

Stuff of Legends: Germanic Mythic Figures Featured in Stuart's Ojai Gallery



Photograph by Stella Martin

The collection of Norse gods and mythic heroes is perhaps the most tightly knit group of Stuart Figures. Nine of the Figures will be on exhibit until November. Each plays an integral role in ancient Germanic legends and poems.

Filled with death, murder, intrigue and betrayal, these old legends tell of a pantheon of supernatural figures ruled by **Wotan (Odin)** the Father of the Gods. He enslaves Frost Giants to build his fortress Valhalla.

There is even a dragon, **Fafnir** and its slayer **Siegfried**, a mortal; a goddess of Spring, **Freyja** and her brother **Freyr**, god of virility.

The evil **Loki**, Wotan's brother is the primary cause of misfortune for all the gods, ending with the death of **Baldur**, the "perfect god." The dwarf king **Andvardi** curses a horde of gold lost to trickery of the gods.

Gallery Hours

Open 1 to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays now through November. Closed if raining. Located on McNell Road at Reeves Road in Ojai. No admission charge, donations welcome.

How to Subscribe and Support the Historical Figures

Associate Subscription

Associate Subscription for \$50/year includes—

- **"Figuratively Speaking" Newsletter**
- **One DVD of a Stuart Monolog**
- Emailed announcements
- Invitation to Gallery events
- Special offers from the Gallery
- Opportunities for project participation

SUBSCRIPTION FORM ENCLOSED

Full Subscription

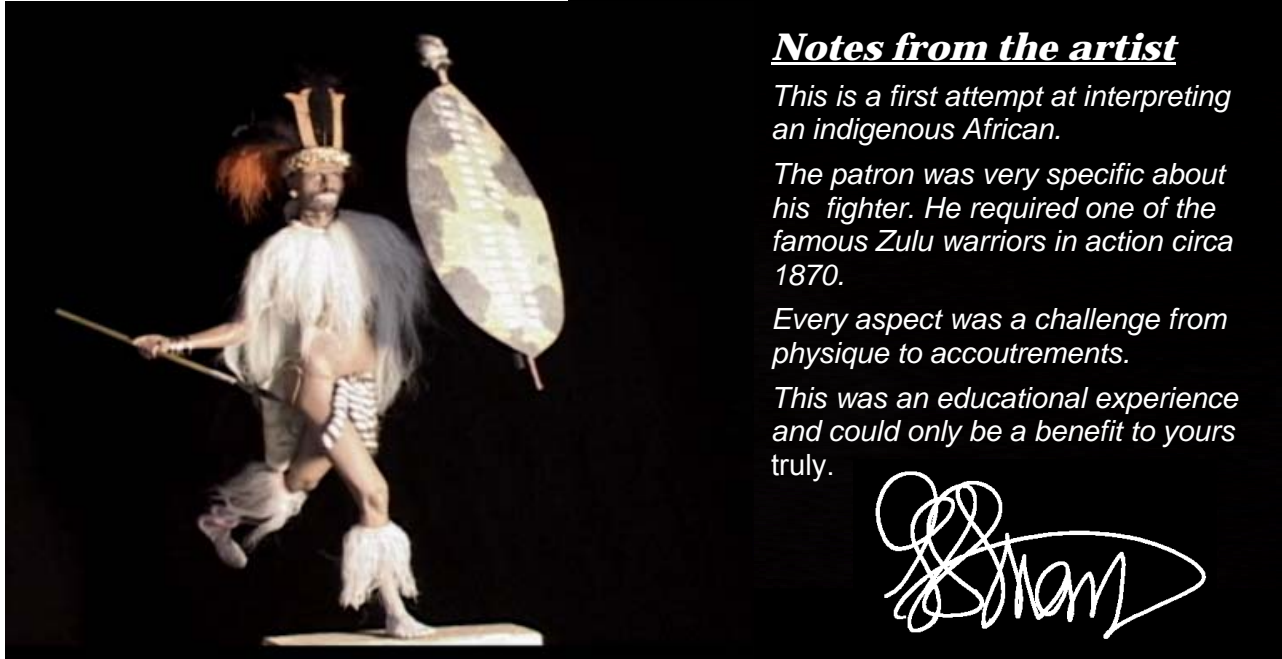
Full Subscription for \$250/year includes—

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

Figuratively Speaking Publications is a for-profit entity independent of the Ventura County Museum of History & Art and its George Stuart Historical Figures Guild.

Events & Announcements

Zulu Warrior is Newest Commission in Collector's "Grunt" Soldiers Group



Notes from the artist

This is a first attempt at interpreting an indigenous African.

The patron was very specific about his fighter. He required one of the famous Zulu warriors in action circa 1870.

Every aspect was a challenge from physique to accoutrements.

This was an educational experience and could only be a benefit to yours truly.

The new Zulu Warrior Figure made his first public appearance fighting the British in the Victorian DVD.

Museum Activities

“What’s Love Got to do With It?” **Summer Monolog Series Features Couples**

Of the sixteen famous couples discussed in this summer’s monologs, some relations ended tragically, including beheadings, assassinations and untimely deaths. But most held positions of power and enjoyed some part of their life and left an interesting legacy.

- May—“For Better, For Worse”
- June—“For Richer, For Poorer”
- July—“Forsaking All Others”
- August—“Until Death Do Us Part”

Thanks to VCMHA Curator Anne Graumlich and the staff for the concept for this intriguing monolog series.

More Performances for Summer Monologs

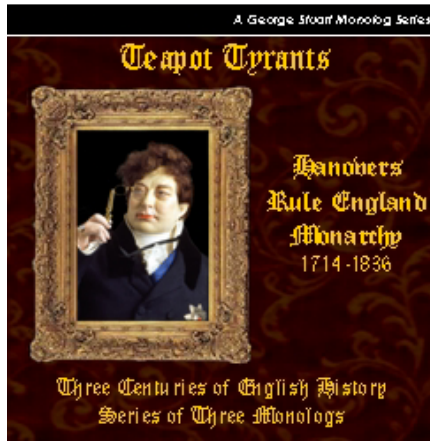
Stuart monologs sell out quickly, but getting a seat just got easier. This summer VCMHA has scheduled one additional evening performance for each month. For availability, contact Jeanne Scott at VCMHA at 805-648-5823 or 805- 653-0145 .



John C Fremont explored and surveyed much of the West, including California. Wife Jesse Benton Fremont wrote his glowing reports that led many pioneers to trek west. Few today remember that he was one of California's first U.S. Senators. In 1856 he was the new Republican Party's first presidential candidate .

Projects & Programs

Three-DVD Monolog Set Documents “300 Years of English History”



People who like their history served up with humor and irreverence should experience a monolog when surrounded by Historical Figures in the VCMHA Smith Gallery. In the past it has been tough for attendees to share the experience with others.

The next best thing to viewing a monolog might be one of the new documentary-style DVDs. These 90-minute programs of Stuart monologs are supplemented with new video footage of more than fifty Historical Figures as well as images of paintings, drawings and etchings of people and events of the times.

“Tudor Prequel” in the Future?

Those who are really familiar with the Historical Figures could observe Mr. Stuart’s monologs cover 400 years of English history. Indeed, the Tudor dynasty of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I and others preceded the Stuart dynasty.

A prequel could show how the actions of Tudors, especially Henry VIII moved England closer to a constitutional monarchy, which was the major thread through the “300 Years” documented in the first three DVDs.

AVAILABILITY

Three-DVD set is \$79.95 or individual DVD is \$29.95.

WHERE TO ORDER

Figuratively Speaking Publications 805-646-6574 or at www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com.

WHERE TO BUY

Gallery of Historical Figures, open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4pm

Soon at VCMHA Store 805-653-0323. Open 10am to 5pm except Mondays.

English History Monologs to Air on Ventura Channel 6 during April and May

Channel 6 in Ventura will be the first to broadcast a series of three Stuart monologs. Each episode is 90 minutes long. Each episode will be aired four times in one week.

Access channels will be approached in Oxnard, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Ojai and Santa Barbara.

Each channel has rules about who can submit programs for broadcast. If you would like to have the monologs aired on your cable network, contact Leroy Becker by email at beckerbysea@cs.com or call/fax 805-641-3100.

Ventura Channel 6	Sun	Mon	Wed	Sat
Episode	3pm	9pm	6pm	4pm
Ribbons, Rakes and Ribaldry	4/16	4/17	4/19	4/22
Teapot Tyrants	4/23	4/24	4/26	4/29
She Was No Victorian	4/30	5/1	5/3	5/6

Get Involved!

Four Monsanto Figures Restored

When George Stuart welcomed home the four Figures, he could see that they were in need of repair. Forty years with little professional attention had taken a toll.

What began as a visit for the Figures became a major restoration.

Thirty to forty hours were required to bring each Figure near to its original condition. All required resurfacing and painting. Tarnished metal parts were polished and fabrics carefully cleaned.

Now restored, the Figures—Cleopatra, Salome, Tutankhamen and the Queen of Sheba have new transfer cases for storage and return to the Watson family in Spokane.

Although the work is tedious, Mr. Stuart will continue restoring the remaining thirty Figures when funds are found.



The Queen of Sheba and King Tutankhamen restored to their original beauty.

You can help . . .

promote and preserve Historical Figures and monologs now by subscribing to our “**Figuratively Speaking**” Newsletter and participating in Gallery activities and projects. (See enclosed Subscription Form). Subscriptions fees and contributions are not 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 catalogued. 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

SPONSOR A NEWSLETTER!

Sponsor costs of printing and posting newsletters to FSP subscribers.

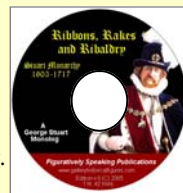
Costs:
Average \$650 per issue.



SPONSOR A MONOLOG DVD

Sponsor costs of producing a new Monolog DVD and distribution to subscribers.

Costs:
Average \$650 per Monolog.



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

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