

Figuratively Speaking

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGE STUART GALLERY OF HISTORICAL FIGURES®

Missing Historical Figures Tracked to Spokane

EDITOR'S REMARKS

"*Figuratively Speaking*" is the way supporters will be able to keep informed about George Stuart and the Historical Figures®.

News about projects to preserve and promote the Historical Figures will be updated regularly. We will be reporting on news from Ventura and Ojai as well as national and international venues.

This issue, mentions several projects underway to preserve the records of Mr. Stuart's work and to make it readily available to the public. These extensive records are deteriorating in their current form of photographic film and audio and video tapes.

With modern computer technology, these records will be converted to permanent digital archives. Once converted, the information can be easily accessed and utilized.

Thankfully conversion costs have dropped dramatically in recent years, although there are still unavoidable expenses.

Getting Involved

With Stuart enthusiasts giving of their spare time, project costs can be surprisingly low. We can all participate by managing or sponsoring any of the Gallery projects described on page 4.

To receive future mailings about Gallery activities, please complete and return the enclosed form.

When you have 400 children, it's hard to keep up with them all. Especially, when their ages span 50 years and more than a few just don't write very often. Just ask George Stuart. Like any parent, Mr. Stuart became concerned when a group of more than thirty Figures disappeared.

The group was originally acquired by Monsanto Chemical for a Disneyland exhibit in the '60s. Few of these early Figures were ever duplicated by Mr. Stuart, such as Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and Alexander the Great.

A few weeks of searching the internet and talking with the Pensacola, FL historical and art community revealed that the collection was in Spokane, Washington. These Figures have never been seen by Ventura residents. However, slides and photos have been located. Stay tuned for a special monolog about the wayward group.



This image of Julius Caesar was from a recently discovered video tape.

Exhibit, Seminar: Hits of Boston Expo

In July at the *World Model Soldier Expo 2005*, George Stuart captivated a "standing room only" crowd of modelers and collectors from over a dozen countries. Stuart's multimedia presentation covered Figures from the new book and a description of his work and construction methods (see page 4 for DVD). Fourteen Figures from the Gallery and VCMHA were displayed. Four military Figures were also loaned from private collections. Guild members John Metha and Leroy Becker drove the Figures to Boston, while Ria Becker accompanied Mr. Stuart on the cross-country flights. Special thanks go to Primavera Gallery of Ojai for sponsoring transportation of the Figure with a very generous donation.



Expo 2005 attracted over 3,000 visitors and exhibitors to the outstanding Gallery booth. A DVD of the Stuart Seminar is available from the Gallery.

Events & Announcements

VCMHA Builds National Tour of Historical Figures Around Award-winning Book

When VCMHA closes for expansion next year, a traveling exhibit of Historical Figures will be offered to select museums around the country. According to VCMHA Executive Director Tim Schiffer, the exhibit of about fifty Figures will stay at each venue for ten weeks, ample time for local patrons to become more familiar with Stuart's work.

The list of Figures will include those illustrated in the new book and a few others. A company with experience in museum tour promotion has been retained to manage the project.



Book Earns Design Awards

Peter D'Aprix's striking photography, Gunnar Swanson's creative design and Lee Green's insightful writing, came together into a book now gathering accolades from publishing professionals.

The first award came from the creative design community and then the book earned recognition in competition with publications of museums across the country. Congratulations to the VCMHA staff on a Honorable Mention behind the Getty and the New York Met winners!

George III Returns for Fall Exhibit and Mozart Visits Briefly before Departing for Florida

When Barry and Carol Kaye reluctantly closed their Los Angeles Museum of Miniatures, they donated about twenty of Stuart's French Historical Figures to the Naples Florida Museum of Art (NMA). The Figures are now on permanent display in the museum's Miniatures Gallery.

A visit by Stuart supporters to NMA led to loans of Figures by VCMH&A and the Gallery of Historical Figures in 2004 and 2005.

Selected French and English Figures were displayed through this summer in two exhibits, along with historical documents, clothing and artifacts from 18th and 19th century England. More than 100,000 NMA visitors viewed George III and friends. In February, Mr. Stuart presented two monologs in Naples. In the feature monolog, he described the personalities and intrigues surrounding two English landmarks, Hampton Court and Brighton Pavilion.

Now a commissioned Figure of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart has come out of seclusion in Cambria, CA to travel to Naples. The Figure will be featured in the foyer of the prestigious Naples Philharmonic Hall until next August. Then he will return to Ventura for local exhibition.

Historical note: Mozart spent most of his ninth year in London. His music was immensely popular, a favorite of George's Queen Charlotte for whom he wrote several sonatas.



Young King George III in Coronation Robes and Wolfgang Mozart

Mozart never returned to England, although he was frequently invited. Shortly before his illness and death in 1791, he arranged for his mentor and friend Franz Josef Hayden to go in his place to the Court of St. James. One can only wonder how the world of music would have evolved had Mozart returned to the friendly British Isles.

When Mozart passed, George III had just lost the colonies (United States) and he was beginning to show signs of the insanity that would plague the rest of his rule.

Projects & Programs

New Gallery Website and Archive Underway

An electronic archive of the Historical Figures and monologs is now in development, thanks to a nationally recognized expert in data base design.

Mary Harrsch, a computer database expert at the University of Oregon is collaborating with the Gallery to make images and information about the Figures available worldwide over the Internet.

Once the development phase is completed, the effort will transition to loading into the database a prodigious amount of information available for many of the Figures.

Information about each Historical Figure will include images, biographies, timelines as well as audio and video clips. Mrs. Harrsch is also prototyping a selection of online "virtual" Figures capable interacting with site visitors.

Besides being an admirer of Stuart's work, Mary is also an accomplished photographer and history buff who specializes in documenting ancient Mediterranean sites and art. More on the projects in the next "Figuratively Speaking" Newsletter.

The screenshot shows a web interface for the George S. Stuart Historical Figures database. At the top, there are tabs for "Group", "Figures", "Images", "Audio", and "Video". Below these are "New", "Next", and "Back" buttons. The main content area displays a record for "Thomas Jefferson". It includes a portrait of Jefferson, a "Short Biography" section with a text area, and an "Expanded Biography" section with another text area. At the bottom, there are "Primary Group" and "All Groups" sections with checkboxes for various categories like "American Civil War", "Military Minds", "The Romanovs", etc.

George S. Stuart Historical Figures	Group	Figures	Images	Audio	Video	
New Next Back						
Catalog Nbr	3					
Title	Thomas Jefferson					
Last Name	Jefferson					
First Name	Thomas					
Born	1743	<input type="checkbox"/>	BCE	Author of the Declaration of Independence, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia — voiced the aspirations of a new America as no other individual of his era. As public official, historian, philosopher, and plantation owner, he served his country for over five decades.		
Died	1826	<input type="checkbox"/>	BCE			
Portrait	1804					
Age	61					
Created	1959					
Expanded Biography						
His father Peter Jefferson was a successful planter and surveyor and his mother Jane Randolph a member of one of Virginia's most distinguished families. Having inherited a considerable landed estate from his father, Jefferson began building Monticello when he was twenty-six years old. Three years later, he married Martha Wayles Skelton, with whom he lived happily for ten years until her death. Their						
Primary Group	Patriots & Founders					
All Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	American Civil War	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military Minds	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Romanovs
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	American Presidents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pathfinders	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Tudors
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conquerors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revolutionary Patriots & Founders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wives and Consorts
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heads of State	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Bourbons		

Data screen showing some of the extensive data to be recorded about each Figure.

Stuart Gives First Computer-aided Monologs



Mr. Stuart's monologs usually rely heavily on Figures on display in the Gallery. But what does he do when a monolog refers to nearly two hundred Figures?

In the past, he projected 35mm slides to illustrate how Figures are crafted and to show an extensive sample of his works. Now Mr. Stuart has traded his slide carrousel for a laptop computer and LCD projector. More than 250 35mm slides were scanned, cleaned and inserted into PowerPoint presentations.

Highly portable presentations have already been given in Ventura, Boston and Naples (FL). The Boston presentation has also been produced on DVD.

Best of all, digital slides do not deteriorate and can be copied perfectly.

Efforts Begun to Video Tape Last Reprise of Monologs

Beginning in September, the monologs will be captured on video tape. The video footage will be combined with images of the English Figures and other historical information and then produced as a DVD and VHS tape.

According to Mr. Stuart, this Fall may be the last time he will give monologs on the English Figures. Typically Figure groups are exhibited every 30 to 36 months. Construction for the Museum expansion could delay the next opportunity for several years.

Get Involved!

Gallery Now Accepting Membership

You can help promote and preserve Mr. Stuart's Historical Figures and monologs, now by participating in a variety of Gallery activities and projects. Members will receive "**Figuratively Speaking**" Newsletter quarterly and other benefits as described below. Please note that the Gallery is not currently an official non-profit organization, so dues and contributions may not be tax deductible.

Full Subscription

For those who just want to keep up with the latest Gallery news, Full Subscription for \$250/year includes—

- "**Figuratively Speaking**" Newsletter
- Emailed announcements
- Invitation to Gallery events
- Special offers from the Gallery
- Color prints of new photography
- Opportunities for project management
- Participation in Gallery guidance

Associate Subscription

To keep up with the latest Gallery news, Associate Subscription for \$50/year includes—

- "**Figuratively Speaking**" Newsletter
- Emailed announcements
- Invitation to Gallery events
- Special offers from the Gallery
- Opportunities for project participation

Get Involved in Gallery Projects!

PRESERVE EARLY AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS OF MONOLOGS

Over the last few decades, many hours of monologs and events have been recorded. The recordings will deteriorate if not converted to digital format and cataloged. The contents can be produced for members and the public.

Project manager and sponsor needed.

Estimated hours: 2,000 hrs

Sponsorship: \$1,500 for materials only.

RECORD CURRENT MONOLOGS & PREPARE PRESENTATIONS

Each month the monologs will be recorded on digital video tape and then combined with images of Figures and historical material. Produce DVD and VHS tapes. Project manager and sponsor needed.

Estimated hours: 100 hrs per monolog.

Sponsorship: \$1,000 for materials only.

CONVERT SLIDES OF HISTORICAL FIGURES TO DIGITAL IMAGES

About 2,500 images of Historical Figures that are now on 35mm slides need to be scanned, cleaned and cataloged.

Slide scanner is available for newer pc. Adobe Photoshop or Elements required.

Project manager and sponsor needed.

Estimated hours: 1,000 hrs.

Sponsorship: \$500 for materials only.

UNDECIDED?

Undecided about which projects to support? Let the Gallery Committee put your special contribution to the best immediate use.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER PROJECTS?

Call -

Leroy Becker at 805-641-3100

Or email -

beckerbysea@cs.com

PUBLISH A NEWSLETTER!

Sponsor costs of printing and posting newsletters to GHF subscribers. Format would usually be 2 or 4 pages in color.

Costs:

Average \$750 per issue.



COLOR COPIER/FAX/PRINTER

Purpose: enable high quality copying and transmission of images and text between the Gallery, museums, members, suppliers, etc.

Description: "All-in-one" system now is wide use.

Costs: \$350

