

THE MUSEUM NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

APRIL 15, 1954

SANTA BARBARA MEETING TO HAVE AAM FORUM

The first session of the Santa Barbara Meeting of the American Association of Museums is to be a forum on AAM program and policies. The session will open with the address of the association's president, William M. Milliken, director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, and this will be followed by discussion of any matters of general interest that members then bring up. As time allows, there may be brief business reports. The session, and registration for the meeting, will be at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on the morning of May 26. Other sessions of the three-day meeting are scheduled for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

The full program of the meeting will appear in *The Museum News* of May 1. Entertainment and other provisions are being arranged by the host institutions (MN Apr. 1, 54). The Western Conference of the AAM, which usually meets in the fall, is joining in the Santa Barbara program.

Invitations from many museums of the West, and especially from museums of San Francisco and Los Angeles, have been extended to all who can break their travel before or after May 26-28. Institutions in these cities are: San Francisco—California Academy of Sciences, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, California State Division of Mines Museum, Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum, M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco Museum of Art, Wells Fargo Bank and Union Trust Company Museum; Los Angeles—Art Gallery of the University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Municipal Art, Fisher Gallery of the University of Southern California, Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles County Museum, Marine Museum, Museum of Science and Industry of California, Southwest Museum.

Other museum places of California are: Bakersfield, Berkeley, Claremont, Fresno, Independence, La Jolla, Laguna Beach, Lancaster, Long Beach, Monterey, Oakland, Pacific Grove,

SANTA BARBARA MEETING

The 49th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums will be held at Santa Barbara, Calif., Wednesday through Friday, May 26-28, 1954.

HOTEL HEADQUARTERS

CARRILLO HOTEL, SANTA BARBARA

Single rooms, \$4 to \$7. Double rooms, double beds, \$5 to \$7; twin beds, \$7 to \$9. All rooms with baths. Suites, \$15 up.

Requests for hotel reservations should be made on forms distributed by the Association and should be sent to the Santa Barbara Convention Bureau. Extra copies of forms may be obtained from the Association or the Bureau.

Pacific Palisades, Palm Springs, Palo Alto, Pasadena, Richmond, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, San Marino, San Mateo, San Pedro, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Stanford, Stockton, Ventura, Whittier. Also there are museums in Lassen, Sequoia, and Yosemite National Parks, and in State Parks, and there are the California missions, some of them restored, including the Santa Barbara Mission near the Museum of Natural History. A list of AAM Institution Members (MN June 1, 53) includes the principal museums, and is available in extra copies at \$1 to museum people who will be traveling.

PHILADELPHIA ART MUSEUM INSTALLS ARENSBERG GIFT

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is reconstructing 22 galleries for installation of its Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection. The collection, given to the museum in 1950, will be displayed in two sections: the 20th-century section showing 190 works of painting and sculpture; and another section to include 223 pieces of primitive sculpture, pre-Columbian mainly and also African, Easter Island, and American Indian. Formal opening of the galleries will be on October 16.

EXCISE TAX LAW EXEMPTS MUSEUM ADMISSIONS

President Eisenhower signed on March 31 the Excise Tax Reduction Act of 1954 (H.R. 8224) which exempted from the admissions tax, effective the next day, all admissions charges made by museums of any kind. This brought to a successful conclusion the efforts of museums, through the American Association of Museums (MN Apr. 1, 54) to secure relief from the duty of collecting a tax that has long prejudiced the educational standing of museums and interfered with museum public services.

The exemption clause in the law is a broadening of the exemption secured by the AAM in 1951 for historic house museums, which are the largest group of museums, practically all of them depending upon admission charges. As amended, Section 1701 (e) (2) of Title 26, United States Code, becomes:

"(2) *Historic sites, museums, and planetariums.*—Any admission to an historic site, house, or shrine, to a museum of history, art, or science, to a planetarium, or to any exhibition in connection with any of the foregoing, operated—

"(A) by any State or political subdivision thereof or by the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof—if the proceeds therefrom inure exclusively to the benefit of the State, political subdivision, United States, or instrumentality, or

"(B) by any society or organization not organized for profit—if no part of the net earnings thereof inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual.

"For the purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'State' includes Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia."

The amendment covers county and municipal museums, since for tax purposes the county and the city are political subdivisions of the State.

This change in the law brought immediate relief to many museums, and it served the interest of many more through its effect on special exhibitions.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OPENS REDESIGNED FOYER

The American Museum of Natural History, New York, in its remodeling program, has opened the rearranged Foyer of the 77th Street entrance of the museum building. The foyer, decorated in gray, white, and brilliant red, has in the center a specially designed and lighted reception, information and display unit. Background for the unit is a grille of red wires, 28 feet long and 15 feet high, which defines the information area but permits an unobstructed view of the foyer and the adjoining exhibition halls. An exhibit, the Horse and Man, chosen by Director Albert E. Parr as a symbol of the museum's work and purpose, has been installed near the information desk, and a temporary display on How Exhibits Are Made is on view in the foyer area.

MODERN ART MUSEUM BUYS PAVILION IN VENICE

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, has purchased the pavilion used for showing modern American art at the International Art Biennale Exhibitions in Venice. Announcement of the purchase was made on March 29 by William A. M. Burden, president of the museum. Acquisition of the pavilion, formerly owned by the Grand Central Galleries of New York, was made to implement the museum's International Exhibitions Program, established last year through a grant by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

NEW BRITAIN ART MUSEUM ACQUIRES BENTON MURALS

The Art Museum of the New Britain Institute, Conn., has acquired the Thomas Hart Benton mural paintings, Arts of Life in America, formerly owned by the Whitney Museum of American Art. The paintings were made for the Whitney Museum Art Library and were first on view there in the early thirties; later, the library was closed to the public. Announcing the acquisition the museum states, "The New Britain Museum with its permanent collection of paintings represents the development of American art—from fine examples of early Colonial portraiture through varying periods and influences to the most

contemporary of abstractions. The historical and philosophical content of these powerful Benton Murals will make a strong contribution to the existing vitality of this American collection." For the inaugural showing of the Murals, the museum is bringing together about twenty-five important Benton paintings, to be on view from May 22 through September 19. Other museums and collectors are cooperating. R. E. Pritchard is chairman of the art committee. Sanford Low is director of the museum, and Mrs. William E. Bentley is custodian.

MARYLAND HISTORY SOCIETY GETS TROLLEY CARS

The Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, has received a group of historic trolley cars, and is planning to establish ultimately a museum of transportation. The gift, by the Baltimore Transit Company, includes a horse-drawn car of 1880, later remodeled as a cable car and finally electrified, an open summer car of 1894, and six other cars of 1894-1904. Louis F. Meyer and George F. Nixon and other members of the National Railway Historical Society and the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers have long been interested in preserving these cars.

The Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, Wash., has opened an inclusive exhibit of Maritime History and Industry to be on view through May. The exhibit includes the H. W. McCurdy Collection, a recent gift to

the museum, and many objects on loan for the display. Mrs. Sutton Gustison is director.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART PRESENTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., is presenting its eleventh American Music Festival on successive Sunday evenings through May 2. The festival, which began on April 4, includes five programs of orchestra, chamber, piano, and folk music. It is under the general direction of Richard Bales, who will conduct the two orchestral concerts, April 25 and May 2. A highlight of the festival is the first Washington performance of Charles Ives' Symphony No. 2, for Large Orchestra, composed between 1897 and 1901. The programs are heard in the West Garden Court, and are broadcast in entirety by Station WGMS and the Good Music Network.

COOPERSTOWN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM CHANGES NAME

The Cooperstown Children's Museum, N. Y., has recently been incorporated by the Board of Regents of the State of New York under the name Cooperstown Children's Center. The change of designation was made because the organization does not own or maintain museum collections. About 200 children a week participate in the art classes, weaving, basketry, silver work, wood working, and story hour.

The second conference on outdoor museums is to be held at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Mich., in 1955. The first conference was held at Colonial Williamsburg, Va., in January.

Old Fort Wayne, Ind., is being restored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Fort Wayne in cooperation with the Allen County Historical Society. John M. Agnew is chairman of the project. John Sosenheimer is architect.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, N. Y., receives the trophies and awards of the late Lou Gehrig.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS IN UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

Children's Museum, Birmingham Museum of Art, City Hall, Birmingham. Mr. Richard F. Howard, Director.

Holtville Children's Museum, Holtville High School, Deatsville. Mr. E. C. Merritt, Chairman.

CALIFORNIA

California Junior Museum, 4500 Y St., Sacramento. Dr. Fred C. Evenden, Director.

Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum, Roosevelt Way and 16th St., San Francisco 14. Mr. Bert Walker, Director.

Junior Center of Arts, 3612 Webster St., Mosswood Playground, Oakland 9. Mr. John Koenig, Director.

Junior Museum, 46 North Los Robles Ave., Pasadena 1. Mrs. Frank H. Hall, Director.

Palo Alto Junior Museum, 1451 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. Miss Margaret Emery, Director.

San Jose-Santa Clara County Junior Museum, Alum Rock Park, San Jose. Mr. Larry Moitzo, Director.

San Mateo County Junior Museum, Coyote Point, San Mateo. Mr. W. Woodbridge Williams, Director.

COLORADO

Children's Museum, Denver Art Museum, 1370 Bannock St., Denver. Mrs. Angelos Theodorides, Curator of Education.

CONNECTICUT

Children's Museum of Hartford, 609 Farmington Ave., Hartford 5. Mrs. Jane B. Cheney, Director.

Junior Museum of the Mattatuck Historical Society, 119 West Main St., Waterbury 2. Mrs. Martha Sweetser, Director.

Wonder Workshop Junior Museum, Inc., 2185 Main St., Bridgeport 6. Miss Helen S. Johnson, Executive Director.

FLORIDA

De Land Children's Museum, De Land. Miss Dorothy Boggs, Secretary.

Jacksonville Children's Museum, 1061 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville 4. Miss Madalene B. Sawyer, Director.

Junior Museum of Miami, 1737 North Bay Shore Dr., Miami 32. Mr. Frank McConnell, Director.

GEORGIA

Goodman Children's Museum, Clark Howell School, Atlanta. Mrs. Ruth C. Smith, Curator.

INDIANA

Children's Museum, Inc., Marion Public Library, Marion. Mrs. Earl S. Watson, in charge.

Children's Museum of Indianapolis, 3010 No. Meridian St., Indianapolis 8. Mrs. Grace Golden, Director.

Mishawaka Children's Museum, Mary Phillips School, Mishawaka. Miss Catherine H. Jones, Director.

KENTUCKY

Junior Art Gallery, Louisville Free Public Library, Fourth and York Sts., Louisville 3. Mrs. Sue M. Thurman, Director.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge Museum for Children, Longfellow School, Cambridge 39. Miss Ruth D. Crawford, Director.

Children's Art Centre, Inc., 36 Rutland St., Boston 18. Miss Charlotte A. Dempsey, Director.

Children's Museum, 60 Burroughs St., Jamaica Plain, Boston 30. Mrs. Elsie M. Boyle, Director.

Children's Museum, Russells Mills, Dartmouth. Mrs. A. G. Wadsworth, in charge.

Rice Children's Museum, Worcester Natural History Society, 41 Elm St., Worcester. Mr. Richard C. Potter, Director.

MICHIGAN

Children's Museum, Detroit Public Schools, 5205 Cass Ave., Detroit 2. Miss Margaret M. Brayton, Curator.

MINNESOTA

A. M. Chisholm Museum, 1832 E. Second St., Duluth 5. Miss Mabel M. Wing, Curator-Director.

NEW JERSEY

Junior Museum, Newark Museum, Newark 1. Mr. Robert Reid, Supervisor.

Morristown Children's Museum, Maple Avenue School, Morristown. Mrs. Paul J. Fogel, President.

Youth Museum of Leonia, Elementary School, Broad and Crescent

Aves., Leonia. Mailing address: 24 Hawthorne Terr., Leonia. Mrs. Selina T. Johnson, Director.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn Children's Museum, 185 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn 13. Miss Margaret DeWolf Tullock, Director.

Children's Museum, Brooklyn Home for Children, 67-35 112th St., Forest Hills. Mrs. Miriam C. Stryker, Director.

Geneva Nature Museum, Junior School, Geneva. Mrs. Hugh Glasgow, Director; Miss Marion F. Finlay, Assistant Director.

Junior Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 28. Miss Louise Condit, Supervisor.

Public Schools Museum, Fifth Ward School, Amsterdam. Mr. Walter Elwood, Director.

Roslyn Museum of Natural History, East Hills Elementary School, Round Hill Road and Locust Lane, Roslyn Heights, L. I. Mrs. Cecile M. Reichenbach, Chairman.

NORTH CAROLINA

Children's Nature Museum, 1658 Sterling Rd., Charlotte. Miss Laura E. Owens, Director.

Durham Children's Museum, 2500 Georgia Ave., Durham. Mr. James E. Lee, Director.

Rocky Mount Children's Museum, Sunset Park, Rocky Mount. Mrs. Mae Woods Bell, Director.

OHIO

Hanby Junior Museum, Westerville. Mrs. Lillian Stevens, Director.

Lake Erie Junior Museum, Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library. Office: 630 Canterbury Rd., Bay Village. Mrs. Elberta Wagner Fleming, Director.

OREGON

Junior Museum, 3037 S. W. Second Ave., Portland. Miss Alice Reed, Director.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Children's Nature Museum of York County, Fewell Park, Rock Hill. Mr. J. Lee Settlemire, Jr., Director.

Delta Children's Nature Museum, Orangeburg. Mailing address: P. O. Box 282. Mr. J. C. Parler, in charge.

TENNESSEE

Children's Museum, 724 Second

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
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Ave. S., Nashville 10. Mr. Philbrick M. Crouch, Acting Director.

TEXAS

Fort Worth Children's Museum, 1501 Montgomery St., Fort Worth 7. Mr. William G. Hassler, Executive Director.

WEST VIRGINIA

Children's Museum of Charleston, Hale St., Charleston. Mrs. William Morlang, Director.

HAWAII

Honolulu Children's Museum, P. O. Box 3530, Honolulu 11. Mrs. A. K. Keawe, Supervisor of Museum Activities.

This list does not include children's departments within public museums except in a few cases where the departments are actually called children's or junior museums.

Organizations that have assisted in developing children's museums include: Children's Museums Section of the American Association of Museums; National Foundation for Junior Museums; Friends of Children's Museums; local chapters of the American Association of University Women; and national and local Junior Leagues.

STAFF CHANGES

Newport, R. I., Preservation Society of Newport County: Mrs. Monique Panaggio is in charge of publicity, was executive secretary of the former Newport Publicity Commission.

New York, Pierpont Morgan Library: Herbert Cahoon is curator of autograph manuscripts and later printed books, was first assistant, Rare Book Room, New York Public Library.

Philadelphia, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia: Harold J. Grant, Jr., is assistant curator of insects.

Pittsburgh, Fort Pitt Blockhouse: Mrs. George E. Parkas, director for six years, has resigned to teach in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Saginaw Museum: Mrs. Theodore R. McDonald is museum secretary.

St. Paul, Science Museum: Philip Taylor is curator of zoology and supervisor of education.

PERSONALS

Henri Dorra, associate director of the Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Fla., has received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Harvard University.

Alfred Neumeyer, director of the Mills College Art Gallery, Oakland, has received a grant from the American Philosophical Society toward completing a book on the history of illusionism in the visual arts. Dr. Neumeyer will again be guest professor this summer at the Freie Universitaet Berlin, under a grant from the Ford Foundation, in the exchange program of Columbia and Stanford Universities.

TRAVELING SHOWS

The Butler Art Institute, Youngstown, Ohio, announces that its recently acquired paintings by Nahum Tschachbasov are available for loan to other museums, without charge except for transportation and insurance. The 14 paintings, gift of Samuel B. Cohn, of New York, have been on view at the institute together with other gifts of contemporary American paintings. Joseph G. Butler is director of the institute.

The Contemporary Arts Association of Houston, Texas, has for loan to museums, and to educational groups having adequate exhibition facilities, contemporary Swedish stoneware from an exhibition, Stoneware Sung and Swedish, assembled by the association. Colored slides of both the Chinese and Swedish ware are also available. Letters may be addressed to the association, 302 Dallas Street, Houston 3, Texas.

OHIO STATE FILM

The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society and the Ohio State University announce a color filmstrip, *Ohio Past and Present*, including 50 pictures outlining important aspects of the state. The film, financed through a grant by the Ohio Sesqui-centennial Commission, is planned for showing through classroom projectors in 3rd or 4th grade through high school. An 11-page booklet includes notes and suggestions for teachers and discussion leaders. Work of production was by George F. Jenny, supervisor of the society's education department, and Norman Woelfel, head of the university's teaching aids laboratory. The filmstrip and booklet are offered at cost, \$4.00. Letters may be addressed to the Education Department, Ohio State Museum, Columbus 10, Ohio.

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POSITION OPEN

(All correspondence should be addressed directly to the employer.)

Toledo Museum of Art. Assistant librarian. Some knowledge of fine arts; degree in library science. Woman recent graduate preferred. Salary dependent on education and experience. Library serves museum staff; University of Toledo art students; and public. Letters may be addressed to Marjorie M. Mattimoe, Librarian, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo 2, Ohio.

NATURAL SOUNDS RECORD AVAILABLE

The American Museum of Natural History, New York, announces the release of a twelve-inch, long-playing recording, *Sounds of the American Southwest*. The recording includes the sounds of many kinds of birds and animals, a thunderstorm, a flash flood, and other natural sounds, all heard without interruption. It was taped by Charles M. Bogert, chairman of the department of amphibians and reptiles, on an expedition last summer. It was released on March 3 by Folkways Records, and is available from the American Museum Shop and from music stores, at \$6.95, plus 30 cents for postage. An accompanying pamphlet explains the sequence of the sounds and includes related information.

B. F. Ruskin and Co., 1410 Wood Road, New York 62, N. Y., announces that it is distributor for Wall-Rus products, a new material for sound-proofing and decorative treatment of walls. The material consists of a basket weave or burlap textile, the underside of which is fused with a layer of foam rubber, sponge rubber or felt. It can be tacked up or fastened with a prepared paste available from the manufacturer. Further information and a sample-card may be obtained from the company.