

KYGMC

Home of the KSB Miniatures Collection
and Old Pogue Experience

Window to the past.

Bridge to the future.



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

Messenger

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*“It’s spring and the blooming bulbs and trees remind us of the beauty of nature
in the mist of this difficult season...”*



THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON

It's spring and the blooming bulbs and trees remind us of the beauty of nature in the mist of this difficult season for our country. The Museum Center closure along with the closing of our schools and business firms have created time for each of us to reflect on the many important aspects of our lives. Seeing nature unfold in all the beauty of spring reminds each of us that dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak will pass and we should all reflect on the beauty of nature around our homes and community.

Due to the Covid-19 National Emergency and changes in operational schedules, our Museum closed to visitors starting on Tuesday March 17 and we will remain closed to guests until the restrictions put into place by the Governor are lifted in Kentucky. The business of the Museum continues with limited Museum Center office work with several of our staff working on exhibit preparations and research activities from their homes.

It seems strange not to have visitors in the KYGMC Galleries and yet even in silence the energy of the many exhibits, paintings and collections continue to speak of beauty along with the history and times of the past. The Museum is alive with energy in spite of the suspension of regular activities. Art continues to drive out the despair of the current emergency situation and give us hope.



I have found myself checking our web page from home and looking at the gallery pictures on line and appreciating the great size of our Museum collection. We are four very distinct and significant collections that form the nucleus of the Museum Center: The Historical Collection in the Wormald Gallery, The Research Library with the vast collection of historical maps, the KSB Miniatures Collection, the Old Pogue Experience and bourbon history galleries. Please take some time and review the pictures that are featured on our web page, check out the links to the KSB Miniatures web page and the Old Pogue web page and enjoy the beauty of the treasures we have in Maysville at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center.

We continue to plan for new educational programs, museum seminars and special exhibits in 2020. We are not sure when we can reopen to the general public and members. We are taking all the necessary precautions during the emergency to protect our staff and future guests with our public areas sanitized and following CDC protocol during this suspension of operation. We will be ready to reopen just as soon as the closure has been lifted by our state and local officials.

We were unable to hold our Charter Dinner in March celebrating the 1878 founding of the museum but our staff are making plans to have several great events once we are able to restore regular operations. Since 1878, we have had many major events in our nation's history from world wars, depressions to times of care free living and with all of the ups and downs we have continued to be the Maysville place to serve as our depository of history and collections of great works of art.

We know the next few months will be difficult and ask for your financial support as we wage this storm of being closed. Please consider mailing a donation to the Museum. Our mailing address is 215 Sutton Street, Maysville, Kentucky.

Our Staff and Trustees thank you for your continuing support of the Museum. Thank you for stepping up in this difficult time to make sure our services will be able to continue and thrive in the future.

Thank you for being a member!

C.J. Hunter IV
Executive Director



HIXSON'S HOARDINGS AND MORE...

By Tandy Nash

When you go into the Calvert Gallery at KYGMC, the first thing you see to your left is a wall covered in the very first picture made of the historic Russell Theatre. There are women in actual hand-made outfits- one in a Rust velvet evening coat with batwing sleeves, trimmed in fur with large abalone shell buttons, a velvet dress with crepe panels and brass buttons, another velvet dress with ruched inserts and an ivory lace Bertha collar and a Vicuna coupe de velour (acid etched) dress with vicuna velvet trimming. They are standing behind original velvet stanchions from the Russell waiting to see the newest motion picture.

At the turn of the century, Thomas Edison began making short motion pictures and by 1903, one of Edison's cameramen wrote, produced and directed "The Great Train Robbery". Edwin S. Porter's film was the first to tell a complete story. In 1915, Kentuckian native, D.W. Griffith made a long, serious movie called "Birth of a Nation". Throughout the early part of the '20s, silent films were the predominant product of the film industry, having evolved from vaudevillian roots. The 1920s was also the decade of the "Picture Palaces"-large urban theaters that could seat 1-2,000 guests at a time, with full orchestral accompaniment and very decorative design. Entrepreneurs scurried to build impressive movie houses across North America and Europe including theatres to seat up to 5,000 people. The Capitol Theater in New York City seating 8,000, became the biggest cinema in the world in 1921. J. Barbour Russell built Maysville's "palace" in the Spanish Colonial style with twinkling stars and floating clouds in a garden laden with trees and ivy. The rise of "Talkies" from the late 1920's onwards led to a radical shake-up of the entertainment industry.



Lifestyles of the Rich and Shameless

Live entertainment went into decline and variety theaters became movie palaces such as the Russell.

"The transition to sound-on-film technology occurred mid-decade with the talkies developed in 1926-1927, following experimental techniques begun in the late 1910s." Sound also greatly changed the Hollywood approach to storytelling, "with more dependence on dialogue and less creative use of the visual element". Movies were and art form that captured the interest of the masses worldwide. As a new form of entertainment, their success was extremely rapid. They entertained and made people laugh, making the world a happier place to live in after the horrors of WWI. The 1920s represented the era of greatest film output in the US movie market. "An average of 800 films were produced annually". (Remarkable, when you think we don't even exceed 500 now!) Although developments in color and sound were still at the experimental stage, a strong demand for movies, and the opportunity to make money, encouraged studios to produce "talkies" for commercial release.

In Hollywood, numerous small studios were taken over and made a part of larger studios, creating the Studio System that would run American film making. MGM studios was formed by the merger of Samuel Goldwyn's studio with Marcus Lowe's Metro Pictures and Louis B. Mayer's Company in 1924. The logo was designed by Howard Dietz. He decided to use a lion as the company's mascot "as a tribute to his alma mater, Columbia University, who's athletic teams' nickname was "the Lions"; he further added that Columbia's fight song, "Roar, Lions, Roar" inspired him to make the lion roar". The lion was trained to growl on cue, despite the fact that synchronized sound would not officially be used in motion pictures until 1927. Also, in 1924, Columbia pictures used a logo featuring a female Roman soldier holding a shield in one hand and a stick of wheat in the other. In '28, it changed to a new woman- Columbia- the female representative of America. By the end of the decade, there were 20 Hollywood studios, and the demand for films was greater than ever.

...Continued on inside back cover



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MINIATURES CORNER

By Kaye Browning



The exterior of the *Paul Revere House* by Pam Throop.

Every year around this time, children across the country revisit the history surrounding Paul Revere's midnight ride. I myself remember learning about this American hero in grade school. In English, we all recited the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem, which coined the phrase "One, if by land, and two, if by sea," and later we examined more factual details in history books, which pointed out logistics of the April 18, 1775, ride.

We are fortunate to have our own Paul Revere teaching tool in the KSB Miniatures Collection—the 1/12-scale interpretation of his home by Pam Throop.

The house is actually quite true to the original 17th century home in Boston, which now serves as one of our country's earliest museums of its kind. Even the tiny furnishings look similar to items in the Boston museum, such as the four-post-



Revere created silver, gold, brass, iron and copper items off site, but I staged an area in the home to show what his workspace may have looked like.



Look familiar? This bedroom in the *Paul Revere House* was used for the cover of *Collectively Speaking*, Volume 2.

er canopy bed, a chest on stand, and gate-leg table. Through these everyday items and living quarters, students are able to see Paul Revere as a human being—how he lived, how he worked as a metal smith to support his 13 children, where he slept, ate dinner and, perhaps, even where he secretly discussed plans to warn of the British invasion.

For miniaturists, the home is much more than a glimpse into history, it's a look at the incredible work of the late artisan, who was well known for her work recreating historic houses. Pam did her PhD work in history and anthropology and used those skills to document historic architecture in 1/12 scale. She visited the original structures, meticulously measured everything, from beams to crawl spaces, and researched materials, building techniques, design trends and tools of the time, as well as the personal lives of those who occupied the spaces. When I heard that her *Paul Revere House* was being stored in a basement of a museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, I immediately made plans to



The canopy bed is similar to one featured in Boston's Paul Revere House.

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acquire it for the collection, as I knew it would be an invaluable educational resource for the museum.

Pam, too, would be thrilled to see her structure being used in a learning environment. For anyone wishing to add Paul Revere's

story to their lesson plans, the Boston museum has a wealth of online information at www.paulreverehouse.org. Exploring his home in 1/12 scale through these images may also make an interesting assignment—especially once the kids realize they can fit his dining room table into the palm of their hand.



The dining room includes historically accurate silver pieces that would have been used at the time.

Hixson's Hoardings Continued...

Movies changed the way that Americans used their free time. Millions of people began going to movie theaters throughout the country. "Movies also somewhat acted as a unifying factor, and offered something that everyone in the country could experience and share." Now, rather than just hearing about foreign places and far off lands, they could actually start to see them on the big screen. In the 1920s, movie stars were really stars- with huge salaries! "The fashions and activities of the Hollywood greats echoed around the world and 100,000 people would gather in cities all over the world, including such diverse cities as London and Moscow, to greet Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks when they toured Europe." People might not know the names of govern-

ment officials, but they knew the names of every leading actor and actress.

After movies came out, kids wanted to be a big movie star when they were older and here in Maysville, there was one in particular. Henry Joe Wadsworth's ancestry first arrived in Hartford Connecticut, from England in 1632. He was the grandson of William Henry Wadsworth, who was a well-known lawyer, orator and Congressman. He came from a long line of lawyers and I would think the family thought he would do the same, but he displayed a marked dramatic talent throughout his high school days, taking a prominent part in all amateur theatricals. After graduation from Maysville High school in 1921, he went to U. K. where he appeared in the Little Theatre series. He worked with the Toledo Chatauquans and won at least

3 scholarships to the Carnegie Technical School of the Arts. With his "good looks, a personable appearance, coupled with the ability to act, he easily won his way into the hearts of the patrons". His first starring appearance on Broadway in the late 1920s in the title role of "Tommy" landed him at Paramount Pictures. He starred with the likes of Marion Davies, Rosalind Russell, Myrna Loy, William Powell and Douglas Fairbanks. Wadsworth's movie, "This Side of Heaven", with Lionel Barrymore played at the Russell! He was in advertisements and still continued to work in summer stock. He served two years in the Navy during WWII and after the war he went with the U.S.O. all over the U.S. and to Naval bases in the Pacific, the Philippines, Japan, India and Burma.



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We thank you for your continued support and cannot wait to welcome you back.



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