

THE MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS CENSUS NEWSLETTER NUMBER 11 * MAY 2005

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.

Our March newsletter apparently was distributed by leprechauns. If you received two copies, we apologize. If you received no copy, please contact us and we will send another.

RECENTLY REGISTERED WINDOWS

MSGC 95.0045. St. Mary Catholic Church, Manchester, MI. Three medallions and three inscriptions, created in 2004 by Radiant Arts Studio of Beach City, OH, were added to windows made in 1911 by an unidentified studio. Two 1911 windows that had been in storage were reinstalled in the handicapped entrance door. The additions took place during a restoration of all the church windows in 2004. Registered by Betty E. Cummings of Manchester, MI.

MSGC 05.0004. Mayfair Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI. Eighteen windows created ca. 1955 by John VanderBurgh of Zeeland, MI. Registered by the Rev. Todd Zuidema with photography by Stephen Kolk, both of Grand Rapids.

MSGC 05.0005. Christ Memorial Reformed Church, Holland, MI. Seven windows created in 1968 by John VanderBurgh of Zeeland, MI. Registered by Lamont and Ruth Dirkse of Holland, MI.

RECENT "WINDOWS OF THE MONTH" ON THE MSGC WEBSITE

April 2005. St. Clair Shores Public Library, St. Clair Shores, MI. These bold and bright impressions on the theme of "nature" were designed and constructed by students from the College for Creative Studies (CCS) in Detroit in 2004.
<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/apr05.html>

May 2005. Alumni Memorial Chapel, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. This detailed trio of 1954 windows by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia

celebrates the introduction of several major fields of study to the growing land-grant institution.

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/may05.html>

WINDOW OF THE MONTH "FLASH BACKS"

April 2000. First Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI. This expansive 1928 "Resurrection" window by the Tiffany Studios of New York depicts an encounter between two women and an angel at Christ's tomb.

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/apr00.html>

May 99. St. Mary Catholic Church, Morrice, MI. Michigan artist Margaret Cavanaugh created this colorful, modern "Virgin and Child Window" in 1986.

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/may99.html>

STAINED GLASS ON THE WEB

First Presbyterian Church, Englewood, NJ

<http://www.Englewoodpres.org/windowpages/Windowshome.html>

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, CA

<http://www.olacathedral.org/cathedral/mausoleum/stain.html>

MSGC ACTIVITIES

NEW ITEMS ON OUR COLLECTIONS PAGE. We have recently added more images to our website Collections Page, making a total so far of 21 pictured items from our collection of stained glass artifacts. They include many items from the Detroit Stained Glass Works and the estates of Michigan artists Helene Rother and John VanderBurgh, as well as from artists Vera Sattler and Margaret Cavanaugh. Items include stained glass lighting fixtures, paper patterns, color maquettes, charcoal cartoons, painted and faceted glass samples, brass pattern stencils, and a stained glass panel. We are grateful to all who have donated to our growing collection of stained glass artifacts, which are itemized at

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

The entire Michigan Stained Glass History Collection of reports and artifacts is explained at

<http://museum.msu.edu/s%2Dprogram/mtap/Collections/msg.html>

LOOKING FOR WINDOWS FROM THE 1893 MICHIGAN BUILDING. We are hoping to locate stained glass windows that were made for the Michigan Building at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, held in Chicago. There is one such window in the courtroom of the old Eaton County Courthouse in Charlotte, MI. Two others are located at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manistee, MI. Please let us know if you are aware of any other windows from the Michigan Building that were returned to their sponsoring communities before the building was razed.

SEEKING SUMMER INTERN. If you would like to gain experience in museum work by helping with the Michigan Stained Glass Census at Michigan State University this summer, we would be pleased to have your assistance with either general MSGC activities or collections management. If you are interested in this unpaid internship opportunity or you know a student seeking internship credit in a related discipline, contact Michele Beltran at 517-432-3355 or by e-mail at beltranm@msu.edu. More information about internships is available at <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/internship.html>

OTHER MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS NEWS

SCOTT CLUB WINDOWS IN THE NEWS. The Scott and Longfellow windows of the historic Scott Club in South Haven were recently featured in an article published in the South Haven Tribune.

<http://www.southhaventribune.com/cgi-bin/news/viewnews.cgi?id=EEEEFApuEFZgQCPPIEP>

The windows also appeared on the MSGC website in June of 2004:

<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/jun04.html>

MANISTEE CHURCH WINDOWS FEATURED IN SGAA QUARTERLY. The Spring 2005 issue of the Stained Glass Quarterly, a publication of the Stained Glass Association of America, includes an article about the windows at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Manistee, MI. Written by Carol Schrandt, with photographs by Jeannie Lewis, the article describes the influence on the area of late-19th century lumber barons, who built handsome churches with splendid windows, such as those at this church. Among its windows are three by the Tiffany Studios, including the Peters Memorial Window that was featured on the MSGC website in March 2001. View this window at <http://museum.msu.edu/museum/msgc/mar01.html>

OTHER STAINED GLASS NEWS

JEAN LACY AND HER STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. Jean Lacy is a Dallas, TX, artist whose unusual stained glass windows document the history, struggle and spirituality of African American people. Her windows for the St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church at Dallas include "The Creation," "Journey out of Africa," "The Migration," and "Civil Rights." They feature images of Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Martin Luther King Jr., Black Union soldiers, and women making African-American strip quilts. Lacy has made ten similar windows for Trinity United Methodist Church in Houston, TX. Among these are "Black Women," "The Ancestor Quilt Window," and "Civil Rights Window."

See

<http://www.tumchouston.org/templates/lit02re/details.asp?id=25742&PID=118839>

Several articles about Jean Lacy and her art can be found on this site, "Spiritual Mosaic: The Art of Jean Lacy." Click on each of the articles listed in the upper left hand column: <http://lennie32.tripod.com/1st-home.htm>

SGAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The Stained Glass Association of America will hold its Annual Conference, entitled "Stained Glass Painting: Fusing the Old and the New," in Denver, CO, on June 19-24, 2005. The conference will include programs on both traditional and experimental techniques employed in the art of stained glass painting. For complete information, visit the SGAA website at http://www.stainedglass.org/main_pages/sgaa/conf.html

PATRON SAINTS FOR STAINED GLASS. Recently someone asked on the H-Stained-Glass discussion network whether there was a patron saint for stained glass workers. An Internet search found a website that lists five patron saints for those who work in stained glass: James Grissinger, Lawrence, Lucy of Syracuse, Luke the Apostle and Mark the Evangelist. You can click on each name and see an explanation of the saint, then pick your favorite. Stained glass workers seem to be well blessed and protected by divine patronage.

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/pst00992.htm>

STAINED GLASS OVERLAY (SGO). Which came first, the chicken or the egg? And which came first, stained glass or stained glass overlay (SGO)? There are fake furs, fake diamonds, fake money and, since the mid 1970s, fake stained glass.

The process for Stained Glass Overlay, an international franchise company based in California, involves the use of adhesive-backed colored film (Mylar) and, where the colors or pieces meet, a strip of adhesive-backed flat lead covers the joints - all of this is adhered to plain window glass, or possibly laminated glass if a customer asks for it. The SGO website lists the specifications for fading as after "6,000 hours (equivalent to 20 years), caused modest or no color fading." There is no discussion of how the 6,000 hours of daylight equates to 20 years, because averaging 8 hours of daylight per day times 325 days is about 2500-2600 hours/year. The 6,000 hours would be reached in far less than 20 years. Does stained glass fade? Not ever! Other specification details are available on the SGO website at <http://www.stainedglassoverlay.com/>

Another potential downside to the issue of lead glued over the Mylar, is the lead itself. It is quite possible the owners of an SGO installation may not be aware that lead is present and hazardous. With tongue in check, perhaps SGO needs to invent fake lead.

About 10 years ago, the Stained Glass Association of America realized that some of its members were advertising themselves as SGO distributors. A directive was issued to "cease and desist" and if SGO continued to be part of their business, their membership would be terminated. So, like anything else, buyers beware!

Submitted by Barbara Krueger

OTHER NEWS

The 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan May 5-8 2005. <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/> Even though there are no sessions on stained glass this year, there have been in the past and the topic bears further watching for future conferences. The website has a link that details the subject matter of doctoral degrees on medieval issues, including stained glass, since the early 1980s.

THE STAINED GLASS BOOKSHELF

The April 2005 issue of Antiques Magazine includes two interesting articles relating to stained glass. One article announces that the Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY, recently acquired the papers of Arthur J. Nash and his son, Leslie H. Nash, who were master glassmakers for the Tiffany Studios in the early 1900s. Their papers had remained in the Nash family until 2000 when descendants auctioned most of

them off. The papers now at Corning were retained by the family until last year and include journals and notebooks that contain Arthur Nash's formula for Tiffany's famous Favrile glass. Apparently this information had never been shared with anyone, even Tiffany himself. The recipe is in code but the key to the code is given. There were also letters and notes that included statements such as Tiffany did "not know a thing" about how to make glass and expressing their feeling that he never acknowledged the valuable contribution of either Arthur or Leslie to the success of Tiffany glass.

Also in the April issue of Antiques magazine is an article about Darwin Martin being unhappy with the design of the glass for a reception room on the first floor of his 1905 Buffalo, NY home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Martin and his brother were top employees at the Larkin Soap Company whose administrative building (now gone) was designed by Wright.

Martin thought that the stained/leaded glass design was too busy and that it would impede the view to the outside. Wright went ahead with his design, but by 1909 he acquiesced and made a change that apparently pleased Mr. Martin. The Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, VA has recently acquired these windows for inclusion in their glass collection; however, they are not yet listed on its website at <http://www.chrysler.org/glass.asp>

In her book, "Rescue of a Landmark: Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin D. Martin House," Marjorie L. Quinlan states the following, with regard to the glass in the reception hall: "During the Martins' occupancy, the windows in this room were removed so Mrs. Martin could better see, and probably better enjoy the view from the clear glass windows." If the windows were removed ca. 1920, one wonders where they have been this whole time.

According to Ms. Quinlan, the Martin house has been seriously misrepresented by those who have written about it. She states that in 1937, Martin's son "dismantled" his childhood home, including some or all of the stained glass windows. The house was abandoned for 17 years, purchased by a local architect in 1954 and eventually divided into several apartments. It was purchased again in 1967 by the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo with a grant from the Buffalo Foundation.
<http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org/history/history-frm.html>

Some of the stained glass, originally manufactured by the Linden Glass Company in Chicago (they made much of the FLW stained glass), was acquired by Thomas Monahan, then owner of the Detroit Tigers and Domino's Pizza, whose headquarters in Ann Arbor, MI housed much FLW stained glass on public display. More recently, Mr. Monahan sold off most or all of this stained glass and pursues other interests.

Submitted by Barbara Krueger

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