

MRC Courier

COMMITTEE

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Spring 2014

Collections to Classroom, Community to Collections

This year, the Peeler Art Center at DePauw University was filled with opportunities for both area school children as well as community members to experience objects in our collections. From visiting Girl Scout troops to open yoga sessions in the gallery spaces, our close-knit staff worked to bridge the gap between the Greencastle community and the collections of DePauw University.

Key programs included non-traditional programming such as Percussion at Peeler—where DePauw’s School of Music spent an



evening bridging visual arts and music in the gallery—and a traveling trunk program that showcased African objects in elementary schools. We hope future DePauw interns will continue the success of our community/collection program.

Alexandra Chamberlain ‘13
Arthur E. Klauser Collections & Community Outreach Intern
Richard E. Peeler Art Center
DePauw University

From the MRC Chair

Rachel Vargas

The Association of Midwest Museums has opened registration for the annual conference to be held from July 14-17 in St. Louis Missouri. The MRC will be holding our business lunch on Tuesday, July 15t and a social event one evening from 4-6pm, before the scheduled evening events. We are also looking for a project for the Mighty Rescue Crew to work on. This will take place on Monday, July 14. If you are interested in working on the crew or know of a worthy project, please let me know. If you are from outside the local area, you will need to arrive on Sunday night for the event. We hope to see you in St. Louis!



We are currently reviewing a proposal for creating our own website so that it is easier for us to control content and make more materials available to members. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Lastly, Amy Heggemeyer, who is our current state representative for Illinois, is stepping down. If there is anyone from the great state of Illinois that would like to take over, please contact me at vargasr@msu.edu.

From the Editor

Tamara Lange

It probably did not take long to notice a few small changes to the *MRC Courier* this issue. Not because there was anything wrong with the old format, but because like many things a little tweak now and then can be a good thing. Probably the two biggest changes are the header and the elimination of columns. Why make these changes you might ask?

The new header corresponds with the header graphic currently used on our membership forms and an upcoming Membership Directory. Although it did become necessary to wash out the graphic a little to get the newsletter title to pop, I like the idea of tying all of our publications together with common visual elements.

The full page layout is something I had been toying with for a long time and I am curious to know how people feel about it. Over the last few years, more and more MRC members are reading the *MRC Courier* online and we rarely print copies anymore. I have personally found in recent months that I find it easier to read a single



column than multiple on the computer (or tablet) screen... less up and down scrolling, better flow of words and images — it just seems to be a more natural experience. Additionally, to be honest, a single page layout is far easier for me to design than the columns, especially as I like to include images whenever possible.

These few changes are not to say that we cannot go back to how it was. In fact if I get a ton of “I hate it” mail, I will be more than happy to return to our previous layout and design. But I thought with the arrival of spring, it might be a nice time to try a little something different.

A few of my garden changes — the white/purple flowers and a slightly lowered feeder that we changed over to water (instead of seed) because it always seemed to become a pool anyway. Apparently, the neighborhood duck approves!

Broadening Out

Submitted by Mary Parks

Curator, Dorothy Molter Museum, Ely, MN

In July of 2013, thanks to a stipend from the Midwest Registrars Committee, I was able to attend the Association of Midwest Museums annual conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

Due to my recent career transition, I particularly welcomed the opportunity to meet with colleagues. Previously, I had been Assistant Registrar for Exhibitions at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Now, I was serving as Curator for the Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely, Minnesota. I had gone from a well-defined role at a large metropolitan institution to a broad, all-encompassing role at a remote and tiny organization. Believe me when I tell you — I needed all the help I could get!

With my new position in mind, I chose conference sessions that would address a range of concerns. *Building a Culture of Evaluation from Start to Finish* provided information critical to my role as an educator and grant writer, while *Furthering the Museum's Mission through the Museum Store* was useful for both my roles in strategic planning and marketing. In spite of all my new responsibilities, collection care is never far from my mind so I made sure I was in the room when they presented *Disaster Response Plans: Today's Issues*.

But the one session that proved to be the most useful for me turned out to be *All Together Now: Two Examples of Small Museums Banding Together for Collaboration and Support*. This session was presented by people in positions similar to mine - people with broad job descriptions at small (and sometimes even far-flung) organizations. What I learned by listening to these speakers was that my success was not going to be determined by my ability to do everything perfectly myself. No, what I really needed to do was lengthen my contact list and strengthen my relationships.

So, after the conference, I got to work emulating the colleagues I had met at that session. I sent out a series of emails in the hopes of creating a new network in my area. Now, once each month, the Northeastern Minnesota Museums Group meets for lunch at a local coffee shop. There, we discuss all sorts of concerns including marketing, grant writing and, of course, disaster planning. Each member of the group brings a wealth of knowledge based on their own broad experience, and there is never a shortage of suggestions for a given problem. I know I am not the only one benefiting from our lunches because some of our members drive well over an hour to meet with us.

Thank you, Midwest Registrars Committee, for helping me to attend the Association of Midwest Museums annual conference. The impact of your support lives on in the museum community of NE Minnesota.

2014 Travel Stipends

Thanks to the continued generosity of our sponsors, MRC will once again be able to offer travel stipends to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Midwest Museums, held this year in St. Louis, Missouri from July 14-17.

In order to be considered for the \$750 stipends, applicants must be current voting members of the Midwest Registrars Committee and work in the Midwest region. Additional information on the application process can be found at <http://www.midwestmuseums.org/mrc.html>.

Recipients will be chosen based on the materials submitted to the Travel Stipend Committee. The recipients will be expected to attend the MRC meeting at AMM and will write one article for the *MRC Courier* about a session at the annual meeting.

Applications are due by May 16, 2014. If you have additional questions, please contact **Devon Pyle-Vowles**, dpvowles@comcast.net.

News from the Midwest

Illinois ■ State Rep Amy Heggemeyer

Fuller Dome Home Museum, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale

April 19 saw the ground-breaking for the Fuller Dome Home Museum at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. This building, still in the process of preservation, was the first geodesic dome home built and occupied by Buckminster Fuller. Fuller and his wife, Lady Anne, lived in the home made of 60 wooden triangular panels during his residency at SIU in the 1960s. The home was also used as student housing for several decades. After being purchased in 2001 and donated to RBF Dome NFP, the house was listed as a Carbondale Landmark in 2003 and on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

The restoration project has been awarded a Save America's Treasures grant. For more information, visit <http://fullerdomehome.org/>.

Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign

The Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign recently hired Kimberly Sissons as Collections Manager.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, Evanston

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian (Evanston, IL) is seeking a Curator of Exhibits and Collections. Priority will be given to applications submitted by May 14, but the position is open until filled. For more information on the Mitchell Museum or to see the full job description, visit <http://www.mitchellmuseum.org/about/museum-jobs.html>

Lincoln Heritage Museum, Lincoln College, Lincoln

The Lincoln Heritage Museum, located at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois reopened in new campus facilities this spring. This new space has expanded the museum to two floors of exhibitions and audio-visual experiences.

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



1-4 pm
407 s. forest ave.
RAISING THE DOME APRIL 19, 2014
MUSIC FOOD CELEBRATION



www.fullerdomehome.org 618-549-DOME
Photo Credit: The late Ben Gelman, photographer for The Southern Illinoisan



Indiana ■ State Rep Lana Newhart-Kellen

You probably would never associate Indiana with this subject, but we have a very strong link to space exploration. For example, Neil Armstrong and Gene Cernan are the first and last men to walk on the moon and both are Purdue University graduates. In fact, there are a total of 12 astronauts who were born and raised in Indiana. So, when my query about Indiana museum news turned up the following, I decided to go with a space-themed report (as well as a shameless plug for my alma mater).

Purdue University Libraries, Purdue University, West Lafayette

Encrusted with moon dust and outlined with personal notes and observations, an Apollo 17 Lunar Roving Vehicle mapbook is being donated to Purdue University Libraries. Gene Cernan, a 1956 Purdue alumnus and the last man on the moon, announced his donation Thursday evening, April 10 in Mackey Arena at an invitation-only reception.

The maps are mounted in a custom-made book and are accompanied by several contextual documents and photographs. The maps provided the crew with bearings and ranges to each investigation site on the lunar surface during more than 22 hours of exploration. The book will become part of the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives, part of Purdue Libraries' Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center. In addition to being home to the largest collection of Amelia Earhart papers in the world, the archives include the papers of engineers, aviators, aviation professionals, scholars and alumni astronauts including Neil A. Armstrong and Cernan – the first and last persons to walk on the moon.



Cernan presents the Apollo 17 Lunar Roving Vehicle Mapbook



Images compliments of NASA

Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis

Destination Station, a traveling multimedia exhibition designed to highlight how the International Space Station (ISS) came to be, what life is like on board and how it is being used to conduct science, will land at the Indiana State Museum on April 19 and be on display through June 29. Kick off to the exhibition included a lecture and autograph session with Indianapolis native NASA astronaut Serena Auñón, M.D.

Ball State University, Muncie and **White River State Park**, Indianapolis

As part of NASA's *Driven to Explore* mobile exhibit, visitors will have the chance to touch a moon rock during upcoming exhibits in Indiana. The exhibit will visit Ball State University and the White River State Park in Indianapolis. The exhibit includes one of only eight moon rocks



that visitors can touch. The nearly 4 billion-year-old rock was returned from the moon during the last lunar mission, Apollo 17, in 1972.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis will launch a unique International Space Station-themed exhibit thanks to a \$675,000 grant from NASA. The grant will pave the way for family learning surrounding NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) research. Former astronaut, and the museum's Extraordinary Scientist-in-Residence, David Wolf (Purdue, 1978) will lend his expertise in developing immersive educational programs and on-line interactives to promote interest, engagement, and awareness of NASA's achievements in space exploration and how these benefit life on Earth.



Iowa ■ State Rep Teri Van Dorston

Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn

The Museum of Danish America has two exciting temporary exhibitions. *Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border* is open through September 1, 2014. For centuries, the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein (in Danish, Slesvig and Holsten) have been a bridge between Scandinavia and continental Europe. Events in this small corner of the world have reshaped the boundaries between nations and inspired waves of immigrants to the United States.



Untitled, Jens Jensen, undated.



Vase with Women and Birds, Elizabeth Barrett, 1934

Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery is open through October 19, 2014. The exhibit features art pottery and paintings by Jens Jensen (1898-1978) who emigrated from Denmark in 1927 and took a position as a decorator at the world-renowned Rookwood Pottery Company in Cincinnati, Ohio. Whether working as a decorator of art pottery or as a painter, Jensen's unique style not only influenced his colleagues, but left a legacy clearly influenced by his European roots and modern sensibilities. Pieces from Jensen's contemporaries are also on view.

Change of Address? New job? Don't miss an issue of the *MRC Courier*!!

Be sure to send your updated contact information to MRC Secretary:

Craig Hadley, Curator, DePauw University

craighadley@depauw.edu

Michigan ■ State Rep Robin Goodman

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo

This summer, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts celebrates the work of one of America's most influential designers, Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933). In three exhibitions, visitors will delight in seeing the range of Tiffany's design work: his sumptuous Art Nouveau jewelry, his spectacular leaded-glass lamps and windows and his exquisite work in blown glass, metals and mosaics. Tiffany's work, featured on both gallery levels, is the summer's not-to-be-missed experience in Kalamazoo.



Louis Comfort Tiffany with Julia Munson, *Brooch*, ca. 1910, gold (18k), peridot, enamel | Collection of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Gift of Tiffany & Co.

Museum of Cultural & Natural History, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant:

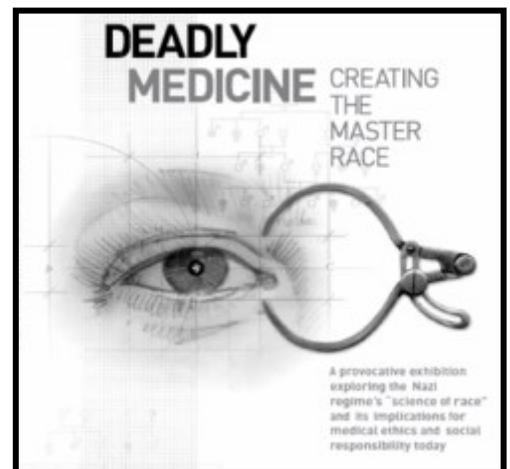


MCNH opened a new temporary exhibit on April 26 in its one-room schoolhouse entitled *The Price of Union: A Young Michigan in the Civil War*. The exhibit spotlights Michigan's role at the beginning of the War and will be open to visitors Saturday mornings and by appointment until July 15, 2014 (excluding May 17-18, May 24-25 and July 5).

In conjunction with the CMU College of Medicine, MCNH will be opening a second temporary exhibit, *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*, on May 14. This is a traveling exhibit from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and explores the Nazi regime's "science of race." It will be installed in the main gallery until July 1, 2014.

MCNH celebrated May Day by holding a disaster preparedness workshop as annual training for staff

and Museum Studies Minor students. Presentations were given by Ron Bloomfield, Director of Bay County Historical Society/Historical Museum of Bay County, Jay Martin, Director of MCNH and the CMU Museum Studies Program, and Angela Riedel, MCNH Collections Manager. After the presentations, there were four hands-on training areas for participants consisting of fire extinguisher training, how to separate wet paper, emergency supplies during a disaster scenario, and an exercise in identifying objects stolen from open display and what steps to take to report it.



University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, Ann Arbor

The University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology is now called the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. The change was made by the Regents of the University to take effect March 1, 2014. For more on the name change, visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/ummaa>.



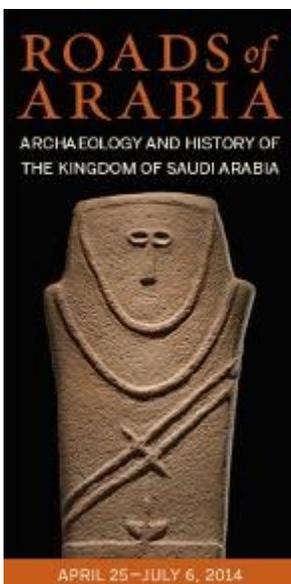
May Day training at MCNH

Missouri ■ State Rep Stacie Petersen

National World War I Museum, St. Louis

The National World War I Museum has recently opened two new temporary exhibits. *On the Brink: A Month That Changed the World* features the story of a hungry teenage assassin and a wrong turn that changed the world forever. Open through September 14, 2014, *On the Brink* examines the underground organizations, diplomatic communications and international newspaper reporting of the assassination of Franz Ferdinand.

The second temporary exhibit, *Over by Christmas: August—December 1914* will be open through March 29, 2015. Many believed the war that began in the summer of 1914 would be over in a matter of days or weeks. Featuring many objects and documents previously not on exhibit, the new exhibition *Over By Christmas* examines the romantic notion held in the early days of the war colliding with the harsh reality that the war would not, in fact, be over by Christmas.



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

Now through July 6, 2014, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art features the exhibition *Roads of Arabia: Archaeology and History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*. This landmark exhibition presents more than 7,000 years of largely unknown cultural history of the Arabian Peninsula. *Roads of Arabia* examines the impact of ancient trade routes that traversed the peninsula, carrying precious frankincense and myrrh to the Mesopotamian and Greco-Roman world and allowing for a vibrant exchange of both objects and ideas. With the later rise of Islam, pilgrimage roads converged on Mecca (Makkah) and gradually replaced the well-traveled incense roads.

Roads of Arabia is an unprecedented assembly of more than 200 recently excavated objects, none of which had been seen outside of Saudi Arabia until 2010.

Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis

Travel to France through a ground-breaking exhibition offering a fresh perspective on landscape imagery in 19th century France. *Impressionist France: Visions of Nation from Le Gray to Monet*, open through July 6, 2014, explores for the first time the rich connections between landscape and national identity during a period in which France was fundamentally transformed.

The major exhibition, which includes 120 paintings and photographs from 37 institutions around America and Europe, will be presented as St. Louis celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding by French settlers. The exhibition takes visitors on a journey to France through seven thematic sections exploring Paris and the modern cityscape; monuments; rivers and forests; rural and agricultural life; mountains; marine views; and railroads and factories.

Impressionist France: Visions of Nation from Le Gray to Monet focuses particularly on the years between 1850 and 1880. During these decades, painters and photographers traveled around France, exploring the exceptionally rich and varied range of history and geography in the nation. These years saw the Golden Age of early photography, the culminating production of the Barbizon School, and the high point of early Impressionism.

Impressionist France includes important work by photographers such as Gustave Le Gray and Charles Marville, Barbizon School painters including Camille Corot and Théodore Rousseau, and Impressionist painters such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Edgar Degas, Paul Cézanne, Édouard Manet and Berthe Morisot. These artists composed competing visions of France as modern and industrialized or as rural and anti-modern.

The exhibition is curated by Simon Kelly, curator of modern and contemporary art at the Saint Louis Art Museum, and April M. Watson, curator of photography at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.



Edgar Degas, French, 1834–1917; *Henri Rouart in front of his Factory*, c.1875; oil on canvas; 25 3/4 x 19 7/8 inches; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Acquired through the generosity of the Sarah Mellon Scaife Family, 69.44 Photograph © 2013 Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

Join Friends New and Old Under the Arch



Playing off the confluence of two of the greatest rivers in the country, the Association of Midwest Museums is proud to call St. Louis home for the 2014 Annual Meeting and Conference, *Museum Confluence: Connecting People and Ideas*. Held from July 14 through July 17, 2014 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, the conference promises to be a great opportunity for museum professionals, board members and volunteers to meet, make connections and explore ideas.

From express workshops to countless sessions on a variety of topics, the conference is 3 days filled with fabulous speakers, networking opportunities and chances to visit top notch museums.

More information on specific speakers, workshops and sessions, along with registration information and details on scholarships can be found at www.midwestmuseums.org.

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Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum professionals who support the objectives of the MRC, who reside in the Midwest region (including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin), and who hold positions such as registrar, collections manager, curator, volunteer, administrator, conservator, corporate registrar, or student.

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.

The membership period covers the calendar year (from January 1 through December 31). Annual dues are \$10.00 per year. For more information on the Midwest Registrars Committee or to join MRC, visit <http://www.midwestmuseums.org/mrc.html>.

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