

# Figuratively Speaking

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGE STUART GALLERY OF HISTORICAL FIGURES®

## New Photo Portraits of French Figures Prepared for Gallery Website and Summer Monologs



*French Group of Historical Figures span about 250 Years*

This is turning out to be a good year for the French. The summer monologs will feature the late period of the French monarchy. Then, this fall the French Figures will join the English group on the gallery website. Photography is currently being completed by Peter D'Aprix and the monologs will be taped late this summer.

Over the years, G. S. Stuart has produced more than 70 French Figures. Most of which are owned by the Museums of Ventura County, Naples Florida and the Gallery of Historical Figures. A few are in private collections. The French was Stuart's first group, perhaps because he became intrigued with French culture after visiting Versailles.

## Das Nibelungenlied Exhibited at Gallery of Historical Figures



*Villains Hagen & Gunther.*

"This saga is a Germanic legend which is the classic revenge story of all time," according to Mr. Stuart. "It combines love, murder, rape, pillage and revenge. A great hero finds himself in the toils of a family of deceivers and villains. His doom is sealed by his one true love. Great stuff!"

The major Figures in the saga are on display at the Gallery of Historical Figures through November.

Unfortunately there are no plans to present the theatrical equivalent of a monolog.



*Hero Siegfried*

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

# Figure Projects

## Generic Viking Warrior Joins Private Collection of Military “Grunts”



*The “typical” Viking Warrior was modeled from a 1954 comic strip character.*

Generic Figures are rarely George Stuart’s subjects. He prefers to focus on the recognizable, both famous and infamous.

Only in recent years have nameless, frontline warriors of many ages and cultures been an exception. For a private collection, Mr. Stuart has created several generic fighters, of which the Viking Warrior is the latest.

At the request of the collector, the generic Viking was modeled after Boltar, a comic strip character.

Other fighters modeled for this collection include a Zulu Warrior, Greek Hoplite, Aztec Warrior, Roman Legionary, Roman Centurion, Norman Crusader and Swiss Landsknecht.

## Material Shopping Takes Patience and Persistence

From local stores to inland China, Mr. Stuart is constantly searching for just the right materials to create new Figures and restore existing ones. His sources in Los Angeles are also the favorites of most Hollywood costume designers.

Many fabrics discolor or disintegrate with age, so must be replaced. His goal is to select materials and processes that will result in a 100-year life span.

The massive project of restoring the Hernandez-Monsanto Collection is a case in point. The 50-year old Figures were some of the first modeled by Stuart. Several costumes are beyond repair and are being recreated in modern fabrics.

Since those early days, his methods and materials have markedly improved.



*ABOVE: Stuart patiently rummages through the dozens of specialty material shops in Los Angeles’ commercial district.*

*RIGHT: Specifying and finding just the right silk for the exquisite garments of the Chinese Pretender Hung Hsiu CH’aun took months of work in Ojai and China. The precise color, “imperial yellow” was reserved for royalty. Finding the exact silk was just the beginning. Next came months of precision embroidery in China and finally assembly of the garments for the Figure.*



# Multimedia Projects

## Monolog Videotaping Moves to TDC Studio

For the last 18 months, we have taped monologs in the Smith Gallery at the Museum of Ventura County. Occasionally videotaping was impossible because of sellout crowds.

Now there are plans under way to move the taping sessions to a professional-class recording studio at the Technical Development Center (TDC). The modern facility is an accredited training center in multimedia. TDC currently produces several shows for local educational and public access channels.

The TDC studio is equipped with excellent staging and lighting and accommodates a live audience of 70. Multi-camera recording and live editing supervised by experts will make for a more enjoyable and informative monolog recording.

Moving Figures to the studio is impractical, so attendees will see the images projected on screens.



*The TDC offers a complete studio facility and trained staff to videotape monologs.*

## Schedules for Monologs, Events, Exhibits Now Listed on Gallery Website

Moving the videotaping sessions to the TDC will have no affect on the traditional monolog schedules at the Smith Gallery at the Museum of Ventura County.

Now information about all monologs and presentations is viewable anytime on the **Appearances** page of the **News** section of the website at [www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com](http://www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com).

Other new pages will soon show **Exhibits** of Figures and **TV Schedules** of Stuart documentaries.

### Calendar of Monologs and Presentations

A George Stuart Monolog is history, education and entertainment cleverly delivered with a mix of satire, inuendo, seriousness and pathos. Monolog topics change monthly. Length is less than two hours, including a 15-minute intermission when refreshments are served. Book early, as performances usually sell out quickly.

Recent



*Mercy Otis Warren*

Four Faces of Eve: Women in Power Series  
"Trailblazing: The Power of Example"

Current



*Dolley Madison*

Four Faces of Eve: Women in Power Series  
"Playing Hardball: Women on Top"

Coming



*Henry IV*

The Bourbons Dynasty  
"The Bourbons, Survivors of Religious Chaos (1570's - 1640)"

*The new "Monologs and Presentations" page will become a convenient way to check times and availability.*

Series	Title	Day	Time	Date	Ticket status
Museum of Ventura County Four Faces of Eve: Women in Power Series	"Playing Hardball: Women on Top"	Tuesday	1:30	04/03/2007	Available
Museum of Ventura County Four Faces of Eve: Women in Power Series	"Playing Hardball: Women on Top"	Friday	7:30	04/13/2007	Available

# Distribution & Events

## Public Takes to New Gallery Website: Thousands Viewed Images, Watched Clips in March

After a month of operation, it is becoming clear that the new website is attracting a lot of traffic. In March, six thousand visitors viewed 15,000 pages on the site.

Clearly the stunning English Group is delivering significant educational and entertainment value to Internet visitors. The statistics indicate that visitors are viewing both images and video clips.

Viewer comments (*at right*) regarding the video clips are particularly interesting and helpful in the planning of future monologs.

Internet exposure has been increased beyond the Gallery website. Google now lists the clips in its "video" searches and on its youtube.com video website. All this adds up to much greater exposure for the Figures and monologs.

**caballera888** | March 21, 2007

very entertaining. The american twist is what does it for me, I am sold! And I recognize the humor so well. Use similar references.

**rvcnmuckraker** | March 03, 2007

This man ought to be on PBS or the History Channel. I've been thoroughly enlightened and entertained by every one of his talks.

**trev593** | February 02, 2007

These monologs are excellent, thank you for posting them

**bachrub** | February 01, 2007

I love English history, and this delightful man makes it all come alive. Thank you for posting them.

*Comments on youtube.com by viewers of monolog clips on the Internet.*

## English Series Ready for Broadcast and Purchase

With the addition of the Tudor Dynasty, the entire English Monolog Series has been documented in "**400 Years of English History.**" The set is now enlarged to eight DVDs covering the Tudor, Stuart and Hanover dynasties as well as the Victorian Era.

The DVDs can be purchased from Figuratively Speaking Publications or the Museum of Ventura County Bookstore.

Local Public Access Cable channels will soon air the entire series in the new, less-than-an-hour format.

**\$19.95**



*Tudor Dynasty History on 2 DVDs*

**\$49.95**



*Complete English History Series on 8 DVDs*

**Figuratively Speaking Publications**

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