



The INNsider



MISSION INN FOUNDATION & MUSEUM
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Next step: How to display the Tiffany drawings

The good news in December about the Foundation's successful bid for eight century-old drawings by Tiffany Studios – drawings made for the design of the famous stained-glass windows in the St. Francis Chapel -- now leads to the next step: How will they be displayed?

Steve Spiller, museum and collections manager, said that planning is underway for the drawings to be viewed in the museum as part of the "Saving the Community's Heritage" portion of the "Celebrating 30 Years as a National Historic Landmark" exhibit launched last year. The Foundation's new curator of history, Emily McEwen [see Page 2], will work on how to interpret the material and how to display it, Spiller said.

The drawings were obtained by the Foundation after a successful bid (by telephone) at an auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 18. John Worden, executive director of the Foundation, said the winning bid was \$8,500; with the auction house premium and tax the total cost was \$11,448, he said. The expected range of bids had been \$4,000 - \$6,000, minus the premium.

Friends of the Mission Inn had agreed to help make up the difference if the bid was higher, and the hotel itself made a pledge of \$2,500, through Ted Weggeland, president of the Entrepreneurial Hospitality Corporation, Worden said.

The eight watercolor-and-ink drawings, each 3 ¾ inches in diameter, had been "deaccessioned" by

the Strong Museum in Rochester, N.Y., which Worden said had a change of mission and sold off parts of its collection.

The windows, originally made for the Madison Square Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, reverted to Tiffany after the church was demolished just 13 years after it was built, in order to make way for a skyscraper. Most docents are familiar with the story of Louis Comfort Tiffany's stays at the Mission Inn and his relationship to Frank Miller. Miller's acquisition of the windows in 1920 for display at the Inn is undocumented – no records have been found to verify the transaction.

Spiller said that, starting last year with the display of Tiffany artifacts at the Metropolitan Museum, the relationship with Tiffany experts and other museums has been fruitful.

The exhibit at the city museum, organized by the Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass in New York, led to contacts with the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art of Winter Park, Florida, which has a large collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany's works.

"We may get photos of the [Madison Square] Presbyterian Church," Spiller said, "and also of the earlier church on the same site.

"All of these connections came about because of our contacts with the Tiffany people," he said. "It shows the importance of these partnerships."

Stained glass conservator to talk on Inn's Tiffany treasures

Bill Rose, stained glass conservator, will give a presentation Feb. 6 at 4:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Chapel on his work to restore the hotel's stained glass masterpieces.

Following the presentation, there will be a reception in the Mission Inn Museum to honor the donors who are actively contributing to the "Bring it Home" campaign. Questions: 951-781-8241.

If you've been wondering (and why haven't you?) . . .

Where's the 1247 bell? It's been moved into the California Room as part of a display announcing a new award to be bestowed by Keeper of the Inn Duane Roberts, to those individuals singled out for their "years of devotion to the Mission Inn." The bell tops the new display, situated on a wall of the room that formerly showed prominent celebrities who have visited the inn (those photographs have been returned to the museum, according to Steve Spiller, museum and collections manager).

Where's the second cannon? The two cannons that have flanked the historical plaques along the main entryway to the Inn have needed repairs to their carriages; one has been completed and is back in its former position; the other carriage is still under restoration with Griswold Conservation Associates of Culver City. The cannon barrels

themselves have been in storage. Completion is expected soon, Steve Spiller said.

Who are the new faces? Two new part-time assistants have joined the Foundation staff:

■ **Emily McEwen** will be Curator of History, working two days a week while she is also working for a master's degree at UCR. From Washington state, she is a graduate of Whittier College in history and French (and was the top graduate in both departments, Steve Spiller said). She previously worked as a Foundation summer intern.

■ **Brianna Barrett**, who previously assisted with the First Sundays program, is currently a student at Riverside City College and plans to transfer to a four-year institution and go on to study law.

Nominations due by Feb. 28 for Docent of the Year

It's time again to think about nominations for Docent of the Year. If you know a Docent who'd be a good candidate for the honor, please submit a nomination form to the Museum desk for the attention of Jo Turner, chair of the Docent of the Year Committee. Nomination deadline is Feb. 28.

The award began in 1991, when the winner was Betty Whitenack. In 1992, Kathryn Safford; 1993, Elaine Ford; 1994, Walt Parks; 1995, Sandy Schrader; 1996, Eileen Hamel; 1997, Philippa Jones; 1998, Nadine Shell; 1999, Marge Savage; 2000, Howard Boylan; 2001, Milly Gilbert; 2002, Steve Lech; 2003, Barbara Burns; 2004, Donna Grossman and Michele Lufkin; 2005, Jane Morabito; 2006, Dauris Slaughter; 2007, Joyce Lyons.

Of the winners, Elaine Ford, Walt Parks and Eileen Hamel, all of the class of 1987; Howard Boylan (1993), Milly Gilbert (1994), Steve Lech (1989), Barbara Burns (1998), Michele Lufkin (2001), Jane Morabito (2002), Dauris Slaughter (1999) and Joyce Lyons (2002) are still active docents.

Nominations must summarize the achievements and attributes of the Docent you are nominating. Nominees will be voted on by secret ballot at the March all-Docent meeting.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Museum or online at the Museum's website:

www.missioninmuseum.com/docents

Save the Dates

Feb. 16, Saturday: Mt. Rubidoux Hike/lunch at Joanne Hershey's home. Glen Wenzel, guide. Flyers and sign-up sheet in Museum. Meet at bottom of mountain on San Andreas Avenue, off Tesquesquite Avenue, at 8:45 a.m. for hike beginning at 9. Directions and details on flyer. Charge for hike with lunch, \$7; hike only no charge.

March 25, Tuesday: All-Docent meeting.

April 21, Monday: Docent graduation and volunteer recognition ceremony. Invitations will be forthcoming and reservations required.

Coming up: Overnighter at the Inn; possible trip to Ramona Pageant (April 19-May 3).

Attention, Docents: Think outside the desk, please

A gentle reminder: If you need to leave or pick up purses (storage space for purses at the front desk is at a premium; if you bring a purse, please bring a small one or just your keys) or require any

paperwork, including tour sheets or other items at the front desk, please ask those on desk duty to retrieve the items for you rather than getting them yourself (including coming inside the desk area).

School named for Miller may open in 2009

A new Riverside middle school named for Frank Miller could be under construction by this summer and be open by August 2009, the Riverside Unified School District decided in January.

The school, at Chicago and Krameria avenues in the city's Orangecrest neighborhood, would bear the full name of the Mission Inn's founder: The Frank Augustus Miller Middle School. The school board earmarked \$20 million for the construction of the school at a meeting Jan. 14.

The school would be one of the first public facilities named for Miller (1857-1935) – an omission that has puzzled many in Riverside who know how important Miller was to the city in its early years and how many civic enterprises he was involved with.

In a Press-Enterprise story last November, RUSD Trustee Chuck Beatty – who served as principal of North High School and was a city councilman – said he knew of nothing locally named for “the Master of the Inn.”

“We’re overdue in doing this,” Beatty told the newspaper. “So much of the history of Riverside is connected with this man.”

“Keeper of the Inn” Duane Roberts, owner of the Historic Mission Inn Corp., has announced his intention to present the new school with a replica of the statue of Frank Miller by Richard Myer that stands near the door to the lobby in the Court of the Birds. The statue, dedicated in June 2002, was an anonymous gift to the Foundation by a Riverside resident.

So you lead tours ... wouldn't you also like to help make policy?

The **Docent Council** is the governing and policymaking body of the Docent Association of the Mission Inn Foundation. It consists of 15 members – all active docents – and meets monthly to review, manage, update, and improve all aspects of the docent program.

The new Council term begins July 2008. Four seats are open, as veteran docents complete three years as Docent Council members and Association innovators and leaders.

*Isn't it time for YOU to get involved?
To get into the thick of things?
To make a difference?*

☞ **YOU** are invited to **apply NOW** for these Docent Council openings. An application may be obtained at the Mission Inn Museum or downloaded from the Foundation's website (www.missioninmuseum.com/docents) and must be submitted by **Feb. 15** *

** The deadline for submitting applications for the Docent Council has been extended from the end of January (as prescribed by Association Policies and Procedures) to Feb. 15, due to the lateness of this announcement. All applications will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and presented to the Docent Council for consideration at its March meeting. New Council Members will be installed at the Council's July meeting.*

Mission Inn Foundation - Mission Statement

The Mission Inn Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the public trust in the Mission Inn, a privately owned National Historic Landmark hotel in Riverside, California. The

Foundation interprets and promotes the cultural and social significance of the Inn and its collection within the context of local, regional and national history.

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The MISSION INN MUSEUM is open daily 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Museum phone: 951-788-9556; Office, 951-781-8241; Fax, 951-341-6574; E-mail, info@missioninnmuseum.com