

MRC Courier

COMMITTEE

Volume 27, Number 1

Spring 2015

Join MRC in the Queen City

The Association of Midwest Museums is returning to the “Queen City” - Cincinnati, Ohio - for their Annual Meeting and Conference. This year’s theme, *Communicating the Value of Museums*, will be explored from July 19 through July 22 with a variety of keynote addresses, workshops, and sessions.

MRC is proud to sponsor a number of sessions hosted by MRC members. Terry Segal of Detroit Institute of Arts, along with Heather Becker of the Conservation Center and Barbara Corvino of Willis Fine Art, Jewelry & Specie, will be hosting *Preserving your Museum’s Collection Value: Conservation and Insurance 101*, a session on best practices in museum conservation and collection insurance.

Laura McDowell-Hopper (Anthropology Museum, Northern Illinois University), Devon Pyle-Vowles (Art Institute of Chicago) and Rachel Vargas (Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University) will be hosting *Beyond Fingernail Polish: Best Practices and a New Website for Museum Marking*, highlighting new marking materials and practices, along with a new MRC website devoted to object marking. Other collection and collection management sessions include *Collateral Damage: Are You Causing Damage to Your Institutions Collections?*, *Are your Collections Lazy? How to kick the freeloaders out and make the best ones work for you*, *Assessing Preservation Needs of Collections Nationally and Locally*, *Rights and Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions* and *DX Files: Communicating the Alien Concept of Deaccessioning*.



Downtown Cincinnati. Photo courtesy of Jeff Swinger and the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau

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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.

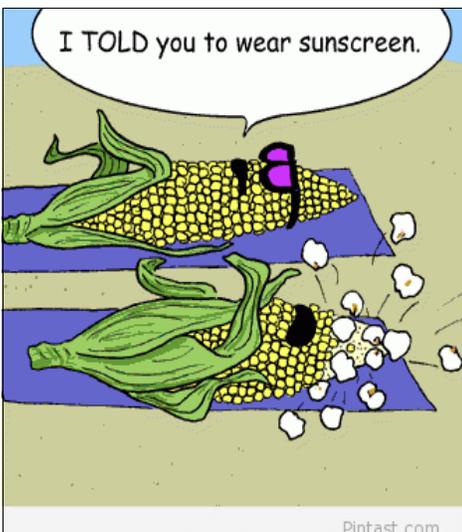
The membership period covers the calendar year (from January 1 through December 31). Annual dues are \$10.00 per year. For more information on the Midwest Registrars Committee or to join MRC, visit <http://midwestregistrars.org/>

Have you renewed?

2015 is well underway and that means it is time to renew your MRC Membership!

1. Fill out the Electronic Membership form. It is available from your State Representative or at the Midwest Registrars Committee [website](#). 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.

If you prefer mailing a check and completing a form by hand, print the membership form, make a check payable to MRC and mail it to the address noted on the membership form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MRC Treasurer Jennifer Noffze (jenn@childrensmuseum.org).



Conversations like this MAY or MAY NOT regularly occur at my house.

From the Editor

Tamara Lange

As we (hopefully) leave spring behind, it seems like a great time to reflect on all the wonderful opportunities that summer brings for those of us living in the Midwest. Warmer weather, more sunshine and longer days mean it is time to get out smell the roses - literally and figuratively! The awesome thing for many of us is that so many of the opportunities center around the many museums we are so fortunate to have. Personally, I know I could easily fill every weekend from now to the foreseeable future with museum events, programs and activities just within an hour or two drive (if there weren't laundry, grocery shopping, etc. to tend to!). Look at an overnight trip and the possibilities explode!

As you go through your summer routines, consider writing a brief blurb for the newsletter about some of the exciting summer type projects that might be going on. We didn't have very many submissions of news for this newsletter (although those we received were GREAT!!! Thank you so very much!!), and I know summer is often a hotbed of activity for many of us. I think I already have 3 or 4 projects that rely on the fact that "summer weather makes it possible." The next call for newsletter submissions will come in late August, but you don't have to wait until then! Feel free to submit items as they happen, either to myself or to your state representative.

Also, keep an eye on the MRC Facebook page and perhaps even an e-blast or two as we approach the AMM Annual Conference in Cincinnati. Final plans are being solidified for the MRC Lunch, evening social and the MRC Mighty Rescue Crew. As information becomes available, we will be sure to send it out so those who are able to attend the conference can join in the fun.

And on that note - Happy Summer All! See you on the flip side!

The newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee, the *MRC Courier*, is published three times a year. Members and Vendors, please submit news, articles, announcements, photographs, and ideas for future issues to Tamara Lange, Collection Coordinator/ Registrar, Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum. Phone: 920-458-1103 or Email: tamara.lange@sheboygancounty.com



Union Terminal. Photo courtesy of Robert Webber and the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau

Besides the variety of interesting sessions and speakers, there are tons of social events and tours available to explore the area. MRC will be hosting our annual business meeting on Tuesday over lunch and there will also be an evening social. Other opportunities include a tour highlighting Rookwood Pottery, an evening at the Cincinnati Museum Center, and chances to explore the 21c Museum Hotel, Contemporary Arts Center, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Taft Museum of Art and the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Registration is now open. More information can be found www.midwestmuseums.org/conf_current.html. See you there!!

Photo courtesy of BB Riverboats and the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau



L: American Sign Museum.

R: Cincinnati Art Museum

Photos courtesy of cincinnatiusa.com and the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau



Cincinnati Style Chili. Photos courtesy of Cara Owsley and the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau

News from the Midwest

Indiana

Richard E. Peeler Art Center Galleries, DePauw University
Greencastle

DePauw University's Richard E. Peeler Art Center Galleries are the recipient of a \$10,000 grant award from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. The funding will fully support the conservation matting of 107 Japanese *sosaku hanga* (modern prints) from the Dr. Leland D. Stoddard '45 Collection, as well as support framing and color catalog expenses.



A pivotal moment in Japanese printmaking history, the artists associated with the modern print movement broke with centuries of tradition and embraced the flexibility and spontaneous creativity afforded them by sketching, carving, and printing their own works. Traditional *ukiyo-e* prints relied upon a well-established workshop method in which artists, carvers, and printmakers each completed a specialized task in the printmaking process.

An exhibition of the Dr. Leland D. Stoddard '45 Collection is scheduled for 2017 at the Peeler Center. Following the inaugural exhibition, the exhibition will be made available for travel to other academic museums and galleries within the region. Please visit our website at <http://www.depauw.edu/arts/peeler> for more information.

Iowa

Museum of Danish America
Elk Horn

A new national traveling exhibition created by the Museum of Danish America opened in Elk Horn, Iowa at the end of April. “Skål! Scandinavian Spirits,” presented by Aalborg and Linie Aquavits, shares the history and traditions of drinking culture in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, and how those traditions carried into the U.S. with immigrants. The exhibit focuses on beer and *aquavit* – the traditional booze of Scandinavia that means “the water of life.”

Scandinavians have brewed beer for over 1,500 years. In pre-Christian times, the Norse god Odin was credited with teaching humans how to brew beer, and drinking beer was often involved in worship and as offering to the deities. Beer was part of battle victory celebrations and sometimes drinking challenges. In the 1500s, distilled liquor became known through Scandinavia as a medical cure-all. Early distilling efforts often produced awful flavors, so herbs and other plants were used to improve the taste – creating what is now known as aquavit.

The main flavor of aquavit, according to the European Union, should be caraway or dill, and the minimum alcohol by volume has to be 37.5%. The taste of this Scandinavian spirit has been described as “rye bread in liquid form”--an unsurprising flavor profile since rye bread is a staple in Nordic diets. Aquavit pairs well with traditional Scandinavian cuisine like herring and other delights of the sea, such as crawfish and all man-

Skål!

Scandinavian Spirits

ners of prepared salmon.

A cold beer chaser is common during Scandinavian dining events like those during Midsummer and Christmas. Carlsberg is a popular brand, though microbrewing is just as, if not more, popular in Scandinavia as it is in the U.S. These drinking traditions offer one way for Scandinavian Americans to connect to their heritage.

After the exhibit closes in Elk Horn on October 25, it will head to the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, followed by other tour stops through 2018 in Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and California.

Minnesota

Minneapolis Institute of Arts Minneapolis

The Registration Department of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is pleased to share the exciting news that the Clark Collections of Japanese art, consisting of just over 2,000 total pieces and accessioned by the museum in 2013, have now been fully catalogued.

The Clark Collections were cultivated by William and Elizabeth Clark, who live in Hanford, California (near Fresno). Mr. Clark served in Japan as a member of the U.S. Navy and began collecting Japanese art in the 1970s. By 1995, Mr. Clark's collection had outgrown his home, and he had the desire to share his Japanese art collection with the public. In that year, the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture opened on the Clarks' property just steps from their home. The CCJAC was a small art center with rotating art exhibitions, an extensive research library, and a bonsai collection. The center also hosted special events and programming promoting Japanese art and culture.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark's decision to place their collections at a larger institution came about for a number of reasons, including rather low attendance numbers at CCJAC—in part due to the geographical location of the Center in a rural area several hours drive from California's largest cities. The Clarks are also concerned about their legacy and the future of the Center, as Mr. Clark is now in his 80s. The Clarks were already familiar with the MIA through personal relationships: Director and President Kaywin Feldman's husband's family owns an almond farm adjacent to the Clarks' property; and Deputy Director and Chief Curator Matthew Welch, as a former curator of Japanese art, was acquainted with the Clarks and familiar with their collections.



Bull motif, Clark Center Collection

The collections include approximately 1,600 objects that consist of the entire Clark Center collection, given to the MIA as a gift; about 250 objects from Mr. and Mrs. Clark's personal collection that were purchased by the museum; and about 70 objects that were a gift to the museum from the Clark's personal collection. The Center's research library has also been given to the museum.

The collections span the history of Japanese art to the present day and consist of many different mediums, including hanging scrolls, screens, baskets, sculptures, lacquer, textiles, and ceramics. The Clarks' collections include every style and subject, from literary motifs to floral imagery and landscapes to ethereal and terrifying ghosts. Mr. Clark is well-known in the field of dairy farming and is an international leader in artificial insemination in cattle breeding, and many pieces in his collection contain bull motifs. The collections are diverse, eclectic, humorous, beautiful, and sometimes risqué. Mr. Clark collected art that appealed to him, and his personality shows through in the rich and diverse collections.

Leslie Ory Lewellen, Associate Registrar for Acquisitions at the MIA, was the project coordinator. She organized packing and transportation, planned for staffing, and assisted with and provided supervision for cataloguing the collections. Leslie traveled to Hanford in the early summer of 2013 for a site visit to get a handle on the scope of the collections. She was accompanied by Bob Simon of Transport Consultants International in Cranford, New Jersey, who arranged packing and truck transport coordination, and Scott Atthowe of Atthowe Fine Art Services in Oakland, California, the packers of choice for the project. The collections were split into four shipments over five months. Leslie returned to California to make packing lists, work with Atthowe staff during packing, and supervise loading the truck for the second shipment, the largest and most complex of the shipments.



The expertise of Bob Simon was invaluable to this project. The knowledge of the entire staff at TCI is incomparable. They are consistently great problem-solvers. The staff at Atthowe Fine Art Services was professional and easy to work with, and they are a great planning team. They offered suggestions for packing and then discussed the options to come up with the most cost-effective, safe, and efficient solutions.

The majority of the collections were catalogued by Rebecca Shearier, Cataloguer for the Clark and Burke Collections. She has an unbridled and contagious enthusiasm for Japanese art and history. She is an excellent worker, and her contribution to the completion of this project has been enormous. Rebecca's work at the MIA will continue as the Registration Department prepares to receive this spring another approximately 500-object collection of Japanese art as a bequest from Mary Griggs Burke. Jennifer Starbright, Associate Registrar for Exhibitions, also assisted in cataloguing many of the Clark Collections objects that were included in the MIA's special exhibition in late 2013, "The Audacious Eye: Japanese Art from the Clark Collections."

These objects now are part of the MIA's permanent collection and will be included in rotating exhibitions in our Japanese art galleries. Many objects from this collection are already on view. Keep a look out for them if you are able to visit our museum!

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

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NEWSLETTER

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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 Alliance 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 annual 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
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