

New Figure Celebrates Triumph of African American Entrepreneur

Notes from the artist

For years I have wanted to do something to honor the history of black Americans. My intentions were impeded during my touring years by booking agents who strongly suggested that I stick to history with which my invariably all-white audiences would identify. Nowadays Americans generally have a more sophisticated view.

VMHA docent Patricia Trude has spoken with me on several occasions regarding my doing something in the area of black history. Mrs. Trude suggested that I look into the story of Mme. Walker (1867-1919).

Indeed, Mme. Walker's history proved fascinating. Although little known today, she is an outstanding example of the American mythology - if you work hard and never give up, you will achieve success.

Mme. Walker went from house servant to becoming the first millionaire black woman and a major figure in black American affairs. All of her successes came before the civil rights movement or the enfranchisement of women. Her story illustrates the remarkable qualities of this segment of our population.



"I am a woman who came from the cotton fields of the South. From there I was promoted to the wash-tub. From there I was promoted to the cook kitchen. And from there I promoted myself into the business of manufacturing hair goods and preparations....I have built my own factory on my own ground"

Mme. C. J. Walker,
National Negro Business League
Convention, July 1912



EDITOR'S REMARKS

In this issue

You will meet Ms. C. J. Walker, the newest Historical Figure. There are also updates on missing Figures and a report on a new DVD of a Stuart Monolog.

Get Involved—Sign up!

Figuratively Speaking has become a major source of news and information about the art and entertainment of George Stuart. **Sign up now and receive the first version of the new Stuart Dynasty DVD.** Join in with your spare time to participate in the Gallery projects described on page 4.

To those of you who have already subscribed, thank you to your interest and support. You should have received a complimentary DVD of Mr. Stuart's presentation at the World Model Soldier Expo in Boston.

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

Events & Announcements

Mme. Pompadour Now Resides in South of France

While attending UC Santa Barbara in 1950, George Stuart was befriended by Patricia Mayfield Barton who soon became the first person to be seriously attracted to Stuart's budding art form, the Historical Figure®. Over the next few years, Ms. Barton actively promoted the Stuart's work, placing exhibits in museums and even early TV shows. In response, Stuart created the stunning Mme. Pompadour Figure (*at right*) as a gift in 1960.

The trail to Gourdon, France is as interesting as the Figure. Mme. Barton and her American husband, emigrated to France, where her reputation as a "naïve" artistic flourished. She was honored with more than ten solo shows and two UNICEF cards.* In 2005, Mme. Barton passed on, but not before bequeathing Pompadour to a friend who cherishes the Figure.

*For more information about Mme. Barton, please visit—
<http://www.daprix.com/barton/artist/about-artist1.htm>.



The Mme. Pompadour Historical Figure (above) was recently photographed in Southern France. Mr. Stuart has also modeled Pompadour for the Kay Collection and the VCMHA (left).



On the trail of FDR Figure

Stuart Correspondence with Eleanor Located at Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park

In the early 50's George Stuart modeled an Historical Figure of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He sent the Figure to Eleanor Roosevelt after a meeting in her United Nations offices in New York City. The story now takes up fifty years later.

In our effort to find and document all Figures, the Roosevelt Library has been enlisted in the task of locating the FDR Figure. So far, the staff have located the letter from Mr. Stuart to Mrs. Roosevelt, but the Figure has not been located at the library or Hyde Park home. The library curator is casting a wider net. Stay tuned!



Stuart modeled all three WWII leaders shown here at Tehran Conference. Enjoy detective work? Call Leroy Becker to help find missing Figures.

Projects & Programs

Museum Activities

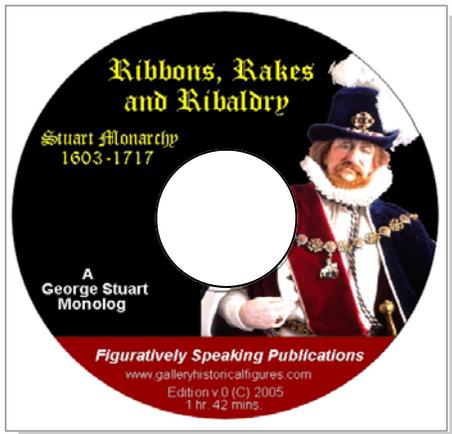
Smith Gallery Hosts Reformation Group

The VCMHA Spring monolog series about the Reformation is almost sold out, in spite of long overdue price hikes in ticket prices. Order soon using the order form sent to all Museum members.



VCMHA Promotes Stuart Exhibit Tour

A national tour of more than fifty Stuart Figures will soon be offered to museums by the Exhibit Coalition, an organization that specializes in touring museum exhibits. If the tour is a sellout, the Figures will be viewed by millions in more than a dozen cities across the country in 2007. More details in the next newsletter.



First DVD Monolog Features England's Stuart Dynasty

All three monologs of the **"Three Hundred Years of English History" Series** were videotaped. The *"Ribbons, Rakes and Ribaldry"* monolog about the Stuart Dynasty has been prepared for DVD. During the video editing process, video of the period Historical Figures as well as images of historical paintings and engravings to enhance the final DVD.

The sample monolog-on-DVD will be used to raise funds for professional videography and production. Meanwhile, we hope to produce DVDs of the remaining Fall monologs - *"Teapot Tyrants"* and *"She Was No Victorian!"* Help, anyone?

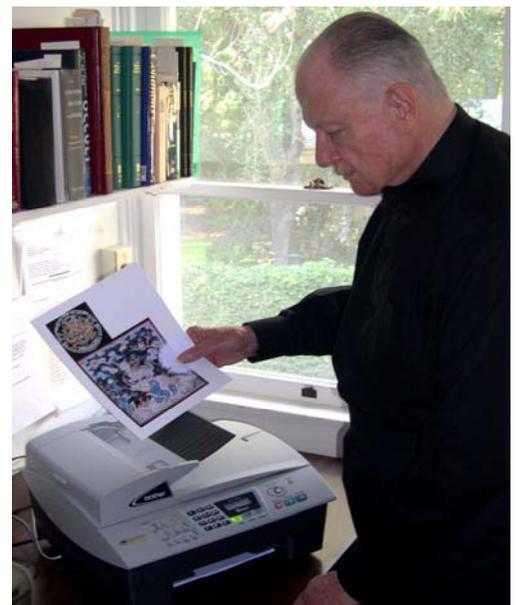
New subscribers to Figuratively Speaking will receive a complimentary copy of the DVD.

New Color Fax/Copier Aids Research

Thanks to a generous contribution by Dr. Howard Boroughs, the Ojai studio can now handle color materials a lot easier. Printed images, book pages, etc., can now be copied, printed and even faxed—all in full color.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then what is a color image worth? In the case of getting an Historical Figure® right, color can mean everything. Is that blue really a "royal" blue?

Color coordination is especially important in Mr. Stuart's work with China. While color images greatly aid in design and construction, they will not likely be relied upon for ultimate color reference. Meanwhile Mr. Stuart is receiving newsletter drafts in full color.



Get Involved!

Your Contributions Sponsor Restoration of Cleopatra, Salome, King Tut, Queen of Sheba

Imagine seeing four of your children for the first time in forty years. That is what happened to Mr. Stuart during the holidays when Cleopatra, Salome, King Tutankhamen and the Queen of Sheba were brought to the gallery by their current owners, Joyce and Ted Watson. The couple drove the Figures from their home in Spokane, WA where their private collection includes about thirty more early Figures originally acquired by Monsanto for an exhibit at Disneyland.

Fortunately Mrs. Watson would not allow others to restore the Figures, instead holding out until she could personally bring "the worst" to Stuart for repair. According to Stuart, the Figures are in fair condition, but need work. Some jewelry is damaged or missing and some clothing has been stained or discolored. Skin has cracked in places. "Over all, the Figures have fared rather well outside of a gallery environment," Stuart observes. Importantly, the prodigals will be housed in new carrying cases.

Upon return to their Spokane residence, the Watsons look forward to improving the environment of the room they now dedicate to the Figures.

How Joyce Watson's mother found and acquired the Figures would top the best Antiques Road Show tale, as will be reported a future issue. But there is more—two Figures are still missing from the original Monsanto Collection. The hunt continues!



As Mrs. Watson watches, Mr. Stuart inspects the Queen of Sheba after a 40-yr absence. The four restored Figures will be exhibited in the Gallery before returning to Spokane.

You can help . . .

Promote and preserve Mr. Stuart's Historical Figures and monologs now by subscribing to the "**Figuratively Speaking**" Newsletter and participating Gallery activities and projects. (See enclosed subscription form). Please note that the Gallery is not currently an official non-profit organization, so dues and contributions are not be tax deductible.

PROJECTS TO PRESERVE HISTORICAL FIGURES AND MONOLOGS

Over recent decades, hundreds of photos and many hours of monologs have been recorded. These recordings will deteriorate if not converted to digital format and cataloged. Now you can help preserve Mr. Stuart's work by contributing to a restoration project.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

- Image conversion
- Monolog recording
- Website development
- Archive development

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 to beckerbysea@cs.com

SPONSOR A NEWSLETTER!

Sponsor costs of printing and posting newsletters to GHF subscribers.

Costs:
Average \$650 per issue.



COLOR COPIER/FAX/PRINTER

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

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

Costs: \$350

DONATED!
See Page 3

