

# Go Figure!

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGE STUART HISTORICAL FIGURES GUILD

## Stuart Shares Professional History, Introduces Newest Historical Figure®

Fellow Guild Members,

Welcome to the George Stuart Historical Figures® Guild, a self-supporting special interest group of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art.

I am honored to serve as the Guild's first president and I look forward to working with all the members. My family has long supported the museum and Mr. Stuart's work, and we look forward to this new venture.

In just a few weeks, over 160 members have joined the Guild—an overwhelming response and testament to the broad appeal of Mr. Stuart's work. All who join in 2004 will be founding members. Joiners before April 15 were recognized as founders in the Guild's first project, the spectacular new book about Mr. Stuart and his Historical Figures. Members will receive their copy which was just published and distributed to all guild members.

Joining me on the Guild's first executive committee are museum board members Bobbi Dufau, Handel Evans, Bill Orcutt and Mary Schwabauer along with Mr. Stuart's personal and professional representative Mr. Leroy Becker, who has helped facilitate Guild formation.

The Guild committee has developed a mission statement\*, and has been charged by the museum board to develop and implement a strategic plan of goals and objectives. Your many areas of interest and expertise will help develop and implement this plan. Thank you for your support and interest in the George Stuart collection.

**Gregory Smith**  
Guild President

**\*Mission:** The George Stuart Historical Figures® Guild (GSHFG) is a self-supporting interest group of the *Ventura County Museum of History & Art* founded to support the collection, conservation, creation, preservation, presentation and promotion of the work of George Stuart.



Photo by Peter D'Aprix

### Meet Hung Hsiu Ch'uan, First "Internet-sourced" Historical Figure

After more than a decade, Stuart has returned to creating new Chinese Figures. Always seeking the best of embroidery, Stuart used the Internet to locate LU Zhengliang Arts Studio in the Suzhou Region of China. The exquisite embroidery on the Hung Figure robes and hat are the first fruit of this exciting collaboration. Now Stuart is hinting of a "more complicated" Chinese Figure in progress. Stay tuned!

In 1850, Hung led the ten-year Taiping Rebellion. He embraced Christianity and believed he was God's second son. He preached communal land ownership as well as equality between men and women. The ill-fated revolt cost 20 million Chinese peasants their lives.



George Stuart spins a captivating narrative about 50 years of monologs and modeling Figures.

**JOIN THE FUN!** Guild projects need a wide variety of assistance as listed on the enclosed questionnaire. Please indicate any areas in which you might assist Mr. Stuart, the Collection and the Guild. Be sure to indicate how you would prefer to be contacted. Please mail the completed form in the envelope provided. Questions? Call Leroy Becker at 805-641-3100.

A GUILD OF THE VENTURA COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART

# Events & Announcements

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGE STUART HISTORICAL FIGURES GUILD

## Artist to demonstrate classical Chinese embroidery techniques for Stuart's newest Historical Figure®

On June 12, Guild members can learn how the fabric for the new Hung Hsiu Ch'an Figure was embroidered in China. The exquisite imperial robe and jacket of gold color fabric are the results of a six month collaboration by George Stuart and the LU Zhengliang Art Studio in the Suzhou, Jiangsu Province of China.

Mr. Lu the studio owner and master artist will describe the embroidery process and show samples of the special needles, thread and fabric required to accurately reproduce the intricate patterns. Mr. Lu and Mr. Stuart will relate the research needed to accurately depict the period.

As Stuart says, The collaboration began after Stuart viewed the exquisite work on Lu's studio website.



*"Every stitch in ancient robes had religious and cultural meaning and purpose. The challenge to Mr. Lu and his artists was maintaining clarity at one-fourth life size." G.S.S.*

After several email exchanges and FedEx packages, a delicate fabric in "imperial yellow" was selected and Stuart sketched the patterns.

Mr. Lu will speak about authenticating the sketches at a major national historical museum in Nanking. He will also discuss preparation of the final designs and the embroidery process work. "We have never enjoyed such high quality of authenticity, artistry and skill," says Stuart. A new imperial Manchu Figure now in progress will be described briefly.

An historical overview of Chinese embroidery can be seen at Lu's website at [www.artsuzhou.com](http://www.artsuzhou.com).

The event is on Saturday June 12 at 10:30 am in the Smith Gallery. Free admission to Museum members and \$10 for non-members, payable at the door in cash or by check. RSVP to 805-653-0323 ext. 10.

## Book signing is an opportunity to share Historical Figures with friends and family

From 1 to 3pm on Saturday May 22, Mr. Stuart will sign copies of the eye-appealing and informative new book about the entertaining artist and historian and his work. Guild members pick up their free copy and have it signed by Mr. Stuart. Additional books will be on sale at the Museum store.

We have all brought family and friends to view the Historical Figures. A few lucky ones were even afforded the chance to hear one of Mr. Stuart's stimulating and entertaining historical monologs.

For those admirers of Stuart and the Historical Figures, what gift would be a better remembrance than a book of their own?

The book is available at the Museum Store. The Museum member price is \$19.80 each and \$17.90 for 5 or more.

Proceeds from book sales go to replenishing Guild operating funds.

For those who cannot attend the book signing, the Museum store will take phone orders at 805-653-0323 ext 16.



### ABOUT THE GUILD NEWSLETTER

Please send comments and suggestions to Leroy Becker at 805-641-3100 or [beckerbysea@cs.com](mailto:beckerbysea@cs.com)