

SPURLOCK MUSEUM

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: COLLECTING AND CONNECTING *1911-2011*



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

By Wayne Pitard, Director

The Spurlock Museum staff is in a flurry of activity preparing for the numerous events that will be part of our Centennial Celebration during 2011. We are in the final stages of developing the exhibit *Collecting and Connecting: 100 Years at the Spurlock Museum*, which will present the history of the museums that became the Spurlock from their origins in the early 20th century to today. Other events, including lectures, a film festival, and a birthday party on July 9, are falling into place. We want to invite you to each and every element of the celebration and encourage you to invite your friends to join you.

Beyond our work on the Centennial events, the staff continues to expand its regular educational and research programs. During the past academic year, the Education Section served nearly 11,000 students, from pre-kindergarten through high school, both within the Museum and in outreach programs at schools that could not afford buses for field trips. School groups came here from as far north as the Chicago suburbs, as far west as East Peoria, as far south as Charleston and Mattoon, and as far east as Danville. This fall, every first grade class in the Champaign public schools came to the Spurlock for a special program on Native American cultures.

The Museum also continues to play an important role in the University curriculum. Last year, the Museum was used by 55 University classes from units like classics, religion, anthropology, nursing, veterinary medicine, art and design, and English, as well as the James Scholar Program. In a major new expansion of our role within the University, members of our staff have begun teaching upper-level University classes on the subjects of Collections Management, Museum Registration, and Learning in Museums for the University's new Museum Studies graduate minor.

Our research programs also continue to expand. For example, this year Professor Qu Tianfu of Xiamen University, China, is studying our collection of ancient clay tablets from Mesopotamia for the entire year as a University of Illinois Freeman Fellow. He is taking advantage of the Museum's extraordinary Artifact Imaging Center to make groundbreaking images of the tablets that he will be able to use in publications, as well as in continuing his study back at home. He also plans to incorporate the images into new teaching materials for his students there.

2011 looks to be a banner year for the Spurlock Museum. I hope that you will join us in making it so!

SPRING 2011

WILLIAM R. AND CLARICE V. SPURLOCK MUSEUM

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Director, Wayne Pitard

Museum Hours:

Tuesday: Noon - 5 pm
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm
Sunday: Noon - 4 pm
Monday: closed

www.spurlock.illinois.edu

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One of the few artifacts that came into the Museum in 1979–80: the "Written Word" scene from the collection of dioramas loaned by the Illinois State Museum.

GRASPED FROM THE BRINK: HOW COMMUNITY, UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS, AND FACULTY SAVED THE MUSEUM IN 1980

By Wayne Pitard

The museums in Lincoln Hall that eventually developed into the Spurlock Museum had a very complex history during their first 90 years. After about 20 years of strong University support (1911–1932), the Great Depression led to a serious decline in the fortunes of the Classical and European Museums for about three decades. Even after the appointment of a full-time director, Oscar Dodson, in 1966, funding periodically improved and declined with the changes in the economic situation and in the University administration. Throughout these decades, the museums survived because of the dedication of generations of curators, faculty, administrators, students, and members of the community who understood the value of the collections and were willing to step forward when necessity arose.

Perhaps the most critical moment in which the very survival of our Museum came into question occurred just 30 years ago in 1979–80. This crisis was fed primarily by serious budgetary problems within the University. In the face of a million-dollar budget deficit, Acting Dean Lloyd G. Humphreys was faced with little choice but either to cut the budget of the World Heritage Museum by about 66 percent or to consider closing the Museum entirely and dispersing the artifacts to other state institutions. Before making the decision, Humphreys asked four professors, John Bateman and James Dengate of classics, Eugene Giles of anthropology, and Richard Mitchell of history to work with Director Georgette Meredith van Buitenen to evaluate the collection. Submitted in January of 1980, their report argued in very strong terms that the collection had great strengths for educational and research purposes, as well as for public exhibition. In the meantime, word of the potential closing of

the Museum reached the public, and numerous members of the community began writing letters to administrators and the newspapers expressing their shock at the situation and urging the University to save the Museum.

Once Humphreys received the evaluation of the collection, he appointed an ad hoc committee to determine if and how the Museum might survive with a budget of approximately \$22,000 (down from a previous level of around \$70,000). The committee was headed by David Bright of classics and included the evaluators Bateman, Giles, and Mitchell, as well as Pola Triandis of continuing education and Jerrold Ziff of art and design. It became clear immediately to the committee that the Museum could not survive on the tiny budget that the college could offer. But they were determined not to allow it to slip into oblivion.

Their solution was brilliant. First, they proposed that the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences budget be increased slightly to cover the salary of an entry-level director (this led to the unfortunate result of van Buitenen being let go) and a half-time assistant. But the Museum could not possibly stay open even 30 hours a week with only these two positions there. Their answer was to turn to several academic departments to see if they would donate a teaching assistantship from their own funds to the Museum so that these graduate students would work in the Museum as their jobs. This was a significant sacrifice to ask of departments during rough economic times. But amazingly, five units offered to contribute the TAs—the



This Spanish coin minted in Mexico in 1740 and was recovered from the wreck of the *Reijgersdaal*, a merchant ship of the Dutch East India Company headed from the Netherlands to Indonesia in 1747. The wreck was first discovered off the coast of South Africa in 1979 and this coin was acquired by the World Heritage Museum later that year. (1979.03.0001c)



Olympic commemorative pins donated in 1980 to complement the Avery Brundage Collection. (1980.09.0022, 1980.09.0053)



Office of Continuing Education and the Departments of Classics, History, Anthropology, and Art and Design—and thereby saved the Museum from extinction. The departments provided the equivalent of another one and a half staff members, enabling the Museum to always have three people on duty during open hours. Community volunteers also stepped in to take up additional shortages in this skeleton operating crew.

The weathering of this crisis marked the beginning of a great turnaround in the fortunes of the World Heritage Museum. In the fall of 1981, Barbara Bohlen arrived to become the new director. With the extremely limited budget at her disposal, she immediately began a series of steps designed to bring the Museum to the attention of a much wider audience, both at the University and in the community at large. She began talking to the administration about raising funds for a new, independent building for the Museum, a goal that had been unsuccessfully pursued by generations of curators and directors. By late 1983, Bohlen had received official approval to begin the fundraising that resulted in the Spurlock Museum you visit today.

What a stunning turnaround in a matter of three years! In 1979 and 1980, the Museum was in danger of being closed; by 1984 the University was prepared to support a full-scale fundraising campaign for a freestanding building. The extraordinary alliance of community, faculty, departments, and administration to save the Museum illustrates the debt we owe to the people who have loved it and have dedicated themselves to its preservation and betterment. As we reach our 100th birthday, the current staff of the Spurlock want to sincerely thank those supporters during the crisis of 1979–80 for their vital role in leading us to our current healthy, vibrant state.



Pola volunteering as an artifact cataloger at the World Heritage Museum.

POLA TRIANDIS, A MUSEUM SUPERSTAR

By Robin Fossum

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Museum, we can all think of many people who forged ahead to keep the Museum alive for all to enjoy and learn from. One very special person is Pola Triandis. Spending an afternoon with Pola is always a delight. Not many have contributed to the Museum in so many ways: founder of the Spurlock Museum Guild, twice its President, member of the Museum Board, working as a volunteer in the Museum's Registration section, donor of artifacts and financial supporter, and chairing several of the Guild's annual auctions. Pola has a life-long interest in museums. "Museums have always been part of my life," she says, "but what really got me interested was a visit to my uncle [archaeologist Franz Miltner]'s 'dig' at a Roman camp in the Austrian Dolomites. I actually had a chance to use a little shovel and a brush, but most challenging was trying to fit fragments of Roman pottery on a special chart in hopes of reconstructing a pot or pitcher. When I found the old World Heritage Museum, I was amazed that right here on the top floor of Lincoln Hall was a mini-Smithsonian—with Greek and Roman pots and, as they say, much, much more."

Reminiscing about the 1980s and 1990s, Pola recalled that the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences Acting Dean Lloyd Humphreys was leading the college through difficult financial times and it was suggested to close the World Heritage Museum located in Lincoln Hall. Pola, along with many faculty and community members, was distressed by this possibility. Ralph Fisher, Director of the Russian and East European Center, advised Pola to write a letter to the Dean, which she did. Dean Humphreys then put together a committee representing many University departments with academic connections to the Museum. Pola represented continuing education and public service, which, along with the other departments, contributed staffing support to help keep the Museum doors open.

The details of the solution to the financial crisis that threatened the Museum can be found in the article "Grasped from the Brink" on page 3.

Once adequate funding had been secured, Barbara Bohen, the new director, with the support of LAS Dean David Bright suggested organizing a Guild as part of the requirements for eventual accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Pola, along with Guild member Iris Swanson and LAS budget, planning, and development officer, Jim Schroeder, met with the Dean. He was enthusiastic and offered the Guild \$1,000 seed money to get things started. "The Board and Guild were critically important in organizing and implementing the outreach and development programs of the Museum. To my knowledge, they were the first groups of their type to be created [at Illinois]," recalls Jim Schroeder.

Pola, along with Museum Director Barbara



Pola and her husband, Harry, explore the new galleries at the Spurlock opening in 2002.

Bohen, first enlisted friends, and friends of friends, with special recruiting efforts among their Greek acquaintances with an interest in the classical collections. Guild members, encouraged by Joy Thornton-Walter and Barbara Ford, put together a multicultural Guild cookbook, spending many hours collecting and testing the recipes. It was the Guild's first fundraising effort, with Judy Ikenberry, wife of the president of the University, at the launch of *The World Heritage of Cooking*.

In 1986, the 75th anniversary of the Museum was celebrated with an elegant black tie event that included a gourmet buffet, dancing to 1950s and '60s music performed by the Lee Pondell Strings, and a modest silent auction. The fourth floor of Lincoln Hall was packed with supporters and many local Museum enthusiasts. Guild members prepared the food and enlisted family members to bring up loads of ice and drinks in the rickety old elevator of Lincoln Hall. Following this success, the Guild was faced with the problem of coming up with a bigger fundraiser. At a Guild planning meeting, Claire Skaperdas, with the help of local antique expert and auctioneer Barbara Peckham, came up with the idea of a more ambitious combination live and silent auction, a sort of "Sotheby's on the Prairie." Despite many qualms and fears that nobody would come—and that if they did, they wouldn't buy—"Spring into Auction" was an unexpected success. Two decades and a number of venues later, Guild members, many of whom have been involved since that very first auction, have embarked on what they hope will be the best ever Guild event: Auction XX, to be held October 22 at the Alumni Center. Since that first auction, the Guild has contributed some \$400,000 to educational programs at the Museum and has helped to raise countless friends for it as well.

Following the generous gift from the Spurlock family that made possible the new Spurlock Museum building, there were real concerns that there would not be sufficient



Pola (far right) and friends at a Guild Auction.



resources to display the much-loved casts of the Parthenon frieze in the new Museum. Pola and the Guild, along with Jim Schroeder, Joan Volkmann, and retired diplomat Phillip Fawcett, organized the “Adopt a Panel” campaign to target this special collection. All panels, as well as other Greek artifacts, were generously adopted by Museum supporters and are currently on display in the Workman Gallery of Mediterranean Cultures.

Pola Triandis is a hero to the Museum and is thanked by all for her generosity of time and heartfelt contributions. Jim Schroeder says: “Pola’s strong and consistent leadership on the Board and with the Guild has been a bright spot for the World Heritage and Spurlock Museum. She was always thoughtful, creative, energetic, and a delight to partner with on many programs and activities.” Our Museum is here today due to the dedication of so many Museum staff members and very special volunteers such as Pola Triandis. Thank you, Pola!

SPURLOCK MUSEUM GUILD UPDATE

By Beth Watkins

The 2010 Guild Auction, “When in Rome...,” was a great success. We wish to thank everyone who supported the auction, whether by donations, tickets, or event organization. Among the items purchased in support of Museum educational and interpretive activities were flowers for the newly redesigned cultural gardens, funds to cover field trip bus fees for schools whose budgets have been hard hit by the current economy, and foldable stools that can be used by visitors who wish to sit in the galleries for sketching, close study of artifacts, and lectures and concerts. We hope you’ll join us for Auction XX on Saturday, October 22! You can read more about the history of the Guild in the profile of Pola Triandis, one of the Guild’s original members, on page 4.

SPURLOCK MUSEUM BOARD UPDATE

The Annual Board Meeting was held on October 1, 2010, in the Board Room of the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. There was a moment of silence in memory of a Board member and Museum volunteer, Terry D. Hamrick, who passed away on August 1, 2010. The new Board Manual was distributed and discussed. Three new Board members were accepted: Ms. Peggy Anderson, Dr. Sari Aronson, and Dr. Antonios Michalos. It was proposed and accepted that Board dues must be paid by March 1. The Treasurer’s report was presented by Wayne Weber, and FY11 budget was accepted. Kathy Kinser, Guild President, reported on the success of the Annual Guild Auction and other efforts.

Charles Hundley presented the report of the Advancement/Centennial Committee, including the \$25,000 raised for the expansion feasibility study and proposed budget for the Centennial Year events. Joyce Wright and Ian Wang, co-chairs of the Promotion and Outreach Committee, presented a report of their activities. Robin Fossum presented the report of the Publication and Garden committees with special recognition of the work of Jane Myers with the Spurlock Museum gardens. Wayne Pitard, Museum Director, gave an excellent report on the accomplishments of the Museum staff and his research activities, including the establishment of a photography lab in Cyprus. His report included a review of the adverse budget situation and the retirement of Dee Robins, Assistant to the Director/Business and Building Manager. Her long and excellent service was recognized and her continuing part-time support appreciated—and will be profiled in a story in the fall magazine.

New Board Members

Ms. Peggy Anderson
Dr. Sari G. Aronson
Dr. Antonios Michalos

New Honorary Members

Mrs. Jill Knappenberger
Mrs. Adlon Rector
Dr. Charles R. Shepardson

Board Officers

Allan C. Campbell, President
Robin Fossum, President-Elect
James Sinclair, Secretary
Wayne Weber, Treasurer

A Board Orientation meeting was held on December 7 to provide new Board members an opportunity to better understand the structure and function of the Board and its relationship to the Museum and the University. That presentation was followed by the introduction of the Museum staff and a tour of the Museum. The quarterly meeting of the Trustees was held on December 7 as well. The semi-annual Board meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2011. As you will note from the event calendar, 2011 will be an active and memorable year. I hope that you will have the opportunity to participate in many of the events and continue to support the Spurlock Museum.

Allan C. Campbell, M.D.
President



SPURLOCK MUSEUM

Centennial

February 20, 2011

COLLECTING AND CONNECTING:

100 YEARS AT THE SPURLOCK MUSEUM

To mark our 100th year as a vital part of educational and cultural missions of the University and as a resource to local communities, the Spurlock Museum celebrates the people, collections, voices, and ideas that have made our century of service meaningful.

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

New Collections, New Connections

Exhibit Rededication

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Professor Norman and Mrs. Dorothea Whitten, curators of *Commonalities in Diversity*, the Museum's feature gallery exhibit of South American cultures, have worked over the past two years to bring new artifacts and information into its interpretive scope and design. This is a public celebration, including gallery exploration, a brief talk by Professor Whitten, and refreshments.

Collections in the News

Nazi-Looted Art and U.S. Museums

Spurlock Museum Guild Lecture and Performance Series

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

7:00 p.m.

For this talk, Professor Jennifer Kreder of Northern Kentucky University will draw upon her experience in Holocaust-era art litigation. She will discuss ethical

and legal standards in the area and how courts are being used in violation of those standards, increasingly by U.S. museums. Ms. Kreder has published extensively and been invited to speak on legal issues affecting the international art market in many domestic and foreign venues. Please join us for this free public event.

Reel Connections to Culture

Movie Marathon

FRIDAY, MAY 20-SUNDAY, MAY 22

Titles and times TBA

Have you ever watched the movie *Spartacus* and noticed that some of the slaves were wearing wristwatches? Historical accuracy in period movies is always an interesting conversation. Spend the weekend watching and discussing a variety of films that highlight the cultures celebrated in the Museum. In addition to *Spartacus*, films currently planned include *The Lion in Winter*, *The Mummy* (1932), and *Max Havelaar*.

Growing Cultural Connections

Rededication of the Spurlock Museum Gardens

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

2:00 p.m.

Through the combined efforts of our dedicated Spurlock Museum volunteer horticulturalists, U of I Facilities & Services, and William Handel from the State Natural History Survey, our gardens are looking better than ever.

This event rededicates these landscape areas and features Mr. Handel's talk *Medicinal Plants of Illinois Past, Present, Future*.

100th Birthday Bash

SATURDAY, JULY 9

12:00-4:00 p.m.

We're having a party! There will be birthday food from around the world, games for all ages, and the opening celebration for the lobby exhibit *Warriors, Guardians, and Demons*. Let's start the second hundred years with a party they'll still be talking about in 2111!

Spurlock Museum WorldFest

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

12:30-4:00 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$5

For this special Centennial year, we're offering a second WorldFest event. Join us for performances from around the world.

Annual Spurlock Museum Guild Auction

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Save the date!

Connecting with the Past

Identity Regained: The Boy in the Iron Coffin

Dr. Allan C. Campbell Family Distinguished Speaker Series



Celebration

February 26, 2012

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
7:00 p.m.

Physical/forensic anthropologist **Dr. David Hunt** is Collections Manager of the Physical Anthropology Division at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. His early museum career included time as a student worker at the World Heritage Museum. Dr. Hunt will talk about the two-year investigation that led to the identification of the remains of a boy whose corpse and coffin were discovered while digging a gas line in Washington, D.C.

Collecting Identity

The Return of the Mummy: New Imaging Results on the Spurlock Museum's Egyptian Mummy

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
4:00 p.m.

Over two decades ago, extensive research was done to gather as much information as possible on the ancient Egyptian mummy that had entered the Museum's collections. Still, questions like "Is it a boy or a girl?" have persisted. A multi-disciplinary team was gathered to increase our knowledge of this child through the performance of updated medical techniques during the spring of 2011. At this event, a panel of experts will discuss the new techniques applied to the mummy and will reveal the information gathered.

Members of the panel include **Dr. David Hunt**, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; **Dr.**

Allan Campbell, Associate Professor of Pathology and Dermatology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (retired); **Dr. Emily Teeter**, Assistant Curator, The Oriental Institute Museum, The University of Chicago; **Dr. Carter Lupton**, Egyptologist, Milwaukee Public Museum; and **Dr. Sarah Wisseman**, Director, Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials, Illinois State Archaeological Survey. **Dr. Wisseman** was the project coordinator of the first mummy study in 1990-1991 and is author of *The Virtual Mummy*, which documents this research. This event is co-sponsored by the Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials.

Warriors, Guardians, and Demons Special Exhibit

JUNE 28, 2011-FEBRUARY 26, 2012

An important part of our Centennial Celebration is honoring the many generous people who have supported the Museum through the donation of artifacts. This lobby exhibit features a selection from the large collection of Asian carvings donated by Mr. Fred Freund. The Spurlock Museum's changing exhibits are made possible through a gift from **Allan C. and Marlene S. Campbell** and supported in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



SPURLOCK MUSEUM

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Urbana, IL 61801

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AsiaLENS: AEMS Documentary Film and Discussion Series at the Spurlock 2010-2011

MARCH 1, APRIL 5, AND MAY 3

7:00 p.m.
Free

This series of public film screenings and lecture/discussion programs is organized by the Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) at the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. It is planned in collaboration with the Spurlock Museum and presented in the Knight Auditorium. Guest scholars and members of the campus and local communities will introduce the films and lead post-screening audience discussions. Check the Museum's calendar of events for individual film confirmations and www.aems.uiuc.edu for descriptions and trailers.

Spurlock Museum WorldFest

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

12:30-4:00 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$5

Six performances for the price of one! During WorldFest, the Museum celebrates the wonderful variety of performance arts practiced around the world and offers hands-on activities for everyone.

The Boneyard Arts Festival at the Spurlock Museum

THURSDAY, APRIL 7-SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Each year, the Museum participates in this countywide celebration of visual and

performance arts. Check the Museum's online calendar for a list of individual events scheduled.

Castles, Catapults, and Coats of Arms

JUNE 2011 (EXACT DATES TBA)

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Admission: TBA

This hands-on, three-day, summer enrichment program blends science and history and focuses on the lifestyles and scientific ideas of Medieval Europe. Participants will build (towers, catapults, water wheels), create (jewelry, shields), and spend time in the Spurlock Museum's Gallery of European Cultures. Museum educators will supplement club activities with books, video, and artifact handling. Registration is open to children entering grades 3-7. Space is limited to 16 participants. Contact Brook Taylor at (217) 265-0474 or taylorb@illinois.edu.

Wrapped Up in Ancient Egypt

SUNDAY, JULY 31

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Admission: \$3

This will be the fourth year for one of our most popular events. Kids ages 8-13 and their chaperones are invited to visit hands-on stations that highlight the mummy-making process and head home with their own "tomb-to-go!" Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. This program is supported by the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Ghost Stories

Saturday, October 29

Two ghost story concerts for Halloween will feature local favorite tellers Dan Keding, Kathe Brinkmann, and Kim Sheahan, as well as tellers from U of I faculty, staff, and students. All donations and admission fees will support the Museum's educational programs.

Gruesome, Gory, and Ghastly Ghosts and Ghouls

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$5

This afternoon family event will feature multicultural ghost stories told in the Museum's galleries. The stories will be appropriate for children grades K-5. The children will leave with bags of candy to start their trick-or-treating off right.

Stories from the Other Side

7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$5

This ghost story concert features tales with adult themes or heightened fear factors. It is for adults only (age 16 and above). Don't worry—everyone still gets candy.

More events are in the works! Make sure to visit the www.spurlock.illinois.edu often. To sign up for our events email list, please contact Karen Flesher at kflesher@illinois.edu.