



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE
Texas Association of Museums

Collections Communiqué

Spring 2008

In This Issue

- From the Chair...
- CMC Website
- 20th Anniversary Celebration
- Workshop Review
- CMC Bylaws
- Denton County African American Museum
- Onderdonk Studio

TAM Annual Meeting

Galveston – March 25-28

THC Workshops

Oral History Training – Texas in World War II

Cemetery Preservation Workshop

2008 Historic Preservation Conference

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AAM Job Center

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Join CMC or renew your membership here

Have an idea for the next



From the Chair...

I write this as we all frantically prepare and organize the last details for our annual CMC business meeting during the TAM conference. This year the format will be a little different with the meeting taking place at lunch. It is always interesting to me how things evolve and can become in some ways so different than when first started, yet so much the same. That to me is a Registrar, Collections Manager, Curator of Collections, or whatever your title might be. In essence we all do the same thing – take care of the collection. Yet, we each do it so differently. Perhaps because of the type of collection, or the structure in our museum. And much has to do with our personalities as well. But, to me, the most interesting aspect of this lies in how over the decades we change the job responsibilities, the procedures, the forms, the restrictions, the requirements, etc. And yet, somehow it remains the same. In our positions as care takers, as cops, as treasure custodians, we try to change with our administrations, with our institutions, with the flow of the world. And yet, we manage to remain the same strong, caring, hard working and professional care takers of our collections. It has been a pleasure to be Chair of CMC for the past two years. Thank you for the opportunity to get to know you and to work with you. I hope each of you will remain involved. And those of you who have not yet taken part in workshops, program sessions, the board, and any of the activities of the committee – I encourage you once again to get involved. Your personal life will be enriched with new friends who will last forever. And your professional knowledge and pool of contacts will vastly increase as you become more involve, giving you answers, sometimes before you even realize you have a question. See you in Galveston!

Gabby

www.cmc-tam.org

Check out our new website www.cmc-tam.org. If you are interested in assisting with

**newsletter? Email
submissions and photos by
May 31 to:**

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the website and have experience in web design we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Amy Fulkerson at amyfulkerson@wittemuseum.org.

CMC is about to turn 20!!!

The years sure have flown by. The Collection Managers Committee is gearing up for the 20th Anniversary celebration with a kick off at the Galveston TAM meeting. As the chair of the 20th anniversary committee, I am gathering CMC members' stories and photographs to put in a commemorative book. I know there are some really funny ones out there so bring your best and funniest to this year's CMC booth. If you wish to help with the 20th Anniversary committee please contact me at kathleen.stiefel@thestoryoftexas.com. Stories and photographs can also be sent to this email.



Workshop Review

Laura DeNormandie-Bass
Chief Curator
Historic Sites Division
Texas Historical Commission

The successful workshop: "The imports and exports of complex shipping issues" brought together a diverse panel of speakers with first-hand experience of the complexities, opportunities, and pitfalls associated with shipping objects locally, nationally, and internationally. Speakers included John McAlpin (right), Registrar at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Brad Wendt (left), Wildlife Inspector for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Susan Newlin (center), Licensed Customs Broker for Masterpiece International.



Not surprisingly, much of the information the three panelists presented was technical in nature. From acronyms associated with Hold Baggage to activities authorized by law or treaties to crating company compliance, the speakers led the audience through the bewildering labyrinths of shipping, import and export procedures. Not all information relayed by the speakers was quantitative or regulatory in content. Each speaker offered the audience well-tested tips on what would facilitate as well as impede a successful shipment from occurring. Most poignant was John McAlpin's narrative of his trips to Ethiopia as he worked with collections staff and facilities there to import artifacts and art for the exhibit *Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia*. His recollections reminded the audience that even the most seasoned museum professional equipped with import/export savvy is not always equipped to navigate all cultural or political hurdles.



The workshop was well-attended and hosted graciously by the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The workshop agenda included a tour HMNS's new collections facility and collections.

For copies of the information distributed at the workshop go to <http://www.cmc->

CMC Bylaws

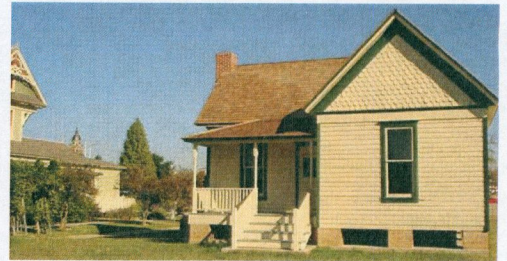
The following amendments to the Collection Managers Committee Bylaws are being presented to the membership for approval. A vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 27th, in Galveston.

Proposed amendments

Denton County African American Museum

Robyn Lee
Manager
Historical Park of Denton County

The Grand Opening of the Denton County African American Museum was grand indeed! Some 250 people gathered in the Commissioners Court at the Courthouse on the Square to mark the occasion at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 16. As expected, there were flashing lights, drum rolls, and pounding of feet inside, but outside, Mother Nature held sway with her own fanfare for the event; flashing lightening, rolling thunder, and heavy rain drops pounding the ground. Nothing drowned the enthusiasm inside that room.



Dr. Rynell Novak, President of the Historical Park Foundation of Denton County, that was responsible for the fundraising and preservation of the building, received a copy of a Declaration read by Congressman Burgess the Congress of the United States, announcing the Dedication and Grand Opening of the Museum. The Congressman read the Declaration for all to hear as part of the Dedication, and then presented a flag, flown over the Capitol in Washington in honor of the Museum, to Dr. Novak.



Copy of another Declaration read to the Texas State Senate and signed by Senators Jane Nelson, Craig Estes, and Chris Harris, was handed to Dr. Novak, with a flag flown at the State Capitol, and another flag, also flown over the Capitol of the Sovereign State of Texas, with a framed certificate signed by State Representative Myra Crownover, were handed to Dr. Novak.

After the Dedication many of the visitors, some from as far away as Abilene, made

their way to the museum in the Historical Park, 317 West Mulberry, for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The museum was taken into the operations of Denton County officially at Commissioners Court on Tuesday, February 13. On Tuesday, February 26, Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Commissioner Ron Marchant, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, and Commissioner Andy Eads presented the Denton County flag to Dr. Rynell Novak to mark the opening of the museum as a very special day in the history of Denton County. Judge Horn mentioned the appropriate timing of the event during the celebration of Black History Month.

Open Hours: Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday 10 – noon and 1 – 3. The handicap access has not been completed yet, but is in the process of construction.
Landscaping: Some trees have been planted already, and the rest of the shrubs will be planted during the next month or two. There will be benches for visitors to take a moment to enjoy their surroundings as well.

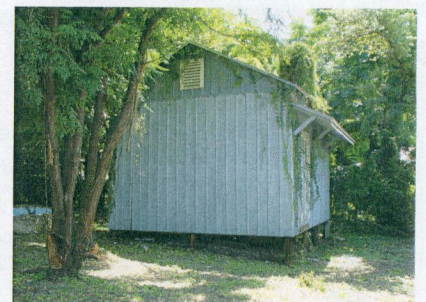
Thanks are Due: There is still work to be done, but thanks are due to the team in Information Services and Public Facilities for all the help given during the past few months, and in the next few months to come. Really appreciate the timely manner, efficient service, care and attention when called.

Volunteers: Volunteers are always needed, and we have some generous people who have signed up already, but it is necessary to have a list of those who would be willing to come in at short notice as well. Please call Robyn at 940.349.2865 if you think you would like to volunteer.

Onderdonk Studio Moves

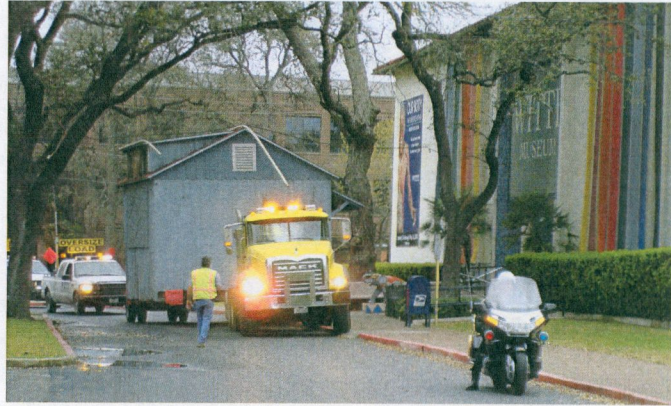
Amy Fulkerson
Collections Manager
Witte Museum

On Sunday, March 2 the Onderdonk Studio was moved to the Witte Museum. The studio was built around 1915-1916 behind the family home at 128 West French Place, in San Antonio. It was used by Julian Onderdonk and later his sister Eleanor Onderdonk.



Julian Onderdonk is best known for his Texas landscapes. When working in the field he took photographs and did numerous sketches. He noted his impressions of how the sky looked, the color of the wildflowers and how the sunlight hit them at various times of day. These notes enabled Julian to recreate the vivid South Texas landscape from this studio.

Eleanor Onderdonk was also a talented painter specializing in miniatures. She served as the Witte Museum's first Curator of Art from 1927 to 1958. During her tenure at the museum she encouraged local artists and offered them a venue. She also brought exhibitions of world renowned artists to San Antonio. Under her careful eye the museum began to acquire Early Texas Art.



The studio was donated to the museum in 2006 and it took nearly two years planning and coordination with the City of San Antonio Historic Design and Review Commission, the Monte Vista Historical Association, movers, and home owners. When we were finally ready to move the studio, the process went much faster than I ever anticipated. The Wednesday before the move our professional movers, Dodson House Moving, placed the studio on steel supports. At 7:00am on Sunday morning the studio was loaded on the truck to be brought to the museum. From loading the truck to the 2.5 miles drive to the museum took a little over an hour. The real challenge was getting the studio unloaded at the museum and in position which took another 3½ hours.

The plan is to restore the studio to the way it would have looked in Julian Onderdonk's time complete with his palette, paints, and other artifacts.

