

SPRINKLES

MUSEUM





Camel Bag, Morocco. Lynn and Michael Noel Collection, 2013.05.0440.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

By Susan R. Frankenberg, Acting Director

Gauri Parvati, Rajasthan, India. Gift of Robert C. and Donna M. Spina Helmholtz, 2012.10.0084.

WINTER 2014

WILLIAM R. AND CLARICE V. SPURLOCK MUSEUM

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
600 S. Gregory Street
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 333-2360
Fax: (217) 244-9419

Director: Wayne Pitard

MUSEUM HOURS:

Tuesday: Noon - 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.
Monday: closed

spurlock.illinois.edu

The newsletter for Spurlock Museum is published through the generous support of the Spurlock Museum Guild and the Spurlock Museum Board. Spurlock Museum Board Publication Committee: Sari Gilman Aronson, Allan Campbell, Robin Fossum, Wayne Pitard, James Sinclair, Yu (Ian) Wang, Beth Watkins, and Norman Whitten (chair). The newsletter is produced for the Museum by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Communications and Marketing.

Artifacts on the front cover:

Far left: Wall Hanging, Laos. Kieffer-Lopez Collection, 2013.04.0049.
Top: Pot, Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico. W. Dale and Jeanne C. Compton Collection, 2013.08.0006.
Bottom: Pot, Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico. Kieffer-Lopez Collection, 2013.04.0031.

It has been a distinct pleasure to serve as acting Director of the Spurlock Museum while Wayne Pitard has been on sabbatical leave. I am ending my term with great sadness and with the hope of continuing to serve the Museum on specific projects.

The Museum has continued to play a substantial role in supporting the education of not only thousands of school children across Illinois, but also toddlers, university students, and adults from both the academic and general communities. The Museum has become home to the local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, plus three film series, several CAS/MillerComm lectures, various documentaries followed by discussions, and numerous class projects in the fall of 2013. We also held the Guild Lecture and Performance Series, entitled "New Age Looping and Cordage," in conjunction with our featured exhibition. The galleries witnessed a series of mindful meditation sessions, as well as a variety of guided tours and discussions for all ages. Our Education staff expanded their in-school outreach programs, offered Around the World Wednesdays here, and held several open houses and activity days in the Zahn Learning Center. Behind the scenes, Registration and Collections staff continued to document and care for the thousands of outstanding donated artifacts received by the Museum over the past few years. The Exhibitions committee was hard at work installing *Inspired By... Works of the C-U Spinners and Weavers Guild* and *Folk Art of Latin America* and preparing for the upcoming *Sacred Symbols in Sequins: Haitian Vodou Flags* and a fantastic exhibition on Mayan garments for next fall. Our IT section was gearing up new digital heritage projects, as well as keeping all of the technologies and databases on which we rely up to date and running smoothly. Finally, our Events and Security staff have risen to the occasion, taking on the growing number of programs and vastly increased use of our facility with great aplomb.

As acting Director, I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal more about Spurlock Museum operations and to work and plan with the staff, Museum Board, and Museum Guild to ensure that the Spurlock continues to become more effective and efficient in achieving its mission and goals. I am grateful to both the employees and volunteers for making me feel welcome, having great ideas, and sharing in a vision for the future. With this in mind, please keep an eye out for our new membership program (coming in 2014), some improvements around the Museum in the next year, and news about additional programs and initiatives to be unveiled in 2015-2016.

I hope to see you at the Spurlock, although I will be wearing a different hat. ♦



College of
Liberal Arts & Sciences
AT ILLINOIS

BOARD AND GUILD UPDATES

Cargo Basket. Brazil. Kieffer-Lopez Collection, 2013-00116.

BOARD UPDATE

By Tony Michalos

I am starting my two-year term as the President of the Spurlock Museum Board with great enthusiasm and commitment.

My involvement with the Museum began several years ago as a member of the Museum Guild, becoming the first male President! I also have served the Museum Board as a member and trustee, then for the last two years as the President-elect and a member of several committees.

In all these capacities, I have worked with the University academic community, as well as the broader community of Champaign-Urbana and the friends and supporters of the Museum. I can attest to their love, commitment, and hard work to support the activities and educational programs at the Museum.

We have a great Museum, a wonderful and hardworking staff, and a director with knowledge and commitment.

I am proud of them. I am also proud of our members of the Guild and the Board for not only donating their time but also having personally invested in the future of the Museum.

The Board is currently working to help establish a Museum membership program to encourage further volunteer and financial support for the Museum. We each participate in a community, choosing a group with whom we share attitudes, beliefs, and perspectives. I would like to invite all of you to become a VIP for the Spurlock Museum. ♦

Dave Olmsted, Beth Felts, and Marie Tompkins at the ice cream social.



SPURLOCK MUSEUM GUILD REPORT

By Co-Presidents Maureen Berry, Helen Burch, and Dixie Whitt

The Spurlock Museum Guild has had an active year. The mission of the Guild is to provide financial support for the educational activities of Spurlock Museum. To that end, the members of the Guild Council, under the leadership of Co-President and Treasurer Maureen Berry, have met numerous times to clarify the policies governing the financial support provided to the Museum.

Most recently, the Guild partially sponsored the new exhibit, *Inspired By... Works of the C-U Spinners and Weavers Guild*, and associated lectures and workshops.

A major event, "Turkish Extravaganza of Antique Clothes, Jewelry, and Art," was held last April. It was co-hosted by the Guild and the Krannert Art Museum (KAM) Council. Because it was such a great success, the two organizations are planning other cooperative activities. Recently, representatives of both groups met to discuss various options. As a first step, the KAM Council invited members of the Guild to attend their annual luncheon meeting and lecture in September and offered Guild members the opportunity to join their bus tour to the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Our most recent event for Guild members was an ice cream social held on October 5 at the home of Maureen Berry. Music was provided by the Little Bluestem Band.

Other events of the 2013-14 academic year include a holiday luncheon in December, a "Wall of Wine" fundraiser in February, and the annual spring meeting in May.

Prior to leaving for her new position in Utah, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Ruth Watkins hosted a reception at her home for the Spurlock Museum Trustees and Board. The Guild presented her with a University of Illinois coverlet and thanked her for her very strong support of the Guild and our activities.

The Guild encourages anyone who is interested in our efforts to provide support and community awareness of the Museum to become a member of the Guild. Contact Maureen Berry at m-berry@illinois.edu for information about joining. ♦



EXHIBIT PREVIEW

SACRED SYMBOLS IN SEQUINS: VINTAGE HAITIAN VODOU FLAGS

For many Americans, the term “Vodou” brings up unfortunate Hollywood-inspired imagery involving hexes and curses, but visitors to the Spurlock Museum’s upcoming exhibition *Sacred Symbols in Sequins*, opening April 6, will gain new insights to the beauty and sanctity of Haitian Vodou after viewing 16 exquisite early to mid-20th century Haitian Vodou flags (*drapo Vodou*).

The spiritual realm reflected in this exhibition is not the dark, frightening place of black magic and superstition so often stereotyped in American popular culture. Instead, the flags, bottles, and hands-on activities exemplify the force and elegance of Vodou gods (*lwa*). The flags are among the most sacred and expensive ritual implements in the temple (*ounfò*), and their presence is essential in key Vodou rites, including initiation, invocation of the lwa, and pilgrimage. As intricate works of art informed by ritual and theology, as well as by Haiti’s political history, such flags offer an unparalleled opportunity for viewers to experience the aesthetics, symbolism, and social implications of Vodou. *Sacred Symbols in Sequins* illustrates the essence of Vodou as interpreted by practitioners, and the flags challenge us to rethink outsider conceptions of Haitian popular religion.

Join us on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. for the opening reception of *Sacred Symbols in Sequins*, including a performance of Haitian dance. ♦



Damballah et Aida Wedo.



Altar for Ezili.



Ogun Rada.

Exhibitsusa



The exhibition is toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than 25 exhibitions on tour to more than 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. Mid-America is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the United States. More information is available at maaa.org and eusa.org. —ExhibitsUSA press materials





BEHIND THE SCENES

A SURPRISING DONATION IN TEXTILE STORAGE

by Beth Watkins and John Holton



Collections student Robert Murphy covers cardboard tubes with protective aluminum foil and acid-free tissue to prepare them for holding textiles. The cardboard tubes hang on the sturdy metal tubes donated by Plymouth.



Robert shows how a rolled artifact will slip over a Plymouth tube before it is hung up.



Rolled textiles neatly and conveniently arranged in new storage.

The Museum regularly receives donations of wonderful artifacts, but it's much more unusual to receive gifts for storing them. In August of 2013, we were lucky to receive such a donation by Plymouth Tube Company. They donated over 480 feet of stainless steel tubing cut to several different custom lengths. Brian Meek, general manager of Plymouth's facility in East Troy, Wisc., commented, "When we have the opportunity to aid in the community, we like to step forward and make a strong contribution. [Working with] the Spurlock Museum is a unique opportunity for us to provide product we manufacture to help preserve history." The Museum is a different client than Plymouth's typical customers in transportation, energy, and aerospace.

You might be wondering why the Museum is excited about metal tubes. These supplies form the core of a very useful and clever system for storing certain types of textiles. Museums have to carefully consider building materials that are near or in contact with artifacts: materials with surfaces or chemicals that damage artifacts are avoided, and supplies must be sturdy enough to maintain the weight of whatever collections are placed on them. Over time, folds in textiles stress and weaken the fibers, causing irreversible damage. Rolling textiles around strong, padded tubing protects artifacts from the strain of being folded to fit into boxes, drawers, and shelves. Tubes are hung on wall-mounted storage racks, making full use of the space in our storage facilities, which also frees up drawers and shelves to house dozens of smaller artifacts instead of being monopolized by single large pieces. The stainless steel tubes from Plymouth, which are strong and resist corrosion, are the structural support for cardboard tubes around which artifacts are rolled. Think of old metal coat hangers that have a cardboard tube across the bottom so that trousers draped over them don't get creased.

Collections staff have reviewed hundreds of textiles, many of them recent acquisitions to our collections, to determine which pieces are the best candidates for rolled storage. Size, material, and physical condition are all considered, and by the end of the spring semester, Plymouth's gift will enable us to provide comfortable new homes for rugs, throws, bedspreads, flags, shawls, saris, and sarongs. ♦



Camel Bag, Morocco, Lynn and Michael Noel Collection, 2013.05.0440.



Grace Gill in the Simonds Pyatt Gallery of European Cultures.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS: THE DOTTIE WHITE AWARD

by Beth Watkins and Grace Gill

Ask any of our senior staff members and they'll tell you that the Museum would be unable to run fully or efficiently without our student workers. Coming from majors across the University, our students give their energy and creativity to almost every aspect of the Museum's functions that you can think of. Some come seeking hands-on experience related to their coursework or in support of pursuing a museum career, while others build on skills and interests that are very different from their academic commitments.

The Museum is very grateful to longtime friend Dottie White for her ongoing funding support of our student staff over the years. Because the sections of the Museum take turns in responsibility for the White award, it has supported all areas of our work. The primary duties of the current recipient, information technology student Alex Enskat, include Web and database programming, and previous awardees have carried out core tasks as diverse as integrated pest management, artifact cleaning, and gallery tours. Past recipients include Jennifer Fraser, a professor at Oberlin; Laura Hapke, who first began working at the Museum as a volunteer while still in middle school and is currently interning at the Museum of the Grand Prairie in nearby Mahomet; and Yulia Bezriadina, a recent graduate who is now a teacher at a Jefferson Middle School in Champaign and brings her students to the Museum on field trips.

Last summer, the Dottie White Award gave Grace Gill, who works during the school year in Special Events, the opportunity to expand her museum work experience into the Education section. A double major in anthropology and psychology, Grace hopes to pursue a master's in education and to one day have a career in museum education. Grace's interest in museum work, and museum education specifically, is due to the museum studies courses at the University. In the fall of 2012, she took "Learning in Museums," taught by Spurlock Museum's Director of Education, Tandy Lacy. This class introduced her to museum education more fully and inspired her interest in the field.

Over the summer, Grace was able to be involved in many different types of work within museum education, such as doing artifact research for the 2013 *Inspired By...* exhibit, working on a project to identify objects no longer useful to the teaching collection, helping run programs for visitors, and even creating some hands-on craft projects of her own. ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CAMPBELL GALLERY **EXHIBITS**

Inspired By...Works of the C-U Spinners and Weavers Guild

THROUGH MARCH 9, 2014

The Spurlock Museum celebrates creativity, inspiration, and fiberworking in this unique exhibit. Representing an intensive three-year collaboration with the C-U Spinners and Weavers Guild, the exhibit combines Museum artifacts, some not displayed for decades, with original Guild member artworks they have inspired. The exhibit includes interviews with the artists and insights into their creative journeys through notes and design booklets.

Sacred Symbols in Sequins: Vintage Haitian Vodou Flags

APRIL 6, 2014–AUGUST 10, 2014

For generations, skilled Haitian flag makers have formed remarkable mosaics of religious imagery by combining and juxtaposing symbols of Europe and the Americas with those brought from Africa centuries ago by captive slaves. Vodou societies (*sosyete*) generally possess at least two flags that represent both their congregation and the deities they worship. These flags are among the most sacred and expensive of ritual implements. They are magnificent works of art that offer compelling stories about the relationships between cultures.

This exhibit is a program of ExhibitsUSA, a national Division of Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Artists of the Loom: Maya Weavers of Guatemala

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014–JANUARY 25, 2015

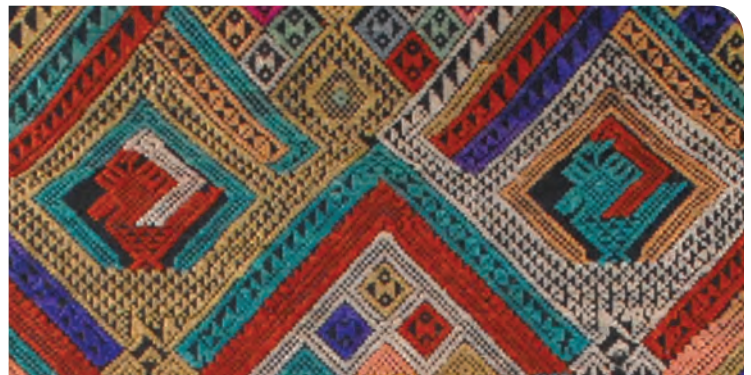
Save the date for the exhibit opening celebration on Saturday, September 20, 2014.

SPECIAL **EVENTS**

Heirlooms, Artifacts, and Family Treasures: A Preservation Emporium

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 • 1-4 P.M.

Organized by the Preservation Working Group of the University of Illinois, this informational event welcomes visitors to meet and talk with preservation specialists whose expertise ranges from antiquities to modern digital media. Have you ever wondered how to preserve that old film of family memories or take care of Grandma's quilt? Bring your small, hand-held items to the Museum or come with images of larger items and have your preservation questions answered by the presenting experts. For further information, contact Jennifer Teper at 244-5689.



Wall Hanging, Laos. Kieffer-Lopez Collection, 2013.04.0049.

Winter Tales Concert

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 • 2-3:30 P.M.

Join us for one of the Museum's most popular annual events, a concert of American Indian tales. This year's featured teller is Tchin, an award-winning teller of the Blackfeet Narragansett nation. Winter Tales concerts are sponsored by an endowment from Reginald and Gladys Laubin. Admission: \$5.



Velvet Textile. Congo. Lynn and Michael Noel Collection, 2013.05.0342.

Spurlock Museum WorldFest **SATURDAY, MARCH 8 • 12:30-4 P.M.**

During WorldFest, the Museum celebrates the wonderful variety of performance arts practiced around the world and offers hands-on activities for everyone. Visit our online calendar for updates on performers and schedules.

Suggested donation: \$5.

Exhibit Opening Celebration: Sacred Symbols in Sequins: Vintage Haitian Vodou Flags

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 • 7-9 P.M.

Join us for refreshments, gallery exploration, and a performance of Haitian dance by the Tamboula Ethnic Dance Company at 7:30 p.m. in celebration of our spring Campbell Gallery exhibit. Free admission.

Illinois Public Media's Community Cinema Series at Spurlock 2013-2014

Watch the best independent documentaries before they come to television! Illinois Public Media (WILL radio.tv.online) and the Independent Television Series present Community Cinema, a screening and discussion series featuring independent documentaries. Presented in collaboration with the Spurlock Museum, screenings will take place on the first Tuesday of every month in the Knight Auditorium. Guest scholars and members of the campus and local communities will interact with the audience in an hour-long discussion after each film. Viewers can then watch the film again later in the month on WILL-TV!

FEBRUARY 4: LAS MARTHAS

MARCH 4: THE TRIALS OF MUHAMMAD ALI

APRIL 1: MEDORA

Free admission. All screenings begin at 7 p.m. For more information, visit will.illinois.edu/community/project/cinema.

AsiaLENS: AEMS Documentary Film and Discussion Series at Spurlock 2013-2014

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 will be 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.

FEBRUARY 11: MULBERRY CHILD

MARCH 11: HIGH TECH, LOW LIFE

APRIL 8: THE REVOLUTIONARY

Free admission. All screenings begin at 7 p.m. Check the Museum's calendar of events for individual film confirmations and www.aems.uiuc.edu for descriptions and trailers. Spring 2014 AsiaLENS programming is co-sponsored by Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, Asian American Cultural Center, East Asian Languages and Cultures, School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics, Media and Cinema Studies, and Department of English.



Baby's Hat. China. Kieffer-Lopez Collection, 2013.04.0032.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS *CONTINUED*

Velvet Textile. Congo. Lynn and Michael Noel Collection, 2013.05.0342.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA **LECTURE SERIES**

These events are organized by the Central Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and hosted by the Spurlock Museum.

Free admission. Knight Auditorium. Visit archaeological.org/societies/centralillinoisurbana or contact Jane Goldberg at jgoldber@illinois.edu for more information.

“The Garden of Flora: New Discoveries at the Roman Seaside Villas of Stabiae near Pompeii” by Thomas Howe

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014 • 3 P.M.

Thomas Howe is an art and architectural historian who is also a field archaeologist. Stabiae is near Pompeii and was buried by the same Vesuvian eruption of 79. Pliny the Elder died on the beach of one of the Stabiae villas during the eruption. The site today is the largest concentration of well-preserved panoramic villas in the entire Mediterranean area. The excavations in the Villa Arianna garden provide new evidence for a period of creativity in the early decades of the Roman Empire.

“Population, Water Use, and the Over-estimation of Water Supply in Ancient Rome” by Duncan Keenan-Jones

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2014 • 3 P.M.

Duncan Keenan-Jones is a postdoctoral research associate in the Fouke Laboratory, Institute of Genomic Biology/Department of Geology. He has degrees in chemical engineering and ancient history and extensive field archaeological experience of Greco-Roman and historical archaeology. The lecture looks at the history and pitfalls of using water supply to answer the vexed question of the population of ancient Rome. It presents new computer modeling of ancient Roman aqueduct flows carried out by an interdisciplinary team using mineral deposits called travertine as depth indicators for the first time. This modeling shows that previous modeling of maximum flows, often interpreted as actual flows by other researchers, considerably overestimate the amount of water reaching Rome in the ancient period.

“Kaptol—Princes of the Crossroad” by Hrvoje Potrebica

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014 • 5:30 P.M.

The speaker is the associate professor of archaeology and project leader for the group studying elites of Bronze and Iron Age Croatia, a major excavation since 2001. He discusses two burial grounds and a fortified settlement that formed one of the most important Hallstatt complexes in Europe.

Doll. South Africa. Lynn and Michael Noel Collection, 2013.05.0086.



Add Your Name to the Spurlock Museum’s Events Email List

Email Karen Flesher at
kflesher@illinois.edu.

Download the Spurlock Museum’s Events to Google Calendar

Go to the Museums at the Crossroads
website calendar at www.m-crossroads.org/pages/calendar.html.

spurlock.illinois.edu



Ceremonial Bandolier Belt. Brazil. Kieffer-Lopez Collection, T05681.

ENERGY UPDATE

In October, the Spurlock Museum was thrilled to learn that we placed second in a campuswide Energy Conservation Incentive Program in Energy Advancement. This recognition is based on a validated one-year reduction in energy usage, and our savings were measured at 44.5%. The Museum received an incentive award of \$22,000 from University of Illinois Facilities and Services and the Office of the Provost to be used for building maintenance improvement, further energy conservation, or an upgrade to an existing common space. ✦



Karl Helmink, Associate Director, Utilities and Energy Services, head of the Museum's HVAC retro-commissioning team, flanked by Christa Deacy-Quinn and Wayne Pitard of Spurlock.

Errata

In the Fall 2012 magazine: "The China-University of Illinois Relationship: A Century-Long Connection"

The caption for the photograph on page 15 should read "Chinese government permission for student Shao L. Soo to study in the U.S. in 1947. Courtesy of the Soo family."

In the Fall 2013 magazine: "Indonesia's Batik Cloth: A National Heritage"

The author Hamzuri is incorrectly listed as Dr. instead of Drs, the appropriate Dutch academic title (page 6). Lion Air is an Indonesian airline, not Indian (page 7).

ILLINOIS

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Artifacts shown clockwise:

Tent Mat, Tuareg Culture, Lynn and Michael Noel Collection, 2013.05.0488.

Effigy Vessel, San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, Kieffer-Lopez Collection, 2013.04.0019.

Mask, Kerala, India, Gift of Robert C. and Donna M. Spina Helmholz, 2012.10.0278.

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