

THE MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS CENSUS NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 1 * SEPTEMBER 2003

A bi-monthly e-mail report on activities and other stained glass news from
the Michigan Stained Glass Census at the Michigan State University Museum,
East Lansing, MI 48824

Welcome to the first e-mail newsletter of the Michigan Stained Glass Census!
This newsletter will arrive every other month to let you know what has been
happening in the Census and will also include some general news of stained
glass in Michigan and elsewhere. If you have any comments or suggestions
about news you would like to see included, please send an e-mail to
stainedglass@museum.msu.edu.

WHAT IS THE MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS CENSUS?

The Michigan Stained Glass Census, which has been sponsored by the Michigan
State University Museum since 1992, is a statewide survey of architectural
stained glass. With the help of volunteer Census Takers, the Census is
locating, documenting and photographing stained glass windows throughout
Michigan. The information submitted by Census Takers is maintained in the
MSU Museum archives and also entered into a computer database. This
collection of visual and documentary material will be an invaluable resource
for scholarly research in several fields. The Census is also encouraging
greater appreciation and preservation of our state's stained glass
treasures.

The Michigan Stained Glass Census is directed by Michele Beltran, Barbara
Krueger and Betty MacDowell.

SOME MSGC STATISTICS

Since 1992, volunteer Census Takers in more than 325 Michigan communities
have submitted nearly 1100 reports on buildings with stained glass to the
Michigan Stained Glass Census. Of Michigan's 83 counties, 77 are represented
among these reports. We have yet to receive reports on windows in Crawford,
Kalkaska, Lake, Missaukee, Roscommon or Schoolcraft counties. We hope that
our readers will let us know the locations of windows in those counties, so
that they too will be included in the Census. A list of registered
buildings, organized by location, is available on our web site at
http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/msgc_registered/index.htm

Stained glass windows can be found in churches, synagogues, public buildings, business places, clubs, homes, mausoleums and museums. Museum collections often include windows that were once installed in other buildings. Even though these windows are not part of the museum buildings in which they are now exhibited, they are still considered to be architectural stained glass and should be registered in the Census.

MSGC WEB SITE NEWS

Our web site address is <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/index.html>. Our site is constantly growing and changing, so visit us regularly for news of stained glass events, information about online resources, and of course the many beautiful Windows of the Month.

Recent additions to our site include a stained glass bibliography (<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/bibliography.html>) and our complete registration forms, which Census Takers can now download as PDF files (<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/forms.html>).

RECENT "WINDOWS OF THE MONTH" ON OUR WEB SITE

Newcomers to our web site will quickly discover what has long been a favorite feature of our many friends and colleagues, the "Windows of the Month." Since November of 1997 we have been utilizing the findings of our volunteer Census Takers to educate our virtual visitors about the beauty and diversity of Michigan's stained glass. The following are some of our more recently featured windows:

June, 2003: Temple Jacob, Hancock. This synagogue features handsome ca. 1912 ornamental windows decorated with symbols of Judaism by an unknown firm.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/jun03.html>

July, 2003: First Congregational Church, Ann Arbor. A patriotic flavor is evoked in sepia-toned portraits of Abraham Lincoln and Betsy Ross, produced in 1952 by Whittemore Associates of Boston.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/jul03.html>

August, 2003: A.W. Farrall Agricultural Engineering Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Artist Nancy Truscott of Mason, MI, created a charming pastoral scene in 1989 to represent the balance between human endeavor and the natural world. <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/aug03.html>

September, 2003: Trinity Episcopal Church, Niles. This ca. 1922 scene of Mary and Martha entitled "Behold the Master Cometh" is attributed to the Tiffany Studios of New York. <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/sep03.html>

DONORS AND SPONSORS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the businesses and individuals who have made donations to us this year of cash, books for our reference library, and objects for the museum collections. Their support allows us to continue our efforts to document the stained glass treasures of our state. Our donors are all recognized on our web site's Donor Honor Roll. http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/donor_roll.html

Our Business Sponsors page (<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/sponsors.html>) recognizes businesses that have donated \$100 or more to the Census in the past year. We would like to give especial thanks to our recent business sponsors: Botti Studio of Architectural Arts, Inc., Evanston, IL; Full Spectrum Stained Glass, Colon, MI; Judson Studios, Los Angeles, CA; Pristine Glass Company, Grand Rapids, MI; Thompson Art Glass, Brighton, MI; and E. Crosby Willet/Willet Studios, Philadelphia, PA.

RECENTLY REGISTERED WINDOWS

Our volunteer Census Takers continue to send reports on windows they are registering in the Michigan Stained Glass Census. Recent registrations include the following complete reports:

MSGC 97.0081. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jackson. Windows by Tiffany Studios of New York, Lamb Studios of New York, Payne Spiers Studios of New Jersey, Heaton, Butler & Bayne of London, and unknown studios. Registered by Joyce Grace of Jackson. Recently restored by Thompson Art Glass of Brighton, MI.

MSGC 01.0026. First Presbyterian Church, Howell. Windows by Von Gerichten Art Glass Co, Columbus, OH. Current restoration by Botti Studio of Architectural Arts of Evanston, IL. Registered by Norman Bezrutch of Fenton, Robert Watson of Howell, and Barbara Krueger of Hartland.

MSGC 03.0002. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Union City. Windows by Larry Eitniar of Athens, MI. Registered by Lydia Nighswander of Union City.

MSGC 03.0003. Dimond United Methodist Church, Flint. Windows by C & M Glass of Mount Morris, MI. Registered by Charles Lowell of Mount Morris.

MSGC 03.0006. Farrall Agricultural Engineering Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Window by Nancy Truscott of Mason, MI. Registered by Michele Beltran of Haslett. (Featured as our August Window of the Month: <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/aug03.html>)

MSGC 03.0009. Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Ann Arbor. Windows by Gabriel Loire of Chartres, France. Registered by Tricia Nault of Ypsilanti.

INTERNSHIP NEWS

This summer the Census was pleased to welcome our first intern, Tricia Nault of Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti). Tricia has a BS in History from Eastern and will be starting her second year in the Master's program in Historic Preservation, with a concentration on Conservation and Technology. Tricia says: "I have always been interested in stained glass, particularly in buildings, and I think that the work that the Census is doing is important, not only for study of the stained glass in Michigan, but for conserving and preserving it as well." Tricia actively participated in many aspects of Census operations, from cataloging new files and preparing them for archival storage to entering census materials in our database and updating our website. Her major project was to register the stained glass windows of one new building, catalog her findings, and to write an article that will be featured as one of our Windows of the Month. Tricia registered the Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, which has splendid windows by French Dalle de Verre master Gabriel Loire. Her article will be published as a Window of the Month this November.

Tricia also spent two weeks this summer in historic Fayette, an old mining town in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where Eastern preservation students have been working for several summers restoring the facilities. Coincidentally, Barbara Krueger, Co-Director of the Census, received her MS in Historic Preservation from Eastern about 6 years ago.

RECENT MSGC ACTIVITIES

A slide-illustrated talk on "Michigan's Literary Windows" was presented by Michele Beltran and Betty MacDowell on June 16 for Friends of the Hackley Public Library in Muskegon. The library's own literary window was our Window of the Month for March, 2003 and can still be seen at: <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/mar03.html>

Barbara Krueger gave a talk on the Census on July 24 to a class taught by Dr. Dorothy Kostuch for the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The class session was held at Christ Episcopal Church, Detroit. Two of the many fine windows at Christ Church have been featured on our web site, in July, 1998 and in April, 1999. You can see these windows at:

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/jul98.html>

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/apr99.html>

OTHER STAINED GLASS NEWS

The Willet Stained Glass Studios in Philadelphia is one of the largest designers/fabricators of stained glass windows for Michigan churches. The most recent count of churches with Willet windows that are registered in the MSGC is 142. Faith and Form, the journal of the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture (IFFRA), recently presented Crosby Willet with its Conover Award, which recognizes a non-architect who has had a "profound influence by his or her work in the field of ecclesiastical architecture." Willet started working in his father's stained glass studio in 1943 while still in high school. He has served on the IFFRA Board, is a past president of both the American Society for Church Architecture and the Stained Glass Association of America, and is a Senior Member of the American Society of Appraisers. Congratulations to Crosby Willet!

Rolf Achilles, curator of the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows at Chicago's Navy Pier, reports that the Smith Museum has recently opened two new Galleries devoted to Tiffany and Tiffany-related windows. Eighteen new windows have already been installed and more are being added this month. The Museum is currently in the process of purchasing several important windows made in Germany in the 1950s and 1960s, to show the impact of that style on American stained glass artists since the 1960s. You can learn more about the Smith Museum by visiting this web site:

http://www.navy pier.com/SubLink.cfm?Main_ID=15&Sub_ID=7

A large historic rose window, created by the J. & R. Lamb Studios of Clifton, NJ, was stolen on July 26 in Secaucus, NJ. The window, made in 1916 for Zion Episcopal Church in Rome, NY, had just been restored by the Lamb Studios and was placed into a van to be delivered back to the church. During the night the delivery van disappeared, together with its prized cargo valued at \$60,000. Donald Samick, president of the Lamb Studios, is unsure whether the thief was aware that the van held the window, which was in 25 individually wrapped pieces. He is offering \$2,000 to have the stained glass pieces returned. The van is a white 2000 Chevrolet with a Rhode Island license plate 132204. Any information about the location of the van or the stained glass window pieces will be welcomed. Contact Mr. Samick by calling 973-916-0331, by writing to him at the Lamb Studios, 862 Van Houten, Clifton, NJ 07013 or by sending an e-mail to jrlamb@optonline.net

RECOMMENDED READING

Raguin, Virginia C. and Zakin, Helen J. Stained Glass Before 1700 in the Midwest States. London: Harvey Miller Publishers, 2001.
600 pages, 570 illustrations and 46 color plates
ISBN 1 8725001 00 1
\$270 plus shipping

This two-volume set is a follow-up to the 1989 Checklist III published by the Corpus Vitrearum. It covers both public and private collections of medieval stained glass in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, with concentration on the major museums.

Significant research by a group of medieval glass experts was necessary over a period of years in order to discuss the authenticity of each object; included are conservation symbols and exacting conservation diagrams. Every panel is illustrated and there are many comparisons with known panels still in situ. It is interesting to learn of the existence of 1911 European sale catalogues which, along with extensive museum records, provide the provenance of most of these pieces.

The publication includes an essay on the chronological development of medieval stained glass and insight into the changing tastes and varied motivations for collecting, seen from the museums' point of view and that of the major collectors/donors, whose names may be known regionally but are not necessarily widely recognized.

These two volumes will appeal especially to those interested in medieval glass and living in the Midwestern states. However, they are the first of several similar publications that will eventually cover the whole of the United States. Major college libraries with medieval art history programs will be the first to invest in this series, and used copies have been seen in circulation on the Internet.

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