

**ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST MUSEUMS  
REGIONAL REPORTS  
(2007-2009)**

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**CurCom Board Meeting  
at the  
American Association of Museums  
Annual Conference  
Philadelphia, PA  
2009**

ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST MUSEUMS

ANGELA GOEBEL-BAIN · ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

*2009 AMM Award Nominations*

The Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) is accepting nominations for the 2009 Awards for the following categories: Distinguished Service Award, Promising Leadership Award, Distinguished Career Award and the Best Practices Award. The deadline for submitting nominations is **June 30, 2009**. To nominate someone or an institution, please complete and submit the nomination form from the AMM website and a letter detailing the nominee's history and qualifications (and resume or CV, if available) to: AMM Awards Committee, P.O. Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112.

*AMM Releases 2008 Salary Survey Report*

The 2008 AMM Salary Survey Report is now available. The report provides salary data on 54 positions (full-time and part-time) from 154 participating institutions around the Midwest. The 2008 the survey also includes a benefits section. AMM is offering this report to members at the discounted rate of \$25 (\$50 for non-members). To order your 2008 AMM Salary Survey Report, visit the AMM website.

*AMM Releases 2009 Workshop Schedule*

The Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) has announced its preliminary workshop schedule for 2009. The schedule includes two workshops in the summer with additional workshops to be added later. All workshops are open to the public with discounted rates for AMM members. The workshop series includes:

**Step by Step: Building Your Museum Membership Program**

Friday, June 12, Des Moines, IA

**The Visitor's Virtual Voice: Museum Education and the New Internet (Web 2.0)**

Friday, June 12, Chicago, IL

### *AMM Releases Five-Year Strategic Plan*

In October 2008, the Association of Midwest Museums concluded a lengthy strategic planning process, resulting in a **Strategic Plan** that will provide an operational blueprint for the next five years. The planning process helped to clarify a vision for the future of AMM and how the organization aims to serve its constituents. Throughout the plan, members will see how the board intends to: improve communications with and enhance programs and services for members; enhance communication with members and with other constituents in the field; improve our board development process and ensure strong organizational leadership; enhance our fund development and long-term financial planning; and work effectively with state, regional and national museum associations.

## **Illinois Association of Museums**

### **Museum Day Gets a Makeover by Dave Oberg, President**

#### **Illinois Association of Museums**

Illinois State Museum on **Tuesday, March 24, 2009**. Larry Suffredin, Cook County Commissioner, lawyer and lobbyist, conducted a workshop for participants focusing on how to more effectively work with and communicate with lawmakers. In addition, Karen Witter, Immediate Past President of the Association of Midwest Museums and Associate Director of the Illinois State Museum and Kate Schureman, Treasurer of the Illinois Association of Museums and Vice President of Administration at the Lakeview Museum, will discuss lessons learned at the American Association of Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. The late morning workshop also included a discussion of legislative issues specific to the Illinois museum community.

## **Illinois State Museum**

### ***From Humble Beginnings: Lincoln's Illinois, 1830-1861***

To celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the Illinois State Museum presents an interdisciplinary exhibition, *From Humble Beginnings: Lincoln's Illinois 1830-1861*, which explores the Illinois that Lincoln knew through objects and stories of the people who lived here. *Lincoln's Illinois* traces the dynamic changes in Illinois' agriculture, industry, and transportation that, by 1860, helped transform Illinois from a frontier region to a powerful state. The exhibition runs from February 6, 2009 to January 10, 2010.

*From Humble Beginnings: Lincoln's Illinois, 1830-1861* provides a critical voice in the conversation about Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy in this bicentennial year. The exhibition has invited our audience to broaden their thinking about the context of Lincoln's pre-presidential adult life. The exhibition strives to provide insight to how Lincoln's environment was changing around him during these formative years in which he matured from a young man of 21 to become president elect. *From Humble Beginnings* shows how the population culturally shifted as new lands in Illinois were settled, how

peoples' daily lives changed in this period, and what local events occurred that impacted Illinoisans' social and political lives while Lincoln sought constituents' votes.

The Illinois State Museum also contributes to the Lincoln dialog by presenting Abraham as one man among many striving for a better life in Illinois. As *From Humble Beginnings* covers the changes in Illinois during the years Lincoln lived here, his connection to major historical themes are highlighted. The exhibition shifts the perspective in this bicentennial year by showing how Lincoln intersected with the changes in Illinois, but recognizes he did not drive those changes. In sum, the exhibition presents a holistic look at Lincoln's surroundings to augment our audience's existing knowledge of Lincoln and other institutions' Lincoln-centered presentations.

### ***The Leaf and the Page***

*The Leaf and the Page* is a new exhibition at the Illinois State Museum, Springfield featuring eleven contemporary Illinois artists who draw their inspiration from nature and create distinct visions of fanciful, surreal, beautiful, ironic, and humorous plant images. Giant stainless steel plants, weeds made from trash, mushroom books growing out of the wall, and delicate stitched leaves are a few the delights to be seen in this exhibition. The artists do more than mimic the form of plants; they play with material and scale to illustrate the symbolic and metaphorical connection between humanity and the natural world. The exhibition extends through August 9, 2009.

As an art museum and natural history museum, the Illinois State Museum often presents exhibitions that blend art and science. This exhibition, curated by Doug Stapleton from the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery, presents a unique blend of art and specimens from the Museum's collections. Interspersed with the artist's creations are pressed prairie plants, oak leaves, and cactus and other specimens from the Museum's herbarium. Also included in the exhibition are spectacular fossils of plants that inhabited Illinois 300 million years ago. The objects from the Museum's permanent collection offer a point of comparison and contemplation of the everyday beauty of the natural world.

Chicago artists in the exhibition are Judith Brotman, leaf embroidery; Melissa Jay Craig, handmade paper; Stephen Eichhorn, collage on archival paper; Winifred Godfrey, color lithographs; Dennis Lee Mitchell, welded clay; Carolyn Ottmers, stainless steel; Olivia Petrides, gouache, watercolor on paper; Rebecca Shore, gouache on paper; Eric Wert, graphite on paper; Scott Wolniak, collected materials; and Andrew Young, collage on board.

### ***Forthcoming at the Illinois State Museum, Springfield***

The Illinois State Museum will be renovating its children's play area, transforming it into a hands-on space where youngsters can dig for minerals and fossils, crawl through a cave and then build their own museum exhibits showing off their discoveries.

Planning began two years ago, said museum director Bonnie Styles. A \$150,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services jumpstarted the design phase. Since then, the museum has raised nearly \$133,000 more in donations.

The new Play Museum is expected to open by early 2010, Styles said. Much of the construction is taking place in-house. Some pieces are already being made at the museum's collections center on Ash Street.

The Play Museum will be about twice the size of the museum's current children's area, A Place for Discovery.

### **Illinois State Museum Lock Port Gallery**

*L. Brent Kington: Mythic Metalsmith* traces the evolution of this legendary and contemporary metalsmith's art and documents his profound contribution to the resurgence of blacksmithing as an American art form today. This exhibition, featuring objects borrowed from private and museum collections, revisits Kington's early cast silver and bronze toys he made for his children in the 1960s, his pivotal pieces of forged iron and steel from the 1970s that transition into blacksmithing, and ultimately to his larger, contemporary abstract sculptures presenting us with crosiers, spires and crescents. Spanning four decades, the selection demonstrates the breadth of his work in scale, materials, and subject. Decorative toys of silver and bronze just two inches in height are shown with intuitively-balanced kinetic weathervanes forged from iron and steel and alongside towering crosiers and spires—some almost 8 feet—which incorporate metal, stone, wood, and paint. As a whole, the objects illustrate the logical progression from the playful to the ritual, inviting the viewer to define the nature of that duality on an individual basis. The exhibition was curated by Debra K. Tayes, Associate Curator of Fine Arts, ISM Southern Illinois Art Gallery.

### **Illinois State Museum, Chicago Gallery**

#### *Across the Divide: Reconsidering the Other*

This exhibition was selected as "editor's pick" by Alan G. Artner, art critic for the *Chicago Tribune*. Through the eyes of 16 nationally and internationally recognized artists this exhibition looks back and looks forward through art that deals with race, ethnicity, religion and other geo-political issues. Featured artists are: Rashid Johnson, Jin Soo Kim, James Luna, Kerry James Marshall, Carrie Mae Weems, Fred Wilson, Michele Feder-Nadoff, Brian Gillis, Kanaan Kanaan, Glen Ligon, Mike Miller, Luz Maria Sanchez, Nicholas Sistler, Ian Weaver, Kehinde Wiley and Bernard Williams. Diverse art practices and shifting subjects combine in engaging displays of challenging installation work and innovative uses of more traditional media such as tapestry, painting, photography, and sculpture.

Visitors will encounter a magic carpet with a 'Hip-hop' twist, a 'faux' DNA research laboratory, a room full of low mounted speakers reciting names of U.S./Mexican border

casualties, hauntingly beautiful portraits, a poetic gesture for Middle East peace, a talking Native American mannequin and various other thought-provoking works.

### **The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Dayton, Ohio** **“WARRIOR AIRMEN” EXHIBIT**

A new dynamic exhibit titled “Warrior Airmen,” which presents the essential role of Air Force people in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM opened in January at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

The exhibit, which is located in the museum’s Cold War Gallery, includes more than 400 artifacts, three dioramas with fully dressed and equipped mannequins, a robot investigating an improvised explosive device, an audiovisual presentation on a 15-foot wide screen and compelling first-hand accounts.

“This exhibit is a visible demonstration that shows how the Air Force is actively engaged in the fight on the war on terror,” said Gen. Metcalf. “Everyday Air Force men and women put themselves in harm’s way to protect our nation, and the purpose of this exhibit is to tell their story.”

Museum visitors will learn about everything from the intense training that Battlefield Airmen endure, to the courageous acts of service before self that took place during a battle in the mountains of Afghanistan, to how an investigation for an improvised explosive device is conducted.

Senior Master Sgt. Colon-Lopez, who has been selected for promotion to Chief Master Sgt., donated many of the objects that he wore and used in Afghanistan to the museum, which can be seen on display in the exhibit.

The museum’s MH-53M, which arrived directly from service in Southwest Asia last year, is also part of the “Warrior Airmen” exhibit, and features mannequins representing the entire crew at their stations.

The “Warrior Airmen” exhibit is a permanent display at the museum and will be open year-round.

### **Michigan Historical Museum**

#### **Michigan's Roadside Attractions**



Appearing in the special exhibit gallery through September 14, 2009

#### Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing

Remember the time when you were on your way to [fill in the destination] and you pulled over to stop at [fill in the roadside attraction]? These special times fill our memories. Now, they fill a special exhibit.

*Michigan's Roadside Attractions* looks at the fun, interesting, even quirky, places that travelers visit while on their way somewhere else. If you have traveled Michigan's highways and byways, chances are you've stopped at sites like Big John, the World's Largest Miner, near

Iron Mountain; the Twin Towers in the Irish Hills; or any number of places—perhaps one that no longer exists—for amusement, to rest, to buy a souvenir or to have your picture taken.

### **Michigan Historical Museum – Collections News**

The collection department of Michigan Historical Museum is completing an IMLS grant to upgrade artwork storage. They purchased special racking from Delta Design and are currently hanging the artwork. This is part of the storage upgrade that began in 2007 with the move and consolidation of their offsite collections to a single facility.

## **WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE**

### **Dayton, Ohio**

Air Force hopes to land historic spacecrafts for the national museum.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE — The Air Force's top civilian has told NASA that one of the U.S. space shuttles to be retired in late 2010 should be assigned to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Air Force Secretary Michael Donley's mid-March letter to NASA stated the Air Force's interest in obtaining one of the shuttles for permanent display, in response to NASA's request for information from any organization interested in securing one of the orbiters. Donley wrote that it would be a requirement of the Air Force to assign the retired shuttle to the national museum because it is the Air Force's official archive.

Officials of the suburban Dayton museum are eager to have a shuttle — preferably Atlantis, which carried military payloads aloft — for display and believe it could boost annual attendance from the current 1.3 million to approximately 2 million, said Charles Metcalf, a retired Air Force major general who is the museum's director. "It's readily recognized by the American public for what it is," Metcalf said.

The Air Force Museum Foundation, which raises money for the museum's capital projects, said it has raised \$15 million toward the estimated cost of \$40 million to \$42 million for the new building. Metcalf said he hopes the building can be finished in 2012, if all goes well.

NASA, which controls the fate of the shuttles and will decide where they are ultimately placed, won't say when its decision will be announced or whether the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force will be one of the recipients. NASA said it has offered the shuttle Discovery to the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum for permanent display.

### ***WWII landing craft finds new home***

A World War II landing craft that's been fully restored since it was found rusting in a field in northern France arrived Thursday at its new home in Cantigny Park near Wheaton.

The Higgins boat, which is one of the few remaining vessels of its type, may have been used to deliver soldiers to the beaches of Normandy during the Allied invasion of Europe nearly 65 years ago. However, officials with Cantigny's First Division Museum still are trying to piece together the background of the craft, which was built in 1943.

"It's an exciting piece of history," said Terri Navratil, the museum's curator of collections, as she watched a massive crane gently lower the 9-ton craft to the ground. "It's been beautifully restored. Now we get the chance to tell its story."

Formally called Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP), the barge-like boats were used in every amphibious assault landing during World War II. And even though the United States manufactured more than 22,000 of them during the war, fewer than a dozen are known to exist today.

With a big public unveiling planned for June 6 - the 65th anniversary of D-Day - Cantigny officials say they are relieved the Higgins boat was recovered.

### **University of Michigan Museum of Art**

#### ***Opening attendance at U-M Museum of Art surpasses estimates, points to dynamic future***

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—Nearly 24,000 people streamed into the new University of Michigan Museum of Art leading up to and including the opening weekend with more than half of the attendance coming during the 24-hour community open house.



Photo by Lainie Kokas

This past weekend's overwhelmingly positive public response to the expanded and restored art museum is the capstone of a nearly three-year building project.

"The galleries and hallways were jam-packed, filled with happy, engaged people welcoming the museum back into their lives," said UMMA Director James Steward. "This kind of embrace by students and the public of the museum as a vital town square for the arts, where people can come together to contemplate art, explore diverse cultures, and exchange ideas is the fulfillment of a dream and the most exciting beginning we could imagine."

The opening-week festivities began March 24 with a U-M student preview that attracted 5,500, and culminated Sunday with 15,000 people visiting the museum over a 24-hour period. Attendance at other previews, programs, and gala dinners for donors and special guests make up the balance of the week's turnout of 23,950, far surpassing the museum's most optimistic projections.

Opening amid difficult economic conditions, ongoing restructuring of the domestic automobile industry, and tough financial challenges for many cultural nonprofits and museums around the country, the expanded museum is a symbol of hope and possibility, Steward said. "The new UMMA is the result of the vision, generosity and sheer hard work of many people working together for a common interest and common love of art and learning," he said.

Committed to creating the museum as a civic hub, the new UMMA is proving to be a place that bridges campus and community, bringing together students, faculty and the public in an unprecedented, multidisciplinary environment, said Steward. "Our opening



### AMM Accepting Award Nominations

AMM is accepting nominations for the 2008 Awards. In addition to the Distinguished Service Award and the Promising Leadership Award, AMM has announced two new awards, the Distinguished Career Award and the Best Practices Award. The deadline for submitting nominations is **June 30, 2008**. For more information, visit the AMM Web site: <http://www.midwestmuseums.org/>

### Workshop

On Monday, July 30, AMM hosted a workshop, *Building the Pyramid*, at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. The workshop addressed funding strategies for small museums and included presentations on membership and major gifts. More than 40 museums professionals from the Midwest attended the workshop, which included lunch and a tour of the River Museum.

On Friday, March 14, 2008 AMM hosted a workshop at the Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago. Entitled *No Museum Left Behind*, the workshop focused on the impact of No Child Left Behind on museums.

### Salary Survey

AMM conducted the first of five consecutive salary surveys in 2007. It was the first salary survey conducted in the Midwest in five years and is the most comprehensive museum salary survey of museums in the Midwest. More than 150 museums in the Midwest participated in the survey and reported on 54 positions. All participating museums received a complimentary salary survey report. AMM will conduct the next salary survey in April 2008 that will feature a benefits section.

### Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL

Illinois' diverse landscape is the theme for *The Grammar of Landscape*, a photography exhibition which maps the terrain of our state through the eyes of ten photographers—David Avison, Barbara Crane, Michelle Keim, Gary Kolb, Jin Lee, Michael McGuire, Rhondal McKinney, Art Sinsabaugh, Bill Sosin, Bob Thall, and a performance artist, Joan Dickinson, each of whom has made a commitment to the landscape through their work.

*The Grammar of Landscape* looks at wetlands, prairies, forest, plains, agriculture, Lake Michigan, Chicago, and industry in terms of building blocks that function together to create a viable environment in the same way that parts of speech combine to create effective language. Essays looking at the language we use to 'talk' about the land and quotations from environmental scientists complete the exhibit.

The late photographers Art Sinsabaugh (1924-1983) and David Avison (1937-2004) are known for panoramic landscapes—the former for sweeping, iconic images of the Midwest that included southern and central Illinois and the latter for documentary urban landscapes of Chicago. Gary Kolb, of Carbondale, photographs the Shawnee National Forest and Normal's Rhondal McKinney captures the agricultural plains of central

Illinois. Prairie photographer Jin Lee divides her time between the Bloomington/Normal area and her studio in Chicago.

From Chicago, Michelle Keim's work addresses industry while Barbara Crane, Bob Thall, Michael McGuire, and Bill Sosin photograph the urban environment. Performance artist Joan Dickinson recreates the experience of living on a bog-side farm in northern Illinois through an installation that combines journaling, poetry, and thoughts on nature and life.

Four of the photographs in the exhibition were recently purchased for the Illinois State Museum collections. Acquisition of these photographs was made possible through generous donations to the Illinois State Museum Society's 1877 Fund. The exhibit was curated by Judith Lloyd Klauba, Assistant Curator, Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery.

### **Illinois State Museum, Lockport Gallery, Lockport, IL**

#### **The Urge to Embellish**

This exhibition examines a basic human impulse—the urge to embellish. Visitors will have the opportunity to view an eclectic array of new acquisitions and rarely-seen works from the Illinois State Museum Collection made predominantly by non-professional artists. The objects reveal how embellishment has been guided by experimentation, learned behavior, social expectations, and tradition. Included are commemorative, ceremonial, decorative, functional, and whimsical objects spanning nearly two centuries with a heavy concentration from the mid-to late-nineteenth century when the idiom of effusive ornamentation reached its zenith and pervaded visual culture. The exhibition is comprised of 2- and 3- dimensional pieces constructed with beads, ceramic, feathers, fibers, human hair, metal, papier-mâché, porcelain, and wood.

### **Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewiston, Illinois**

#### **A Family Farm Album: The Photographs of Frank Sadorus**

This exhibit includes over 100 vintage prints, contemporary images printed from the original glass plate negatives, postcards of farm news written to Frank's older brother Enos, and a variety of early agricultural tools and patent models for 19th century farm implements. Partial funding for this exhibition was provided by the Illinois Humanities Council, curated from the collection of the Illinois State Museum by Judith Burson Lloyd, ISM Chicago Gallery.

### **Forthcoming exhibition at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Illinois:**

#### ***Lincoln's Illinois***

Opening in February 2009, the Illinois State Museum will present an interdisciplinary

and interactive 3,000 sq. ft. exhibition entitled *Lincoln's Illinois* to coincide with the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The exhibition will invite visitors to explore the social, cultural, historical and environmental contexts of Illinois during the Lincoln era (1830-1861) by telling stories of real Illinois people. This object-rich exhibition will integrate and interpret art, furniture, quilts, tools and historic photographs, as well as Native American ethnographic collections and artifacts excavated from period archaeological sites in Illinois to provide a much needed context to Abraham Lincoln's life in Illinois.

### **The University of Michigan Museum of Art**

Ann Arbor, Michigan

[www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

The University of Michigan Museum of Art's landmark expansion and restoration project—designed by principal architect Brad Cloepfil and his firm Allied Works Architecture of Portland, Oregon and projected to open in early 2009—includes a 53,000 square-foot addition to be named The Maxine and Stuart Frankel and The Frankel Family Wing, in honor of the Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, couple who made a \$10 million gift to the project. The project includes new galleries for collections and temporary exhibitions; additional art storage facilities; an auditorium; open storage; print and object study classrooms; an expanded art conservation lab; improved visitor amenities; and substantial restoration of the Museum's historic home. In 2004, the UMMA project won one of four coveted design awards from the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

With construction and planning for the new facility well underway, the Museum is operating a temporary gallery space called UMMA Off/Site, located adjacent to the University of Michigan central campus in Ann Arbor. This lively 4,000 square-foot loft gallery is dedicated to presenting photography, film, and video through 2008. Currently on view (Sep. 29 through Dec. 30) is "Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran." Future exhibitions include "Inge Morath and Arthur Miller: China" and "William Christenberry Photographs: 1961-2005."

### **Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing**

From the traditions and culture of deer camp immortalized in Jeff Daniels's movie *Escanaba in da Moonlight* to the prominence of hunting-based businesses like Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare, and hunting advocates like Fred Bear and Ted Nugent, deer hunting is a key part of Michigan's distinctive character.

*A-Hunting We Will Go* tells the story of deer hunting in Michigan, with a glimpse at its beginnings and a focus on its development into the widespread pastime it is today. Deer hunting has changed dramatically since prehistoric times, but the connection between those early Michigan hunters and modern hunters lies in a shared understanding of and

respect for their prey, a love of the outdoors and a joy in the camaraderie of the hunt.

Michigan, which offers more state-owned public land for recreational hunting than any other state east of the Mississippi River, ranks third in the nation in the number of licensed hunters. About 700,000 hunters take to the woods each fall in pursuit of the more than 1.7 million white-tailed deer that live in the forests and fields of Michigan. Established as the Department of Conservation, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has used scientific research to manage the deer herd and its habitat and to improve conditions for hunters.

For thousands of years, long before Europeans arrived in Michigan in the early 17th century, Native Americans relied on deer for food and as a source of bone tools and other byproducts. In the late 19th century, most deer hunting was done by professional hunters to acquire venison to sell as provisions for logging companies and railroad construction crews. During the early 20th century, deer hunting became a sporting endeavor, but could only be enjoyed, for the most part, by the wealthy, who had the leisure time, the money and the transportation to go on hunting trips. Not until the automobile industry gave the general public access to good-paying jobs, cars and vacation time, did deer hunting become the popular sport that it is today.

A-Hunting We Will Go touches on various facets of Michigan's long relationship with deer hunting, including the Jay's Sporting Goods story of how one man's passion for the outdoors became a highly successful business and Michigan tradition and the connections between hunting and labor unions, the Mackinac Bridge and the lumber and railroad industries. The special exhibit features artifacts from tools used by prehistoric hunters to firearms through the ages to Ted Nugent's loincloth.

## **MIDWEST REPORT (PART 2)**

REX GARNIEWICZ      INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES

At museums across the Midwest, it has been a busy year with things moving in many different directions. Discoveries in old collections have yielded exciting new information. Some very important private collections have transferred to public ownership. Still other pieces have been discovered to have been stolen and are slated for return.

The discovery of locked cabinets holding boxes of fragile glass sculptures led Paula Holahan, a curator of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Zoological Museum on a quest to discover their origins. She has traced them to a purchase by one of the museum's first curators in February 1890. Although purchased from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, many of these models of undersea creatures turned out to be the work of Leopold and Rudolph Blashka, world renowned museum glassmakers. Now the collection is facing new challenges as these pieces exhibit some deterioration due to instability in some of the glass compositions and will require considerable conservation before they are exhibited.

The Putnam Museum in Davenport Iowa sent their prized mummies to the hospital for examination. The Genesis Medical Center donated CT Scans to help research these specimens before they are placed in humidity controlled cases within a new exhibit on Egypt and mummification.

The Northern Ohio Railway Museum was preparing to put up a derelict railroad car for sale. It had been saved from the cutting torch by a collector and donated to the museum; however, there was little information on its history. Through the dedicated work of several groups and individuals, the history of this car was traced back to its manufacture in 1911. This car, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad combine #1088, is now on its way to being restored as the museum's new visitor's center.

The Indiana State Museum acquired a collection of over 300,000 Hopewell artifacts that represented a lifetime of work by an avocational archaeologist in southern Indiana. A wide array of exotic trade goods- artifacts made of obsidian, quartz crystal, greenstone, copper, and galena were all collected from the surface of this site over a period of 40 years. Carefully crafted human figurines found at the site put these artifacts in a more personal context.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has been very active in the field, with Dr. Yohannes Haile-Selassie, excavating at the Woranso-Mille Paleontological Site, in Ethiopia's Afar region. This project has discovered a number of important Australopithecine fossil specimens dating to between 3.5 and 3.8 million years ago. Closer to home, Archaeologist Dr. Brian Redmond has been investigating the Danbury Site, an important Early Woodland Native American site.

Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose – if you're the Grand Rapids Art Museum, you can do both. In 1947 they acquired two 14<sup>th</sup> century panel paintings, unfortunately they didn't know that they had been stolen from an Italian church in 1902. After this revelation of their provenance, they were exhibited in Grand Rapids from April 8th through May 4<sup>th</sup>, giving everyone a chance to see them one last time before they are returned to the National Museum of Abruzzo in Italy.

Also worthy of note, two Kentucky museums have recently reopened, the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center in Maysville, and the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington. Even though it opened on May 28, 2007, I have still not made it to the \$27 million Creation Museum in Petersburg Kentucky. I send people to the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin. There you can learn why Wisconsin was called the traitor state, and by understanding the anti-German sentiment and suppression of civil liberties during WWI, give yourself a new perspective on current events. And by the way – they have lots of artifacts and let you get in on bayonet practice!



Fragile glass sculptures of marine invertebrate animals await repair in a storage cabinet at the UW-Madison Zoological Museum. Crumbling from age, the intricate glass models were found by Zoological Museum curator Paula Holahan in boxes hidden in Noland Hall. Sleuthing work by Holahan led to information that suggests the models were made by Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, a 19th-century father-and-son team of German glassmakers, and purchased in 1890 by Edward A. Birge, a former UW-Madison president, dean and zoology professor, and one of the first curators of the Zoological Museum.

Photo: Jeff Miller



A complete lower jaw (mandible) of *Australopithecus* from a locality called Nefuraytu located in the Woranso-Mille study area. This specimen is one of the most complete jaws from sites older than 3.0 million years ago.

© The Cleveland Museum of Natural History



Hopewell figurines from a large collection acquired by the Indiana State Museum.  
Photo. Steve Happe, © Indiana State Museum

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**2007**  
**CURCOM Board Meeting**  
**AAM Annual Conference and Museum Expo**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**May 13, 2007**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL REPORT**

REX GARNIEWICZ, INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES

It has been an active year of collecting in the Midwest, with significant collections being transferred into public collections by both gift and purchase. Some materials that were transferred improperly have also been returned to their rightful owners. As an important part of this collection-building there is also continued progress at several museums to make their resources available online.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts purchased a full length portrait of the Comtesse d'Egmont Pignatelli by Alexander Roslin (1718-1793). They also received notice that Mary Griggs Burke and the Mary and Jackson Burke Foundation intends to give MIA significant portion of renowned collection of Japanese Art

The Indiana State Museum made several significant acquisitions over the course of the year, including the well-known Buesching Mastodont, a cast of which is mounted in the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology. Several extremely significant artifacts including a silver cross owned by Frances Slocum and a tomahawk owned by Squire Boone were donated to the museum by a private collector.



Frances Slocum cross



Squire Boone tomahawk

The Indiana University Art Museum received a bequest of African art from Budd Stalnaker, a longtime faculty member in the Hope School of Fine Arts and friend of the IU Art Museum.

The University of Kansas, Spencer Museum of Art, acquired a collection of almost 10,000 Native American, African, Latin American and Australian ethnographic artifacts from the university's anthropological collections, which were closed to public access due to statewide budget cuts. Saralyn Reece Hardy, director of the Spencer Museum, said "This collection will strengthen our ability to explore the rich diversity of the human experience through art," said. "It also will put the Spencer museum at the forefront of a national movement toward more innovative integration of art collections."

The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, as part of an ongoing project to excavate, analyze, and reconstruct bones from a 12,000 year old giant sloth, also discovered the second most complete juvenile specimen ever found.

At a ceremony at the Illinois State Museum, Illinois officials returned a Kenyan ceremonial post to its rightful owners, the Kalume Mwakiru family. Officials with the Illinois State Museum presented the post to a delegation from Kenya, headed by the Honorable Suleiman Shakombo, Minister of State for National Heritage. The ceremonial post was stolen from Kenya in 1985, passed through an art dealer, was donated to Illinois State University and then transferred to the Illinois State Museum.