwich boards to local newspapers, paid print ads, event posters, a maintained website calendar, and Facebook. The House offered and facilitated programs such as craft demonstrations and lawn games, mainly on weekend afternoons. And as opposed to the volunteer corps that were staffing the house, paid part-time summer positions were created for high school and college students to greet visitors and supervise the house during open hours. But how did they do all this with no budget? In a nutshell, they sought local and state grants, matched by community generosity and support. The only item that was paid for out of the operating budget was the summer (minimum wage) staff.

Looking to the future, the Danish Immigrant Museum plans to include the Bedstemor House in a General Conservation Assessment that is scheduled to occur in 2011. Other goals to accomplish include solving artifact issues, such as determining if the objects are loans, donations, purchases, or simply, found in collections. They are also planning to add programs such as a walking tour and a story hour for children, continue marketing efforts, and most importantly, include the House in long-term institutional plans and development of the museum complex as a whole.
Illinois

- Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer -

Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences, Peoria

Exhibitions:
Jim Henson’s Fantastic World

If part of your childhood was spent singing “Mahna Mahna! Doo doo de doo doo” with your friends, then you will definitely want to stop by the Lakeview Museum this spring. The Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences in Peoria, IL is hosting the exhibition Jim Henson’s Fantastic World February 11 through May 1, 2011.

Jim Henson (1936-1990)—artist, puppeteer, film director, and producer—created elaborate imaginary worlds filled with unique characters, objects, environments, and even languages and cultures. His work is enjoyed in dozens of languages in more than 100 countries. This exhibition features 100 original artworks, including drawings, cartoons, and storyboards that illustrate Henson’s talent as a storyteller and visionary. Among the variety of exhibition objects are puppets, television and movie props, photographs of Henson and his collaborators at work, and original video productions, including excerpts from Henson’s early career and experimental films.

When asked about the ins and outs of installing such widely recognized figures as the Muppets, Collections Manager Laura Gharst noted “Josie Cole, Registrar for Shipping for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Service (SITES), came to assist with the installation, so things went very smoothly. It definitely helped to have someone who has been involved with the exhibition from the beginning and knew all the pieces’ histories, especially the puppets. I was actually surprised how moved I was to hold some of the puppets, like Kermit and Bert and Ernie. Most of us are introduced to these characters at such a young age. The Muppets have touched and entertained so many children and adults for so many years.”

Josie Cole, SITES Registrar for Shipping; and Laura Gharst, Collections Manager, Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences; ‘styling’ Mahna Mahna and the Snowths.
age, so it was definitely a little emotional to handle such iconic figures.”

Jim Henson’s Fantastic World is organized by The Jim Henson Legacy and SITES, in cooperation with the Henson Family; The Jim Henson Company; The Muppets Studio, LLC; and Sesame Workshop. The exhibition is made possible by The Biography Channel. Additional support has been provided by The Jane Henson Foundation and Cheryl Henson. Local underwriting provided by PNC Bank.

With the Civil War Sesquicentennial upon us, museums in the land of Lincoln are ready to celebrate!

Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield
Exhibitions:
Stephen A. Douglas: The Shadow of a Giant

At the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, several exhibits are in the works. Open now until April 29 is Stephen A. Douglas: The Shadow of a Giant, created in conjunction with the Old State Capitol State Historic Site, also in Springfield. This exhibit celebrates Douglas’ famous rivalry with Lincoln and commemorates the 150th anniversary of his death in June, 1861. The Lincoln Home portion of the exhibit includes several prints and commemorative busts and statues, as well as photographs, correspondence, and additional materials related to both Douglas’ funeral and the creation of his monument in Chicago.

On February 11, the Lincoln Home was the starting location for a multi-day commemoration of Lincoln’s inaugural trip to Washington. The commemoration began with a Lincoln impersonator and three park rangers leading an attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest group reading the same text simultaneously—which in this case was Lincoln’s Farewell Address. The four men then set off on an eleven-day journey, hosting special events in 16 cities, as Lincoln did, before their arrival in Washington, DC on February 22. These events, organized by the National Park Service, are the start of the NPS four-year sesquicentennial programming entitled “Civil War to Civil Rights.” The three park rangers participating in the event represent the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site, and the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis.

Mendota Museum & Historical Society, Mendota
Exhibitions:
Civil War exhibition

The Mendota Museum & Historical Society’s ongoing Civil War exhibition provides a look at three Medal of Honor recipients affiliated with Mendota, IL: Robert Shipley, James Larabee (or Larrabee), and Thomas Payne. The exhibit contains information about all three men, as well as Civil War medals, a mustache cup belonging to Larabee, a canteen, and other related artifacts. Two of the men are buried in Mendota or its vicinity; one is buried in Pennsylvania. All three have Medal of Honor markers on their graves.

Spurlock Museum, Urbana
Exhibitions:
Collecting and Connecting

The Spurlock Museum is celebrating 100 years of the museums on the University of Illinois campus that gradually merged into the Spurlock. As part of the exhibition Collecting and Connecting, registration activities re-
employee. The cartoon highlights the activities of documenting, researching, and conserving an object after it becomes part of a museum collection. The cartoon, and Collecting and Connecting, is on display February 20, 2011 through January 8, 2012.

In addition to her adventures in numbering, the Cow has suffered from some damage along the way, which museum staff has repaired.

The Mighty Rescue Crew is coming to Chicago!

At the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) annual meeting the Midwest Registrars Committee sponsors the Mighty Rescue Crew. Registrars, collections managers, curators, and other professionals pull together during this event to volunteer their time and expertise to assist small museums and other historical institutions in the host city with collections-related projects.

This year’s AMM annual meeting will be held in Chicago from July 24 - July 27, 2011. The Mighty Rescue Crew is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27.

If you are interested in having the Mighty Rescue Crew work at your site please contact the Mighty Rescue Crew coordinator:

Devon Pyle-Vowles  
Email: dpvowles@comcast.net  
Phone: 312-322-0821

Applications are due May 27, 2011.
Indiana

• Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen •

Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette
News:
The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette’s mission of education received a financial boost Friday afternoon.

The four children of Manya Fan – David Fan, Hung Fan, Vicky Black and Frances MacDonald - donated a total of $150,000 to the Museum for its educational center’s redesign, reorganization, and modernization. The area inside the Museum will be called the Manya Fan Art Education Center.

Bartholomew County Historical Society, Columbus
Event:
Reeves Pancake Breakfast
July 23, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Bartholomew County Historical Society will be hosting the third annual Reeves Pancake breakfast on July 23 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Henry Breeding Farm. Vintage Reeves engines will be roaring to life, and tours of the Henry Breeding home, along with crafts and games for the whole family, will be included with the meal. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, and a beverage. Tickets for the breakfast are $10.00 for attendees age 10 & up, and $5.00 for children 9 & under, and may be purchased at the Museum Center at 524 Third Street. If you are an owner of a Reeves engine and would like to bring yours to the event, e-mail nspeth@bartholomewhistory.org or call 812-372-3541.

Ernie Pyle Museum, Dana
News: From The Army Times/AP, January 1, 2011—Update from Summer 2010 issue of MRC Courier

A community group is searching for enough money to reopen a western Indiana museum dedicated to World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle. The Indiana Natural Resources Commission agreed in November to turn over the closed Ernie Pyle State Historic Site, birthplace of the WWII journalist, to the non-profit Friends of Ernie Pyle group, which hopes to raise $1 million for an endowment fund that could sustain the Museum. The Ernie Pyle Museum’s move into private hands began a year ago, when state agencies were ordered by Governor Mitch Daniels to shave their budgets by 10 percent. The Department of Natural Resources decided to save $50,000 a year by closing the Pyle museum, which was by far the least-visited of the state historic sites with about 1,500 visitors a year.

Ohio County Historical Society, Rising Sun
Exhibitions:
Steamboat a Comin’: The Legacy of the New Orleans Exhibition
May 2 through June 1, 2011

This year marks the bicentennial of the first steamboat to successfully navigate America’s western inland rivers. The New Orleans was the first of many steamboats to ply the Ohio River and pass or stop at Rising Sun. The exhibition Steamboat a Comin’: The Legacy of the New Orleans exhibition will highlight the early adventurers who dared to take a steamboat on the Ohio River and to travel through areas where few Americans had been before. Visitors will learn of the early technology and the positive and negative ramifications it had. Additional steamboat models will be on loan throughout the duration of the
exhibition.

**Wabash and Erie Canal Park, Delphi**
**Annual Meeting:**
April 21, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

The Wabash and Erie Canal Park will hold their annual meeting at the Canal Center on April 21, 6:30 p.m. Keynote speaker is Indiana’s former First Lady, Judy O’Bannon, wife of the late Governor Frank O’Bannon. Mrs. O’Bannon is well known for her support of Indiana history and culture.

**Iowa**

- Submitted by Jennifer Kovark -

**Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn**

**Exhibitions:**
*Danish American Artist Series: Grete Schioler*
Now through July 10, 2011

Grete Schioler is a weaver and fiber artist living in Dayton, Ohio. The works on view will encompass a wide range of Schioler’s work, including tapestry, silk painting, quilting, appliqué, and knitting. Some pieces express her experience as a Danish immigrant, and others reflect Schioler’s interest in color, texture, and contours of both the man-made and natural environments.

**Internships:**
Two new interns from Denmark have joined the Museum’s staff and will be here into the summer. Julie Andersen will be splitting her time between the collections department and the Family History and Genealogy Center. Bjoerg Rasmussen will primarily assist the exhibitions department. An additional intern, Sara Sjolin, spent a week of orientation at the Museum before heading off to the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle where she will spend the rest of her internship. These interns are funded by the Scan Design Foundation.
Madison County Historical Society, Winterset

News: Paving Project Complete

The Madison County Historical Complex will greet visitors with newly paved road this spring! The paving project started last October and was finished before the snow began to fall. The 912 linear feet of pavement, which includes a parking area, is motor coach friendly and a great improvement for patrons ease. The 2nd Avenue extension which leads directly onto the historical complex took approximately 3000 square yards of concrete to complete. The former gravel road did add to the historic charm but was more upkeep with additional rock needed and yearly dust control expense - not to mention the messy mud! The entire cost of this project was funded by the Madison County Historical Society.

The next time you are in Winterset be sure to drive up the 2nd Avenue hill to see our beautiful 18 acre complex which houses 14 buildings. And if it’s a rainy day –don’t worry! No muddy road here!

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

2011 Workshop: Workshop Offered to Help Organizations Develop Compelling Grant Proposals

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) will be hosting the workshop Grant Seeking 101: Turning Great Ideas into Compelling Proposals on Tuesday, March 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will be held in The Gathering Room at the Amdal-Odland Heritage Center (across the street from Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum), 523 West Water Street, Decorah, Iowa.

Workshop participants will learn the fundamentals of identifying grant opportunities and writing successful proposals to secure grant funding for their organizations. This workshop will focus specifically on grant seeking from private sector sources, though basic techniques will also be applicable to government requests. Participants will explore print and electronic resources to research prospective funders, draft the opening elements of a grant proposal, and discuss practical tips for getting their proposal noticed and read.

Jeanie Lovell, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Luther College in Decorah, will present the workshop. Lovell has been with the college since 1993 and serves as co-director of the college’s $50-million Sesquicentennial Fund. Since joining the fund-raising team, she has written and/or edited over 430 grant proposals, generating more than $20.2 million in corporate and foundation support for the College. During lunch, Carolynn Sween of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa and Stacy Van Gorp of the McElroy Trust will be on hand to share what they specifically look for in successful grant proposals.
“This workshop is a great opportunity to learn helpful tips and common misconceptions when it comes to grant proposal writing,” commented Don Short, SSNHA President. “With nearly 20 years of experience, Lovell brings a wealth of knowledge to the topic of fundraising.”

Registration is due March 16 and is limited to 30 participants. The registration fee is $45 per person affiliated with a designated SSNHA Partner or Emerging Site and $55 per person for all other participants. A special group rate of $100 is being offered for three individuals from the same organization. Registration forms are available online under the “Resources” section at [www.silosandsmokestacks.org](http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org). For additional information contact Candy Streed, Program & Partnership Director, at 319-234-4567 or cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is one of 49 federally designated heritage areas in the nation and is an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service. The Heritage Area covers 37 counties in the northeast quadrant of Iowa. Interstate 80 borders it on the south and Interstate 35 borders it on the west. Through a network of sites, programs and events, SSNHA interprets farm life, agribusiness and rural communities—past and present.

**Vesterheim, Decorah**

**News:**

*Peale Furniture Comes to Vesterheim*

Thanks to a generous donation from museum trustee Dan Huebner, Decorah, a gift of over 20 exceptional pieces of Norwegian furniture from the estate of Ruth Stafford Peale, wife of Norman Vincent Peale, has arrived safely at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. The pieces include cupboards, *kubbestoler* (Norwegian log chairs), and a large standing clock. Some date back to the 1700s. The estate gift has been in the making since the late 1960s, when then Executive Director Marion Nelson contacted Mrs. Peale. Over the years it has involved multiple visits to the Peales’ New York home and the efforts of several Vesterheim curatorial staff, Dr. Eugene Nordby of Madison, Wisconsin, Darrell Henning of Decorah, and Dan Huebner and his late wife, Bonnie.

"The furniture is outstanding, and the years of work involved in bringing it to Vesterheim have truly been a testament to patience and perseverance. I am thrilled that Bonnie and I could play a part in its acquisition," Huebner said.

Norman Vincent Peale, an American icon and author of "The Power of Positive Thinking," and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale, founded The Guideposts Foundation in 1945. The couple was close friends with Charles Ulrick Bay, U.S. Ambassador to Norway 1946-1953, and his wife, Josephine Bay Paul, who originally purchased the pieces in Norway. The Peales later acquired the fully-furnished Bay estate in Pawling, New York, and so the pieces came to be in their possession.

Norman Vincent Peale died in 1993 and Ruth Stafford Peale passed away in 2008, leaving the furniture to Vesterheim. The furniture remained in Pawling during the intervening years while the estate was being sold, and the Peale family has indicated how happy they are it has now found a home where everyone can enjoy it.

"Just before Christmas we got word that this significant collection needed to be shipped to Decorah from Pawling, New York," Executive Director Steve Johnson explained, "and Dan Huebner stepped up to the plate to meet the hefty transportation price-tag of approximately $10,000."
"Everything arrived safe and sound earlier this month and our Registrar, Jennifer Kovarik, is in the process of photographing, cataloging, and creating condition reports on the pieces," Johnson added.

The furniture will be featured in a special exhibition in the Hong Gallery on the third floor of the Museum's Main Building beginning September 22.

One of the twenty pieces of Peale furniture now in the collection at Vesterheim.

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**Michigan**

*Submitted by Katie Nelson*

**Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing**

**News:**

*New Art Museum!*

Opening Spring 2012

On June 1, 2007, Michigan State University announced a new world-class art museum will be built on campus with a major focus on modern and contemporary art. It will attract major exhibitions and collections, and serve as a showcase to enrich the educational experience and aesthetic enjoyment of art. The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University recently hired its Founding Director, Dr. Michael Rush. The new museum is scheduled to open in the spring of 2012.

Between now and the opening the Kresge Art Museum, also on the campus of Michigan State, will close its doors and transfer its collection to the new museum.
Michigan Humanities Council, Lansing
News:
New Director Hired!

Mary Kathleen Wolf has been named the new executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council. Wolf replaces Janice Fedewa, who retired January 31 after serving 13 years with the Council, eight as executive director. The Michigan Humanities Council is a private, non-profit organization, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It provides grants for humanities projects throughout Michigan and operates the Great Michigan Read, Poetry Out Loud, and Prime Time Family Reading Time programs.

“I am very fortunate to be joining a strong team of professionals and advocates that comprise the Michigan Humanities Council,” Wolf said. “Nothing embodies ‘Pure Michigan’ more than our state’s rich cultural history which has been shaped by our Great Lakes, natural resources, ethnic diversity, spirit of innovation, world-class universities and stellar list of great thinkers and doers. I hope to build on this extraordinary foundation by strengthening and expanding partnerships with others who are willing to take bold moves to ensure Michigan’s legacy as a powerhouse of innovation, education, and creativity.”

Lakeshore Museum Center, Muskegon
News:
A Milestone Reached!

The Lakeshore Museum Center is so excited about their 75th Anniversary they are celebrating a year early! Founded during the 1937 Centennial Celebration of Michigan’s statehood and Muskegon’s first century as a city, the Museum became a more permanent fixture on Muskegon’s Western Avenue when WPA workers and museum supporters worked to create natural science and historical displays for the newly established Museum.

With a name change in 2009, the Lakeshore Museum Center looks to the future with plans for expansion of programs and projects throughout Muskegon County. “Serving You for 75 Years” fills its temporary exhibition gallery and explores the history of the Lakeshore Museum Center, reflecting on its past, celebrating its present, and hoping for an even better future. Special events in the summer
months will highlight Muskegon County’s lumbering and industrial heritage. The exhibition runs from January 2011 to December 2011.

WPA workers working on display materials for the newly established Muskegon County Museum

Michigan Registrar’s Roundtable

Save the Date!

Calling all registrars, collections managers, curators, archivists, and jack of all trades! Mark your calendars for the 2011 Michigan Registrar’s Roundtable, **Tuesday, May 10, at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.**

The roundtable allows colleagues from around the state to gather together and talk with experts about issues we are all facing. More often than not, our greatest resource is each other!

This year’s topic has yet to be determined so the planning committee wants to hear from you about what issues your museum is facing. Past topics have included digitization projects, deaccession policies, moving collections, disaster management *after* a disaster, and copyright policies.

Please contact Katie Nelson at knelson@kingmanmuseum.org with your suggestions and/or if you wish to be added to our contact list. See you in Kalamazoo!
Minnesota

Submitted by Jackie Hoff

Hennepin History Museum,
Minneapolis
Exhibitions:
Places of Worship in Hennepin County
Presented as part of the Twin Cities interfaith art pARTners festival
March 1 through May 31, 2011

The exhibition, “Places of Worship,” will highlight places of worship in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The exhibition will examine places of worship through photographs and artifacts that are held in the Museum’s permanent collection. It will look at places of worship from small Baptist churches to Mosques, and will include the Hindu temple in Maple Grove and Orthodox churches of Northeast Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

For more information, visit http://www.stthomas.edu/interfaithart/ or http://hennepinhistory.org/CalendarofEvents.aspx

Join Freya and Jim as they talk about growing up in rural Minnesota and Wisconsin, their writing lives, and their poetry! Moderated by Jules Nyquist.

Jules Nyquist is the originator and curator for this reading. Her latest chapbook is entitled “Appetites: poems on food, drink and sex.” She earned her MFA in Writing and Literature at Bennington College, Vermont and teaches independent writing classes. The next class offering is “Food as Metaphor” (for all levels of writers), on Thursdays, March 10, 17, and 24, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Call (952) 443-1400 for details and to register. Jules can be reached at julesnyquist@yahoo.com.


Jim Heynen knew Freya Manfred when she was a teenager and has lots of stories to tell! He is the author of over 20 books, including “The Boys’ House” (MN Historical Society Press), named Editors’ Choice for Best Books of 2001 by The Bloomsbury Review. He has two books forthcoming from Milkweed Editions: “The Fall of ‘99,” a bi-racial coming of age love story between a 17 year old farm girl and a teenage Hmong immigrant in the final four months of the twentieth century set against the background of the farm girl’s collapsing farm and family (fall 2011), and “Ordinary Sins: After Theophrastus,” a collection of short-shorts illustrated by Tom Pohrt (spring 2012). Jim lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. His website

Events:
Fireside Chats: Conversations with Freya Manfred and Jim Heynen
March 3, 6:30 p.m.
is [www.jimheynen.com](http://www.jimheynen.com).

Adults: $5  
Seniors/kids: $1  
Members: Free  
*Refreshments will be served!*

**Scott County Historical Society, Shakopee**

*News:*

The Scott County Historical Society received a Legacy grant to microfilm a 2-year backlog of county newspapers - freeing up space in our collection. [www.scottcountyhistory.org](http://www.scottcountyhistory.org)

**Midwest Art Conservation Center, Minneapolis**

**2011 Workshops:**

*Preparing for a Disaster: Writing and Updating a Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Plan for Cultural Collections*  
Date: June 10, 9:00 - 4:30  
Location: Minitex, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
Date: June 17, 9:00 - 4:30  
Location & co-sponsor: Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA  
Date: November 13, 10:00 - 3:30 (*Sunday before the Wisconsin Federation of Museums Annual Conference*)  
Location: John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI  
Additional locations and dates to be announced

*Storing and Preserving Still Photographic Materials Collections*  
Date: September 16, 9:00 - 4:00  
Location & co-sponsor: Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA  
Date: September 26, 9:00 - 4:00  
Location: Wisconsin State Arts Board, Madison, WI  
Date: October 3, 9:00 - 4:00  
Location: Minitex, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
Date: October 28, 9:00 - 4:00 (*North Dakota Governor’s Conference*)  
Location: North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND

*Preservation and Conservation Needs for Collections Management Policies*  
Location: Minneapolis, MN  
Date to be announced

*The Research and Writing of a Long Range Preservation Plan*  
Locations and date to be announced

*Writing Grants for Preservation and Conservation Projects*  
Location and date to be announced

Visit [www.preserveart.org](http://www.preserveart.org) for more workshop information along with conservation and preservation grant opportunities and deadlines.
Missouri

*Submitted by Kate Keil*

The Missouri State Museum, Jefferson City

Exhibitions:

Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing
Opens May 10, 2011 and runs through 2015

This exhibition will reveal the various ways the state of Missouri was in chaos prior to and during the Civil War. Visitors will be able to reflect on and consider the war’s lasting impact on Missouri, its people, and its culture.

The exhibition will feature the State Museum’s premier collection of Union and Confederate battle flags. The flags and other period artifacts are our tangible links with the Missourians who participated in and witnessed the events that changed their lives, the state and the nation. This exhibition will tell their stories.

Due to the sensitive nature of the Civil War flags this four year exhibition is done in three phases which will rotate every six months throughout the duration of the show. Thus, in November 2011 and May 2012, and every six months after that, visitors will see different flags and artifacts and hear different Missourian’s stories.

The exhibition’s family-friendly opening is at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. The opening will feature a live performance of Civil War era music, and the “Ready-Aim-Fire” hands-on cannon program where visitors of all ages become the cannoneers. There will also be reenactors representing the 3rd Missouri Infantry Regiment (Union), the Missouri State Guard (Confederate), and Missouri civilians, who will be interacting with visitors and drilling on the Capitol lawn.

The ribbon-cutting is Tuesday, May 10, 2011, on the anniversary of the Camp Jackson affair, the first armed conflict in Missouri after the firing on Ft. Sumter. Events start at 9:00 am in the Capitol Rotunda.

It’s Your History! We hope to see you there.
Ohio

• Submitted by Joanne Fenn •

Miami University Art Museum, Oxford

The exhibitions currently in Galleries 1, 2, and 3 at the Miami University Art Museum were developed by our new Curator of Exhibitions, Jason Shaiman, who started working with us in August, 2010. They are a tribute to his expertise and professionalism, and reflect an interesting and scholarly insight into different facets of identity. There are many objects in the exhibitions that are juxtaposed in unlikely combinations, which required a great deal of imagination and considerable research. Jason’s knowledge of art history and his fresh approach to the interpretation of our collections have been a welcome asset.

Exhibitions:
Looking Beyond the Surface: Understanding Identity Through Art, January 11-July 23, 2011

Drawn entirely from the Museum’s permanent collection, this is a suite of three exhibitions broken down into the sub-headings Understanding Herself, Capturing Identity, and Defining Identities. The first exhibition focuses on Audrey Flack and features early self-portrait paintings and a series of prints in which the artist depicts herself in different guises. The second exhibition consists of photographs created as a means of capturing the personal attributes and identity of an individual or a group. The third exhibition, Defining Identities, includes paintings, prints, sculpture, and material culture that further explore the topic of identity through a study of gender, race, culture, religion, social status, and mythology.

Audrey Flack self-portraits in the exhibition at Miami University Art Museum
Wisconsin

* Submitted by Craig Hadley *

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison
Exhibitions:
* Holy Image, Sacred Presence: Russian Icons, 1500–1900 *
March 12 through June 5, 2011

The icon is a distinctive form of holy image in Eastern Orthodox cultures, intended to evoke sacred presence by appealing to the senses. This exhibition will present about thirty works from the Museum’s permanent collection to explore the distinctive devotional functions, religious experiences, iconography, and changing styles of Russian icons from the sixteenth to early twentieth centuries. Examples include a mandylion (miraculous image of the face of Jesus), proskynetaria and iconostasis panels from Orthodox churches, and small devotional icons for private use.

News:
Wisconsin State Journal, January 21st, 2011
Secret Places: Chazen’s art storage space for non-displayed items

Wright Museum of Art, Beloit
News:
* Conservation at the Wright Museum of Art *

Through the continued generosity of the Wanda Hollensteiner ’54 endowed conservation fund, the Wright Museum of Art at Beloit College was able to conserve its 1636 Rembrandt print “Self Portrait with Saskia” at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota this last year. Prior to conservation, the lower half of the print was saturated with discolored rubber cement adhesive. Paper conservators removed the rubber cement, reduced the paper’s acidity through a series of chemical baths, and mended tears with Japanese mulberry paper.

As part of the annual conservation fund, the Wright Museum also hosted Dr. Dennis Weller from the North Carolina Museum of Art on Wednesday, February 9th.

The free public lecture series highlighted the life of Rembrandt and focused on the Wright’s conserved print.

Do you have exhibitions, events, acquisitions, or other news to share? Please let your State Representative or Jamie know! See the listing of MRC Board Members and State Representatives for contact information.
MRC Travel Stipend Application

The Midwest Registrars Committee is offering travel stipends of $750 each for committee members to attend the Association of Midwest Museums annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, which will be held July 24-27, 2011. Applicants must be voting members of the Midwest Registrars Committee and work in the Midwest region. Selections will be based on the materials submitted to the Travel Stipend Committee. The recipients will attend the MRC luncheon at AMM and will write one article each for the MRC Courier about a session at the annual meeting.

To apply, please complete the form below and attach the required information.

Name_______________________________________________________________________
Position / Title _______________________________________________________________
Institution Name______________________________________________________________
Street Address _______________________________________________________________
P.O. Box ___________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________ State ____________ Zip _____________
Phone _________________________________ Fax ________________________________
Email ______________________________________________________________________

Additional Information Required:
• Current resume
• Statement by applicant to include the following:
  1. A description of your professional duties
  2. Your involvement in and commitment to profession
  3. What you hope to gain from attending AMM annual meeting
• Two letters of recommendation (one from your direct supervisor)
• Statement of financial need, if applicable

Application Deadline: May 15, 2011

Send applications to: Karen O’Brien
University of Michigan
Museum of Anthropology
1109 Geddes Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079
Fax: 734-763-7783

For questions, contact: Karen O’Brien
(Vice Chair, MRC)
Phone: 734-764-6299
Email: karen@klobrien.net
MIDWEST REGISTRARS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT

Presented at the Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference
October 7, 2010 – Cleveland, Ohio
• Submitted by Angela Stanford, Outgoing Vice Chair •

Report of the Chair
• Ann Sinfield •

Membership
After a spring membership drive with incentives offered to state representatives, our membership is at 100, a comfortable 16% increase from last year. At the beginning of the next calendar year we will again encourage renewals and offer an incentive to state representatives for their efforts. The Board is currently considering methods for recruiting new members and looking into ways we can remain valuable for existing members.

Board and State Representatives
State Representative Angie Bell-Morris recently relocated out of Missouri, so we are currently recruiting for a new state representative. Angela Stanford is stepping down from the Board after serving a two-year term as our Vice Chair. Our thanks to both Angie and Angela for their years of service.

Travel Stipends
This year we awarded three travel stipends, provided in part with the generous support of Terry Dowd, Inc. and the RC-AAM.

Web Presence
The MRC on Facebook has 59 members. The site continues to be used for updates, discussions, events, suggestions, photos, and announcements. Our travel stipends are regularly posted on the AMM website, and this year we added our membership brochure there as a PDF.

Development
Three sponsors continued their support of the Courier newsletter: Terry Dowd, Inc., Art-Works of Kansas City, and Masterpiece International. Terry Dowd, Inc. also supported one travel stipend for attendance at the annual meeting. In addition, the RC-AAM provided funding for one travel stipend. We are so grateful for the continued generous support!

Annual Meetings
Thank you to Joanne Fenn for organizing and all those who volunteered at the MRC's second Mighty Rescue Crew event. We were hosted by two sites this year: the Western Reserve Historical Society for a numbering project, and the Dunham Tavern Museum for an inventory project.

Annual Meeting
The 2011 AMM annual meeting will be held July 24-27, 2011 in Chicago, IL. We look forward to organizing a third Mighty Rescue Crew and possibly a workshop.
ANNUAL REPORT (con’t)

Report of the Vice Chair/Travel Stipend Chair:
• Angela Stanford •

With the Chair, I reviewed the five travel stipend applications we received for attendance at this conference. We were able to award three stipends this year of $750 each to the following applicants:

Nicolette Meister,
Logan Museum of Anthropology,
Beloit College

Jamie Merkel,
University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology

Teri Van Dorston,
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

We also awarded funds for workshops coordinated by member organizations in the region.

As of the 2010 conference, my time as the MRC Vice Chair is complete, as I have served two full terms. I have sincerely enjoyed being an active part of this organization, and am grateful for the new contacts, and friends, I have made over the last four years. I look forward to being part of the continued success of MRC.

Report of the Secretary:
• Laura Gharst •

MEMBERS BY STATE

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ANNUAL REPORT (con’t)

Report of the Treasurer:

• Devon Pyle-Vowles •

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Funds held by Harris Bank of Glencoe, IL
ANNUAL REPORT (con’t)

Report of the Nominations Chair:
▪ Cristin Waterbury ▪

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as MRC Nominations Chair once again for the 2010 elections. We had an excellent slate of candidates this year and I am pleased to report that our voter turnout nearly doubled compared to the last election held in 2008.

Additionally, a big thank you to Nicolette Meister of the Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College and MRC Wisconsin state representative for verifying the election results (and let’s not forget her work-study students who also helped).

Thank you again to all the candidates and to all the MRC members who exercised their right to vote.

The following results are for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, for which the winning candidates ran unopposed.
▪ Chair: Ann Sinfield won the position of Chair with a total of 42 votes.
▪ Vice Chair: Karen O’Brien won the position of Vice Chair with a total of 42 votes.
▪ Treasurer: Devon Pyle-Vowles won the position of Treasurer with a total of 42 votes.

The results for the position of Secretary are as follows:
– Laura Gharst received 29 votes.
– Craig Hadley received 13 votes.
Therefore, Laura Gharst won the position of Secretary.

Report of the Newsletter Editor:
▪ Laura Henderson ▪

There have been three issues of the MRC Courier produced so far in 2010, and the fourth issue is scheduled for early December. The issues were Volume 22 Issue 1 for Winter, Volume 22 Issue 2 for Spring, and Volume 22 Issue 3 for Summer.

This year we discontinued printing and mailing the Courier and have sent it out digitally by email. This is saving a lot of time and money, and we can use color in the graphics and the images. Keeping up with a current email list is the biggest problem, so I would encourage anyone who is a member of MRC but not receiving the Courier to please let me know. If there are changes in emails or membership, please let us know that also.

We have had good participation in the Courier, with interesting articles submitted by many people. News, reports and articles for upcoming newsletters should be sent to the Courier’s new editor, Jamie Merkel, for editing. Tamara Lange is the new design and layout editor and we look forward to how she will be putting everything together.

We’ve had great news reports from most state reps this year, but we would like to see something from every state, even if it is just one
short paragraph. Please, reps, send something from your own museums, too!

The “Conservators Corner” column is still in there, but we need YOU to send in your questions. Laurie Booth has been extremely generous of her time and expertise in answering questions that we give her, and she is willing to continue. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to get specific details about whatever conservation needs you have.

I urge everyone to continue to participate with your news, anecdotes and articles for the Courier. This publication is for you, and it can be a source of information for you as well as a way to express yourself and share information and stories. Remember, even if it is not “breaking news” or something considered high priority, it will be of interest to your colleagues.

Report of the Archivist:

- Jane MacKnight -

The MRC Archives have been dormant for the past year. Two boxes of materials were received in 2009 from Jane Weinke but nothing has been received during 2010. Virtually no progress has been made on the archives since 2008 due to increased work obligations.

For officers and former officers who have boxes of MRC files stashed under the desk, please contact me for shipping arrangements. Jane MacKnight, Senior Registrar, Cincinnati Museum Center, Email: jmacknight@cincymuseum.org or telephone (513) 287-7092.

Guidelines for the MRC Archives

Organization of the MRC Archives is chronological and within each year files are organized by the particular office (e.g. Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer etc.) and by particular project or activity such as annual meeting or membership directory. Papers are sorted according to three categories:

1) Archival. The following categories are archival and will be maintained in perpetuity: By-laws, agendas, minutes of meetings, summaries of election results, annual roster of officers and subcommittee chairs, membership lists, officers and committee reports and their annual correspondence, MRC newsletters (one or two copies), MRC sponsored publications (one copy), MRC sponsored workshop packets (one copy), MRC annual meeting packets (one copy), AMM (formerly MMC) annual conference program (one copy), membership brochures.

2) Non-archival. Financial records are non-archival but will be maintained for seven (7) years including items such as canceled checks, bank statements, etc. Membership records and membership surveys are considered non-archival and will be maintained for two (2) years.

3) Discard. The following categories will not be maintained in the MRC Archives: proposals and informational material not directly related to committees, individual election ballots, original copies of articles/items submitted to the newsletter, memos, reminders, etc. related to meetings, calls for proposals, reports to RC-AAM and AMM.
ANNUAL REPORT (con’t)

Report from Indiana:
• State Representative - Lana Newhart-Kellen •

The Association of Indiana Museums (AIM) held their 2010 annual conference in Bloomington, Indiana on August 8th and 9th at the Monroe County Convention Center.

One session, “Digitizing Your Collection: A Small Museum Perspective on Grants, Software, and Drive,” led by Erica Kendall, collections manager at the Monroe County Historical Society, was sponsored by MRC. The session was especially helpful for small museums that have little or no resources and addressed how small institutions can look at how to start a large digitization program through the right grants, software, and determination.

Sixty percent of Indiana’s museums have a budget of less than $50,000. Most of these are supported by small foundations, private individuals, and local business, while only a handful have support from local governments.

Next year’s AIM conference is scheduled for September 18th and 19th, 2011 in Richmond, Indiana.

Report from Iowa:
• State Representative - Jennifer Kovarik •

Museums throughout Iowa have been busy, busy, busy, as the MRC Courier State Reports section can attest! Despite challenges like recovery from natural disasters and the economy, the state’s museums keep on keeping on with the job of creating, improving, and maintaining access to a myriad of collections.

Since MRC’s last meeting at the 2009 AMM Conference, the Iowa contingent of MRC arranged a seminar about insurance for collections, Fine Arts Insurance 101. The seminar was graciously hosted by the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and kudos go to Teri Van Dorston, CRMA’s registrar, for making the bulk of the arrangements, including a pro bono visit and presentation by Victoria France from Robertson Taylor International Insurance Brokers. A very special thank you also goes to MRC for sponsoring travel stipends and lunch for attendees. The information shared was wonderfully helpful to novices and more experienced staff alike, as an invaluable resource for understanding and navigating the ins and outs of insuring collections. I hope many will be able to take advantage of the collections insurance primer session at AMM this year.
ANNUAL REPORT (con’t)

Report from Michigan:
• State Representative - Jennifer Kovarik

Exhibitions:
• Woodcuts in Modern China, 1937-2008: Towards a Universal Pictorial Language
  Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo
• Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts, and Beyond
  Flint Institute of Arts, Flint
• Native American Vessels: Traditions in Transformation
  Kingman Museum, Battle Creek
• Under Attack!
  Lakeshore Museum Center, Muskegon
• Radio: The Original Wireless Network
  Frankenmuth Historical Museum, Frankenmuth

Grants:
• Three-year National Science Foundation Research Collections Grant
  University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology
• IMLS Conservation Grant
  Cranbrook Art Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan State University Museum, and Kingman Museum
• IMLS Museums for America Grant
  Leila Arboretum Society, Detroit Institute of Arts, Saugutuck-Douglas Historical Society, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Impression 5 Museum, Mackinac State Historic Parks, and Historical Society of Saginaw County

Projects and Openings:
• Opening of Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum
  Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac Island
• Re-opening of Mezzanine Gallery
  Kingman Museum, Battle Creek
• Opening of Islamic Art Gallery
  Detroit Institute of Art
• Central Michigan University Grants new Storage Space to its Museum
  Museum of Cultural and Natural History
  The Museum of Cultural & Natural History at Central Michigan University received new storage space for their fluid collections. A new room, in addition to a fully mediated classroom for the Museum Studies program, was allocated to the Museum. Renovations were completed through the generous support of the Dean’s Office of College of Humanities & Social & Behavioral Sciences. Renovations included the removal of carpeting and the laying down of new floor tile, the installation of an extraction fan, and freshly painted walls. New powder coated steel shelving was then purchased from the Tyler Supply Company of Kalamazoo, and installed by MCNH student staff. The entire Fluid Collection has been now moved into the space with room for expansion.

Workshops:
Central Michigan University Museum of Cultural and Natural History
For five years, Registrars and Collections Managers from Michigan have been coming together to share problems, ideas, and solutions to common conundrums. On Wednesday, September 1st, the roundtable discussed the who, what, where, and how much of digitizing collections. The program concluded with an optional behind-the-scenes tour of the Ziibiwing Center. Panelists were Karen O’Brien, Collections Manager at the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology, Leslie Edwards, Cranbrook Archives, and Tim Gramza and Gary Lane, CMU I.T. Department.
ANNUAL REPORT (con’t)

Report from Wisconsin:
- State Representative - Nicolette Meister -

Membership and Gatherings
After a spring membership drive, Wisconsin membership is 19 individuals strong. Unfortunately, membership declined slightly from 2009 (22 members).

Wisconsin Professional Development
Once again, the Wisconsin Historical Society partnered with the Wisconsin Federation of Museums to sponsor five local history and museum workshops throughout the state. Introduction to Using PastPerfect took place in Madison, the EAA Aviation Center sponsored Building Relationships to Build School Audiences in Oshkosh, Archaeology and Your Collections was presented in Prairie du Chien, Basic Fundraising: From Annual Appeal to Capital Campaign was held in Madison, and Exhibits on a Ten Spot: Thinking Outside the Box was hosted by the Sheboygan County History Museum. Three of these workshops were hosted by Wisconsin members of the Midwest Registrars Committee. Kudos to Craig Hadley, Danielle Benden, and Tamara Lange for reaching out across the state to share your expertise!

Grants Received by Wisconsin Museums
2010 was an impressive year for Wisconsin museums receiving support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Two Wisconsin institutions were awarded American Heritage Preservation Grants—Chippewa Valley Museum and Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College and two Wisconsin institutions were awarded Museums for American grants in the collections stewardship category—Neville Public Museum and Outagamie County Historical Society. In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning was awarded an IMLS Connecting to Collections Statewide Planning Grant. Working in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Federation of Museums, and Wisconsin Library Services, as well as the Midwest Art Conservation Center, they will develop and conduct a survey to assess high-priority preservation needs in large, medium-sized, and small institutions.

No reports from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, or Ohio.

Change of Address?
Please notify MRC to ensure that you have uninterrupted MRC services.

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