

## Search Begins for Two Missing Figures of Monsanto Fashion Models

*Jean Harlow**Mistinguett**Alexandra**Mary Lincoln**Walking Dress (generic)**Mt. Vernon Dress (generic)*

In the 60's, Monsanto Chemical acquired 32 early Figures and commissioned 6 new works to represent fabrics they manufactured.

Of the new Figures, the portrait of Jean Harlow was the most known of the group. Next was French dancer Mistinguett (Jeanne Bourgeois). It's not surprising

that these popular Figures have gone missing during 40-year odyssey that took the Monsanto group from Ojai to Disneyland to St. Louis to Pensacola to Spokane. Recently found images of the missing Figures should help in the search, which will begin in St. Louis, home of Monsanto corporate offices.

## Early California Figures Support Ojai Program

The Ojai Valley Museum promotes educational programs for local grade school studies of California history. The Gallery of Historical Figures is participating by furnishing a group of Figures important to the era. Currently exhibited Figures include President Abraham Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, Father Serra, Chumash Indians, Nancy Kelsey, Jesse Fremont, John Fremont, Kit Carson and Jedediah Smith.

For exhibit dates and hours call 805-640-1390 or visit the website at [www.ojaivalleymuseum.org](http://www.ojaivalleymuseum.org).



*Chumash Indians once inhabited the region that is now Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.*

# Figure Projects

## Hollywood's "Blond Bombshell" Lived Fast, Died Young

George Stuart does not usually portray movie stars, but he relented when Monsanto wanted a Jean Harlow Figure for their Disneyland exhibit. Wealthy by birth and marriage, the socialite moved to California from Kansas City where she was dared to try out for movie roles.

Harlow had died at 27 of complications from a childhood bout with scarlet fever. In her short but exciting career, Harlow became known for comedy rolls. She shared the screen with most of Hollywood's contemporary male stars, including six films with Clark Gable.



[thekingofscreens.com](http://thekingofscreens.com)

Harlow's early death spawned many false rumors. No, her Christian Scientist mother did not withhold medical treatment. No, her husband did not beat her. And no, the bleach from her blond hair did not seep into her brain and kill her!



Stuart depicted Harlow attending a film premiere.

## French Entertainer Was the Toast of Paris Night Clubs for Half a Century



Attire depicts Mistinguett in Roaring Twenties

At an early age Jean Bourgeois aspired to be an entertainer, singing popular ballads while selling flowers. An acquaintance made up the name *Miss Tinguette*, which Jeanne liked but modified. She debuted as Mistinguett at the Casino de Paris and also performed at Folies Bergère, Moulin Rouge and El Dorado. Her risqué routines captivated Paris and she went on to become the most popular French entertainer of her time and the highest paid female entertainer in the world. In 1919, her legs were insured for the then astounding amount of 500,000 francs.

She had a long relationship with the much younger Maurice Chevalier but it was other love affairs that became legendary.

She first recorded her signature song *Mon Homme* in 1920. It became standard fare for numerous pop and jazz singers.

Jeanne Bourgeois' career lasted over fifty years. She died at the age of 80.



[www.internationaldailnews.com](http://www.internationaldailnews.com)

# Figure Projects

## Public Invited to Videotaping Sessions Set at TDC for Bourbon Monologs

### Bourbon Monolog Recording Schedule

Thursdays 2pm at the TDC Facility  
5200 Valentine Rd. in Ventura

August 16

"The Bourbons: Survivors of Religious Chaos (1570's—1640)"

August 23

"Versailles and the Golden Age (1600's—1770)"

August 30

"After Us, the Deluge (1770—1795)"

September 6

"From Empire to Reaction (1795—1830)"

Mr. Stuart's monologs will be video taped at the studios of the Technology Development Center. These recording sessions are in addition to the regularly schedule of monologs at the Museum of Ventura County.

The first series will be taped in August and September 2007. The public is invited and there is no admission charge. A small donation at the door is suggested. The TDC Studio seats about 60 guests. Please reserve your seat by calling Ria Becker at 805-641-3100 or email to [lbecker@galleryhistoricalfigures.com](mailto:lbecker@galleryhistoricalfigures.com).

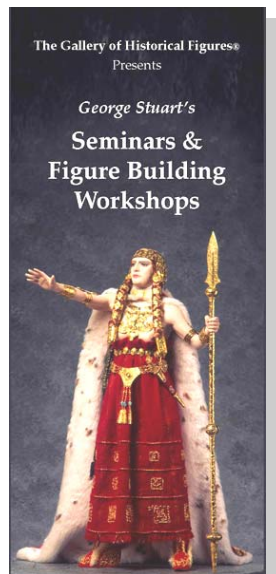
## Figure Building Workshop Scheduled for November Seminar



Over the years, George Stuart has generously shared his techniques for designing and constructing mixed-media figures. He brings up to ten artists into his studio for a week-long workshop. Recently a representative of a midwest group of experienced artists approached him about conducting a workshop this fall. If ten participants register, the workshop will be held November 4 to 9.

The course is open to local participants as well. Figuratively Speaking Subscribers will receive a 10% discount on the \$950 registration fee. If you are interested in attending, contact Leroy Becker at 805-641-3100 for more information and a descriptive packet.

*Brochure available to subscribers*



## Early Photos Monsanto Collection Reveal Four More Missing Figures



In addition to Harlow and Mistinguett, four other Figures are missing from the original Monsanto Collection.

- 1 George Washington
- 2 Thomas Jefferson
- 3 Peter the Great
- 4 Attila the Hun

Search is now underway for these Figures.



# News & Subscription

## Jedediah Smith Society Features Namesake Figure after Careful Examination

The famous mountain man and explorer has a loyal and very active following in the Sacramento-based society. Besides acquiring and preserving artifacts and documents, the group makes their collection available for scholarly research. We approached them about including images of the Smith Historical Figure in their educational materials.

Interestingly, the Society was initially dubious of the accuracy of several aspects of the Smith Figure. However, research by Society members verified that Mr. Stuart's rendering was accurately based on a recognized contemporary painting of Smith.

Recently images and description of the Smith Historical Figure were added to the Society website,

[www.jedediahsmithsociety.org](http://www.jedediahsmithsociety.org)

The current edition of *Castor Canadensis*, the society newsletter features images of the Smith Historical Figure and an article about the artist. We are all grateful for the generous acknowledgements.

The Society was also influential in the raising of a statue of Smith in San Dimas, CA as well as the creation of the Jedediah Smith State Park south of Eureka, CA. Many landmarks have been placed throughout the west commemorating Smith's explorations.



## July Newsletter Ends Current Subscription Year.

Thanks to your generous donations, "*Figuratively Speaking*" will soon begin its third year of publication. We have striven to bring you the news about all the Figures, the artist and activities worldwide.

But your subscription fees have done a lot more. Two years of monologs have been videotaped and the second Monolog Series on DVD is in production.

The basic website structure is in place and the English Historical Figures and monolog clips are being viewed worldwide—a new viewer every minute. The French Figures web pages will be added this fall and more groups will follow.

Meanwhile, Mr. Stuart and Mrs. Henri have restored 24 of the 32 Figures in the Hernandez-Monsanto collection.

With your continued support, we will be able to progress on these programs and others to secure the future of the 400 Historical Figures. Please see the enclosed subscription renewal form.



### *Figuratively Speaking* Publications

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