The National Hellenic Museum: The Newest Thing in Ancient History

Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer

The planning of new collections storage space, as well as moving an entire collection from one building to another, is a special challenge occasionally addressed by collections care professionals. The National Hellenic Museum (with the wonderful tagline “The newest thing in ancient history”) opened its new building to the public in December of 2011. Chris Helms, Collections Manager and Registrar at the National Hellenic Museum, kindly answered a couple of questions about the recent move to their new facility and its impact on collections care.

1) How has the new building impacted your collections?

The move to the new building has been a monumental change for the Museum’s collections in almost all areas, including in terms of space, sophistication, security, ease-of-access, organization, and condition controlling. The building we were in [before] was never designed to be a museum, but our staff installed shelving, drawers, and collections-related monitoring in order to create makeshift museum storage.

When we designed the new building, one of the primary objectives was to create a collections storage area that was modern, would
conform to AAM accreditation standards, and would be more than adequate in terms of collections security, environmental controls, and storage space. The new collections storage area has roughly three times the storage capacity of the old building, allowing us room to grow in the future. In addition, it is now temperature and humidity controlled using an HVAC to keep our collection in appropriate conditions. We have state-of-the-art moving shelving now from Bradford Systems, professional art racks for all of our art, as well as hanging and rolled-storage space for clothing and other textiles. We didn't have any of these in the old location.

In terms of our work areas, they are now also [improved] by leaps and bounds. In the old building we were struggling to find work space and struggling to keep sensitive collections items separate from the rest of the general office procedures that took place on a day-to-day basis. Now we have designated "Collection Prep Studios," specifically designed for collections and artifact work. The space in the studio is, by itself, much larger than the offices in the old building, with enough storage space to house far more collections, library, and archival supplies than before.

In short, the difference between the old building's collections areas and the new building's collections areas is like day and night. I am amazed that we worked for so long in our old location. The new building’s facilities are better in every single way possible. We now have professional, well-maintained, spacious, and modern collections, archival, and library storage area. It has done wonders for our collections organization and care.

2) Were there any unique packing or storage issues that you had to address during the move?

Absolutely. We have thousands of items in our collection at the National Hellenic Museum. We have everything from large steamer trunks to tiny rings and coins, and pretty much everything in between. So packing for the move was a long, difficult, and tricky process. Luckily, we had a fantastic group of interns and volunteers who were willing and able to help us get it all packed up in time for the move.

We tried everything in our power to make sure the items were safe for the move. I believe we went through a dozen industrial-sized rolls of bubble wrap, thousands of acid-free tissue paper sheets, and hundreds of boxes. As far as we can tell, everything made it through the move in one piece. Luckily, we were only moving two blocks away to our new building.

We did have a variety of items that were especially tricky to move. We have a number of large furniture items in our collection, including two organs used in Chicago Greek Orthodox churches that were extremely heavy and cumbersome. We have a collection of antiquities—mostly Cypriot Iron-Age pottery, as well as some Graeco-Roman coins—that required special crating and handling. We also have a large collection of textiles and clothing, such as wedding dresses, military uniforms, and traditional Greek dresses, all of which needed to lay flat (and un-wrinkled) for the move. In the end, the trickiest part was just ensuring that everything was ready to go. Since moving to our temporary location, our collections had grown 10-fold, so there were a lot of items that needed to be moved, and that we needed to buy moving supplies for. As far as complexity, every museum has hundreds, or thousands, of differently-shaped objects in dozens of different dispositions. The challenge, and the fun, comes in figuring out how to bring those safely to the new location.
FROM THE CHAIR

▪ Submitted by Ann Sinfield ▪

Josephine Baker, Thomas Hart Benton, Edwin Powell Hubble, Langston Hughes, John J. Pershing, Mark Twain, Harry S. Truman: what do they all have in common?

Wikipedia says, “Missouri is the 21st most extensive and the 18th most populous of the 50 United States. Missouri comprises 114 counties and the independent city of St. Louis. The four largest urban areas are St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, and Columbia. Missouri’s capital is Jefferson City. The land that is now Missouri was acquired from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase and became known as the Missouri Territory. Part of the Territory was admitted into the union as the 24th state on August 10, 1821.”

All of this and Missouri has no MRC representative: no one to update the list of state members, no one to share upcoming events, no one to provide travel stipend applications for the annual conference, or to get funds for local programs and workshops. So many opportunities for museums in the state that are getting missed!

Missouri members, the MRC needs your help. For information about becoming the new state representative contact me or any board member, or other state reps. This is a really great opportunity to help museums in your state—please don’t pass it up.

Perhaps motivation of the chocolate variety is needed? There is good news in this case, as the annual membership drive has begun. State representatives have already been contacting members about renewing, and they will also be looking for new members in all of the states. Tasty chocolate prizes await the representative with the highest percentage increase in total members by the end of June. Renew, refer, get Madison’s own Gail Ambrosius chocolates for your rep!

The Midwest region hosts two museum conferences this year: AAM is in Minneapolis from April 29–May 2, and AMM goes to Indianapolis on July 23-26. Applications for travel stipends to the Indianapolis conference will be available later in the spring. Watch the AMM website for the program, it should be posted soon.

As a preview, we will host another Mighty Rescue Crew, our fourth opportunity to help with collections in the conference area. The MRC annual meeting will be again sponsored by Huntington T. Block, whose generosity will allow members to attend the breakfast for no charge. There will also be an MRC late evening event sponsored by Willis Fine Art, Jewelry & Specie. Details about these events
may not be listed in the AMM conference program, but will be distributed to members by their state reps or the MRC event organizers. Please make sure your contact information is current so you don’t miss out!

2012 is an election year for the MRC. Most of the Board—Devon as treasurer, Laura as secretary, and me as chair—have reached our term limits so we are unable to serve again in our current positions. In addition, our vice-chair, Karen O’Brien is stepping down. As a result, our nominations chair, Cristin Waterbury, is searching for members to run for board positions. See the nomination form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Serving on the board is a chance to learn about the museum field through your interactions with colleagues and vendors from across the region. It is an opportunity to shape the future of the MRC, and you’ll get to work with a motivated, dedicated, and fun group of people. Contact any of the current board members for more info, we are all happy to talk about what we do.

Serving as chair has truly been a pleasure. I am astounded by the consistent, strong support of our sponsors, amazed by the dedication of our entire board, and inspired by the enthusiasm of the volunteers who participate in the organization of the conferences. I hope you will sign up to help steer this organization over the next few years!

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FROM THE EDITOR

▪ Submitted by Jamie Merkel ▪

It’s been a busy spring and I am so happy to see and feel the sunshine once again! At the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology I am in the middle of my last year of a three year project to rehouse the Museum’s ethnobotanical collections. We are going strong with objects from 15 of the original 17 cabinets fully rehoused, labeled, and entered into our database. Once we are finished rehousing the objects in the cabinets there are herbarium specimens left to catalog, as well as hundreds of lab reports to read through and enter the pertinent information from into a spreadsheet, which will then be linked to the University of Michigan Library’s online accessible service called Deep Blue. Deep Blue provides the public with access to the creative and scholarly work of the University of Michigan community of students and scholars, and it is one of our goals to make our collections more accessible to the public.

We are currently rehousing ethnographic plant material and we have all sorts of plants used to make dye, various varieties of tobacco, and medicinal plants. There have been some great surprises in this collection, and my favorite to date is a lot of animal figurines made out of corn meal. They were collected by Dr. Steere in South America in 1870. How cool!

The publication of this issue has been slightly delayed and for that I apologize! Tamara and I have both had busy schedules and it has taken some time and effort to get together everyone’s Annual Reports. This issue includes two great articles submitted by Amy Heggemeyer and Angela Riedel, and I would like to extend a gracious thank you to both of them for taking the time to expand on and share what is going on in their end of the museum world. It is always fun and inspiring to read about recent renovations or someone’s love for what they do. If you have an article you have been considering writing or would like to share, please don’t be shy! We LOVE to hear about what is going on behind the scenes or about what inspires you to work in the museum field.

Human Figure, Frog Figure, Lizard Figure; Cornmeal.

South America, 1870.

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology
What I Love About My Museum

Submitted by Angela Riedel

I love the variety of objects and the awesome things I get to do here every day! As the Collections Manager at the Museum of Cultural and Natural History, I get to take care of some pretty wild (literally!) and cool things while teaching students the tricks of the trade. Over the course of my whole career I’ve mainly been a historical artifacts girl. Sure, I’ve dabbled in the occasional chicken blood smeared African mask and moved a stuffed polar bear or two around in my time, but never have I never been in charge of such a myriad of collections as at MCNH.

The collections consist of objects from nearly every area you can think of: history, natural history, anthropology, ethnography, and geology. Therefore, no two days are alike. One day I may be dealing with our WWI military uniforms, and the next day I am working with a dozen great horned owl mounts that I swear follow me with their glass eyes no matter which way I move. Being in charge of natural history specimens is a relatively new realm to me, but I like it - it’s kind of like being an animal wrangler for a circus, albeit a dead circus, but a circus none-the-less!

And I love that there’s still loads of mysteries and mayhem yet to be discovered lurking in the collections. I really enjoy trying to figure out why one object has the wrong number, why another one has none at all, and would the real M-540 porcupine study skin please stand up? I love coming across the items donated in the late 1940s by a prolific “antiquities” collector, who brought us such wonderful (if sometimes questionable) things such as a head hunter battle axe from Borneo, a sliver of wood from the Old North Church tower in which the lanterns warning of the British invasion were hung, a 1862 saber and scabbard carried by Colonel John A. Wharton of the Texas Rangers, and my personal favorite, a chest that came over on the Mayflower.

I’ve had the opportunity to do so many fun and crazy things at my Museum. I’ve vacuumed feathers, tails, and furs (and that’s just the historic clothing collection!). I’ve seen dead ducks “fly” off over head shelves and plop gracefully to the floor. I’ve had conversations on how to display a sloth, a parachute wedding dress, a live tarantula, and how to make a ten foot tall dead grizzly bear growl. I’ve repaired a 5-inch high Neanderthal man, cleaned out a Mastodon pit, and the sea bottom home of prehistoric nautiluses all in one day. I’ve searched a shrunken head for nose hairs to see if it’s the genuine article (and it was!), and helped stuff newly acquired anoles into jars of ethyl alcohol. I’ve even had to rehydrate a drying, splitting whale jaw bone using the CMU Fisheries lab’s large, very long sink. How cool is that?
And at the end of the day, I just plain love what I do. I love being the caretaker, the teacher, the master detective, the referee, the organizer, the time traveler, the discoverer, and the database overlord. Whatevsoever in the world would be as amazing or fulfilling as the lives we lead in the collections field? I’m sure there’s something, but I’m quite happy to never find out.

**Coming soon!!**
Watch for info on Travel Stipends for the 2012 AMM Meeting, July 23-26 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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**We Want YOU, to Become a MRC Officer!**

Greetings fellow MRC members,

It’s election time for the Midwest Registrars Committee! And that means opportunity is knocking on your door. Will you answer?

The MRC is seeking potential candidates for all posts, including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

If you know someone who would fit the bill for any of these positions, let us know. Better yet, if you yourself are interested in becoming more involved in the MRC, now is the time.

Being an MRC officer is a tremendous opportunity to network with your peers in the region and across the country, and to build up your resume with a terrific leadership role. Not to mention having fun…and it is definitely a fun experience! So I know you all will be flooding my email inbox with notes indicating your interest in serving your peers by throwing your name or a friend’s name into the ring.

Please seriously consider this opportunity to become more involved with MRC, network with your peers in Registrar Land, and add a great experience to your resume. **Contact me anytime for more information, to submit your own name as a candidate, or to nominate a friend, no later than April 20.** Ballots will be sent out in May.

Thanks!

Cristin Waterbury
MRC Nominations Chair
cwaterbury@rivermuseum.com
NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Illinois

• Submitted by Amy Hegemeyer •

Downers Grove Park District Museum, Downers Grove
News:
Park District Receives 2012 Project of the Year Award for Barth Pond Shoreline Improvements

The Suburban Branch of the Chicago Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) awarded the Downers Grove Park District with the 2012 Project of the Year Award for the Barth Pond Shoreline Improvements located at Patriots Park. The re-opening of Barth Pond at Patriots Park took place on June 27, 2011 after several months of shoreline and pathway improvements. The deteriorated steel retaining wall was replaced with natural limestone and native plant life. The once gravel pathways are now asphalt for improved accessibility of walkers, joggers, strollers and wheelchairs.

Illinois Collections Preservation Network Workshops:
When Water Emergencies Strike Your Collection: Response Training & Workshop
Illinois Collections Preservation Network (ICPN) is hosting a free one-day workshop at several locations throughout the spring and summer. Titled When Water Emergencies Strike Your Collection: Response Training & Workshop, this workshop will address disaster preparation and will include a hands-on salvage exercise. The workshop will be held at the following locations:

April 18: Douglas County Museum, Tuscola
May 10: Western Illinois Museum, Macomb
June 11: Naper Settlement, Naperville
July 9: Freeport Art Museum, Freeport

Workshops are open to any who wish to attend, whether or not you live in Illinois. To participate, contact Bronwyn Eves at 217-524-0498 or beves@museum.state.il.us.

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Exhibitions:

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago presents an ambitious new exhibition, This Will Have Been: Art, Love, & Politics in the 1980s, with over 130 works that represent the diversity and complexity of art

Sherrie Levine
Chair Seat: 7, 1986
Casein on 18 1/4 x 2 1/2 in.
Collection of Barbara Lee, Cambridge, MA
© 1986 Sherrie Levine
Image courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn
Exhibitions:
_Danish American Artist Series: Mia Furlong_  
Now through July 8, 2012

Mia Furlong is not a typical lawyer – she works four days a week, so that she has time available to pursue her painting. Artistic expression has always been integrated into her life, whether as a dancer, a poet, or a painter. Her mother is a Danish immigrant, and Mia frequently visits family in Denmark. She credits her Danish heritage for the choices and values in her life, such as keeping room in her life for creative arts. Her work reflects a strong interest in color, geometry, and organic forms such as trees, leaves, and flowers.

Iowa
• _Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik_ •

**Danish Immigrant Museum**, Elk Horn
Exhibitions:
_Danish American Artist Series: Mia Furlong_  
Now through July 8, 2012

_Danish Immigrant Museum_ became a leading figure in landscape architecture during the early 20th century. Emphasizing the use of native plants and natural materials, his designs and philosophies continue to influence gardeners and landscapers today. Learn more about Jensen's life, work, and legacy, and then step outside to watch the development of the Museum's Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park! This exhibition is supported by a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium**, Port of Dubuque
Exhibitions:

_Productions during this decade of cultural and political transformation. This Will Have Been offers an overview of major developments in the 1980s, divided into thematic sections, while situating our contemporary moment within the history of the recent past._ Organized by the MCA and guest curated by Helen Molesworth, Chief Curator of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, for the MCA, this exhibition is on view from February 11 to June 3, 2012. For additional information on this exhibition and related events, visit [http://www.mcachicago.org/exhibitions/featured/twhb/exhibition/overview](http://www.mcachicago.org/exhibitions/featured/twhb/exhibition/overview).
Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and Other Riches
Opens March 3, 2012

Take a fascinating voyage down the world’s largest and most biologically diverse river and meet amazing creatures—piranhas, anacondas, electric eels, stingrays, and more—in Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes & Other Riches. This interactive, bilingual (English-Spanish) exhibition runs from March 3, through October 31, 2012, at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and is offered free with Museum admission. The exhibit mixes real scientific research, light humor, and whimsical artwork into a fun, interactive experience for visitors of all ages, particularly families with children ages pre-K and up.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Northeast Iowa
News:

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) will be holding their annual Golden Silo Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 4, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. at the Waterloo Center for the Arts in Waterloo, IA. Each year, SSNHA celebrates the best in heritage development by presenting Golden Silo Awards to individuals and organizations whose contributions demonstrate outstanding excellence in preserving and telling America’s agricultural story.

This year’s event will feature a special presentation by the Grout Museum District, Waterloo, IA, from its farm story video history project. Iowa farmer Keith Elwick will share his inspiring story as an inventor on his farm near Vinton, IA. His ‘revolutionary’ Hawk Bilt manure spreader helped transform agriculture worldwide and made him the first American to receive two British implement prizes from the Queen of England. This event is supported in part by Iowa Farm Bureau and will feature an Iowa foods three-course meal exclusive to the event by Executive Chef Dan Ankrum.

Tickets to this recognition of the Heritage Area’s finest are $15 a person, with reservations due by March 28. For more information or to register, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org, call 319-234-4567 or email cklein@silosandsmokestacks.org.

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.
Michigan

• Submitted by Robin Goodman •

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo
Exhibitions:
Object of Devotion: Medieval English Alabaster Sculpture from the Victoria and Albert Museum
March 3 to May 13, 2012

The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts is excited to bring an exhibition culled from the world’s largest collection of medieval alabaster panels from the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, England. Object of Devotion: Medieval English Alabaster Sculpture from the Victoria and Albert Museum presents sixty beautifully-carved alabaster panels and free-standing figures that were displayed in the homes, chapels, and churches of both aristocratic and non-aristocratic Christians in the 15th and 16th centuries. Dramatic, and intricately crafted, these pieces are some of the finest examples of the elegant yet neglected art form of alabaster sculpture. The exhibition is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, Virginia. It is supported by a grant from The Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The exhibition is brought to the Kalamazoo community in cooperation with the Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University. More information is available at http://www.kiarts.org/page.php?page_id=349

Museum of Cultural and Natural History, Mount Pleasant
Exhibitions:
Journey Through The Jungle
February 10 to December 14, 2012

The Museum of Cultural and Natural History (MCNH) opened a new temporary exhibition entitled Journey Through The Jungle. This exciting exhibition literally takes you through the jungles of the South American rainforests and introduces you to all the creatures that live there. The exhibition was developed by Dr. Kirsten Nicholson, Curator of Natural History, based upon her own research of anoles in

South America funded by a National Science Foundation grant. There are great interactive elements throughout the exhibition for all ages and a children’s hands-on activity gallery. The exhibition will be open until December 2012.

News:

MCNH was recently awarded a $6,000.00 NEH Preservation Assistance for Smaller Institutions Grant that will enable staff to attend the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation’s course on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. It will also enable MCNH to purchase emergency response kits for use not only by the Museum but in teaching CMU’s Museum Studies Minor students and other institutions.

MCNH is also wrapping up an IMLS grant that it received to conserve its Civil War cavalry flag that was carried in the battles of Shiloh and Metamora. The flag was sent to the Henry Ford conservation labs, where Fran Faile, Textile Conservator, did an amazing job of flattening and stabilizing the flag. It is hoped that the flag will be used a center piece in a future exhibition celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

MCNH’s Museum Studies Minor at Central Michigan University also had a record number of 50 students signed up for the Minor in December! This is the highest number of students the program has ever had.
Ohio

**Submitted by Laura Henderson**

**Bedford Historical Society, Bedford**

**Exhibitions:**

*Spring Open House – Meet the Artist; Roger Fuhrmeyer: A Life of Creativity*

April 1, 2012 (Sunday), 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall Museum, 30 South Park St. (Squire Place)

For over 50 years, Roger Fuhrmeyer has created works in pastel, oil, watercolor, pencil and sculpture. The Town Hall Museum has been the beneficiary of several of his works, including beautiful murals. The exhibition, *A Life of Creativity*, encompasses portions of his early works, sketches from his travels abroad, and sketches from his years at Chautauqua and commissioned works from private collections.

Meet the artist and enjoy a champagne reception with special hors d’oeuvres. At 2:30 p.m. on April 1, Mr. Fuhrmeyer will present four newly created works that depict the four seasons at the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek.

**Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati**

**News:**

The big news is the proposed merger of Cincinnati Museum Center and the National Underground Railroad Center. Our institutions and boards are in the so-called “due diligence” phase, where all aspects of the two non-profit corporations are being examined.

According to a press release that went out in February, “when the transaction is completed, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Cincinnati Museum Center will be united in operations and planning, thereby creating a dynamic and visionary force in the community. For the purpose of charitable gifts and other revenue, each organization will be a separate 501(c)(3) entity. The Board of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will be responsible for overseeing fundraising, programming and for enhancing the image of the Freedom Center, locally, nationally and globally.

Kim Robinson will continue to serve as the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center leader in this new structure and work jointly with the Cincinnati Museum Center’s senior leadership team, led by Doug McDonald. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center has positively impacted millions of people in the past eight years of operation by revealing stories about freedom’s heroes, from the era of the Underground Railroad to contemporary times, and inspiring people to take courageous steps for freedom today. Additionally, Cincinnati Museum Center remains focused on its goal to further advance and grow its offerings in the areas of science, history, and early childhood learning.”

**Exhibitions:**

*A Day in Pompeii*

March 2 to August 12, 2012

The Roman city of Pompeii was frozen in time by the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Pompeii’s archeological treasures rarely leave Italy, and this national touring exhibition marks the first time these rare treasures have come to the region. Room-
sized frescos, marble and bronze sculptures, jewelry, gold coins, and hundreds of priceless ancient artifacts join body casts of the volcano's victims, eerily preserved in their final frantic moments. Don't miss this glimpse through a unique window into the ancient past.

Miami University Art Museum, Oxford

News:

The newest (and youngest) members of the staff at Miami University Art Museum are keeping us old fogies hopping with ambitious exhibition schedules and forays into the latest IT technology for reaching the public and sharing ideas. Curator Jason Shaiman has been with us for a year and a half now, and newcomer Sherri Krazl is our Marketing and Communications Coordinator. In addition to planning exhibitions, Jason has been working with interns and teaching an art survey course; and, as if that is not enough, he and his fiancée are planning a June wedding. Sherri, a mother of two little ones (Makayla, 5 and Zach, 8 months), has revamped our website, infused her skillful design ideas into our program publicity, and developed new methods to obtain visitor feedback.

On April 6, the Museum will unveil an important gift from the family of Nancy Sommer, a museum docent who passed away in 2011. A diptych by Joan Mitchell, titled Sunflower 4, 1992, lithograph, number 4 of an edition of 34, will be presented in memory of Nancy and her years of service to the Museum.

Exhibitions:

51st University Photographers Association of America (UPAA) Annual Print Competition
June 12 to July 7, 2012

The annual conference of the UPAA will be held at the Miami University campus June 18-23, and the exhibition of photographs by the university photographers attending the conference will be installed at the Museum. The categories of Sports Action, Sports Features, People and Portraits, Campus Environment, News, Features and Illustrations, Science and Research, Photo Essay, Personal Vision and Best in Show will be judged and awards will be given to the winners. In addition, an SLR and lens kit provided by Canon will be presented to the Photographer of the Year.

Senior Capstone Class Exhibition
May 1 to July 21, 2012

Students in the Senior Capstone class have selected works from the Museum’s permanent collection representing artists from the 1970s. The students will curate the exhibition are also
responsible for researching the artists, preparing the text panels and labels, and installing the exhibition.

Staff Picks
June 12 to July 21, 2012

Each member of the Museum staff will select two favorite objects from the permanent collection to be installed as an exhibition in Gallery 2. This exhibition should prove to be a challenging but interesting combination of objects in a variety of mediums.

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont
Exhibitions:
The Wildlife Art of Bob Hines
February 16 to August 14, 2012

Bob Hines was an Ohio native who remains the only U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employee to hold the title of National Wildlife Artist. He developed his love of nature growing up in Fremont, Ohio. Hines' artistic talent led him to become an internationally recognized wildlife artist and pioneer of the conservationist movement. His work illustrated a weekly newspaper feature and numerous wildlife guides and books, including those by author Rachel Carson (Under the Sea) and Robert McClung (of Grizzly Adams fame).

The Gilded Age of Haviland China
May 15 to September 16, 2012

In the early 19th century Americans turned to Europe when purchasing china. When importer David Haviland could not satisfy his customers' tastes for embellished fine china, good old American ingenuity came into play. Haviland built his own factory in Limoges, France, to turn out the finest china in the world with artistic flourishes to satisfy his U.S. customers. We will have numerous pieces of some of the earliest examples of Haviland China (1865-1895) on display in this unique exhibition sponsored by the Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation.

Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati
News:
New Collections Management System Selected!

The Taft Museum of Art is pleased to announce a management decision to purchase a new Collections Management System (CMS)
after years of working with a system that had become inadequate for their needs.

Registrar Joan Hendricks reports the following: “I spent a good portion of the last eight months researching various systems and trying out a few demos in an effort to see what would be best for the Taft. After completing the research, I was left with the task of writing a report detailing my findings and providing a recommendation for a CMS that was best for the collection here, which consists of European decorative objects, European and American paintings, and Chinese ceramics.

The entire collection is less than 1,000 works and many of the systems that were considered were far too robust for our needs. Seven systems were considered: PastPerfect, TMS, EmbARK, Argus, Re-Discovery, Vernon and KE-Emu. It was decided that EmbARK (by Gallery Systems) was the best CMS for the Taft’s modest collection. So, in early June I hope to be happily immersed in fine-tuning our collections records in preparation for a long and happy relationship with our new CMS.”

Wisconsin
• Submitted by Elizabeth Frozena •

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison
Exhibitions:
Spark and Flame: 50 Years of Art Glass and the University of Wisconsin–Madison
April 21 to August 5, 2012

The exhibition Spark and Flame: 50 Years of Art Glass and the University of Wisconsin–Madison highlights the far-reaching influence of Littleton and the UW program. It will consist of two parts: the first focuses exclusively on works by Harvey Littleton; the second offers a survey of work by more than 100 glass artists, showing the national and international breadth of contemporary glass. Nearly 160 works will be drawn from four premier private glass collections: those of Harvey Littleton himself; Bruce and Ann Bachmann; Simona and Jerome Chazen; and David Kaplan and Glenn Ostergaard. Bruce Bachmann, David Kaplan, and Simona and Jerome Chazen are all UW–Madison alumni who became passionate about the studio glass program while students in Madison.

Fixed Images: Photographs from the Baker/Pisano Collection
April 14 to June 24, 2012

The Baker/Pisano Collection offers a personal and selective history of photography from the 1840s through 1980s. With an emphasis on portraits, the collection includes images by influential photographers of famous and nota-
ble subjects, created with the most significant of the photographic methods and techniques developed since the invention of the camera.

Long Story Short: Jason Ramey
April 28 to June 10, 2012
Jason Ramey is the first winner of the annual Chazen Prize to an Outstanding MFA Student, awarded to a 3rd year UW–Madison Art Department graduate student. Ramey makes sculptural objects that merge functional furniture with architectural features, especially walls. There is a dynamic dialogue between object and architecture, with the furniture sometimes subsumed by the architectural element and at other times providing critical support for the structure.

Racine Art Museum, Racine
Exhibitions:
Out on a Limb: Contemporary Wood Jewelry
The Racine Art Museum explores the comforting feeling of wood with its newest exhibition, Out on a Limb: Contemporary Wood Jewelry. Long utilized in wearable objects, wood immediately connects the body to the natural landscape. This versatile material offers compelling color, pattern, and texture as well as a pliable surface to manipulate. Open through June 17, 2012. This exhibition features the work of emerging and established artists that use wood as the primary medium for creating jewelry and adornment. Those whose works are featured in this exhibition are drawn to the material for both conceptual and aesthetic reasons. Whether carving, painting, appropriating, or otherwise manipulating it, they stretch the boundaries of how we understand this familiar material. Wood’s historical uses, its flexibility as a surface, and its connection to so many elements of our environment and experience (e.g. trees, furniture, homes, and more), make it a rich substance for a variety of material and metaphorical investigations.

Artists whose works are featured in Out on Limb include: Michael Dale Bernard, Liv Blavarp, Christine Brandt, Gillion Carrara, Sharon Church, Daniel DiCaprio, Julia Harrison, Sukyo Jang, Bruce Metcalf, Edgar Mosa, Tina Rath, Gustav Reyes, Julia Turner, Flora Vagi, and Julia Walter.

Rock County Historical Society, Janesville
News:
The Rock County Historical Society will reopen the lower exhibit gallery with “Quilts from Rock County”, running April 2 to November 1, 2012. The exhibition will feature over thirty quilts from the permanent collection and include a weekly quilt turning. The gallery had previously been used as collection storage following an urgent need to vacate another building. The exhibit gallery will also be used for meetings and special events.
MIDWEST REGISTRARS COMMITTEE
2011 ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Report of the Chair, 2011
• Submitted by Ann Sinfield •

Membership:

After a spring membership drive with incentives offered to state representatives, our membership is at 85, a 15% decrease from last year. At the beginning of 2012 we will again encourage renewals and offer an incentive to state representatives for their efforts. The organization needs to consider methods for recruiting new members and looking into ways we can remain valuable for existing members.

Facebook Page:

The MRC on Facebook has 68 members. Our travel stipends are posted on the AMM website.

Board and State Representatives:

State representative Craig Hadley will relocate out of Wisconsin after the new year. Elizabeth Frozena has volunteered as the new state representative. In Missouri Kate Keil has resigned, so we will be recruiting a new state representative there. Our thanks to Kate and Craig for their service!

Workshops:

Two workshops received sponsorship from the MRC. We provided $200 for lunch costs at the 6th Annual Michigan Registrars' Roundtable, Building Internship Programs, held May 10 in Kalamazoo. We also provided registration stipends of $295 each for two members to attend the Midwest Art Conservation Center workshop, The Research and Writing of a Long Range Conservation Plan, held October 18-19 in Ames, Iowa, and November 8-9 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Development:

Three sponsors continued their support of the Courier newsletter: Terry Dowd, Inc., Art-Works of Kansas City, and Masterpiece International. We are so grateful for the continued kind support.

Travel Stipends:

With the help of many sponsors, the MRC was able to provide seven stipends to cover travel costs to the annual meeting in Chicago. Support came from Terry Dowd, Inc., Huntington T. Block, Tru-Vue, Masterpiece International, US Art, and the Registrars Committee of AAM.

Annual Meeting:

The MRC annual business meeting brunch was generously sponsored this year by Huntington T. Block. An evening cocktail hour was hosted by Willis Fine Art and Specie.

Mighty Rescue Crew:

Thank you to Devon Pyle-Vowles for organizing the MRC's third Mighty Rescue Crew. 12 volunteers were hosted by the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian for cleaning and rehousing projects. Supplies for the Rescue Crew were provided through the generosity of Gaylord, Terry Dowd, Inc., and DPR Art Rescue.
The accounting report continued after the 2010 AMM conference and it reports for all of 2011. The 2011 AMM conference occurred in the Summer of 2011. The funds are held at Harris Bank of Glencoe, Illinois.

The following pertain to Income:
- This year we had 11 members give contributions to the MRC.
- The “Gifts for Travel Stipends” lists what has been received to date from US Art, Tru Vue, Inc., Terry Dowd, Inc. and Masterpiece International.
- The MRC Courier was sponsored by Artworks of Kansas City, Terry Dowd, Inc. and Masterpiece International.
- The MRC annual meeting breakfast was sponsored by Huntington T. Block.

The following pertain to Expenses:
- Two Regional Grants were sponsored at $200.00 by MRC, both to members in Michigan for a Registrars' Roundtable on building an internship program. Also, MRC supported 4 sessions and a conservator for “Ask a Conservator” at the Association of Indiana Museums conference in the Fall 2011.
- There were 7 travel stipends awarded at $750 to attend AMM in Chicago in July 2011.
- Miscellaneous expenses include support of supplies for the Might Rescue Crew 2011 at the Mitchell Museum of American Indian in Evanston, Illinois.

It is wonderful that MRC has such great sponsors!!

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MRC State Annual Report, Illinois 2011

*Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer*

This was my first year as the Illinois State Representative, and the year has been eventful. Chicago was host to the annual AMM Conference in July, which was held in partnership with the Illinois Association of Museums and the Visitor Studies Association. During that time, the Mighty Rescue Crew made an appearance at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, assisting with artifact cleaning and textile rehousing projects.

The 150th anniversary of the Civil War was celebrated at various heritage sites across the Land of Lincoln. Several museums submitted exhibition news for the state reports and appeared in the MRC Courier over the past year.

Grants Received from Illinois Institutions:

An IMLS Conservation Project Support Grant was awarded to the Naperville Heritage Society to conduct a general conservation survey of its collections and historic structures.

An IMLS Connecting to Collections Grant was awarded to The Illinois State Museum Society, a consortium of the Illinois State Museum and its partners: the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, the Chicago Public Library, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Fire Service Institute, the Illinois Heritage Asso-
In these times of austerity, I continue to be amazed by, and very proud of, the staff members (paid and unpaid) at the museums across the state of Iowa. Just a glance at state and regional newsletters shows how much Iowa museums are doing with so much less these days.

I know this is not just an Iowa phenomenon, but is something that we can find across the country and this seems particularly evident in museums where one never needs to look hard to find dedicated, professional, knowledgeable, and creative staff!

In Iowa in 2011 there has been a lot happening in museums, and I know collections staff have been integral to the success of these projects and programs that have included:

- Compared with 2009 and 2010, 2011 was a better year financially for Indiana museums.
- The City of Indianapolis is looking forward to hosting the 2012 Association of Midwest Museums. Sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza July 23 to 26, 2012. I was asked to sit on the program committee, and am happy to report that 10 collections related sessions have been proposed. I hope that they will all be accepted and will update you through the Courier as things progress.
- One sad note for Indiana was the untimely deaths of John and Barbara Smith who were killed in a car accident on October 5, 2011. John was a co-founder of the Auburn-Cord-Dusenberg Museum as well as a former president of the National Automotive and Truck Museum of the United States, both located in Auburn, Indiana.

MRC State Annual Report, Indiana 2011

- Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen

Compared with 2009 and 2010, 2011 was a better year financially for Indiana museums.

The Association of Indiana Museums held their 2011 annual conference in Richmond, Indiana on July 18 and 19. Thanks to the Midwest Registrars Committee, 5 sessions were funded. They included, Connecting to Collections: Hoosier Heritage Alliance Assistance for You; Gifts of Property: A Guide for Museum Professionals; Context as Initiator: A Practical Method of Historical Documentation in the 21st Century; Connecting Collections: A Partnership between Small Museums; and Ask a Conservator.

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MRC State Annual Report, Iowa 2011

- Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik

In these times of austerity, I continue to be amazed by, and very proud of, the staff members (paid and unpaid) at the museums across the state of Iowa. Just a glance at state and regional newsletters shows how much Iowa museums are doing with so much less these days. I know this is not just an Iowa phenomenon, but is something that we can find across the country and this seems particularly evident in museums where one never needs to look hard to find dedicated, professional, knowledgeable, and creative staff!

In Iowa in 2011 there has been a lot happening in museums, and I know collections staff have been integral to the success of these projects and programs that have included: a
plethora of exhibitions and installations; workshops on a variety of issues, including disaster preparedness, conservation, and collections insurance, with some of the workshops taught by our own MRC members; the receipt of significant local, state and national grants; museum advocacy; the renovation or opening of new museum spaces, including the unprecedented move of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library’s main building almost 500 ft horizontally and almost 12 feet vertically to slide onto its new foundation, which sits well above the level of the historic floods of 2008 (the museum is set to reopen in mid July 2012). Many Iowa colleagues are still dealing with fallout from the 2008 floods, and there was flooding again in many areas this year. It is inspiring in challenging times that so many of the museums in Iowa have been able to sustain themselves as well as create new opportunities for their institutions and the communities or audiences they serve.

As always, it was fun to meet up with many state and Midwest colleagues at conferences and workshops this past year. I look forward to the networking opportunities in 2012. Thanks to all MRC members for sharing your expertise and perspectives as purveyors of knowledge, keepers of the stuff, and general managers of your museums’ universes.

MRC State Annual Report, Minnesota 2011
• Submitted by Jackie Hoff •

Many of the museums in the metro area – Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Historical Society, Hennepin History Museum, Goldstein Museum of Design, Walker Art Center, Museum of Russian Art, Minnesota Zoo, Minnesota Children’s Museum, The Bakken Library and Museum, The Bell Museum of Natural History, Como Park Zoo, Minnesota College of Art and Design Gallery, The Schubert Club Museum, Minnesota Planetarium/Space Discovery, and University Saint Thomas Art Gallery—have been working on the American Association of Museums conference coming to our neck of the woods this coming April. Writing legacy and other grants have kept many folks busy trying to get some projects funded and a few are even in the midst of building projects (American Swedish Institute, Minnesota African American Museum) or just recently completed such projects (Weisman Art Museum). The museum community in the state is strong and vibrant and continues to grow. We have museums in every county in the state and a number of passionate and talented professionals and visitors that attend the numerous openings and exhibitions.

I hope many of you can come to the AAM 2012 annual conference and learn about all the great work the museums in Minnesota do, meet some wonderful museum professionals, and take the time to visit a number of the museums we hold so dearly. We are also a foodie nation up here and have a great variety of awesome restaurants, and we also have the Mall of America which seems to hold interest for most out of towners!

MRC State Annual Report, Ohio 2011
• Submitted by Laura Henderson •

In Ohio this past year (2011), the News Rep reins were handed over to me by Joanne Fenn, and I passed the Courier editor reins to Jamie Merkel. I do miss working with Michelle Hill (previous Design and Layout editor) on producing the newsletter—we had great fun with it—but Jamie and Tamara Lange are doing a super job and have lots of fresh new ideas. I am happy to remain involved as the Ohio state rep and I must confess to also being somewhat
Membership:
Total membership has decreased by one this year but we gained several new members in the process. This change can be attributed to student members graduating and several professional members moving out of state. Total membership is currently at 20.

Gatherings:
The Wisconsin Federation of Museums (WFM) Annual Meeting: Museums Matter! took place on Monday, November 14 at the John Michael Kohler Art Center in Sheboygan. Harold Skramstad delivered the keynote address “Museums Cultivating Community”. In the Stateline area, a growing number of Wisconsin and Illinois curators have been meeting quarterly to discuss upcoming workshops, volunteer opportunities, and exhibitions for the region. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact Leah Nelson at Veterans Memorial Hall (curator@veteransmemorialhall.com)

Professional Development Opportunities:
The Research and Writing of a Long Range Conservation Plan was hosted at the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, Wisconsin on November 8-9, 2011.

Preparing for a Disaster: Writing and Updating a Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Plan for Cultural Collections took place at the WFM Annual Conference in Sheboygan, Wisconsin on November 13, 2011.

WFM and WHS hosted a number of workshops throughout the year. These included: Designs for Success: Quality Exhibits on a Small Budget, Museum Collections: Planning for their Future, Volunteer Management Civil War Research and Re-enactment, and Introduction to PastPerfect 4.0

Grants Received by Wisconsin Museums:
Wisconsin museums received five federal grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services during 2011. Awards included:


**Midwest Registrars Committee**

**Chair & Development**
Ann Sinfield, Registrar
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800 University Avenue
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608-263-3722, asinfield@chazen.wisc.edu

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**Treasurer**
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847-967-4818, devon.vowles@ilhmec.org

**Archives**
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**Nominations**
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**Newsletter, Editor:**
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Vacant

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