THE MRC’S MRC IN INDIANA

Several members of the Midwest Registrars Committee provided hands-on assistance to the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Natural History Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park during the Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference.

Invited by Marylen Wallace, director of the Museum of 20th Century Warfare, approximately twelve members of MRC made up the Mighty Rescue Crew that performed a variety of tasks, including dusting exhibits, rehousing uniforms, and sorting and identifying military patches. Much of the rehousing work was supported by Gaylord, who generously donated $500 worth of supplies.

More on MRC members experiences at the AMM Conference and the Mighty Rescue Crew in Indianapolis in the pages to come.
FROM THE CHAIR

Annual Association of Midwest Museum Meetings

How time flies! It seems like just yesterday I was in Indianapolis for the Association of Midwest Museum’s annual meeting (actually, it was July!). I would like to thank the outgoing chair, Ann Sinfield, Registrar at the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, Wisconsin, for her years of service. She was very generous with her time, words of wisdom and encouragement as she passed along the details of the position to me. I would also like to thank Lana Newhart Kellen, from Conner Prairie, who is our Indiana state representative, for being on the AAM Program Committee and coordinating everything for the collections sessions. She recruited Amy McKune and Jennifer Noffze to help set up the Tuesday evening event and the Annual MRC Meeting and Breakfast (at the most scrumptious restaurant EVER!). Lana also was the contact for organizing the Mighty Rescue Crew to go to the Museum of 20th Century Warfare for a day (even making sure they got lunch!). Besides all this, the meetings were a great success, and featured sessions on copyright, accreditation, collections access, deaccessioning and how to test your collection for heavy metals, among others.

I would also like to thank our generous sponsors, who make it possible for many to attend these meetings while facing budget reductions at their museums. There were two travel stipend sponsors: Terry Dowd, Inc., and US Art Company, and Willis and Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency sponsored the evening gathering at the Claddagh Irish Pub and the MRC Breakfast. Gaylord provided the Mighty Rescue Crew with their supplies.

A Little Bit About Me

Thank you for electing me to serve as your chair of the MRC. I believe it will be a great opportunity for me to share my love of the field with others, and work to move our profession forward. I would like to focus on professional development opportunities, work on a mentoring program, and encourage more Midwest registrars to become active members.

I grew up in Michigan and majored in Classical Archaeology at the University of Michigan. I worked summers on an archaeological dig in southern Italy and to cover me on the grant I was given the title of Registrar, thus taking the first step down my career path. I moved to Boston and found a job as the Assistant to the Registrar at the Harvard University Art Museums. I was there for 18 years, ending as the Senior Associate Registrar.

In 2003 as the museum was gearing up to move everything to a warehouse in the suburbs of Boston prior to a major reconstruction it seemed a good time for me to try something different. I thought it would be great to work some place quieter and found a job at the Kresge Art Museum at MSU, which happily is where my brother and sister live. I settled in, bought a house with a white picket fence and walked to work each day.

Then Eli Broad visited the university and everything changed. We’ve spent the last four years working on the new building designed by Zaha Hadid. We refocused our mission on international contemporary art alongside our historic collection, have hired a completely new staff and at the end of September, we started to move into the building for a November opening. Please let me know if you are planning to be in the area for a visit! I
would love to show you around!

**OHIO REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED!**

Laura Henderson, our current Ohio State Representative, is retiring at the end of December! Congratulations Laura! So, if anyone from that great state is willing to become the next representative, please let me know. It looks fabulous on your resume, and is a great way to get involved with your area colleagues. Please let me know if you’re interested, and if not, I’ll start making some calls around Halloween!

This is YOUR Midwest Registrars Committee

I would welcome comments and feedback from the community so the board can best serve your needs. I know everyone is doing too much, so we want to make sure what we focus on is what is of interest to the group.
From the Editor

• Submitted by Tamara Lange •

I was struck by the pervasive drought conditions. Dust, cracked ground, streams turned to trickles, water restrictions, smoke from fires; all signs of a stressful few months. I could relate. Yet, life carried on, adjusted as it were. Patches of green sprouted near water, animals grazed, flowers blossomed.

Perhaps I am overanalyzing, but I came away reminded that through time, we have always found a way. It might require a little extra flexibility, an adjustment here or there, some new innovation or simply a new outlook, but in the end, those things that matter will persevere. It is a welcome reminder all around!

Of course, jumping back into the swing of things has proven more difficult than I anticipated. Slowly though, I feel like things are starting to return to normal, including getting to work on our Fall edition of the MRC Courier.

So I thank all of you for your patience and understanding as I take my first swing at being both the content and layout editor for the Courier. As with so many things, those that matter will find a way … even if a little later than anticipated.
Midwest Registrars Committee
2012 Election

Congratulations are in order for Rachel Vargas, Devon Pyle-Vowles, Craig Hadley, and Jennifer Noftze, the newly elected officers of the Midwest Registrars Committee.

The new voting process using Survey Monkey appeared to have been successful, with voter turnout over 50%!

Meet Devon Pyle-Vowles—MRC Vice Chair

I serve as the Registrar in the Collections & Exhibitions department of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. I am responsible for the documentation, safety, preservation and security of objects in the Museum's care, including the permanent collection, loaned objects and temporary exhibitions. I am also responsible for supervising departmental interns and volunteers.

I have presented at various museum conferences on condition reporting, old loans, marking objects, hand-carries, couriering, and environmental issues for collections. I have been recognized as a leading collections care professional by being selected as both Vice Chair and Chair of the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums, and Treasurer and currently Vice Chair of the Midwest Registrars Committee. I also sit on the Founding Board of the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists and Chair the Collections Committee of the Board of Directors for the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, IL. I have an MA in Museum Studies with a Collections Management focus from George Washington University and a BA in Archaeological Studies from Oberlin College.

Meet Craig Hadley – MRC Secretary

After working three and a half years at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, I recently started a new position at DePauw University in January. Being back in Indiana brings my wife and me much closer to family and friends (not to mention warmer weather as well).

As the new MRC Secretary, I would like to overhaul the membership process to include online registration and payment via PayPal. We hope to have the new, simplified system up and running for the 2013 membership drive. Please feel free to contact either your state representative or me with any questions about your membership.

I look forward to working with the new MRC
Board and meeting more of our members at the Madison conference in 2013!

Meet Jennifer Noffze – MRC Treasurer

I’m starting my 12th year at The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis—it’s hard to believe! I graduated from Ball State University with a degree in History and Political Science. After a collections internship at Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Indiana, I found my calling.

I’ve had many interesting experiences at TCM…from installing Chihuly glass to couri- ering a diamond encrusted Hot Wheels car, my work is never boring. I’m ending a four-year term as Secretary for the Association of Indiana Museums and I’m also serving on the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2013 Midwest Archives Conference.

Outside of work, I enjoy watching football (Go Colts!) and basketball, and I love to travel. My family lives in Marco Island, Florida, and I visit them at least one to two times a year. Also, I’m a horror movie geek. Name a horror movie and I’ve probably seen it. Even the bad ones!

We are happy to report that we have streamlined the MRC membership process for 2013. Your next MRC renewal can be done in a few simple steps:

1. You will receive the new electronic membership form from your State Representative. Simply fill out the fields in the PDF file and save the document. E-mail the completed form to Jennifer Noffze, MRC Treasurer, at: jenn@childrensmuseum.org
2. Pay your dues online with PayPal (if you do not have an account, it is free to sign up and takes only minutes). From PayPal’s home page, click on “Send Money” and type jenn@childrensmuseum.org in the recipient field. You can pay from a bank account or credit card, and you will receive a receipt when the payment is processed.

We hope the new system will save everyone time, save trees and postage, and simplify the membership process. Please feel free to share the membership form with colleagues via e- mail—it is our hope that the new system will make it even easier for us to recruit new members.

Finally, if you prefer mailing a check and completing a form by hand, you can still print the form, make a check payable to MRC, and mail it to the address noted on the membership form. If you have any questions at all about the new membership process, please feel free to contact Craig Hadley (craighadley@depauw.edu) or Jennifer Noffze (jenn@childrensmuseum.org).

Coming in 2013 (but available now!)

Pay Membership Dues Online
MRC Supports
AMM Conference Participants

This year the Midwest Registrars Committee was able to provide Travel Stipends to assist three MRC members in attending the Association of Midwest Museums 2012 Conference. In the next few pages, Tish Boyer, Collections Manager/Registrar at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, Elizabeth Frozena, Registrar at the Racine Art Museum in Racine, Wisconsin, and Robin Goodman, Registrar at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, Michigan share some of the highlights from the conference, from the work done and connections made to the inspiration they brought home!

- Submitted by Tish Boyer -

This summer I had the privilege to attend my first Association of Midwestern Museums Conference in Indianapolis. To say I was excited is an understatement. My head filled with questions: Who would I meet? What would I learn? What kinds of interesting storage solutions would I see? What would I be able to take back with me? What I did not expect was to be so completely inspired by what I learned.

What I experienced was even better. I was inspired by the work being done by the Indiana Historical Society. It started with a lecture entitled “Making a Home for Jewish History at the Indiana Historical Society-A Model for Community Advisory Groups”. I thought, “Well, that sounds intriguing”. Which one of us does not want to find better ways to connect with the community and enhance our visitor experience as well as our collection? After listening to this amazing group of people, I really believe that they have found an excellent solution.

With a collection that consists of only two dimensional objects, the Indiana Historical Society has had to face the challenge of display and interpretation. How do you tell the story of a photograph in a way that brings the audience in? Their solution makes for one of the most powerful museum experiences I have ever had. They accomplish their goal with what they call the You Are There Experience.
In this Experience, IHS picks an image. They then spend about two years researching everything they can about the image. The research done by the Society goes far beyond books and reference materials. The Society in some cases goes out into the community to learn about the things surrounding the image. For one You Are There Experience the museum made contacts in the Jewish community as well as conducting oral histories with people from the neighborhood where the image was taken. The Historical Society then takes this information and teaches it to their interpreters, who go through a four week intensive learning session to soak in the information and become the people in the images. During this time they also begin to work on recreating the image. They find objects that are exact pieces in the image. This consists of everything from cars to desks to stoves to conveyor belts, to clothing.

The result of all of this research and preparation is one that is exciting and inspirational. When you visit the You Are There Experience, you start by approaching a fog screen with the chosen image projected onto it. You walk through the smoke and literally step into the image! Once inside, you interact with the person or people from the image. You can ask anything you want up to the date of the image and they respond with what they know. The interpreters never step outside of character, giving you a firsthand account of where you are. All of your senses are engaged—sound, smell, hearing, sight. The exhibit comes to life, leaving a huge impact on the audience.

This experience is one of great joy. How many times have I looked at a photograph as a historian and wondered who were these people? What was their life like? The You Are There Experience tries to answer those questions and satisfy that curiosity. They accomplish it not only by the research from their own institution but also by connecting with the community to learn from people their stories and incorporate that into the experience. If one ever gets a chance to visit Indianapolis, this is a must see while there.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Frozena -

First, I would like to the MRC for making it possible for me to attend the 2012 Association of Midwest Museums Conference. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Here is a brief breakdown of my experience at this year’s conference in Indianapolis:

Wednesday reached 102°F. Ugh. I attended some interesting sessions at the conference including ones about collections, deaccessions, and emergency preparedness. Monday night, I went to the opening reception at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. I had some tasty hors d’oeuvres and walked around the galleries. They have an awesome collection. I also visited the Eiteljorg Museum which focuses on Native American culture, history and contemporary works of art. It too has an awesome collection.

There were a lot of vendors at the conference, and I brought some interesting materials to share with my coworkers upon returning to
RAM. I met with art shippers, mount makers, conservators, as well as insurance companies, and exhibition companies. I also met lots of interesting people in the field and made some new connections.

Thursday I attended the MRC Mighty Rescue Crew. This year the crew assisted the Museum of 20th Century Warfare at the Fort Harrison State Park in Indiana, and our project was to rehouse military uniforms, organize uniform badges, reinstall some exhibition material, and clean the gallery space. This was really a great experience and I got to work with a great group of people. We also helped out the Warfare Museum with their collection, which does not have a very big staff or other resources.

The conference was a very good experience! Thank you MRC! Yeah Museums!

*Submitted by Robin Goodman*

Recapping “What’s Copyright Got to do with it? How to utilize images in online forums.”

As a MRC Travel Stipend recipient, I would like to begin with a big thank you to the MRC for sponsoring my attendance to the AMM conference in Indianapolis. This was my first museum conference and a great experience. I had a wonderful time meeting our MRC board, other state representatives and being in a place where everyone was focused on making museums a better place!

Being one of those registrars who wears many different hats, I was excited to attend “What’s Copyright Got to do with it? How to utilize images in online forums.” We had three excellent speakers who really knew the ins and outs of copyright and image use.

First up was Anne Young of the Indianapolis Museum of Art who presented on Fair Use and Image Use. Anne went through the process of determining fair use for a sample image. She also discussed making a license agreement with the artist if they are still living and offered resources to find the correct copyright holder if the artist is deceased (giving a shout-out to the RCAAM listserve). She stressed that it is always better to over-credit the work rather than under-credit. She also briefly touched on issues relating to putting copyrighted images on social media and some things to look out for when working with ex-
ternal partners such as Artstor, the Bridgeman Art Library, etc. One should always consider who you want to share images with, how much you want to provide them with, and to be sure to chose the sites and tools that work for your institution.

Our second speaker was Troy Klyber of the Art Institute of Chicago, who discussed some recent online projects at the AIC and some issues that he dealt with in trying to determine if works were in the public domain or still under copyright. He discussed having to clear the rights for images in a Monet and Renoir online scholarly catalogue, for even though the images are in the public domain, there is still the question of who owns the image, rather than the object. He also talked about work on the Google Art Project and stressed that any museum who works with Google needs to pay careful attention to copyright as Google does not determine whether a work is in the public domain or not. So as a result, they had to blur out sections of the Google Art Project that showed images of works whose copyright they could not clear.

The last section was presented by Catherine Johnson-Roehr of The Kinsey Institute. They have an extensive collection of archives, films, art, artifacts and photographs that relate to sexual health and knowledge worldwide. As a result of the sensitive/suggestive nature of the images that they collect, many of the artists are unknown or anonymous, going back to Japanese woodcuts and Indian miniatures and including more recent commercial and amateur erotic photographers. But they also collect artworks and books in the public domain and contemporary artwork whose creator’s retain copyright. They have to actively vet what images they put on their website and have in the past had to crop some images of suggestive content as requested by scholars. Because they do not get a lot of visitors to their onsite art gallery, they put online all of the accepted entries for their annual Juried Art Show, paying close attention to copyright issues.

This session really reinforced and clarified some things that I had learned about copyright and it was encouraging to know that there are other resources and colleagues whom I could turn to for advice on copyright, which is always a tricky subject.

Moving? Change your email? Have a new position?

Don’t forget to update your MRC membership information!
Contact Craig Hadley, MRC Secretary, with your updated contact information.

Craig Hadley, Curator
DePauw University
10 W. Hanna
Greencastle, Indiana 46135
765-658-6556
craighadley@depauw.edu
A Day in MY Life…/ What I Love About MY Museum

A Note from Tamara:

I have loved reading the two articles Jamie introduced to the newsletter—What I Love About MY Museum and Why MY Museum Matters! It is my intention to continue that content — so prepare yourselves to be asked! I also was considering introducing a third, similar type article— A Day in MY Life. Even though in many cases we have similar jobs, or at least titles, the diversity of the profession and museums is profound. I love hearing about what my colleagues do on a daily basis! I hope you will too!

Lacy generously offered the following article, which in my mind is a perfect fit for both What I Love About MY Museum and A Day in MY Life. Thanks a million Lacy!

• Submitted by Lacy Bettcher •

Nostalgic toys, fine-scale miniatures, one million marbles…what more could one ask for? This is exactly what you will find at the Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City, and exactly what I found when I made the journey down here from Dubuque, Iowa to accept a position on the inventory team to catalog miniatures.

TMM was started by Mary Harris Francis, collector of dollhouses, and Barbara Marshall Hall, collector of miniatures, in 1982, and both played an active role in the Museum’s happenings. It was not until more recently, 2004-05, that professional museum staff were hired, including an educator, registrar, and curator.

The inventory project first began on a small scale with Calleen, the registrar, processing items in storage with the help of interns when she could break away from her everyday registrarial duties. Processing the collection became more of a focus when the Board decided they wanted to pursue accreditation. The objective was to have the entire collection, storage and exhibits, inventoried and cataloged by
the fall of 2013. Calleen had to determine how long it would take and how many contractors would be needed in order to meet this deadline. Deciding the best way to determine this was to work backwards, she tackled the task by asking herself, “How long would it take me to catalog this gallery by myself, working on nothing else.” Using this method she concluded five catalogers would be needed, in addition to herself, to have the project completed by the fall of 2013.

Initial estimates numbered the objects in the collection at around 300,000; now nearly a year into the project, the estimate is closer to 150,000. Trying to guess how many miniatures are in a gallery or how many pieces are in a dollhouse is like guessing how many jelly beans are in the jar! It was originally thought that there were more miniatures than toys, but this is proving to be the opposite. As it stands now, toys make up about two-thirds of the database and miniatures the other one-third.

The contractors have been divided into two teams—Team Toy and Team Miniatures. Team Miniatures will soon be done, while toys are taking a bit longer; not only because there are more objects and parts, but also because marking the toys slows down the process. Unless a paper tag can be hidden in a drawer or under a rug, the miniatures are not marked. I ask you, how would one mark a miniature spider that measures 3/16” in diameter?!

As stated earlier, the contractors were split—three on the miniatures team, one being project manager, and two on the toys team, under supervision of the registrar. I asked Calleen, “Looking back, what would you do differently?” The one thing she would change is to hire a sixth contractor in order to provide a full-time project manager dedicated to Team Toys. Turns out that being a registrar is a busy job and adding the supervision of such an extensive inventory project is not such an easy task! Who knew?

As we continue our excursion into the world of toys and miniatures, we are running into plenty of things that make us cringe and will no doubt do the same for you. Here are just a few examples:

- Numbers attached to objects with clear
tape, even on fabrics and painted areas.

- The use of heavy duty double-sided foam tape to attach a mirror to the wall in a miniature house.

- Using thumb tacks, staples, and straight pins to secure objects to the walls.

- Blue tack everywhere! Used to secure objects in place, even when gravity will do just fine.

- A record that states “silver bowl” when you have 10 silver bowls!

- Querying for an object that is gray to find that it is described as being asphaltum.

- An object “possibly languishing in storage.”

- "Animals, 2 glass animals: blue teddy and yellow dog (really a goat)." This is one of our favorites!

These are the result of many years without professional museum staff, and the things that make this job challenging, as well as entertaining.

The next step in the process is not totally clear at this point. Items on the agenda include repairs to the building and HVAC systems, remodeling, revamping exhibits, which have seen little change since the museum opened its doors, and moving storage off-site. But for now we continue our trek into the world that is toys and miniatures, having to double-take when I see full-size examples of objects I have just cataloged because something just does not seem right, and trying not to have nightmares of being trapped in the museum at night with green-eyed dolls!

AMM is going to Madison!

Join fellow Midwesterners in a city surrounded by lakes for the 2013 AMM Annual Conference. Locally Grown, Community Created is scheduled for July 14-17, 2013 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin.

Session proposals are being accepted through October 31, 2012. AMM encourages proposals that address new audiences, new technologies, and new practices. Sessions should focus on best practices and innovative approaches that lead to new ideas and creative solutions for museums. The form is at the back of the newsletter or available at http://www.midwestmuseums.org/index.html

More information on MRC Travel Stipends in upcoming newsletters!

Image courtesy of the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau
**NEWS FROM ALL OVER**

**Illinois**
*Submitted by Amy Heguemeyer*

**DuSable Museum of African American History**, Chicago

**Exhibitions:**
*Buried Treasures: Art in African American Museums*

Now through December 31, 2012

The DuSable Museum of African American History is pleased to present *Buried Treasures: Art in African American Museums*. This exhibit draws attention to the rich legacy of art produced by African Americans within the collections of thirty African American museums. On display are approximately fifty works of art including works on canvas and paper, sculpture and mixed media from many noted nineteenth and early twentieth century American artists including Henry O. Tanner, William Edouard Scott, Metta Warrick Fuller, Augusta Savage, William H. Johnson, Jacob Lawrence and Elizabeth Catlett. The exhibition is sponsored in part by The Sara Lee Foundation and Terra Foundation for American Art.

**Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences**, Peoria

**News:**

The Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences closed on September 1, and will reopen on October 20th in a new home as the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Included in the project is a brand new off-site storage facility measuring at approximately 4,000 square feet, with 90% new storage fixtures designed and installed by Bradford Systems of East Peoria, Illinois. Museum staff moved the collection over three months with the exceptional help of many trained volunteers.

The new address is 222 SW Washington Street, in the heart of the riverfront district. In collaboration with several Peoria cultural institutions, this new facility will include an International Features Gallery, permanent collection galleries for both fine and folk art, the Illinois River Encounter, the Street Gallery, a new and improved planetarium, and a brand new giant screen digital theater.

Want to watch the final moments of construction? Visit the Build the Block cam at [http://www.buildtheblockcam.com](http://www.buildtheblockcam.com) to view the progress in real time.

**Indiana**
*Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen*

**Indiana Institutions Honored with Grants**, Various

**Grants:**

Congratulations are in order to the North Manchester Center for History, North Manchester, and the Tipton County Historical Society, Tipton. Both organizations were awarded Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grants!

The Indiana Humanities Council recently awarded the following grants to the following institutions:

- **Lanier Mansion Foundation**, Madison $1,655 to support Lanier Days 2012, featuring talks and presentations from a number of historians and first-person interpreters.

- **Lubeznik Center for the Arts**, Michigan
City
$1,800 for *Light and Flow: 50th Anniversary of Contemporary Studio Glass*, a panel discussion on glass as art object, in conjunction with the Center’s exhibition, *Light and Flow: 50 Year Anniversary of the Studio Glass Movement*.

- **Pulaski County Historical Society**, Winamac
  $2,000 to launch a junior historical society with an initial focus on Pulaski County’s involvement in the Civil War.

- **Northern Indiana Historical Society**, South Bend
  $2,000 for a play about Schuyler Colfax, Vice President under Ulysses S. Grant, to be researched and presented in South Bend with a DVD version available to area schools.

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**Indiana Hosts AMM 2012 Conference**, Indianapolis

**News:**

From July 23 to 26, Indianapolis was host to the 2012 AMM conference, *Civic Engagement and Public Discourse: The Role of Museums in the 21st Century*. I would like to personally thank Willis Fine Art and Specie for sponsoring the MRC Tuesday evening event at the Claddagh, and Huntington T. Block for sponsoring the MRC breakfast at Café Patachou. And a big “Huzzah” for Amy McKune of the Eiteljorg Museum of the American Indian and Western Art and Jennifer Noffze of the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis for planning and arranging the two events. The food was delicious and the company enjoyable. Both were very well attended!!! Again, “Huzzah! Huzzah!”

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After the breakfast around 12 MRC members headed for the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Natural History Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park where we dusted exhibits, rehoused uniforms, sorted and identified military patches, and lots of other stuff. Thanks to Marylen Wallace, director of the Museum of 20th Century Warfare for inviting us and letting us help out. Extra special
thanks to Gaylord who donated $500 worth of archival boxes, tissue paper and tags!!!

**Billie Creek Village, Rockville News:**

Billie Creek Village is set to be sold to the highest bidder - lock, stock and barrel. A 70-acre living-history site, Billie Creek was established in the 1960s by Parke County to create a visitor destination, but the Village has struggled in the last few years due partly to lack of interest and compounded by the economic downturn. In addition to the acreage, the sale will include two covered bridges, thirty historic buildings, and all of the artifacts, including printing press and broom making equipment. Parke County is the world capital of covered bridges (twenty-seven) and is known for its Covered Bridge Festival held in October, hosting tens-of-thousands of visitors over a 10-day period.

**Evansville Museum of Art and Science, Evansville News:**

You may remember that earlier this summer the Indiana State Museum stumbled on a T.C. Steele painting hidden behind another painting. In August, the Evansville Museum of Art and Science found an artwork by Picasso entitled “Seated Woman with Red Hat.” Donated to the museum in the 1960s, a paperwork error led staff to believe it was an insignificant piece inspired by Picasso’s work in a glass sculpture format called *gemaux*. Unfortunately, the work’s value outweighs the museum’s ability to care for it and has targeted the artwork for private sale.

**National Military History Center/ Automotive & Carriage Museum, Auburn News:**

A judge has ordered the National Military History Center and the Automotive & Carriage Museum in Auburn be sold to pay off its debts. The Dean V. Kruse Foundation owns the museums. Both museums have been in financial difficulty for several years.

**Red Skelton Museum and Education Center, Vincennes News:**

The Red Skelton Museum and Education Center announced the receipt of $1 million from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to fund exhibit development, one aspect of a $4.1 million capital campaign.

Bernie Niehaus, campaign chair of the Red Skelton Foundation, thanked Lilly, citing the donation as “a major step toward the planned 2013 opening of the Red Skelton Museum and Education Center,” the year of the 100th Anniversary of Skelton’s Vincennes birth.

**Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette News:**

The Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) has announced it is looking to sell the Moses Fowler home and property after more than seven decades of ownership. Purchased in 1940 by TCHA, the house has been used for events such as weddings, but most of the time is not being utilized. The Historical Association has said significant changes would have to be made to Fowler
House, built in 1851-1852 by Lafayette resident and businessman, Moses Fowler, to properly display documents and artifacts from the area's history, and even if those changes could be made, the cost would be more than the TCHA can afford. However, the organization is committed to finding new owners for the property who will continue to preserve the home and its history. More information can be found at http://www.tcha.mus.in.us/fowler.htm.

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

Iowa

• Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik •

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids
Exhibitions:
Marvin Cone: An American Master
Now through January 20, 2012

Like his good friend Grant Wood, Cedar Rapids native Marvin Cone was one of Iowa's most important artists. Cone's influence in Cedar Rapids is attested to by the multitude of students he taught in his forty-two years at Coe College. More than that, Cone's work is reflective of several aspects of American art and his place in the greater discussion of American art remains under-recognized.

This large, 7-gallery exhibition attempts to rectify that oversight, not only reassessing Cone's work in general, but also contextualizing it in the larger picture of American art. This is the first major solo exhibition of Cone's work since 1980. Accompanying this exhibition is a new web gallery devoted to Marvin Cone's art, which will serve to expose his work to a global audience. Both the web gallery and two newly commissioned essays by art historians John Neff and Andrea Kann were made possible by a grant from Rockwell Collins. This exhibition is supported in part by Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC, an anonymous donor in honor of Joanne Ribble, the Marvin Cone Art Club, and the Momentum Fund of The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Iowa Museum Association
Conference:
Leading Through Innovation
Iowa City, Iowa
October 21-23, 2012

The Iowa Museum Association (IMA) Annual Meeting & Conference is coming to Iowa City. With the theme Leading Through Innovation, the conference will feature fifteen breakout sessions and a plenary session with Colleen Dilenschneider, director of IMPACTS Research & Development and a recognized Generation Y voice in the realm of audience engagement and the use of social media technologies within zoos, aquariums, and museums. The conference will also include networking opportunities, a behind-the-scenes tour, an opportunity to talk with students about interning at your museum, and a tailgate reception.

Workshops on cataloging artifacts, digitizing collections, and Native American resources in Iowa follow the conference. For details, please visit www.iowamuseums.org.
Weaving—One of the many wonderful auction pieces at Vesterheim

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah

Events:

Bid from anywhere—collect amazing folk art! The Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum’s Benefit Auction is coming to a computer near you!

Get ready to add to your folk art collection or start a new one. The folk-art pieces up for auction are by the most prominent contemporary artists working in traditional Norwegian rosemaling, woodworking, fiber arts, and knifemaking. The contributing artists are Vesterheim Gold Medalists, award winners, or instructors. Vesterheim is enormously grateful to the artists who have so generously contributed pieces to this year’s benefit auction. Items other than folk-art pieces will also be included in the auction, so there will be something for everyone.

View items and enjoy the bidding fun online at vesterheim.org from October 1-17, then join the live event at the Hotel Winneshiek on October 19 in Decorah, Iowa, or by phone! The event on October 19 starts off with a gala dinner at 5:30 p.m. The dinner costs $50 and reservations can be made by calling the museum at 563-382-9681 before October 12.

The final bidding for the silent auction starts at 7:00 p.m. and the live auction begins at 8:00 p.m. Admission to the auction is free, so if you can't make it to the dinner, stop by the auction. You don’t have to attend the event to join the bidding fun. Contact Vesterheim at info@vesterheim.org for bidding information, and then bid by email, fax, or phone.

Proceeds from this year’s benefit auction will support the Folk-art Education Program at Vesterheim.

Veterans Memorial Commission, Cedar Rapids

News:

After 9 1/2 years as Registrar at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Teri Van Dorston applied for and was offered the Assistant Director position at the Veterans Memorial Commission in Cedar Rapids in August 2012. Aside from organizing and cataloging a collection around one-thousand, Teri will be responsible for designing and maintaining two exhibit spaces, helping build a docent base to interpret exhibits and the Grant Wood Memorial Window, and eventually coordinating building wide events and marketing the whole endeavor. Teri will work out of the Veterans Memorial Building on May's Island in Cedar Rapids, a 1925 structure which is still under construction and renovation from the Flood of 2008. She is looking forward to the challenge and keeping in touch with her MRC friends and colleagues.
Michigan
• Submitted by Robin Goodman •

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 
East Lansing

News:

We are preparing to move into our new museum, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, opening on November 9, 2012. We are about to move staff, artwork and a lot of tools from the former Kresge Art Museum (housed in the Department of Art building down the street) into our state-of-the-art building. The building has an asymmetrical dynamism, which is a magnificent foil for the gothic brick campus we hope to nudge into the future. Our new mandate is to showcase international contemporary art, exhibited in dialog with our permanent collection of art from the Neolithic to Old Masters to Postmodern eras.

One of the greatest challenges we faced over the past two years has been assembling a completely new staff: director, curator, director of education, and curator of performances and public programs, along with all the administrative staff you need to run (and fund!) a stand-alone museum. We are figuring out how to work with our angled interior walls, and all white offices! Registrar Rachel Vargas is wondering if this was the best time to assume the position of Chair of the Midwest Registrars Committee. Then again, who needs a personal life?!

Michigan Collections Management Roundtable

News:

Museum professionals from around Michigan attended the 7th Annual Collections Management Roundtable. Graciously hosted by the Cranbrook Art Museum on June 24, registrars, curators, collections managers, and archivists gathered together to discuss the AAM accreditation process, with particular emphasis on how it relates to collections. The program was a huge success with 29 collection professionals in attendance.

Held once a year, each roundtable brings registrars, collections managers, archivists, interns, volunteers, and anyone else involved in collection management together to discuss a pre-chosen topic. Past topics have included establishing collections internships, digitizing collections, copyright issues, moving collections, deaccessioning, and disaster preparedness.

The morning began with Barbara Heller, Director and Conservator, Special Projects of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). The DIA is currently in the middle of the reaccreditation process and Ms. Heller walked everyone through the various steps in the accreditation process as a whole (preparation, self-study questionnaire, first commission review, site visit, second commission review and decision). She then narrowed our discussion to the
areas of the accreditation process that deal with collections and some of the issues that concern larger museums.

After Ms. Heller, Roberta Frey Gilboe, Registrar of the Cranbrook Art Museum, explained her museum’s experience with the reaccreditation process and their self-study questionnaire. She emphasized how the accreditation process can be helpful to a museum by revealing areas of institutional improvement that may have been previously overlooked or not considered to be of high priority. In particular, she discussed the need for her museum to undergo renovation to install a climate control system, an issue that had been discussed in the previous reaccreditation from twelve years ago and needed to happen at the museum before their next accreditation.

The morning discussions ended with Nancy Bryk, Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University and an AAM peer reviewer. Ms. Bryk emphasized the fact that peer reviewers should not be feared, but are there to help institutions meet museum standards. She also highly recommended the Museum Assessment Program run jointly by IMLS and AAM as an excellent precursor to accreditation, as it often brings to light areas of concern that can be dealt with prior to starting the accreditation process.

Following a lunch sponsored by the Midwest Registrars Committee, Roberta Frey Gilboe talked about the renovations and new construction at the Cranbrook Art Museum and gave attendees a behind-the-scenes tour of the wonderful new facility.

Thanks to MRC’s sponsorship, attendees were only asked to pay a small fee of $5. The minimal registration cost helps ensure no institution is excluded from this experience. The Collections Management Roundtable was organized by Angela Riedel, CMU Museum of Cultural and Natural History, Robin Goodman, Kalama-zoo Institute of Arts, and Roberta Frey Gilboe, Cranbrook Art Museum.

Thank you MRC for providing support for professional development, and thank you to all our presenters and attendees for making it another successful roundtable. We hope to see you in 2013 at our next roundtable!

Missouri

- Submitted by Lacy Bettcher -

Welcome new Missouri State Representative Lacy Bettcher!! We are so glad to have you!

State Rep Mini Bio:
Name: Lacy Bettcher
Position: Museum Cataloger (Team Miniatures!), Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City
Favorite Foods: Fried pickles with ranch and
Swedish Fish. Yum!

**Bollinger County Museum of Natural History, Marble Hill**

**Exhibitions:**

The Ice Age has arrived! You must see the great new Ice Age exhibits at the museum. Hurry down as they are only here for about 6 months. The replica skull of Dee, the largest mounted Columbian mammoth in North America, is back! Joining Dee is the replica of Dima, a baby Wooly mammoth, found in the Siberia frozen in the tundra; Dima is one of the few complete mummified baby mammoth specimens ever found. In addition to the mammoths, a huge bison skull replica, giant ground sloth skull replica, saber tooth tiger skull replica, and a dire wolf skull replica will be on display. Also see many fossils in our exhibits of *Ice Age Man in North America, North Sea Fossils, Ice Age Plants from Missouri, and The Ice Age and its Megafauna.*

**Missouri Association for Museums & Archives**

**Conference:**

*Telling Missouri’s Stories*

October 19-20, 2012

Jefferson City, MO

The Missouri Association for Museums and Archives 2012 annual meeting and conference will take place October 19-20, 2012 in Jefferson City, Missouri at the Jefferson City DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Sponsored by MA-MA and the Missouri Humanities Council, the 2012 conference will build on the themes at last year’s conference, presenting general information beneficial to museums and archives of all sizes.

*Telling Missouri’s Stories* will begin with behind-the-scenes tours of the Missouri State Archives and the Missouri State Museum on Friday afternoon, followed by an evening reception at the Capitol sponsored and hosted by Missouri State Museum. Saturday sessions include presentations on disaster preparedness, archival research issues, creating engaging visitor programming, and advocating for Missouri museums.

Registration for the conference will remain at $35 for members and students and $50 for non-members. Register online at [http://mama.wildapricot.org/](http://mama.wildapricot.org/). If you prefer to register by mail, the registration form is available in MAMA’s Spring/Summer 2012 newsletter.

**Missouri History Museum, St. Louis**

**Exhibitions:**

*Underneath it All*

Now through January 27, 2012

Crinolines, corsets, busks, bustles, and brassieres. Throughout time, women of the western world have worn a variety of undergarments designed to push, pull, expand and shrink the human body into shapes deemed fashionable at the time. Fashion is always evolving, but why does such change happen?
Many factors influence these changes—technology, advertising, societal pressures, economics, beliefs about modesty, even politics all play a role. Add the shifting and often disputed concepts about femininity and women's roles and change becomes inevitable.

While these “unmentionables” may appear insignificant, they are powerful artifacts that chronicle the evolution of women’s progress in an ever-changing society. Underneath It All showcases the fashionable silhouettes of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries through dressed mannequins and accompanying “undressed” mannequins clad in the undergarments needed to create the desired silhouette. The featured textiles and related artifacts explore fashion’s fascinating evolution and the revolutionary changes that made these various silhouettes both possible and popular.

Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon
October 19, 2012 through January 21, 2013

Although the face of George Washington is one of the most familiar in the portrait gallery of famous Americans, younger generations actually knows little about the true personality and character of “The Father of Our Country.” Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon provides a new and refreshing perspective on Washington, his achievements and legacies, his family and his times, and, most importantly, his intellectual pursuits and entrepreneurial ventures.

Washington’s story is told through a rich presentation of objects, including full-scale figures, architectural models, decorative arts pieces, dioramas, maps, drawings, documents, manuscripts, paintings, interactive programs, and video productions. Visitors will discover that Washington’s life and legacy had a profound effect on his peers, colleagues, friends, and family, as well as on the character of the nation. While the legacy has endured, his life is not well known. Discover the Real George Washington looks behind the familiar face in the hope that the strength of Washington’s personality, his intellect, courage and wisdom will remind us of who we are as a people and a nation.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City
Exhibitions:
Bonjour Picasso!
Now through January 27, 2013

"For those who know how to read, I have painted my autobiography."—Pablo Picasso

Bonjour Picasso! opens wide the doors to La Californie, the artist's villa near Cannes in the south of France, where he lived from 1955 to 1961. David Douglas Duncan's photographs provide rare insights into Picasso's life at home—dining with his wife Jacqueline, twirling a jump rope for his children Claude and Paloma, beginning work on a new painting. Artist friends Georges Braque and Jean Cocteau are present in photographs, drawings and prints.

paintings and prints both delicate and shocking. A richly colored landscape captures the deep green palms and fresh blue sky of nearby Vallauris, site of the famous Madoura Pottery, where Picasso created the elegant figured vase on display. His images of minotaurs and fauns make ancient myths new again.

Pablo Picasso was a deep and complex man, who revolutionized 20th-century art through his Cubist paintings, collages, drawings, prints, sculptures, ceramics, stage sets and costumes. He never stopped inventing and was a legend in his own time. Today, he is one of the most important artists of all time.

Welcome to his private world!

*Cabinet of Curiosities: Photography & Specimens*

Now through February 10, 2013

*Cabinet of Curiosities: Photography & Specimens* is loosely based around the sixteenth and seventeenth century concept of the Cabinet of Curiosities. Precursors to the modern museum, these Cabinets were assembled by their owners to reflect the intense fascination with the marvelous, unusual, unexpected, exotic, extraordinary, or rare.

This show examines what a photographic Cabinet of Curiosities might look like. It includes examples ranging from the very tiny (snowflakes and microscopic mites) to the very distant (telescopic image of the surface of the moon). It includes examples that cannot be seen with the naked eye of living things (x-rays) and of the deceased (skeletons of differing animal species). It explores the exotic (carmine bee eater) and the unusual (pulled teeth from the collection of Peter the Great).

Along these same lines, questions will be raised about why people collect, what they collect, and the ways specimens are ordered. Emphasizing the relationship photography has always had with science and art, photographic specimens from throughout the history of photography will be shown as well as some of the traditional processes used to create them. Contemporary photographs explore the differing ways specimens are seen photographically and the human-made constructs used for specimen display.

**Saint Louis University Museum of Art, St. Louis**

**Exhibitions:**

*Persuasive Politics 2012: Presidential Campaign Memorabilia*

October 19, 2012 through December 22, 2012

The Saint Louis University Museum of Art is pleased to present *Persuasive Politics 2012: Presidential Campaign Memorabilia*. The exhibition will open with a 5:30 p.m. reception on Friday, October 19.

Centuries of presidential memorabilia are con-
tained in this impressive collection. A George Washington coat button; an "I Like Ike" cigarette pack; and a Votomatic voting machine (with butterfly ballots) used in the 2000 presidential election in Palm Beach, Florida, are among more than 700 campaign items ranging from the historic and stoic to the contemporary and whimsical.

Ohio

• Submitted by Laura Henderson •

Bedford Historical Society, Bedford News:

Bedford Historical Society was one of the museums chosen to receive a relic from the World Trade Center disaster. It is a crushed file cabinet, part of an exhibit of office equipment that starts with a steel pen and progresses to typewriters and Dictaphones. The museum hopes the cabinet will serve as a reminder of the office workers who went to work on 9/11 like any other ordinary day. A memorial dedication is planned for early December.

Bedford Historical Society applied for the relic after one of the Trustees heard about the disbursement several months ago, filling out the application and writing a letter stating why the historical society would like to receive a relic. BHS learned in spring that they were a recipient. It took three months to “jump through the hoops” to get the object shipped. The Port Authority and New York lawyers were very specific. While the relic was given to the museum, the shipping was their responsibility. It cost over $400 to ship, but luckily a foundation grant was available to assist with the cost. When asked if some of the unrestricted portion of the grant could be used for this project, they were delighted to help.

Fundraising for the restoration of the Sedlon Art Garden, at the back of one of the Museum buildings, continues. Funding began with a bequest, which helped get the project started and now a challenge grant is in place to raise more money. Sufficient funds were in place to begin the project in early August. When completed, the garden will be an outdoor venue for local artists to offer summer classes for the community, as well as a “reading” venue for the local school and for writing seminars.

Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Exhibitions: Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient
CMC will host the largest and most comprehensive collection of ancient artifacts from Israel when the exhibit *Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times* opens. The Dead Sea Scrolls contain the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible and the ancient handwritten texts of the words that shaped the future of the Western world. Many of the over 600 objects have never been publicly exhibited before.

From the registrar’s perspective, the average traveling exhibit has about 250 artifacts. Imagine 600!

*The Photographic Legacy of Paul Briol, 1909-1955*

CMC is participating in FotoFocus Cincinnati ([www.fotofocuscincinnati.org](http://www.fotofocuscincinnati.org)), a month long biennial celebration of photography, community engagement and institutional collaboration.

As part of the event, CMC will display the work of Paul Briol in the Cincinnati Museum Center Culture Gallery, one of the free (no admission charge) gallery spaces at Union Terminal. *The Photographic Legacy of Paul Briol, 1909-1955* will provide an unmatched historical and aesthetic view of Cincinnati. Briol’s photographs highlight not only what once existed, but also how familiar places of today appeared in the past. His finished prints present an extraordinary degree of detail, mastery of light and shadow, and a dramatic sense of composition that characterize his photographs of 20th century Cincinnati.

Born in Massachusetts in 1889, Paul Briol came to Cincinnati in 1909, working as a journalist and photographer until 1920. During the 1920s he managed The Book Shelf, an unorthodox bookstore that soon attracted Cincinnati’s intelligentsia. After closing The Book Shelf in 1930, Briol opened and operated a photographic studio from 1932 until 1955, when a serious automobile accident forced him to close the business. Briol died in New York City in 1969.

For more details, go to [http://www.cincymuseum.org/paul-briol](http://www.cincymuseum.org/paul-briol).

*Cincinnati and the Civil War: The Queen City Responds, 1861-1862*

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Confederate Siege of Cincinnati, the exhibit *Cincinnati and the Civil War: The Queen City Responds, 1861-1862* will be featured in the Ruthven Gallery (another free area). Learn about the defense of Cincinnati, the Battle of Perryville and other events from the first two years of the Civil War explored through authentic uniforms, weapons and equipment of the common soldier as well as photographs,
letters, broadsides and paintings of the period from the Cincinnati Museum Center collection.

News:
On June 28, 2012, the CMC Board of Trustees voted to merge with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (the NURFC Board of Trustees voted to merge at its February 2012 meeting), so now it is official. We are maintaining our separate identities, or brands, as it seems to be known in the marketing world. We have begun merging some of the operations such as finance, but mission-related functions will be phased in. Exhibits, educational programs and collections management functions are just starting to merge.

Cincinnati Museum Center is now accredited by the American Alliance for Museums (AAM). This is considered our first time for accreditation since the merger of organizations in 1995 that formed CMC (one of the predecessor organizations, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, was AAM accredited).

Columbus Emerging Museum Professionals News:
The Columbus Emerging Museum Professionals held a successful inaugural event on September 19! Fifteen EMPs, from a variety of organizations and a variety of different fields in the museum world, met for food and fun at the MoJoe Lounge. It was a great turnout and a great event!

Interested in learning more? Check out the Columbus EMP group on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or at their blog, http://columbusemp.wordpress.com.

Miami University Art Museum, Oxford
Events:
The Steppes: Crucible of Eurasia
November 30 and December 1, 2012
A symposium organized by Professor Dan Prior of Miami University’s Department of History, titled The Steppes: Crucible of Eurasia, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, will offer a two-day academic opportunity for increased learning about the Eurasian Steppes. Programs throughout the semes-
Exhibitions:

*Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands: Selections from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection*
Now through December 8, 2012

This semester at Miami University Art Museum, the three main galleries are connected by a common theme planned around a traveling exhibition titled *Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands: Selections from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection*, curated by Dr. Trudy S. Kawami, Director of Research for the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation. The bronzes tell a fascinating story of the ancient nomadic peoples who inhabited the Mongolian Steppes with their herds of yaks, sheep, goats and horses, moving from place to place depending on the time of year.

*Grass Routes: Pathways to Eurasian Cultures*
Now through December 8, 2012

The Miami University Art Museum and a collaborative team of university faculty and students in history, anthropology, archaeology, botany and zoology created an exciting exhibition for this Fall, titled *Grass Routes: Pathways to Eurasian Cultures*. This exhibition features ancient bronzes from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation, coupled with an exploration of Eurasian nomadic cultures. While traveling through the galleries, visitors will learn about the region and the diversity of its people, plants, animals and art.

News:

The Miami University Art Museum recently debuted a newly formatted visual arts calendar and publication. Done in magazine style and designed by Sherri Krazl, the new coordinator of publicity and audience development, *visual arts @Miami* turned out great and has received a lot of positive feedback.

Check out the new publication, along with the story on Laura’s upcoming retirement at [http://issuu.com/miamiuniversityartmuseum/docs/muam-fall12-visualartsatmiami-w/1](http://issuu.com/miamiuniversityartmuseum/docs/muam-fall12-visualartsatmiami-w/1)
The Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati

Exhibitions:

Star Power: Edward Steichen’s Glamour Photography
October 12, 2012 through January 27, 2013

In 1923, Edward Steichen was already a famous photographer on both sides of the Atlantic when he was offered the position of chief photographer for Condé Nast’s influential and highly regarded magazines Vogue and Vanity Fair. For the next 15 years, Steichen would take full advantage of the resources and prestige conferred by the Condé Nast empire to produce a brilliant oeuvre, putting his talents and energies to work dramatizing and glamorizing contemporary culture and its achievers—in politics, literature, journalism, dance, theatre, opera, and, above all, the world of high fashion.

Star Power: Edward Steichen’s Glamour Photography, curated by Nancy Huth, includes Steichen’s iconic portraits of famous actors, actresses, painters, producers, athletes, playwrights, poets, dancers, journalists, singers and writers, in addition to numerous fashion photographs. Steichen’s crisp, bold, modern style revolutionized fashion photography during the 1920s and 1930s and influenced his successors in the field, including Richard Avedon, Irving Penn, and Bruce Weber.

Steichen’s work during that period represents the high point of his photographic career, and the works he did for Condé Nast’s influential magazines stand among the most striking creations of 20th-century photography.

Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland

Tying the Knot: Cleveland Wedding Fashions, 1830-1980
Now through February 14, 2013

Western Reserve Historical Society celebrates 150 years of Cleveland wedding fashion!

Wedding gowns and the trousseaus of those who wore them are featured in the new exhibition Tying the Knot: Cleveland Wedding
Fashions, 1830-1980, which opened June 22, 2012, at the Western Reserve Historical Society Chisholm Halle Costume Wing of the History Center in University Circle. The exhibition draws exclusively from the extensive WRHS Costume and Textile Collection and highlights wedding attire worn by Cleveland brides over 150 years, along with the other wardrobe items, or trousseau, of dresses and lingerie that brides traditionally brought to their marriages. Elaborate confections from the 1800s, such as the 1879 dress by famed designer Charles Frederick Worth for Euclid Avenue socialite, Alice Wade Everett, will be featured, along with stylish examples from the 20th century. In addition to items from the trousseau, wedding photographs, invitations and a display of wedding vests worn by grooms, essential but often overshadowed members of the wedding party, will complete the exhibition.

Visiting costume and textile specialists and exhibit designers Colleen Callahan and Newbold “Newbie” Richardson said their research for the exhibition resulted in a new appreciation for the WRHS collection. “Selecting the wedding dresses and other items for the exhibit has allowed us to truly experience the depth and range of the WRHS costume collection,” said Colleen Callahan. “Even with my previous knowledge of the collection, I was unprepared for its vastness.”

WRHS Chief Curator Dean Zimmerman said this would be the first public exhibition for many of the items. “We have purposely chosen pieces to show a range of Cleveland society, from brides who shopped in New York and Paris to those who acquired their dresses in Cleveland, and even one bride who made her own outfit.” Additional gowns featured in the exhibition include the lovely 1913 wedding dress worn by Elizabeth Ring and designed by famous Titanic survivor, Lady Duff Gordon, known as Lucile; the gold silk satin dress worn in 1841 by Hannah Walworth, who married Benjamin Strickland, the first dentist to practice in the Western Reserve; and a dinner dress of gray silk trimmed with silk brocade that was part of the 1898 trousseau of Anna Stambaugh, who married David Tod, namesake and grandson of David Tod, the governor of Ohio during the Civil War.

The Chisholm Halle Costume Wing is located in the WRHS History Center in University Circle at 10825 East Boulevard. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. For information call 216-721-5722 or visit www.wrhs.org.

Colleen Callahan served as curator of costume and textiles at the Valentine Richmond History Center (VRHC) in Richmond, Virginia, from 1985 to 2003. While at the VRHC, Colleen managed the museum’s thirty thousand piece, internationally known collection and curated more than twenty art and social history themed exhibitions. Since establishing the firm Costume and Textile Specialists, with partner Newbold Richardson, Colleen consults
with large and small institutions nationwide on exhibition, collection management and documentation, conservation and reproduction clothing projects. She is a sought-after lecturer and contributor to popular and scholarly publications. Colleen is active in professional organizations, including the Virginia Association of Museums and the Costume Society of America, for which she served a term as president. Colleen received her B.A. in Theatre from Smith College and her M.A. in Arts Administration: Costume Studies from New York University under a joint program with the Costume Institute of Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Newbold “Newbie” Richardson has worked for more than 25 years with private and institutional clients to appraise, conserve and exhibit historic clothing and textiles, including tapestries, quilts, samplers, wedding and baptismal garments and clothing dating from the 18th to 20th centuries. Newbie’s training in costume design and couture sewing allows her to outfit museum displays and living history interpreters with authentic period reproduction clothing. Since 2003, Newbie has been in business with Colleen Callahan in the consulting firm Costume and Textile Specialists. Newbie is affiliated with the American Society of Appraisers and active in professional organizations, including the Costume Society of America and the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums. Newbie received her B.S. from Northwestern University, completed M.F.A. graduate course work in costume design for the joint program of George Washington and Catholic Universities, and completed the Appraisal Studies Program at GWU.

**Wisconsin**

- *Submitted by Elizabeth Frozena*

**Chazen Museum of Art, Madison**

*Exhibition: The Golden Age of British Watercolors, 1790–1910*

Now through December 2

Watercolor as a medium reached its pinnacle in Victorian Britain. This exhibition demonstrates the distinctive characteristics of watercolor—delicacy, luminosity, visual opulence, and technical difficulty—and presents a range of nineteenth-century subject matter, including landscape, still life, fairy painting, and classical themes. It also shows the varied uses of watercolor, from travel souvenirs to illustrations to independent works of art. Included are loans from the Yale Center for British Art and the Wisconsin Historical Society, in addition to works from the Chazen's collection.

**Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit**

*College, Beloit*

*News:*

After four great years at the Logan Museum (first as an intern, then as lead data specialist for the museum’s catalog conversion project, and finally as assistant curator), Michelle Bur-
ton is leaving to begin a position in collections management in the anthropology department at the Field Museum. She will be dearly missed, but we're thrilled she landed such a fantastic position especially considering the competitive job market!

Racine Art Museum, Racine
Exhibitions:
High Fiber: Recent Large Scale Acquisitions in Fiber
Now through January 20, 2013

The Racine Art Museum premieres an impressive array of fiber pieces never before seen in the museum’s galleries with the opening of High Fiber: Recent Large Scale Acquisitions in Fiber. Open September 30 through January 20, 2013, High Fiber transforms RAM’s largest gallery space with larger than life-size sculptures by significant contemporary artists who have established reputations working with materials such as fabric, metal wire, and cedar. Created with techniques such as weaving and knotting and touching on a variety of subjects, including metaphysics, the human condition, and the natural world, the works featured in this show delight the eye and engage the mind.

Wisconsin Photography 2012
Now through November 24, 2012

On Sunday, September 9, RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts continued a Racine tradition with the opening of Wisconsin Photography 2012. Featuring 118 pieces by fifty Wisconsin photographers and video artists, this year's show will be on view at RAM's Wustum Museum through November 24, 2012.

The museum received online submissions from all over the state. Of 862 pieces submitted by eighty-seven artists, less than a quarter of the pieces were chosen for the 2012 show. The exhibition’s juror, Dean Otto, selected the 118 images represented in Wisconsin Photography 2012. Otto is Associate Curator, Film/Video at Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

News:
RAM Director Elected to Receive One of the Highest Honors in the field of American Craft

The Racine Art Museum is pleased to announce that the American Craft Council (ACC) has elected Bruce W. Pepich, RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections, as a 2012 Honorary Fellow. The prestigious American Craft Council Awards recognize individuals and organizations for excellence in craftsmanship and significant contributions to the field
of contemporary American craft.

Since 1975, the Council has bestowed the title of Fellow to artists nominated and elected by their peers and who have demonstrated extraordinary artistic ability and must have worked 25 years or more in the discipline or career in which they are being recognized. Each Awardee is featured in the October/November 2012 issue of American Craft magazine and will be honored at the November 2, 2012 American Craft Council Awards Ceremony at the InterContinental Hotel Chicago.

Other 2012 American Craft Council Awards recipients include Sharon Church, Anne Currier, Andrea Gill, Lewis Knauss, Tom Loeser (also from Wisconsin), Dante Marioni, Sherri Smith, Stephen De Staebler, Sidney D. Rosoff, and Nancy M. McNeil.

Racine Heritage Museum, Racine

Exhibitions:

Sports Hall of Fame
Opening October 26, 2012

The doors of the Sports Hall of Fame at Racine Heritage Museum reopen on Friday, October 26, 2012. The refreshed exhibit space features 2012’s seven new inductees and their stories of baseball, basketball, bowling, coaching, football and golf. Last year’s inaugural inductees’ stories remain available within the interactive video.

Baseball’s Belles

Also new is an expanded focus on Racine’s famous Belles baseball team. One of four original teams of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the Belles were locally franchised, managed and sponsored, and were well beloved in the community. Balls on exhibit reveal their decreasing circumference, as the original underhand pitch became an overhand pitch. Find trophies, cleated shoes, a reproduction-skirted uniform, and learn some AAGPBL ballplayer slang, including potholder (first baseman’s glove) and Tug Boat Annie (tough, rugged player). But who was called a Crybaby, and what does it mean to Quit the Diet?

Programming:

SPARK! Outreach program

Racine Heritage Museum’s SPARK! outreach program takes artifacts and photographs to memory unit residents and their caregivers. Pioneered over the past few years, in part because the museum building is not handicap-accessible, this format differs from other Helen Bader Foundation-sponsored SPARK! programs in which Alzheimer’s patients and their caregivers visit museums. Our off-site outreach format allows our Curator of Education to tailor the items taken to the life experiences of the participants and their families, making the program popular and appreciated.

Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum, Sheboygan

News:

The Sheboygan County Historical Society was the proud recipient of the 2012 Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy. Presented annually by the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Board of Curators to one of the 380 plus affiliate historical societies of WHS, the award recognizes excellence in overall service to the community over a period of at least five years.

In celebration of the honor, the museum held an open house on August 29 featuring tours of the historic buildings and main museum exhibits and highlights from the Museum’s major programming initiatives, including the Full Day Student Education Programs, “Third Thursdays,” and Holiday Memories exhibition prior to the official award ceremony. The evening concluded with a group photograph, a museum tradition for programs and special events.
Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit

News:

We are pleased to announce the addition of James Pearson as collections manager and exhibition coordinator for the Wright Museum of Art. James has a background in studio fine art and art history and moved with his family to Beloit from North Carolina. James replaces Craig Hadley who briefly served as the MRC Wisconsin State representative.

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau

News:

Construction is nearly finished for the new storage area at the Woodson Art Museum and the new gallery is already open to the public. The project has been overwhelming for the small staff, but the storage area is amazing and the new gallery, gorgeous!

VIPs, Board members, volunteers, friends, and staff celebrate at the Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum.

The new gallery and storage space expansion at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.
**Midwest Registrars Committee**

**CHAIR**  
Rachel Vargas, Registrar  
Broad Art Museum  
Michigan State Univeristy  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824  
517-884-0651, vargasr@msu.edu

**VICE-CHAIR & TRAVEL STIPENDS**  
Ms. Devon Pyle-Vowles, Collections Manager  
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center  
9603 Woods Drive  
Skokie, Illinois 60077  
847-967-4818, dpvowles@comcast.net

**SECRETARY**  
Craig Hadley, Curator  
DePauw University  
10 W. Hanna  
Greencastle, Indiana 46135  
765-658-6556, craighadley@depauw.edu

**TREASURER**  
Jennifer Noffze, Registrar/ Archivist  
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
PO Box 3000  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206  
317-334-3722, jenn@childrensmuseum.org

**ARCHIVES**  
Lauren Hancock, Assistant Registrar  
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
1301 Western Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203  
513-455-7165, lhancock@cincymuseum.org

**DEVELOPMENT**  
Ann Sinfield, Registrar  
Chazen Museum of Art  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
800 University Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
608-263-3722, asinfeld@chazen.wisc.edu

**NOMINATIONS**  
Cristin Waterbury, Curator  
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium  
350 East Third Street  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
563-557-9545, cwaterbury@rivermuseum.com

**NEWSLETTER**  
Tamara R. Lange, Collection Coordinator/Registrar  
Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum  
3110 Erie Avenue  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081  
920-458-1103, langetrl@co.sheboygan.wi.us

**ILLINOIS**  
Amy P. Heggemeyer, Asst. Registrar for Acquisitions  
The Spurlock Museum  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
217-265-0472, heggemey@illinois.edu

**INDIANA**  
Lana Newhart-Kellen, Registrar  
Conner Prairie  
13400 Allisonville Road  
Fishers, Indiana 46038-4499  
317-776-6000, newhart@connerprairie.org

**IOWA**  
Jennifer Kovarik, Registrar  
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum  
523 W. Water St.  
PO Box 379  
Decorah, Iowa 52101-0379  
563-382-9681, ext. 219, jkovarik@vesterheim.org

**MICHIGAN**  
Robin Goodman, Registrar  
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts  
314 South Park Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007  
269-585-9271, robing@kiarts.org

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

**MISSOURI**  
Lacy Bettcher, Museum Cataloger  
Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City  
5235 Oak Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64112  
563-542-1401, lacy.bettcher@gmail.com

**OHIO**  
Laura Henderson, Collections Manager/Registrar  
Miami University Art Museum  
801 South Patterson Avenue  
Oxford, Ohio 45056  
513-529-2235, henderlb@muohio.edu

**WISCONSIN**  
Elizabeth Frozena, Registrar  
Racine Art Museum  
441 Main Street  
Racine, WI 53401-0187  
262-638-8300, x113, elfrozena@ramart.org
The Midwest Registrars Committee formed in 1978 to provide a forum for the exchange of information and methods among museum collections professionals and registrars in the Midwest region. The MRC fulfills this objective by promoting an atmosphere of mutual aid and cooperation and by promoting professional practices to benefit colleagues, the museum community, and members.

The MRC is affiliated with the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums (RC-AAM) and the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM).

Who can join?
Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum personnel who support the objectives of the MRC and who reside in the Midwest region, including:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

You don’t have to be a registrar! Collections managers, curators, volunteers, administrators, conservators, corporate registrars, students, or other collections care professionals are encouraged to join.

A non-voting membership is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region.

Benefits of membership
- The Courier, MRC’s quarterly newsletter
- Funding assistance for state workshops
- Professional network
- Workshops
- Travel stipends to attend AMM Conference
- Membership directory

Membership fees
- Annual dues are $10.00 per year
- The membership period covers the calendar year (January 1 - December 31)
- Make checks payable to: Midwest Registrars Committee

Membership form (can type and save text)
Date: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________
Position: ____________________________
Institution: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________
Phone/fax: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

- [ ] New (voting $10)
- [ ] Renewal (voting $10)
- [ ] New (non-voting $10)
- [ ] Renewal (non-voting $10)

Make a difference!
Your active participation ensures the ongoing success of the MRC programs and activities. Please check the areas in which you would like to get involved:

- [ ] State representative
- [ ] Newsletter
- [ ] Programs/annual meeting
- [ ] Fundraising
- [ ] Membership

NEW FOR 2013—Renew and pay online!
Follow these two steps to renew your membership electronically:

1. Simply fill out this PDF form and e-mail it to jenn@childrensmuseum.org
2. To pay for your MRC dues via PayPal, login to your account, click “Send Money,” and send your dues to: jenn@childrensmuseum.org

- OR -

Send paper application and payment to:
Jennifer Noffze
MRC Treasurer
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 3000
Indianapolis, IN 46206
2013 AMM Conference Call for Proposals

LOCALLY GROWN, COMMUNITY CREATED

July 14-17, 2013
The Madison Concourse Hotel
Madison, WI

Title of Proposal: ________________________________________________________________

Author of Proposal: ______________________________________________________________

Institution: ___________________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ______________

In 2013, AMM will present a conference, Locally Grown, Community Created, on July 14-17, in Madison, Wisconsin. AMM encourages proposals that address new audiences, new technologies, and new practices. 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, October 31, 2012!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PRESENTERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER (AND PAY) FOR 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 two or more speakers
_____ Poster Session: 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
Archives/Library
Audience Development
Collections/Registrars
Conservation
Curators
Development/Fundraising
Directors/CEOs
Diversity/Access

Education/Programs
Evaluation
Exhibits
Finance
Governance
Human Resources
Marketing/PR
Museum Shops
Museum Studies

Professional Development
Publications
Securities/Facilities
Small Museums
Technology
Tribal/Ethnic Museums
Visitors Services
Volunteers
Other:

Mail, fax or email your proposal to: AMM, PO Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112,
bbray@midwestmuseums.org or 314-746-4569. Deadline for submission is Monday, October 31, 2012.
AMM does not pay for travel expenses or provide stipends to the conference.