

**Regional Reports
2008
CurCom Board Meeting
AAM Annual Conference
Denver Colorado**

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

CHRISTY CARL ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL
STEPHANIE GAUB ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Southeastern Museums Conference News:

On January 22-29, 2008 SEMC hosted its annual Jekyll Island Management Institute on Jekyll Island, GA. This year's class included 14 members of the museum profession who spent eight days learning more about general administration and operation of museums.

SEMC's annual meeting will be held in Birmingham, AL on October 14-17, 2008. Items of interest to members of the Curators' Committee include the annual Curator's Exhibition Competition. To qualify, the exhibition must have been open to the public at the host institution during the past year and are judged according to budget size.

Interested museums can learn more at the SEMC website at http://www.semcdirect.net/education_and_programs/2008_annual_meeting/conference_registration_form.html. On Thursday, October 16, SEMC CurCom will host a luncheon. Included will be announcements of various awards, including the meeting's exhibition contest, and an invitation for the 2009 meeting's program proposals. SEMC CurCom will also host a booth in the resource expo during the meeting. Sessions that might be of interest to CurCom members are *Curatorial Research Paper Presentations*, in which participants will discuss the challenges and benefits of publishing by curators; *Protecting Your Museum from Disaster*; *Leadership Training for Collections*; *Caring for Book Collections at a Historic Site*; and *How Do You Know Your Insurance Provides Protection?*. Relevant tours include the *Birmingham Museum of Art Behind-the-Scenes Tour* and the *Curator's Collections Tour*, in which participants will visit well-known private Birmingham collections. Complete information about the meeting can be found on the SEMC website: <http://www.semcdirect.net/index.html>.

SEMC also asks visitors to its website to "join an informal listserv of the curators of the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC)." The list should be used to communicate about opportunities for collections sharing, object transfers, traveling exhibitions, as well as issues that affect the field. To subscribe, send an email to SEMC_Curators_subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Regional Museum News:

The Tennessee State Museum has made several very important acquisitions this past year.

- 11 October 1794 letter from James Robertson, who was away from the Cumberland Settlements temporarily, on how to protect themselves from Cherokee raids.
- An 1824 cherry and mahogany signed and dated chest of drawers made in Knoxville, Tennessee by John Erhard Rose.
- June to August 1861 broadside for the American Letter Express Co. in Nashville, advising the public that the U. S. Postal Service is no longer valid in the Confederate States, and telling them how to send letters north.
- 7 August 1861 broadside from Felix K. Zollicoffer "To The People Of East Tennessee" encouraging them to accept the Confederacy.
- 25 September 1863 letter from Stephen A. Hurlbut to Abraham Lincoln, asking him to allow money owed to the city of Memphis, Tennessee to be paid in rent by the U. S. forces occupying the town. Lincoln writes on the letter that Secretary Stanton should handle this matter.
- 6 August 1864 Broadside General Order dealing with the citizens of Clarksville, Tennessee and forcing them to sign Loyalty Oaths to the U.S. government.
- 24 August 1864 Broadside General Order dealing with a Confederate guerilla raid in the Clarksville area.
- 1941 signed photograph by Edward Weston, which he gave to his sister, of Union Station in Nashville, Tennessee. Also visible in the distance is the WPA reconstruction of Federal Fort Negley from the Civil War.

The Alabama State Capitol's Confederate Monument was vandalized in early November 2007. Three teenagers spray painted unpolished granite and Alabama limestone surfaces with black spray paint. The Alabama Historical Commission is currently in the process of cleaning the damage and is about 80% complete on the granite and 50% complete on the limestone (the limestone, being much more porous, is proving to be very difficult to clean).

An arsonist struck at the Gov. Charles B. Aycock State Historic Site which is operated by The North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites & Properties. Fortunately, damage was minimal to the building, but several key artifacts were destroyed. The site reopened in February.

The Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando, FL hosted Florida's largest Civil War exhibit in 2007. Nationally significant artifacts on loan to the History Center for the exhibit included a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln and the desk on which he wrote the Proclamation, the desk that Generals Grant and Lee used to sign the surrender at Appomattox, and a letter from Frederick Douglass to Mary Todd Lincoln expressing his condolences upon learning of the death of the President.

REGIONAL REPORTS
2007
CURCOM Board Meeting
AAM Annual Conference and Museum Expo
Chicago, May 13, 2007

SOUTHEASTERN REGION REPORT

JAMES BURNS – BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM

The 2006 SEMC meeting in Chattanooga, TN October 17-21 was very successful with over 450 attendees. Two curatorial-related half day workshops were held: *Serious Fun: Creating Labels and Gallery Interactives*, and *How Do You Get everyone in Your Museum to Agree on a Collection Plan?* Curatorial sessions included *The Secret Life of Stuff: Material Culture of Everyday Objects* and Museum Research. The keynote address was given by Alan Z. Aiches, a Historic Preservation Specialist with FEMA, and Tamra Carboni, longtime Louisiana State Museum employee, and board member of state and regional museum organizations, not to mention AAM. They discussed disaster response and recovery on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, a timely topic as countless museums in that area are struggling to survive following the disaster. This year's conference is scheduled for October 2-6, 2007 in Little Rock, AR. The theme is *Making Your Museum Matter*.

Rob DeHart, Curator at Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum in Nashville, TN, Nathan Stalvey, Curator of Temporary Exhibits and Graphic Design at the University of South Carolina, McKissick Museum, in Columbia, SC, and I, continue to gather information for *Update*. They deserve a big thanks as well as a number of other curatorial colleagues from around the Southeast who regularly send me not just tidbits, but articles as well, for *Update*.