

THE MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS CENSUS NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2 * NOVEMBER 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 * <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/index.html>

The Michigan Stained Glass Census has been an advocate for the documentation and preservation of architectural stained glass since 1992. Michele Beltran, Barbara Krueger and Betty MacDowell, Co-Directors.

RECENT GIFTS TO THE MSU MUSEUM COLLECTION OF STAINED GLASS ARTIFACTS

The Michigan State University Museum's collection of stained glass-related materials includes original sketches and full-scale cartoons for windows, brass and paper stencils, tools, glass samples, painted glass, pattern books, studio ledgers, and historic photographs, representing artists and studios that are part of Michigan's stained glass history. Additional items identified in the Museum's cultural history collections recently include stained glass lamps and windows. Plans are underway to include a record of all these stained glass materials on our web site.

Two recent gifts have enlarged our collection. A major gift of artifacts related to the work of stained glass designer Helene Rother has been donated by her daughter, Dr. Ina Rother of Metamora. This gift adds considerably to other materials given to the Museum by the artist before her death. The Rother collection now includes original watercolor designs, cartoons, mosaic and dalle de verre sample pieces, photographs and newspaper articles.

Helene Rother (1908-1999) was a German-born designer of jewelry and fashion accessories who fled Nazi-occupied France with her seven-year-old daughter Ina in 1942. She became the first woman to work as an automotive designer when she joined the interior styling staff of General Motors in Detroit in 1943. During her stay at General Motors she was responsible for upholstery colors and fabrics, lighting arrangements, hardware and seat construction. Four years later she opened her own design studio, Helene Rother Associates, in Detroit's Fisher Building, where she specialized in designs for automotive interiors, furniture and stained glass windows. Her windows were usually fabricated in France. The artist spent her later years at her horse farm near Metamora, Michigan.

A window designed by Helene Rother for Beverly Hills United Methodist Church in Beverly Hills, MI was our Window of the Month in February of 2003. The preliminary watercolor sketch for this window is part of the Rother collection at the MSU Museum. See this window at: <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/feb03.html>

A stained glass window that was once in a Michigan church in the Whitehall area was also recently donated by J. William Gorski of San Antonio, FL. Bill Gorski has previously helped the Census by sharing many slides that he took of windows in Polish churches throughout our state, during his years of research on Michigan's Polish communities. His own extensive personal collection, the J. William Gorski Polish Genealogy and Historical Collection, is now housed at the Library of Michigan, where it will be available for other researchers.

We are grateful to these donors for their generous gifts to our collection.

RECENTLY REGISTERED WINDOWS

The following completed reports have recently been submitted by volunteer Census Takers to the Michigan Stained Glass Census:

MSGC 96.0049. First Baptist Church of Birmingham. Windows by J.& R. Lamb Studios of Clifton, NJ, Willet Studios of Philadelphia, PA, and Lucinda Shaw of Acacia Art Glass Studios of Baltimore, MD. Registered by D. Llewellyn Drong of Davison, MI.

MSGC 03.0010. Paint Creek United Methodist Church of Goodison, Oakland Township. Windows by Denise Russell of South Carolina and as yet unidentified studios. Registered by Janine L. Saputo of Oakland, MI.

MSGC 96.0013. Ladies Library Association, Kalamazoo. Three new windows by Jamie Rife, China Blue Glassworks, Hamilton, MI. Registered by Herman Dykema of Kalamazoo. Older windows in the building, also registered by Herman Dykema, have been shown as Windows of the Month on our web site in March of 2000 and November of 2001. These windows can still be viewed at:
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/mar00.html> and
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/nov01.html>

RECENT "WINDOWS OF THE MONTH" ON MSGC WEB SITE

October, 2003. Church of the Transfiguration, Ironwood. The 1964 "Transfiguration Window" was created by the Conrad Schmitt Studios of Wisconsin, depicting the major biblical figures of Christ, Moses and the prophet Elijah.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/oct03.html>

November, 2003. The Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. Faceted glass (dalle de verre) master Gabriel Loire of Chartres, France created a total environment of jewel-tones and light with his "South Portal" window (Christ is King), completed in 1962.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/nov03.html>

WINDOW OF THE MONTH "FLASH BACKS"

In addition to sharing our recently published windows of the month, we will also use this space to recommend some of our favorite windows that we have featured over the past six years:

October, 1998. First (Park) Congregational Church, Grand Rapids. The glorious "Angels of Praise Window," completed by the New York studios of Louis C. Tiffany in 1927, is a favorite to many fans of Michigan's stained glass.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/oct98.html>

November, 1997. Tuscola County Courthouse Window, Caro. This 1933 window by the Detroit Stained Glass Works depicts a scene from Michigan's history, and is an excellent example of stained glass used in a secular setting. It was also, fittingly, the first window of the month.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/nov97.html>

RECENT MSGC ACTIVITIES

"Certificates of Appreciation" have been sent to the volunteer Census Takers of all completed MSGC files, to thank them for their valuable help with this major statewide inventory of Michigan's stained glass treasures.
"Certificates of Registration" have also been mailed to churches and other buildings where registered windows are located, to confirm that their windows are now included in the Census.

Barbara Krueger will give a slide presentation for the Oakland Township Historical Society on November 5 at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church in Goodison.

OTHER MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS NEWS

Holy Rosary Chapel on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters in Adrian has been completely renovated after several years of work. A rededication ceremony held on August 15 celebrated the completion of the renovation of the Gothic-style chapel built in 1907. Many features of the chapel were restored, including its stained glass windows, which were taken apart,

cleaned and repaired. Newly created windows and one window that had been in storage were added to the chapel. Other major restoration work included the repair of the holy water font, the rebuilding of the organ, the repositioning of the altar space and the addition of more seating.

Several windows located on the Adrian Dominican Sisters campus are registered in the Michigan Stained Glass Census. Some were featured as Windows of the Month in October of 1999 and August of 2000. These windows can be seen at:

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/oct99.html> and
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/aug00.html>

The work of glass artist Vera Sattler was the focus of a recent exhibit held in July at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, located in the Mardigian Library of the University of Michigan - Dearborn. "Artists in the Collection: Vera Sattler" featured enamels on copper, decorative wall panels of glass and other media, and watercolor paintings that are often the basis of her glass art. Vera Sattler has worked in glass for more than 50 years. She studied stained glass design and painting in Berlin, Germany, graduated from Wayne State University, and worked for the now closed Detroit Stained Glass Works for several years. Her work includes many windows for religious and public buildings in Michigan, several of which are now registered in the Michigan Stained Glass Census. A window that she created for the Mardigian Library was installed in 1983. She has generously donated photos, slides and drawings to the MSGC collection of stained glass materials at the MSU Museum. A longtime Michigan resident, Vera Sattler now lives in Melbourne, Florida, where she continues to explore the creative possibilities of the glass medium.

The Downtown Historic Churches Association of Detroit will hold a tour of selected Detroit churches on Saturday December 27, beginning at 10 am and departing from Historic Trinity Lutheran Church. The cost is \$20.00/ person, which includes a boxed lunch and transportation. Call 313-567-3100 or 800-268-3058 for information and reservations.

ANNOUNCING A NEW INTERNET DISCUSSION FORUM ON STAINED GLASS

An exciting new means of communication for all those who are interested in architectural stained glass is now available, with the launching of the Stained Glass Network on Architectural Stained Glass, a moderated internet discussion forum that will provide a worldwide exchange of information for individuals engaged in historic research, documentation and preservation of

stained glass in architectural settings. The internet forum is free and open to everyone with an interest in the subject. It will be of especial interest to scholars and advanced students in the fields of art history, architectural history and religious history, church and synagogue administrators and archivists, museum curators and conservators, historic preservationists, librarians, teachers, architects and stained glass artists and restorers.

The Stained Glass Network, which includes both an e-mail list and a web site, provides a forum for reporting research findings on the history of stained glass artists and studios, styles, techniques and iconography; discussing the relationship of architectural stained glass with cultural traditions; raising issues related to repair, restoration and preservation; reviewing books and articles; and sharing of information about exhibitions, conferences, seminars, calls for papers, academic programs, training workshops, and grant and employment opportunities.

The Stained Glass Network is hosted by H-Net (Humanities & Social Sciences Online) at Michigan State University. It is managed by List Editors Michele Beltran, Barbara Krueger and Betty MacDowell, Michigan Stained Glass Census, Michigan State University Museum, with the help of an Advisory Board that includes Rolf Achilles, Smith Museum of Stained Glass, Chicago, IL; Shirley Ann Brown, York University, Toronto, Ont; Jean Farnsworth, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia; Arthur J. Femenella, Femenella & Associates, Annandale, NJ; Mary Clerkin Higgins, Clerkin Higgins Stained Glass, New York, NY; Paul F. Norton, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; James C. Whitney, Whitney Stained Glass Studios, Cleveland, OH; and James L. Yarnall, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI.

To subscribe to the Stained Glass Network, send an e-mail to: listserv@h-net.msu.edu, with the following message in the text and entering your own first name and last name where they are indicated:
"SUB stained-glass@h-net.msu.edu firstname lastname, affiliation"
(An affiliation is optional)

The Stained Glass Network web site is at <http://www.h-net.org/~stnglass/>

Note: The Stained Glass Network on Architectural Stained Glass is unlike the Michigan Stained Glass Census Newsletter, in that it will allow its subscribers to post information and queries that will open scholarly discussions on many topics related to stained glass. We hope that you will join in this new discussion forum that will bring together a worldwide community of those who research, work with or simply appreciate architectural stained glass.

OTHER STAINED GLASS NEWS

"Images in Light: Newly Acquired Stained Glass" is the title of a new exhibition which opened at The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles on October 28 and will be on display through April 4, 2004. The exhibition highlights a portion of the Getty's new collection of 50 medieval and Renaissance stained glass panels. The 22 displayed panels, which span the 13th to the 16th centuries, were made for both religious and secular settings. They offer an overview of stained glass production throughout Europe from the High Middle Ages through the Renaissance, illustrating technological innovations and stylistic changes that mark this greatest period of European stained glass. For more information about this exhibition, visit <http://www.getty.edu/news/press/exhibit/imagesinlight.html>

The archive of J. & R. Lamb Studios, the oldest decorative arts studio in continuous operation in the United States, has been acquired by the Library of Congress. After process by its Prints and Photographs Division, the archive will be available to both scholars and the general public.

The Lamb archive spans the late 19th century to the 1980s and consists of over 2,400 original watercolor presentation designs, accompanied by nineteen manuscript order books documenting thousands of commissions. These commissions were located throughout the United States and in several foreign countries, identifiable through geographical indices. Included are architectural renderings of church interiors and of many ecclesiastical and other decorations and furnishings created by the firm for churches, educational institutions, private homes and businesses.

Church interiors have been the primary work of the Lamb Studios, which has a distinguished record of designing and fabricating furniture, lighting fixtures, mosaic wall treatments, metalwork, banners, decorative woodwork and stonework. Founded in New York City in 1857 by Joseph and Richard Lamb, the studios were owned and operated by four generations of the Lamb family until 1970, when current owner Donald Samick, a Lamb employee, assumed ownership. The company has completed over 10,000 commissions during its 146-years of existence and remains active today at its present location in Clifton, New Jersey. Among the many prestigious commissions for which the firm is known are all the stained glass windows in the Protestant and Catholic Chapels at the United States Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Registered windows made by the Lamb Studios for Michigan churches include those at Mariner's Church in Detroit and Union Congregational Church ("Little Stone Church") on Mackinac Island. Both have been featured as Windows of the Month, in January of 1999 and March of 2000. See these windows at:

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/jan99.html> and

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/mar02.html>

The Orin E. Skinner annual lecture on stained glass will be given by Lance Kasparian, AIA, on November 13 at 6:30 PM at the Boston Public Library. His slide presentation will focus on the stained glass work of Donald MacDonald (1841-1916) and his times. MacDonald, a native of Scotland, practiced stained glass in the greater Boston area. Kasparian is an architect and historian in Salem, MA, who has researched and written about stained glass for twenty years. The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation has sponsored this lecture series for several years. Past lecturers have included Peter Cormack, Dr. Paul Norton, Alan Younger, Dr. Nicola Gordon Bowe and Dr. James Yarnall. Currently the Foundation is preparing an exhibition, catalog, web site and possible CD-ROM or DVD, to explore the work of Charles J. Connick Associates (1912-1986). Connick windows in several Michigan churches have been registered in the Michigan Stained Glass Census.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

"How should we clean our stained glass windows?"

Occasionally we are asked about the best way to clean stained glass windows. The safest and simplest method is just to carefully brush away any dust and cobwebs and let the window stay as is. If the window appears to be very dirty, one might use a slightly dampened cloth that has been dipped in plain water and wrung almost dry. Never use commercial cleaning products such as Windex, since they could hasten deterioration of the painted surfaces and the lead came.

For more guidance in cleaning stained glass windows and information about window restoration, consult "The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stained and Leaded Glass, Preservation Brief #33," available for downloading at <http://www.historichomeworks.com/hhw/pbriefs/pb33.htm>

RECOMMENDED READING

Stained Glass in Catholic Philadelphia
Editors: Jean M. Farnsworth, Carmen R. Croce, Joseph F. Chorpenning,
O.S.F.S.
Photography by Laird Bindrim
Saint Joseph's University Press, Philadelphia, PA

ISBN 0-916101-43-6
528 pages, 880 color images, cloth
Price: \$70.00 plus \$8.00 postage and handling

Between 1997 and 2000 a team of scholars and volunteers visited more than 450 churches and sites within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to photograph and document the stained glass. Their specialties were medieval studies, architectural and social history, Christian iconography, liturgical arts and, of course, stained glass.

In addition to the expected essays on stained glass, the book contains important essays on several other subjects: the architects and architectural styles of the churches they built (unfortunately generally absent from most discussions on stained glass); immigration patterns for the 19th and early 20th centuries, which greatly influenced the selection of stained glass (factors which could easily apply to any large American city); and the emergence of contemporary church design, liturgy and sacred art before World War II in Europe and their subsequent migration to the United States through the quarterly magazine, Liturgical Arts, and the well-publicized rebuilding of damaged European churches.

Several essays on stained glass discuss the success of Munich-style glass; American competition and resulting tariffs on foreign glass; the Neo-Gothic revival; how window donors unwittingly recorded the social history of their generation; expressions of Catholic faith through iconography of saints and stories; and the rise of modern artistic expression, including possibly the first installation of faceted glass in the United States. Another essay, which details reuse of the stained glass from closed Catholic churches, could be a guide for other large cities.

The book includes well-researched histories of more than 60 past and present stained glass studios and 100 pages of large color illustrations of stained glass windows, arranged in alphabetical order according to the church names. Extensive endnotes provide another level of understanding to the text.

A particularly interesting case study points out how the pre-Vatican II, 1950 windows at St. Francis of Assisi in Norristown, which illustrate the Book of Revelation, demonstrate the nation's anxiety during that time over post-World War II Communism and the approach of the Atomic era.

This book will be of great interest to every stained glass historian and "glassophile," whether or not one is Catholic or lives in Philadelphia.

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Next Issue: January, 2004

Please send comments, questions and suggestions to
stainedglass@museum.msu.edu.
