

THE MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS CENSUS NEWSLETTER NUMBER 7 * SEPTEMBER 2004

A bimonthly 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.

IT REALLY IS US THIS TIME! A NOTE ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

We would like to remind our readers that the MSGC Newsletter is never sent as an e-mail attachment. If you receive e-mail with an attached document that appears to have come from the MSGC, please delete it. We apologize to any of our subscribers who may have received such e-mails recently.

RECENTLY REGISTERED WINDOWS

MSGC 04.0013. Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. Sixteen windows created in 2000 by Rich Buswell and the Lynchburg Stained Glass Company, Lynchburg, VA. Registered by Marianne Kiess of Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, with photography by Bert Prisk.

MSGC 96.0014. Whaley Historical House, Flint, MI. Images of the house and its windows provided by Charles Lowell of C & M Glass, Mt. Morris, MI.

MSGC 04.0014. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cedarville, MI. Two windows created in 2004 by Kim Kee and Rob Mielke of Blue Feather Stained Glass Works, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Registered by Jim Dummer and Kim Gagnon of Pickford, MI, and Kim Kee and Rob Mielke of Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

MSGC 04.0015. Martha Cook Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. Three windows created in 1915 by an unidentified studio. Registered by Marion Scher of Ann Arbor, MI.

MSGC 04.0016. St. Clair Shores Public Library, St. Clair Shores, MI. Five windows, designed and installed in January 2004, by students of the Glass Department, College for Creative Studies of Detroit, MI, under the direction of Prof. Herbert Babcock. Registered by Arthur M. Woodford, Director of the Library, with photography by Mary Jane Winkler.

MSGC 04.0017. First Presbyterian Church, Harbor Beach, MI. Six windows created ca. 1900-1910 by an unidentified artist or studio. Registered by Marjorie Hemr of Harbor Beach, MI.

RECENT "WINDOWS OF THE MONTH" ON THE MSGC WEB SITE

August 2004. Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI. A rare exploration into stained glass by painter Abraham Rattner, this 1956-58 window combines colorful abstract forms with symbols of peace and justice.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/aug04.html>

September 2004. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Elmira, MI. A grouping of windows created in 1979 by Michigan artist Tom Woodruff at his Suttons Bay Stained Glass Studio depict the biblical creation story as told in the Book of Genesis.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/sep04.html>

WINDOW OF THE MONTH "FLASH BACKS"

August 2001. Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Detroit, MI. The Willet Stained Glass Studios of Philadelphia produced this elaborate 1938 window, depicting religious poems by Burns, Whittier and Longfellow.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/aug01.html>

September 1998. Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Belle Isle, Detroit, MI. This ca. 1912 window created for a steamboat smoking lounge by John Hardman & Co. of Birmingham, England imagines a scene from Detroit's early history.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/sep98.html>

STAINED GLASS ON THE WEB

St. Mary's University Church, Mount Pleasant, MI
<http://www.stmarycmu.org/WindowsTour/index.htm>

Memorial Hall/Lowell Hall Complex, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Ememhall/staingls.html>

DONORS AND SPONSORS

We would like to give thanks to the following companies, that recently renewed their business sponsorships: Full Spectrum Stained Glass, Inc., Colon, MI; The Judson Studios, Los Angeles, CA; Pristine Glass Company, Grand Rapids, MI; and Botti Studio of Architectural Arts, Inc.: Evanston, IL, San Diego, CA, Sarasota, FL.

All of our donors are 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.

NEW COLLECTIONS PAGE ON MSGC WEB SITE

In addition to the ephemeral holdings that the Michigan Stained Glass Census collects from volunteer census takers and holds in the Michigan Traditional Arts Program archives and library, the MSU Museum also has a number of stained glass-related objects in its cultural collections. The Museum's collection includes original sketches and full-scale cartoons for windows, brass and paper stencils, tools, glass samples, painted glass, pattern books and studio ledgers, 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.

We are working on a new web page that lists these items in the Museum's collections, which will include images of selected objects. To view this page, visit <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/collections.html>

RECENT MSGC ACTIVITIES

Barbara Krueger and Betty MacDowell met with stained glass artist Vera Sattler while she was visiting Michigan in August. Vera worked in the Detroit area for many years before moving to Florida in 1983. Her windows are located in numerous churches and synagogues in southeast Michigan. It was interesting to tour the former Congregation Beth Achim with Vera to see the twenty windows she created in the 1970s for that Southfield synagogue (now the Akiva Hebrew Day School) and to hear her explain her designs and techniques. Vera continues to work with glass and other media in her Melbourne, FL home studio. Her sculpted glass fish, paintings and other works are represented in galleries, private and public collections. For more on Vera and her work, see:

<http://gingerbreadsquaregallery.com/ArtGlass/Sattler/Sattler-bio/sattler-bio.html>

<http://gingerbreadsquaregallery.com/ArtGlass/Sattler/sattler.html>

<http://www-personal.umd.umich.edu/~efomin/index3.htm> (Retrospective exhibition at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, Mardigian Library of the University of Michigan - Dearborn)

OTHER MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS NEWS

Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church, at 211 Church Street, St. Joseph, MI, will be celebrating the centennial of its stained glass windows on Saturday, October 16, and Sunday, October 17, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available and commemorative books may be purchased. The windows were created in 1904 by Frank Zinser of Cincinnati's Riordan Stained Glass Studio, which opened in 1838 under the name of William Coulter & Son and still operates today as the Beau Verre Riordan Studio. Current owners Jay and Linda Moorman will participate, and William Gleason, an artist with the local Box Factory for the Arts, will demonstrate the art of stained glass. The public is invited to attend the celebration.

Mary Ellen Bellaimey, who once managed the Detroit Stained Glass Works, died at her Detroit home on July 22, 2004 at the age of 78. Born into the Irving family, owners of the historic Detroit firm, Mrs. Bellaimey supervised production and design of church windows from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s. During her tenure she brought in artists who worked in modern styles, such as Margaret Bouchez Cavanaugh. Established in 1861 under the original name of Friedrichs and Staffin, the firm created windows for numerous Michigan buildings before it closed its doors in 1970. Many windows made by the Detroit Stained Glass Works have been registered in the Michigan Stained Glass Census.

OTHER STAINED GLASS NEWS

For several years there has been an ongoing effort to locate stained glass windows sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernia, which was formed in the United States in 1836 by Irish Catholic immigrants. As the need for militant support of the Catholic Church dwindled, the AOH shifted its purpose to charitable activities in support of Catholic missions, community service, and the promotion and preservation of their Irish cultural heritage in America. Many stained glass windows were sponsored by individual chapters of the AOH. At this time, 220 of these windows in 28 states have been documented, many dedicated to St. Patrick, St. Brigid, St. Malachy, St.

Lawrence O'Toole and other saints, some with biblical scenes and a few others with harps and shamrocks (used by St. Patrick to explain the concept of the Trinity). The states with the highest numbers of AOH windows are Massachusetts (51), Pennsylvania (26), Ohio (20), New York (17), Connecticut (18) and Illinois (17). Some AOH windows are located also in Ireland and Canada. Three AOH windows have been found in Michigan at St. Leo Catholic Church, Detroit; St. John's Catholic Church, Ishpeming; and St. Mary's Catholic Church, Marshall. Two of the AOH windows in Michigan are pictured on this site:

http://www.michiganaoh.com/aoh_stained_glass_windows.htm

No other group has this history of giving stained glass windows across the entire nation. The windows seem to be located in churches built in the 1870s up through the 1920s, when the Depression and wars apparently brought this practice to an end. An inscription (with AOH and a Division #) is found either on the window, on a nearby marker or in church records. If you know of any stained glass windows that may have been sponsored by the AOH, contact Michael J. Cummings of Albany, NY at saoirse64@hotmail.com. He is the National AOH Archivist who has been collecting this information. For more about AOH windows, see <http://www.aoh.com/history/nathistpic.htm>

This September marks the third anniversary of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. In September 2002, the Pentagon opened a new chapel and adjoining memorial, dedicated to the 184 passengers and Pentagon personnel who lost their lives when American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed into the building. They are located in the rebuilt wedge of the Pentagon at the exact point of the jetliner's impact. The Pentagon Chapel accommodates Jewish, Christian and Islamic services, which were previously conducted in conference rooms. Five faceted "dalle de verre" stained glass windows adorn the chapel. They were created by Dennis E. Roberts and his son David Roberts of IHS Studios in Fredricksburg, TX. One window, in the shape of the Pentagon, was dedicated in September 2002. Over 500 pieces of glass in the window had been assembled by more than 400 chaplains at their annual training conference the previous March, including 184 pieces of red glass to represent those who died. The other four windows were dedicated in September 2003. They were assembled by Pentagon employees in memory of their coworkers and hold images of an anchor, eagle and tree as symbols of strength, patriotism and hope. More information about the Pentagon Chapel and Memorial is available at:

<http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=&article=16841&archive=true>

<http://www.ihsstudios.com/Window%20shines%20light%20on%209-11%20tragedy.htm>

A panoramic tour of the Pentagon Chapel and Memorial is available at this web site. Click on the open doors leading from the Memorial room to the Chapel to see the windows in place.

<http://eagleswatchministries.org/>

The Women's International Glass Workshop is a group of women architectural glass artists from twelve countries who have been meeting in a different host country every two years since the late 1980s to explore their chosen medium and exhibit their work. These women, for the most part, do glass work that is "on the cutting edge." Few were involved in the initial 1988 invitational exhibition in Bremen, Germany, from which the subsequent workshops ensued. The group now numbers at about 25 women from Canada, USA, France, Germany, Iceland, Wales, Ireland, Japan, Australia, England, New Zealand, and Austria. Sponsors for the biennial exhibition and workshop summary booklets have included cultural associations, universities, glass manufacturer associations and suppliers, an embassy and individuals. The group has used the environments of their host countries (Iceland 1989, Wales 1991, Austria 1993, Japan 1995, Ireland 1997, USA 1999/2000, New Zealand 2002 and Canada 2004) as the impetus for their work. The recent 8th Women's International Glass Workshop was held in Toronto, Canada, and featured an exhibition at Material Matters Gallery entitled "A Sense of Place: Exploring Cultural Identity." Stained glass artist Marie-Pascale Foucault-Phipps kindly sent several exhibition catalogues from Women's International Glass Workshops for our MSGC archives. For more information, see <http://www.absolutearts.com/artsnews/2004/06/30/32163.html>

THE STAINED GLASS BOOKSHELF

Stained Glass: From Its Origins to the Present
Virginia Chieffo Raguin, with a contribution by Mary Clerkin Higgins
Original list price \$45; Amazon.com used/new from \$14-\$26
281 pages plus bibliography and index
ISBN 0-8109-4644-0 (hard cover)
Published by Abrams Inc., New York

At first thought, one might wonder if this book is necessary, what with several books having been written about the "history" of stained glass. But outside of Lee's Stained Glass, and Brisac's 1000 Years of Stained Glass, there are no books about stained glass that can be considered as "encyclopedic" as is this volume. In addition, most of the pages have more than one color photograph, so in many respects, this book has a lot of "eye candy" for those who look at photos first and read text second (over 300 full color illustrations with many close-ups which allow for examination of painting styles).

Dr. Raguin is a Professor of Art History at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA and has previously written extensively about medieval art, architecture and stained glass. As she is multi-lingual, Dr. Raguin has the

capacity to utilize archival resources from various countries and is able to weave the pertinent information together in a very rich tapestry of historic relevance. Some aspects discussed extensively are the role of the donors of stained glass; the renowned painters who either directly designed for stained glass or whose paintings provided the inspiration for designs; how Bible illustrations affected stained glass compositions; and the historic revival of stained glass in Europe and in the United States.

Numbering of the illustrations would have allowed a notation within the text where the illustration was discussed. Because this book will have an international audience, some illustrations could have been more fully identified as to the exact location of the stained glass (especially the country).

The mechanics of glass making and the techniques involved with fabricating stained glass are included in Chapter Two, written by Mary Clerkin Higgins ("Origins, Materials and the Glazier's Art"). For some reason, "Repairing broken glass" was included under "Cleaning," so probably a subtitle was accidentally omitted. The brief discussion on protective glazing was included under "Glass Deterioration." Some might wish for a more thorough discussion here, but that was not the main essence of the text.

The chapter on "Glass of the Twentieth Century" deals mainly with well-known contemporary stained glass artists from numerous countries, with little mention that their windows were probably fabricated by a major studio, either in Germany, England or the United States.

If you are at all involved with any aspect of stained glass, there is something in this book for everyone. With all the color photographs, the early price could easily have been \$75, but now it is available for considerably less than the \$45 list price, so buy two and give one to your local library.

Reviewed by Barbara Krueger, Michigan Stained Glass Census

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