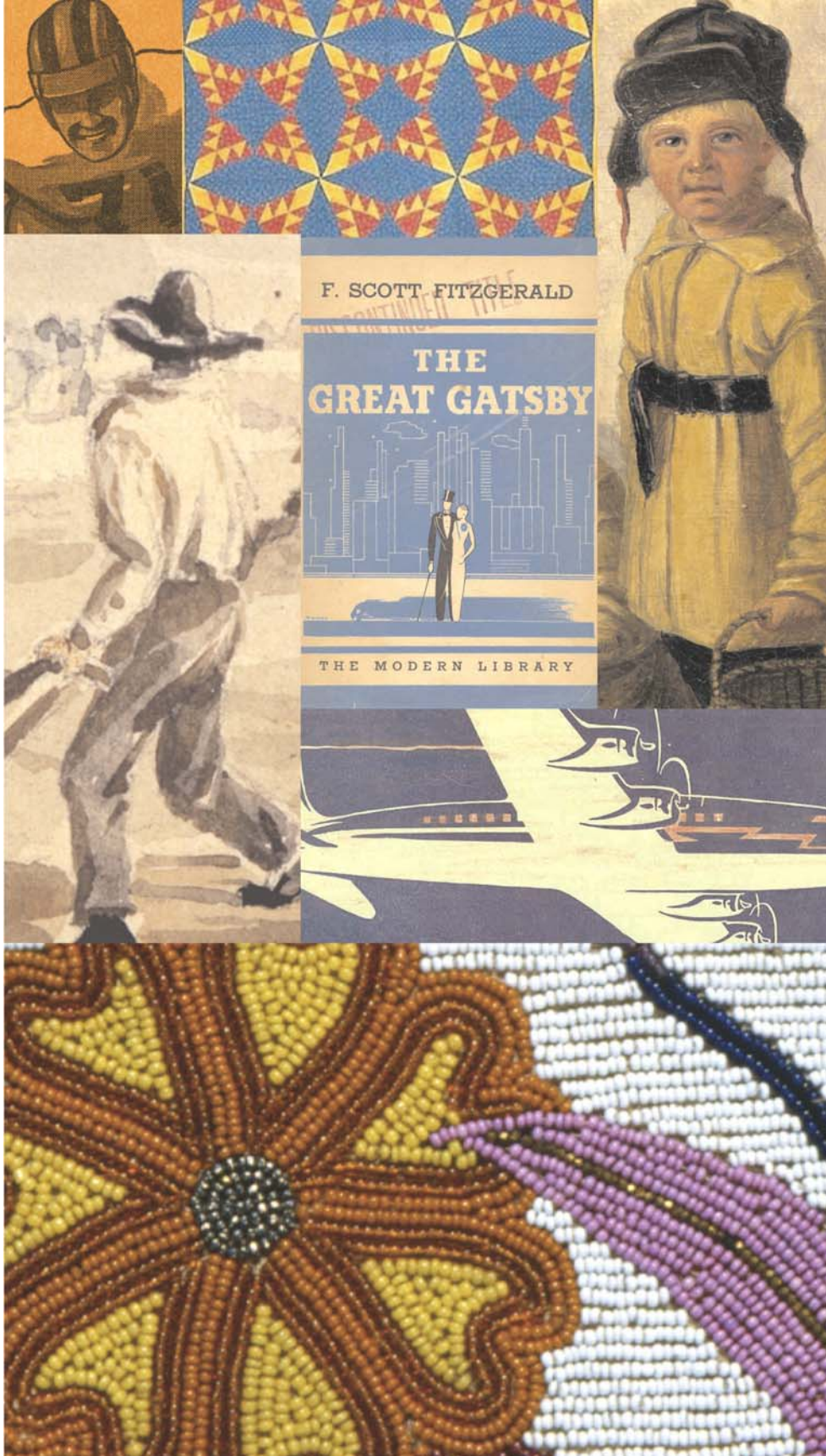


MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2006

Collections Department Overview

The mission of the Collections Department is to acquire, document, and provide care and access to the permanent collections held by the Minnesota Historical Society. We fulfill this mission by the following objectives: increasing our distinction as an intellectual resource through informed collecting; improving documentation and care of the collections; and providing access to the collections in innovative and exciting ways.

All of the Society's collecting areas are now managed under the Collections Department within the Division of Library, Publications and Collections. These collecting areas include government records (State Archives), three-dimensional objects, manuscripts (corporate and personal), art, fine art photography, posters, photographs, film and sound recordings, maps and publications (current and rare books). The Collections Department also provides support for the Society's archaeology program in managing holdings in the archaeology repository.

Our staff of sixteen includes five new professionals who joined the Collections Department last year. Several came to work on special projects including Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project (Chris Welter), the Preserving the Records of the E-Legislature (Beth Lighthipe) and the Geography and History Online: Integrating Digital Geographic Resources for Use in Schools (Lesley Kadish). We also welcomed two new curators, Molly Tierney for manuscripts and Matthew Anderson for the artifact collections. Matt filled the position vacated by Adam Scher in January of 2006 and Molly filled a position previously held by Craig Wright. Another staff person to leave was Maria Plonski, who completed her work on the State Archives' contract records management project with the state Human Services Department in February 2006. In addition, Bonnie Wilson retired as curator of the sound and visual collections in the spring of 2005. Notably, Bob Horton, previously Head of the Collections Department, accepted the position as Head of the Society's Library, Publications and Collections Division.

Diane Adams-Graf, Acting Head of Collections Department, Project Specialist

Marcia Anderson, Senior Curator, Artifact Collections

Matthew Anderson, Curator, Artifact Collections

Daniel Cagley, Collections Manager

Patrick Coleman, Acquisitions Librarian

John Fulton, Acquisitions Assistant

Lesley Kadish, Project Analyst

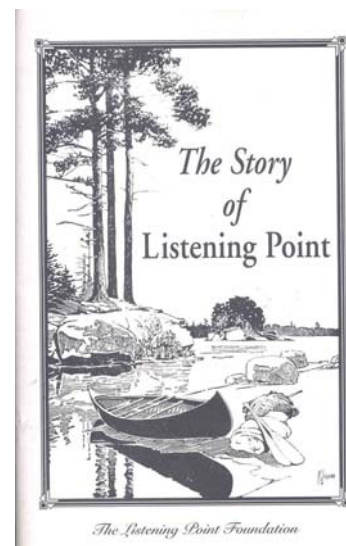
Beth Lighthipe, Government Records Assistant

Linda McShannock, Curator, Artifact Collections

Charles Rodgers, Government Records Specialist

Shawn Rounds, Government Records Specialist

Deborah Sher, Collections Processing Assistant



Molly Tierney, Curator, Manuscript Collections
Brian Szott, Curator, Art Collections
Chris Welter, Government Records Assistant
Lori Williamson, Acquisitions Coordinator

In addition to the many exhibits, publications and web projects that you will read about in this report, the Collections Department features the Society's collections in many special events. Among these are *History Matters*, an annual presentation of Society programs and collections at the State Capitol and *Collections Up Close*, a History Center event that again drew hundreds of visitors to tour collections storage areas and speak with curators about their own collectibles. In addition, the Collections Department's 'fleet' of portable display cases are often used to highlight collections in numerous



short-term activities and events in the History Center. In 2006, collections were showcased in events related to Minnesota's Greatest Generation, Education's History Hijinx programs and in both private and special, public tours such as those given for the Early American Glass Club, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the annual meeting for members of the Minnesota Historical Society.

What would we accomplish without our volunteers? Please notice the contributions of volunteers in all of our collecting areas. They filed, indexed, researched, inventoried, photocopied, organized and completed data entry to support the most fundamental aspects of the Society's work. We are continuously grateful for their gifts. In addition to volunteers, the Collections Department hosted internships for four student interns during 2006. Their on-the-job training included work with the doll collection, historic photographs, KSTP news film and Red Wing pottery.

Ongoing collaborations with the Society's Development Office continue to provide additional value and resources to fundraising efforts. An impressive display of collections for the Minnesota-China Trade Mission Event at the Target Center, dozens of private showings of History Center storage areas and direct access for collections tours by Development Office staff, were some of the many Collections Department services provided in 2006.

The Collections Department also collaborates with other departments in the institution to insure the proper care, treatment, documentation, tracking and storage of the

Society's collections. Early in 2006, the direct management of the Society's collections at Historic Sites was turned over to the Historic Properties Office in the Historic Sites and Museums Division. The Collections Department continues to collaborate with policy and procedural oversight of these 35,000 collection items located at historic sites throughout Minnesota.

We are happy to have been able to bring more collections to the web in 2006. The *Collections Up Close* web site, launched in 2005, continued to feature collections news and acquisitions throughout the year. In addition, you'll read about the great accomplishments of the Birth Records project and perhaps you already found that several of the Society's exhibits featured the collections as part of the online exhibit. Through the timely and consistent efforts of Collections Management staff, the published material, manuscripts and government records acquired for the Society quickly had online catalog components. In short, the Society's development and expansion of technology continues to provide greater access and ease in access, to all of the collections at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Acquisitions

What's new? You'll see many things featured in this annual report as there were many, new additions made to the Society's collections in 2006. The following table shows our statistics for the year in each collecting area.

Art, Fine Art Photography and Posters	3D Objects	Manuscripts	Photographs	Publications	Sound and Visual	State Archives
15	219	25 collections	67	1,143	5	64 accessions (708 c.f.)



Clyde Estey black ash basket

Object Collections

Significant Acquisitions

- A 1954 traffic signal and controller box from Sacred Heart, Minnesota.
- A circa 1940 Minneapolis-built snow blower.
- A 1993 pair of U.S. Army combat boots worn by a Minnesota soldier in Somalia.
- Two Winter Carnival coats from the 1910s-1930s and associated with Louis Hill and the Great Northern were purchased and exhibited at the Hill House last winter.
- A wedding gown made from a WWII parachute and a Japanese kimono given to Bernard FitzPatrick. His book about his experiences in WWII as a prisoner of war captured on Bataan is part of the Library collection.
- Ignatius Donnelly's hat and cane were welcome additions to an existing collection.
- Minnesota textile artist, Anna Carlson's ensemble is a commissioned work from her custom dressmaking business, which she closed this year after 15 years of successful designs.
- Claudia Clark Meyers was the recognized artist at this year's Minnesota Quilters' Show. On exhibit in that show was her "Twentieth Century Silkie" quilt which was purchased for the collection.
- Candy Kuehn's colorful ensemble, "Midnight" was the 2005 purchase award at the Textile Center's annual ArtWear in Motion runway show.
- Five pieces of wheel-thrown stoneware by studio potter Martha Cutkomp circa 1950-1979.
- 1931 Lake Lena bandolier bag and a circa 1900 woven cedar mat made by Waabaw of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe community were acquired from the Sherman Holbert collection.



- A black ash basket woven by Clyde Estey of the White Earth band of Ojibwe documents a less common regional American Indian basket making tradition.
- Dinnerware service for four in the Bob White pattern by Red Wing Potteries, Inc. donated by David Hakensen.

Minnesota's Greatest Generation

Chris Welter and Matt Anderson have kept the Collections Department actively involved in the Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project. Under their guidance, the department has maintained a crucial presence in the planning and programming for this major initiative.

Working with Linda Cameron, Chris and Matt are making the Society's 3-D collections a vital part of the Web-based component of the Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project. A series of three virtual exhibits, covering Childhood and the Great Depression, World War II, and the Postwar Boom, will offer online access to selected objects through photographs and narrative text.

This summer selected objects were featured in the "9 Night of Music" programs. Unusual pieces were used in "Guess the Gizmo" contests in which audience members tried to determine the object's function. The nine events gave more than 4,900 people the opportunity to see particularly interesting pieces from the collection. Featured objects ranged from an early electric toaster to a set of Civil Defense radiation dosimeters.

Collections storage project

The shoe collection was rehoused in custom-made, die-cut, Coroplast carriers. Volunteers, Judy Calcote and Donna Pauley assisted Ann Frisina, textile conservator, to complete this project, rehousing over 1500 items. The shoes were then reorganized by date and reinventoried by collections staff and volunteers.

Dressmaking Research

Endowment funds from the Bean Family Fund for Business History were granted to complete condition assessments, dress mannequins and photograph 54 garments from the MHS collection. These items of dress represent the work of 25 Minnesota dressmakers producing custom clothing between 1860-1940. This was collaborative project with work coordinated by Ann Frisina in conservation, Linda McShannock in collections and Eric Mortensen in the photo studio. James Harrington was hired to assist with documentation and mannequin dressing.



Frances Densmore accession research

Volunteer/Intern Marin Bey completed her work on the Frances Densmore Grand Portage accession (6935). This important acquisition was made at Grand Portage in 1930 at the request of the Society and funds were provided to Miss Densmore to make the collection. With Marin's efforts we were able to complete a storage survey, review of Densmore's papers in the Minnesota Historical Society Library, add relevant copies of the papers to the object collections accession file, transcribe as much of the Densmore hand written notes as were legible, and align all Densmore & Society identification and accession numbers wherever possible. Forthcoming projects with Marin will include graduate school papers focusing on Densmore for her masters at ASU.

National Museum of the American Indian image project with volunteer Sally Hickman and MHS Library

The NMAI collections staff has designated the Society as a repository for copies of primarily historic images from the American Indian collections there. So far we have received hundreds of images, now rehoused by Sally into 11 notebooks and representing 7 tribes of relevance to this region.



Red Wing Retro Exhibit

While the exhibit opened on July 1, 2006 all preparation and installation took place in FY 2006 for Red Wing Retro: Extraordinary Objects, Everyday Life in the changing gallery at the History Center. The installation features Society collections and many other items from five generous lenders (Ron Linde, David Hakensen, the Red Wing Pottery Museum, Don & Jeanne Madtson, Flora & Murray Burfeind). In support of the exhibit project funds were requested to photo-document the Red Wing pottery collection and post online. Funding was provided for the creation of the digital images by the Rothchild Fund for Business History and the Bean Family Fund for Business History. An intern, Katherine Elchert, was engaged to prepare the product for web posting later during the run of the exhibit. As predicted, collections exhibits prove to be excellent vehicles for two major agendas—developing existing or new collections resources and expanding the scope of the collection via donations.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) activity

After nearly three years of NAGPRA work, the Wabasha tree or effigy figure 6227.1 was repatriated to Ernest Wabasha. This involved two summer internships with granddaughter Cheyanne St. John, ongoing review & negotiations with Ernest and his son Leonard Wabasha to complete the genealogy research, negotiations with family regarding NAGPRA designations to pursue, preparation of language for the Federal Register notice, mailings in conjunction with the posting, and photo-documentation of the figure prior to repatriation.

Object collections staff coordinated reproduction of a Grand Portage King George peace medal for the Grand Portage National Monument exhibit between internal and external parties including exhibits, conservation, Park Service staff, and Grand Portage NAGPRA representative Vicky Raske. And the Society's NAGPRA Policy for AAM reaccreditation compliance was drafted and submitted.

Marcia & Linda collaborated with two long-time volunteers for a Minnesota glass club meeting at the History Center, preparing cases with 92 examples from the collections.

Volunteers and Interns

Lauren Calcote - completed the 1900 City Directory database with a total of 4,085 records identifying textile workers in Minneapolis

Mary Hoeve - researched donor biographical information

Judy Calcote - continued further research on the dressmakers represented in collection

Mary Kay Nutzmann - cataloged greeting cards

Julie Fleishhacker, Jessica Willie, and James Harrington - completed accession records, reduced the backlog and improved object descriptions.

Sally Hickman - continued filing, work with library and for contribution to the Minnesota Photographers binders, photocopy project.

Mary Patton - Physically numbered three-dimensional artifacts and helped with three-dimensional collection inventories.

Dorothy Peterson - Physically numbered artifacts, continued to inventory the paper files, rehoused artifacts, and did further research in those collections



Art Collection

Fiscal year 2006 has been an outstanding one for the art collection both in terms of acquisitions and exhibitions. The year has been marked by important acquisitions such as the gift of a 1973 work by internationally renowned, Minnesota resident Charles Biederman (1906-2004). The painted metal construction was a gift from Pierce and Joyce Butler and represents the second major work in the collection by this important 20th century American artist.



A second important acquisition was an archive of preparatory work by Minneapolis artist, Mike Lynch (b. 1938). In 2000, the Minnesota State Arts Board, through their Percent for Art Program, commissioned Lynch to create a 10 x 19 foot mural titled *View of St.*

Paul from Indian Mounds Park for the Department of Revenue Stassen Office Building. Completed and installed in 2002 the mural represents a landmark achievement by the artist.

The acquisition—made possible with funds from the Lila Johnson Goff Collections Endowment and through a generous arrangement with art patrons Larry and Linda Perlman, with assistance of Groveland Gallery—is a virtually complete archive of the artist's step-by-step creative process. The archive includes more than 50 items, from journal entries and pencil sketches to a 5 by 9 foot, acrylic on linen study of the final work. Also included in the archive are research materials and photographs of the work in progress and during installation.

Significant strides were made this year in the acquisition of works by women artists such as Frances Cranmer Greenman and Ada Wolfe; artists of color such as Melvin Smith and Rose Smith; and contemporary artists such as Jim Burpee and Phil Barber.

Works from the art collection were featured in two important exhibitions this past year. The first of which, *Jerome Hill: Beyond the Frame*, celebrated the centennial of the birth of this multi-faceted artist and grandson of railroad baron James J. Hill.

Funded in part with a generous grant from the Jerome Foundation, this exhibition featured more than 100 items—most of which were from the MHS permanent

collections. More than 15,000 people visited the exhibition, appropriately presented at the Historic James J. Hill House. An illustrated catalogue containing 4 essays that examined aspects of Hill's legacy as an artist, philanthropist and human being accompanied this exhibition.



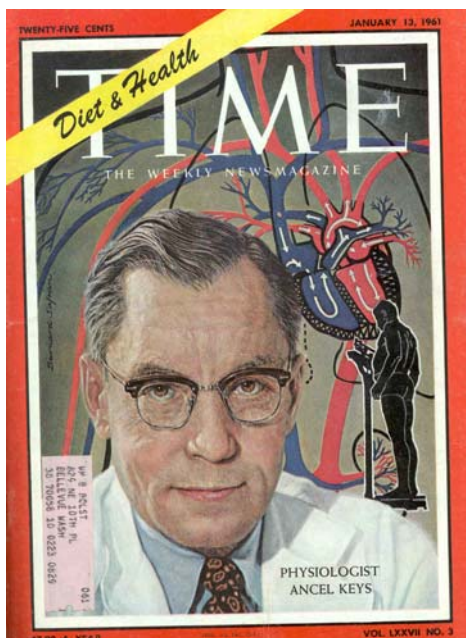
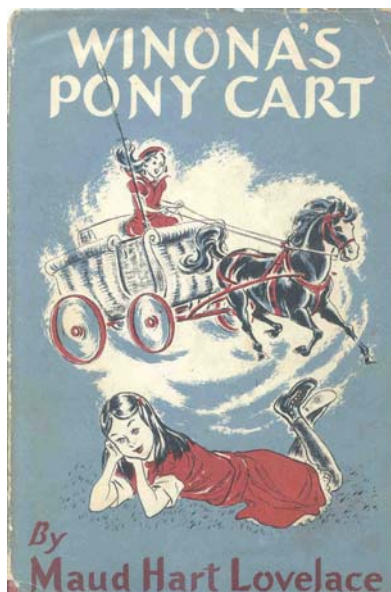
In February 2006, MHS presented *Seth Eastman: Artist on the Frontier* at the Minnesota History Center. Funded in part through a generous gift from W. Duncan and Nivin MacMillan, the exhibition featured nearly 100 objects, the majority of which were from the permanent collections. During the exhibition more than 14,000 adults and children came to the museum through general admission. Additionally, more than 27,000 school children and their chaperones attended the museum through our education programs. Special events included a Family Activity Day, North Star Circle Reception and teacher workshops. Supporting material included an illustrated gallery guide and an "Eastman Up Close" exhibition website.

Other achievements for the art collection this year was the installation of a new state-of-the-art lighting system for the murals in the Governor's Reception Room at the State Capitol. Arguably among the most important Minnesota works of art in the state, these 6 murals can now be fully enjoyed by the thousands of visitors to the Capitol each year. This project was completed in cooperation with Governor Tim Pawlenty's office.

Library Collection

Acquisition Librarian Patrick Coleman had another successful year procuring books, maps, pamphlets, serials, and newspapers for the library collections. This new material will greatly enhance both the scholarly research value of the collection and the MHS library's reputation. Coleman was able to locate the material by reading book reviews, visiting book sellers and reading their catalogs, talking to collectors and donors, and listening patiently to sales reps. An Acquisitions Committee reviews incoming material weekly.

Libraries are in reality a collection of collections. This fiscal year, approximately 1,200 volumes were added to the library covering all of these various collecting areas. The most important collection in the library is the Minnesota state and local history section. No other library in the world is charged with acquiring and preserving these histories. Additions this year are far too numerous to mention individually but *Medford, Hamlet of the Straight River, 1853-2003* and *Winton, the Town that Lumber Built* can stand as examples. Another notable collection of books in the MHS library concerns Native American history. To keep this area up to date we acquired many volumes including *Ojibwa Warrior: Dennis Banks and the Rise of the American Indian Movement* and Bonnie Lewis's *Creating Christian Indians: Native Clergy in the Presbyterian Church*. Business history is another section to which we continuously add books. *Red Wing Shoes, 1905-2005* by Sara Schouweiler is an example. The most

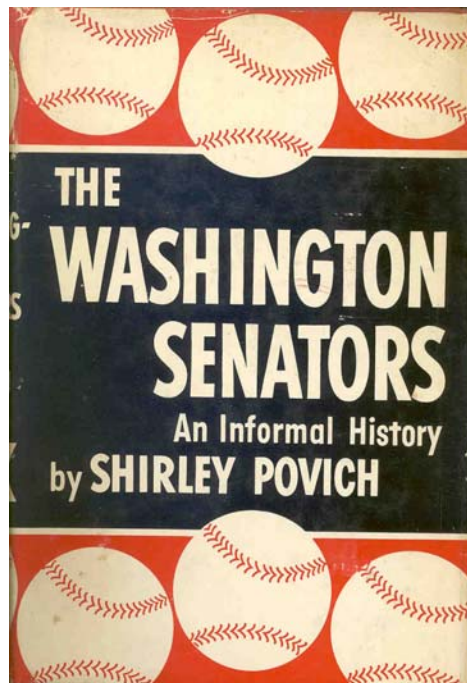


interesting business related item acquired this year was the donation of an album of photographs, titled *Twenty Years Continued Progress: S & L Family*, showing the employees at the S & L department stores which were located in medium size towns across the upper Midwest.

Rare and long out of print books such as *A trip to St. Paul* published by the Diamond Jo Line in 1908, four pamphlets in a 1944 boxed set titled *The Case for Socialism, as Presented at the Famous Minneapolis Labor Trial*, a 1937 atlas of Murray County, and the 1961 issue of *Time* magazine with Minnesotan, Ancel Keys on the cover, were also acquired this year.

Private funds are frequently used these days to acquire material that increasingly is out of the range of our State allocated funds. The Linsmayer family and Villaume Industries helped the library collect more original material concerning Sinclair Lewis's career in Hollywood including movie posters for *Cass Timberlane*, *Dodsworth*, *Free Air*, and *Elmer Gantry*. One fun addition which was acquired with funds memorializing long time MHS Board member, Ray Reister, was a rare copy of Shirley Povich's 1954 history, *The Washington Senators*, the team that went on to become the Minnesota Twins. H. V. Jones Funds were used to purchase several fine press books including the 2005 Minnesota Book Award winning *Ghost Poems* by Paulette Myers-Rich.

Our two hard-working volunteers, Dr. Julian Plante and Janet Skeie, did critical work again this year. Dr. Plante works on a variety of projects, including the Dictionary of the Minnesota Book World and the Minnesota Author Files. He also helps manage the flow of donations by entering them into our Collection Management System (CMS). Janet Skeie works with the CMS when necessary; otherwise she is busy on special projects. This year she completed organizing and filing new and additions to the manuscript accession files. Both of our fantastic volunteers help to check on books and take on other tasks when asked...we are lucky to have them!



Manuscript Collections

During the first 9 months of the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Manuscripts program was carried out on an interim basis by James E. Fogerty. Significant collections include:

1. Sherman Holbert Papers. A business man who operated the Fort Mille Lacs Trading Post, which includes extensive documentation on Holbert's interaction with Mille Lacs Ojibwe Community.
2. Stanley & Marvel Chong Papers, 1938-2002. Stanley and Marvel Chong founded a Chinese food company among other enterprises. The papers include advertising, correspondence, newspaper articles, restaurant menus, immigration documents, photographs, and records of the Chinese American Association of Minnesota.
3. Hindu Society of Minnesota Records. Includes a historic copy of the Ramayana presented by Dr. Kusum Saxena, whose family had held the book for several generations.

Molly Tierney took over the Manuscripts program in April of 2006 as the new Curator of Manuscripts. During the last three months of the 2005-2006 fiscal year, Molly's main priority has been to acclimate to job responsibilities and the Society. The fourth quarter of the 2005-2006 year has focused on the evaluation and reduction of 134.5 linear feet of backlog inventory of 105 potential manuscript acquisitions that has poured in since the departure of Craig Wright in 2003. In addition to the concentrated effort on backlog, Molly developed relationships with potential and existing donors such as, the Monahan Family (Christie Family descendents), Wilder Foundation, Dr. Malcolm A. McCannel, and the Target Corporation.



Three additions to existing manuscript collections were also acquired during the last three months of the 2005-2006 year, including:

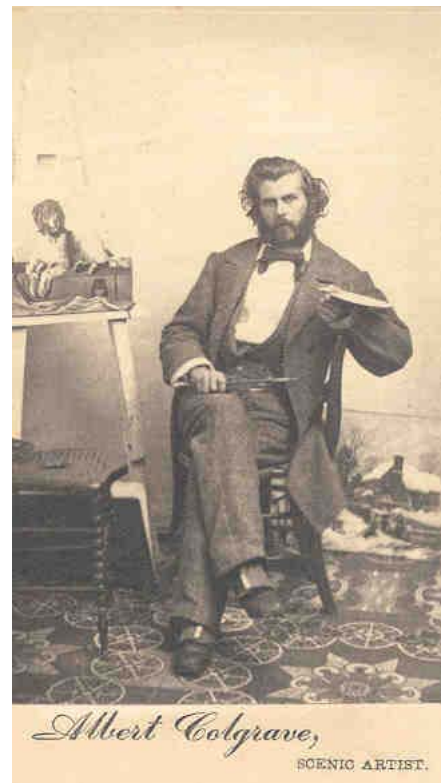
1. Powderhorn Food Community Co-op Records, addition. These records provide substantial documentation on the cooperatives movement in the Twin Cities in the 1970s-1980s.
2. Bush Foundation Records, addition. The recent addition of grant files will be added to our significant collection of the St. Paul nonprofit foundation's records.
3. Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs Records, addition. These records expand our collection of records documenting Minnesota businesswomen via their association in the Minnesota Federation of Business Women's Clubs.



Sound and Visual Collections

The moving image collection continued to strengthen its holdings through the acquisition of works by several local producers including Emmy award winners from the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy for Television Arts and Sciences, a purchase from Wellstone Action, *Wellstone!*, and a 1941 film of the Aquatennial Parade. Program contributions were made by the KSTP news film collection through collaboration with several of the Society's developing exhibits including, MN150. Of the 98,000 KSTP news film segments, 150 were selected that illustrate notable Minnesota events and figures. While some of this film will be used in the exhibit, all 150 segments are the basis for a digitization project that will go onto the MHS website with a searchable index. In addition, both the new Elmer L. Andersen Human Services Building and MN Dept. of Health Freeman Building, in the Capitol complex, include short films in their lobbies that are made from, in part, KSTP news film. News film helps to compose a film about Minneapolis that will play in a new exhibit at Mill City Museum. Finally, a long segment of news film on the Red Wing Pottery factory is part of Red Wing exhibit currently open at the History Center. In addition to these programs and despite limited public access to the KSTP news film collection, several documentary filmmakers used news film in the following: *Minnesota: a History of the Land*, a documentary on Eugene McCarthy that aired at the History Center in May, and in an upcoming film about Walter Mondale.

The Society's collection of historic photographs grew this year with additions furthering the visual documentation of Minnesota people, places and events. Of note was the purchase of a group of five *carte de visite* paper photographs of St. Paul scenic artist, Albert Colgrave. Local photographer, James Martin, likely took these photographs between 1861 and 1862. One of the images depicts Colgrave with artist's brush and palette beside his easel, while another shows him in uniform shortly after his enlistment in Co. G of the 6th MN Regiment Infantry. Another unique addition to the collection was a small group of photographs of Italian prisoners of war, taken in 1943 on the donor's family farm near Bird Island, MN. Finally, but certainly not the last of many wonderful images, was the acquisition of an albumen photograph of Francis Patrick Murphy at the start of his bicycle ride from Minneapolis, MN to New York, New York in 1896. His ride was completed in a record 13 days, 9 hours. This exterior view includes Murphy on his bicycle along with numerous bystanders including his wife and family on the curb, in front of their family business, F.P. Murphy's Family Liquor Store.





Our most important acquisition this year was a pre-Civil War daguerreian portrait of Minnesota photographer Joel E. Whitney and five *carte de visite* paper photographs of Whitney (including a stunning collage of Whitney's hands feet and facial self portrait), his wife and their family comprise the acquisition.

Joel E. Whitney is Minnesota's premier pioneer photographer. Trained in the art of "capturing mirror likenesses" during the earliest days of photography, Whitney operated, first as a daguerreian and subsequently a wet plate photographer, in St. Paul and Minneapolis from 1850-1871. He is nationally recognized as one of America's foremost pioneer photographic artists.

The Society's collection holds more than 800 of Whitney's images including seven daguerreotypes that he made of St. Anthony Falls, St. Paul and resident portraits, taken during the 1850s. These are rare views of Minnesota's pre-Civil War scenes and citizens.

Daguerreotypes were mirror-like, one-of-a-kind portraits (no negative was involved) that first appeared in 1839 and had piqued in popularity by 1858. To have a "daguerreian portrait" of Minnesota's most prolific and famous photographer is a benchmark contribution to the iconographic history of the state. This acquisition completes a singular collection of Whitney's pioneering work held by the Minnesota Historical Society. It was secured with private funds from the Lila J. Goff Acquisitions Endowment, the Josephine Harper Darling Estate and the Virginia Moe Endowment Fund. Tentative plans are underway to display this daguerreian portrait of Whitney and selections of his work from the Society's collection, in 2008.

These and other acquired images are cataloged and added to the Visual Resource Database; an online catalog of image collections at the Society's website. They are available there for viewing, research and purchase.

Finally, we were fortunate to have the assistance of Jaclyn Ludowese who joined our staff as a summer intern from Beloit College, in both 2005 and 2006. Jaclyn worked with both the photograph and news film collections. She cataloged historic photographs selected for the Minnesota's Greatest Generation web page and described news film segments selected in conjunction with MN 150. Her contributions are significant to our providing access to these remarkable, documentary resources. Continued contributions by volunteer, Sally Hickman, are most appreciated.

State Archives Collection

As the State of Minnesota's repository for government records with historical value, the State Archives Collection acquired records from many state departments, boards, and commissions including the departments of Administration, Agriculture, Health, Human Services, and Natural Resources. Selected records with historical value were received from the cities of Stillwater and St. Paul, and the counties of Fillmore, Koochiching, Olmsted, St. Louis, Sibley, and Wright transferred court records. Also, the Attorney General, the State Auditor, the Secretary of State, and the Legislature (including papers of former legislators Jack Davies and Doug Peterson) sent records with historical value. Many of the



transferred records fulfill the State Archives' priorities to document the protection of the state's natural resources and environment, and to enhance family history resources.

Significant acquisitions

- A Fillmore County District Court record book (1853-1901) with Minnesota territorial period declarations of intent to become a citizen, marriage records, and ministers' ordinations credentials.
- Coroner's record books and autopsy records (1901-1955) of the Ramsey County Coroner, and coroner's inquest files (1871-1981) of the Olmsted County Coroner.
- County and judicial ditch files (ca. 1900-1990) of the Conservation Department/Waters Division.
- Health Department death certificates (1997-2001) on microfilm continue an existing set; access is provided via the on-line death records index.
- Records (1880-1989) of three maternity hospitals and one home for children received from the state Human Services Department.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul Sanitary District records (1928-1938), including photographs, regarding the construction of a new sewer system in the St. Paul area.

Human Services Department records management project

The State Archives' contract records management project with the state Human Services Department was completed in February 2006. The two-year project provided training to DHS staff about the Minnesota records laws, and produced records management policies and procedures. A total of 27 records retention schedules were compiled

during the project, and approved by the State Records Disposition Panel. One result of the project was the transfer of several small units of historical records for addition to the State Archives.



State Records Disposition Panel

According to Minnesota law, the Society's Director is a member of the State Records Disposition Panel, and the State Archives serves as her designee to review state and local government agencies' records retention schedules and records disposal applications. State Archives staff reviewed and approved approximately 150 schedules and applications during the fiscal year, which will ensure that government records with historical value are preserved.

MHO workshops

Staff participated in the Minnesota Historical Organizations Workshops conducted this spring in Buffalo, Austin, Morris, Grand Rapids, and Lake Bronson. A presentation entitled "Historical and Genealogical Societies Collaborations" was given to complement the workshops' theme: "Working Together, Community Collaborations." This was an excellent opportunity to renew and make contacts in the county/local historical societies community, and to answer questions about MHS genealogy sources, our Library policies and procedures, and how to collaborate when collecting records that may be useful for genealogy research.



Special Collections Department Projects and Initiatives

Minnesota Greatest Generation

The MHS Collections both supported and were showcased by Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project (MGGP) efforts in fiscal year 2006. Sixty-three items—manuscript papers, library books, photographs, and 3D artifacts—were put on display at seven separate MGGP events. For example, broadcast journalist Eric Sevareid's boyhood canoe paddle and compass were displayed at the film event, "Riding the Rails," a Depression-era documentary.



Collections also worked in concert with a volunteer to design, compile, and distribute a historical photograph album, "A Generation's Views of the Capital City." The album consists of fifty St. Paul area photographs and was donated to several nursing homes—many with Alzheimer's disease patients. Upon recognizing the school in a 1930 photo, one man smiled broadly and said, "Central High. I graduated from there!"

Finally, Collections is enhancing its documentation of the era. Staff have identified 119 individuals from Minnesota's Greatest Generation who have connection to collections items. In many instances, the person's biographical information is also being compiled and saved for future research efforts.

Archaeology

A Collections Department task force reviewed and revised archaeology workflows, standards, procedures, further developed the Society's Archaeology collections web page presence, and provided two sets of repository training sessions for outside contract archaeologists. All archaeology standards, repository agreements and fees are now available at the Society's website. In FY06, 10,851 items were brought in to the Society's collections storage area under Repository Agreements with the State Archaeologist of Minnesota.

Collections Management

Physical management of three-dimensional collections this past year, included design and reconfiguring of storage systems for more effective use of space, to advance preservation, and to provide more efficient



access to collections storage areas both on and off-site. In addition, over 6,000 artifacts were inventoried with the valuable assistance of Mary Patton, volunteer. Collecting areas included in this work included furniture storage, men's and women's shoes, ongoing work with the paper files, and the collection contents of Building 30 at Fort Snelling. Other volunteers who provided research and documentation to artifact collections were Dorothy Peterson, Mary Kay Nutzmam and Carol Finwall.

E-Legislature Project

State Archives staff, in partnership with the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Reference Library, and the San Diego Supercomputer Center, continued work on the "Preserving the Records of the E-Legislature" project, a two-year effort funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The goal of the project is to develop and test a web-enabled methodology for the long-term preservation of electronic legislative records, beginning with those created by the Revisor's new bill-drafting system. Staff from the California Legislative Counsel, State Archives and State Library makes up an advisory board to evaluate and assess the model and its applicability to other states. More information is available online at: <http://www.mnhs.org/elegislature>

Birth Records Project

Collections Department staff participated in the management of the Birth Records Project, as well as in the indexing of the more than 1.5 million certificates included in the years 1900-1934. The project, which will conclude in 2007, is the result of collaboration between the State Archives and the Minnesota Department of Health. MHS staff took custody of the paper records and scanned them to create digital images for patron access through the Society's searchable online Birth Certificate Index (<http://people.mnhs.org/bci>), a companion tool to the popular Death Certificate Index (<http://people.mnhs.org/dci>). Over 85 volunteers and 60 staff members manually indexed the birth records.



Library Lobby Displays over the last year:

Minnesota's Greatest Generation: the bust, the war, the boom

Minnesota State Capitol Centennial 1905-2005

Sinclair Lewis in Hollywood

Down the Great River

CCC - Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933 - 1942

Collections Up Close Event

The past year saw another successful Collections Up Close event held on May 9, 2006. Approximately 300 MHS members and members of the public attended this annual event, which is a peek into the workings of the Collections Department. This year the event consisted of

behind-the-scenes tours of the Collection storage areas, allowing the visitors a glimpse of the various storage techniques as well as brief talks in each area about what is collected and why. An appraisal clinic was held as well, with each curator spending time meeting with people, examining their treasures, and giving them an idea of its historic importance. A special tour of the Seth Eastman exhibit proved very popular. The History Hi-jinx activity, making a Civil War housewife, was enjoyed by young and old alike. There was also information available on the Library and the MGG project. Many visitors completed event surveys: the response was overwhelmingly positive and encouraged us to do something like this again next year.



Professional accomplishments

Diane Adams-Graf attended "Legal Aspects of Museum Administration" a three-day legal conference offered by the American Legal Institute and American Bar Association.

Marcia Anderson served as a consultant/advisor to the Haehn Museum at the St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN in their development process for their exhibit *The Living Culture of the Anishinabeg* and their first use of an Indian Advisory Committee in this process. A successful nomination of the exhibit was submitted for an



AASLH award of merit. A paper was presented at the NAASA conference in Phoenix on the historic American Indian photo collections at the Society and was also submitted for publication in *American Indian Art Magazine*. Anderson served as on-site juror for the 2006 national American Crafts Council show in St. Paul. The UM sponsored a national Arts and Crafts conference entitled *The Intersection of Regionalism and Internationalism--A Living Tradition*. Marcia assisted in identifying local venues, provided speaker contact information & presented a paper for the conference entitled *A Populist Spider web of Intimate Relations: The Minnesota Arts & Crafts Movement*. Anderson served as guest lecturer at the UM's Museum Studies Course "Curatorial Responsibilities for Collections" and as adjunct faculty during the Fall semester taught the course "Introduction to Museums and Public History" at SJU/CSB in Collegeville, MN.

Matthew Anderson reviewed the book *The Ann Arbor Railroad*, by D.C. Jesse Burkhardt. His review appeared in the Spring-Summer 2006 issue of *Railroad History*, the journal of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society.

Dan Cagley contributed an essay titled "Bud Fowler and the Stillwater Nine" in the book, *Swinging For the Fences: Black Baseball in Minnesota*. He also attended the Iowa Museum Association annual conference.

Patrick Coleman, Acquisitions Librarian, attended the International Antiquarian Book Fair held in New York in April. He made contact with 200 rare book dealers, purchasing several books and one map for the library. More importantly the visits keep the MHS front and center in the book dealer's minds so that they contact Coleman when they have unusual items to sell. Coleman continued his service as a board member at the Minnesota Humanities Commission and rotated off the board of the Friends on the University of Minnesota Library after awarding several staff development grants and

student worker scholarships. Coleman continued to serve as an officer for the Ampersand Club and the Manuscripts Society. The Acquisition Librarian gave several lectures this fiscal year including one for the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, on the printed works relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition, and a lecture on Mississippi River books at Winona State University that received two articles in newspapers. Similarly Coleman mounted exhibits in the library relating to the collections such as "Down the Great River" on Mississippi River travel and "Sinclair Lewis in Hollywood" showing off a recent acquisition on that aspect of the famous author's career.

John Fulton attended the Association of Moving Image Archivists 2005 annual conference in Austin, Texas.

Linda McShannock attended the "The Senses and Sentiments of Dress," a symposium honoring retiring Regents Professor Joanne Eicher at the U of M and the Costume Society of America's annual conference, "Unlocking the Trunk: Collections, Collectors and Collecting" in Hartford, CT.

Charles Rodgers is Chair of the Minnesota Government Records and Information Network (MN GRIN) for calendar year 2006. In June 2006 he completed a two-year appointment as the Director of Employment Opportunities for the Twin Cities Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA). He is the Society of American Archivists (SAA) membership committee key contact representative for Minnesota. Charles is a member of SAA, the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), and the Twin Cities Archives Round Table (TCART).

Shawn Rounds, in her role as a Government Records Specialist focusing on electronic records, continued to manage the NHPRC-funded E-legislature project, as well as taking on management of the Society's Birth Records Project in May after contributing to the work as the indexing coordinator. She contributed to two articles appearing in professional publications, *Archival Outlook* (Society of American Archivists) and *Crossroads* (National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators), and continued as an annual columnist for the "Electronic Currents" section of the *MAC Newsletter* (Midwest Archives Conference). In the area of educational outreach, Shawn delivered five presentations to metro-area records management, information technology, and library organizations on the topic of electronic records management.

Lori Williamson completed an online class on U.S. Copyright Law this past year. She promises not to practice without a license, but is happy to be a resource and have a better understanding of fair use. She attended a workshop on Linguistic Intelligence, the goal of which is to improve communication through a deeper understanding of the various elements that go on both above and below the surface of any interaction. She also served on the steering committee for the Minnesota Book Awards.