

**SOUTHEASTERN REGION
REGIONAL REPORTS
(2007-2009)**

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

Southeastern Region Report

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ORLANDO, FLORIDA

2008 was a very successful year for SEMC CurCom's Exhibition Competition. SEMC received 14 incredibly well presented applications. All of the entries were stellar examples of the outstanding level of interpretation/exhibition in Southeastern U.S. museums. Unfortunately, however, we could only choose one Award of Excellence per category.

Up to \$1,000,000

Award of Excellence: Lynchburg Museum- *Seven Hills of History*

Honorable Mention: Mississippi Museum of Art- *Between God and Man: Angels in Italian Art*

Over \$100,000

Award of Excellence: Southern Arts Federation- *Tradition/Innovation: American Masterpieces of Southern Craft & Traditional Arts*

Honorable Mention: Country Music Hall of Fame- *Family Tradition: The Williams Family Legacy*

Over \$25,000

Award of Excellence: Georgia Museum of Art- *Amazing Grace: Self-Taught Artists from the Mullis Collection*

Honorable Mention: Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art- *Roger Brown- Southern Exposure*
Alabama Historical Commission- *The Freedom Rides*

Up to \$25,000

Award of Excellence: Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University- *Face to Face: The Arts of Exchange in Mainland Papua New Guinea*

Honorable Mention: Virginia Museum of Natural History- *Wonders of the Deep: Marine Mollusks*

SEMC's annual meeting will be held in Charleston, WV on October 13 – 16, 2009. For additional information on the meeting, please visit

http://www.semcdirect.net/education_and_programs/2009_annual_meeting/index.html. Sessions of interest to Curator's attending this year's annual meeting include *Experience Accessibility*, *Then National Park Service Collection Management Plan*, *Using Local Collections in Museums*, *Collections Care 101*, *Digital Classrooms: Museum Collections in the Classroom and Beyond*, *Curatorial Research Paper Presentations*, and *IMLS Update*.
Regional Museum News:

Alabama Historical Commission awarded prestigious grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services:

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) has received a *Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grant* from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant will fund the creation of a comprehensive directory of the state's collecting organizations, as well as a survey that identifies critical needs for those organizations. In addition, it will fund emergency preparedness workshops throughout the state. All of these activities will help libraries and museums across the state to preserve their collections for future generations to enjoy. The AHC will administer the grant and partner with the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama Museums Association, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, and the Society of Alabama Archivists to create a comprehensive statewide plan to protect collections. The partners encourage the participation of all public and private organizations in the development of the plan. The grant totals \$39,611, and the project will be complete by March 2011.

Clyde Eller, Chief Curator for the Commission, comments, "We believe that by creating a partnership across disciplines we can be more effective in building solutions that preserve our state's distinctive culture."

"These projects represent movement toward collaborative thinking among collection-holding institutions that have a strong commitment to collections stewardship. IMLS funding will assist these relationships in blossoming into powerful alliances that will serve collections and the people who use them for years to come," states Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director, IMLS. This grant is part of the IMLS initiative, *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, which is a plan to raise public awareness and inspire action on collections care.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

The **Alabama Historical Commission** is the official state agency responsible for preserving, protecting, and interpreting Alabama's historic places.

Florida Association of Museums awarded IMLS *Connecting to Collections* grant:

Florida was selected by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to plan how we should preserve our collections. Florida is part of the IMLS initiative *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a multi-year, multi-faceted national initiative to raise public awareness and inspire action.

The initiative is grounded in the results of *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of American's Collections*. Read more at www.ims.gov/collections/about/hhi.htm.

To better understand the state of Florida's collections, the Florida Association of Museums Foundation is working with collaborators to plan a statewide assessment of Florida's collections and to develop strategies to educate legislators and public officials about their responsibility to preserve and conserve Florida's collections. FAM's collaborators include Florida Art Museum Directors Association, Florida Library Association, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Department of State, and Society of Florida Archivists. Three forums were held around the state to try to reach as many and as diverse collections professionals as possible. Forums were held in Miami, DeBary, and Tallahassee. Each forum also had an accompanying collections related workshop. The results of these forums can be found at <http://www.flamuseums.org/programming/c2c/>.

Atlanta History Center:

The Atlanta History Center is creating a new exhibit entitled *Barbecue Nation*. The exhibition is planned for opening at the Atlanta History Center in May 2012 covering the history and culture of this singular American foodways – barbecue. The History Center was awarded an NEH Planning Grant last spring and staff has been working on content development with the advisory board, composed of academics, journalists, barbecue pitmasters, culinary experts, and others in the field. The History Center is currently searching for barbecue-related artifacts to illustrate the themes of the exhibition. If curators have any barbecue objects, please contact Michael Rose (mrose@atlantahistorycenter.com) or Don Rooney (drooney@atlantahistorycenter.com).

Huntington Museum of Art:

The Huntington Museum of Art opened the exhibition titled *Who's Who in the Vault: Portraits from the Permanent Collection* on Nov. 15, 2008, and the show will run through Oct. 18, 2009. Highlighting both popular museum favorites, and rarely exhibited works from the Museum's permanent collection, *Who's Who in the Vault: Portraits from the Permanent Collection* explores the various concerns of portraiture. The exhibition includes a diverse selection of the Museum's portraits, beginning with Italian Renaissance portrayals of important noblemen such as Vincenzo di Biagio Catena's *Portrait of a Nobleman*, from 1531. Flattering 18th century likenesses of British aristocracy include that of Margaret Wedderburn painted by the notable Scottish portraitist Sir Henry Raeburn in 1792. Museum favorite *Joyce*, painted by fellow Scottish artist Howard Sommerville in 1920, reflects the tastes and norms of the early 20th century, while Chuck Close's thumbprinted likeness of his wife *Leslie*, created in 1986, suggests the influence of photography and modern technology toward the end of that same century.



Howard Sommerville, *Scottish*, 1873-1952
Joyce, 1920

The Huntington Museum of Art announces that it will break ground on a new gallery addition this month and create its own "economic stimulus package" for the Huntington area. The gallery addition was the brainchild of philanthropist Isabelle Gwynn Daine, and its funding comes from a bequest in her will specifically directing HMA to use the funds for a gallery earmarked for works on paper. This new gallery will enable HMA to display on a rotating basis the 1,600 prints, watercolors and photographs that it has in its permanent collection and will provide the public with five to six new exhibits each year. "With this new gallery, HMA will be able to meet its strategic directive to create more exhibits from its permanent collection to share with the

community,” said Jenine Culligan, Senior Curator at HMA. The Museum’s extensive holdings of works on paper include old master to twentieth century European prints, a large collection of natural history prints, American prints from the 18th century through the present, drawings, watercolors, and photography. A selection of artists represented in the collection includes Goltzius, Rembrandt, Catesby, Audubon, Daumier, Picasso and Braque, Vlaminck, Matisse, Whistler, Homer, Marin, Hopper, Prendergast, Lazzell, Millet, Sargent, Twachtman, Laurencin, Burchfield, Cottingham, Abbott, Uelsmann, and Gall, and many more.

Margaret Mary Layne, Executive Director of the Museum, stated that, “HMA is very pleased at this difficult economic time to be able to make an investment in our community that will provide construction jobs and at the same time expand the offerings of the Museum.” At a cost of approximately \$1.2 million, the project will create 50 construction jobs for the Tri-State region. Designed by the firm of Edward Tucker Architects, the gallery will add 1,800 square feet of gallery space and 1,700 square feet of additional storage space in the vault. An internal HMA planning team and the Museum’s Facility Committee have spent substantial time in the planning and bidding of this project to make sure that it meets the needs of the public as well as the lighting, humidity and temperature control requirements of fragile works of art on paper. The rectangular gallery will also contain an anteroom with a seating area, which will be graced by a portrait of Mrs. Daine, and a view into a newly developed courtyard behind the Museum. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by winter.

HMA plans a special exhibit to celebrate the grand opening of the *Isabelle Gwynn and Robert Daine Gallery*. “Gwynn Daine was an amazing and forward-thinking woman. HMA has designed this new gallery in honor of her wishes. Gwynn lived with grace and dignity and her legacy will continue to impact our community for years to come,” Layne said.

The Huntington Museum of Art has received a gift of fifty works of art from New York collectors Dorothy and Herbert Vogel, with the help of the National Gallery of Art, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The gifts are part of a national gifts program entitled *The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States*. Works from the Vogels' collection (numbering 2,500 in all) of contemporary art has been, or soon will be distributed throughout the nation, with fifty works going to a selected art institution in each of the fifty states. Artists whose work has been donated to the Huntington Museum of Art include Nancy Arlen, Robert Barry, Lynda Benglis Alain Kirili, Jill Levine, Robert Mangold, Lucio Pozzi, Edda Renouf, and Richard Tuttle, among others.



Lynda Benglis (American, b. 1941)

Untitled, 1980

paper pulp and pigment

Overall: 49 x 17 x 5 1/2in. (124.5 x 43.2 x 14cm)

Gift of The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States, a joint initiative of the Trustees of the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection and the National Gallery of Art with generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Orange County Regional History Center:

The Orange County Regional History Center opened a new permanent exhibit in June 2008. *Destination Florida: Tourism Before Disney* allows visitors to step inside a replica of a teepee from WigWam Village, an Orlando motel and popular tourist destination in the 1950s while discovering the remarkable history of tourism through artifacts, images, and memorabilia.

Tourist destinations featured in the exhibit include Big Tree Park, The Singing Tower at Bok Gardens, Cypress Gardens, Weeki Wachee Springs, and Gatorland to name just a few!

During 2008, The History Center also hosted two traveling exhibits. From January to May, The History Center hosted *Kid Stuff: Great Toys From Our Childhood*, and exhibit created by the Berkshire Museum in Massachusetts. In the fall, The History Center hosted the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services' (SITES) exhibit *In Focus: National Geographic Great Portraits*. The History Center continues its wonderful lineup of traveling exhibits and is currently hosting another SITES exhibit *Jim Henson's Fantastic World*.

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2008
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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@yahoo.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.