

BULLETIN

Issue 11

AN INFORMATION SOURCE FOR ALASKA'S MUSEUM COMMUNITY

Summer 2000

The care of collections in museums around the state will be significantly improved following the distribution of this year's Grants-in-Aid. In July, the Alaska State Museum announced the awarding of grants to 11 museums and a statewide museum organization, for projects that will upgrade collection storage, exhibit, access and management, as well as address other museum issues.

Out of 24 applicants who were seeking a total of more than \$205,000.00, 12 were selected for grants totaling \$85,600. Due to limited funding, some applicants did not receive the full amount they had requested.

A list of those receiving grants is as follows:

- **Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository**, Kodiak, \$8,084 for a variety of collection care improvements as recommended by a CAP survey.
- **Anchorage Museum of History and Art**, \$10,090 for temporary staffing for collections management and professional computer services for archives.
- **Kodiak Historical Society (Baranov Museum)**, \$5,134 for new lighting and UV filters for windows and lamps.
- **Carrie McLain Memorial Museum**, Nome, \$2,975 partial funding for an archival photo scanning project
- **Juneau Douglas City Museum**, \$10,314 to photograph the collection and add images to collections database.
- **Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center**, \$6,036 for upgrade and conversion of collection management database.
- **Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry**, Wasilla, \$2,000 for a Museum Assessment Program (MAP I) Survey.
- **Museums Alaska**, the statewide museum association, \$9,975 for an annual conference for professional development, including scholarships, and planning for a subsequent conference.
- **Pratt Museum**, Homer, \$9,997 for equipment and technology upgrades for improved education and collections access.
- **Sheldon Museum**, Haines, \$10,000 for repairs and upgrade to Halon fire suppression system.
- **Skagway Museum and Archives**, \$4,950 for mounts and materials for textile collection storage.
- **Museum of the History of the Orthodox Church in Alaska**, St. Herman's Theological Seminary, Kodiak, \$6,045 for funding for conservation treatments of collection objects.

FY 2001 GRANT- IN-AID AWARDS



Pratt Museum, Homer, one of the recipients of this year's Grant-in-Aid awards.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has launched a monthly email newsletter, *The Primary Source*. *The Primary Source* explores how museums and libraries across the country use IMLS awards to further their service to the public. The newsletter provides the latest information about IMLS activities, grant programs, and publications, and showcases best practices. Every issue contains valuable links to information on the IMLS web site.

If you are interested in reading or receiving *The Primary Source*, please visit the IMLS site at www.imls.gov/whatsnew/new_imls.htm#ps. You will find current and past issues of the newsletter and subscription information.

“THE PRIMARY SOURCE”

IMLS' NEW MONTHLY
EMAIL NEWSLETTER

BOOKS ARE BACK!

THE ALASKA STATE MUSEUM LENDING LIBRARY RETURNS

In spite of all that's available on the Internet, there is still nothing like a good book to thoroughly explore a subject. Specialty books, however, can sometimes be quite expensive, and many of Alaska's museums have limited budgets. So, after a number of years of inactivity, the lending library program of the State Museum is back, thanks in part to a General Operating Support grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Following is a list of books, many of them recent, that are currently available. Additional titles will be added in the future. Books are available for one month, with the possibility of a one-month extension if no one else has reserved the book. There is no charge except borrower pays return shipping. The museum also has a series of conservation videos available. Please call or write for a list. To borrow either books or videos, contact Ken DeRoux, Curator of Museums Services at 1-888-913-6873.

ADMINISTRATION

Starting Right: A Basic Guide to Museum Planning
Gerald George & Cindy Sherrell-Leo,
AltaMira Press, 1987/1995.

Covers a gamut of concerns associated with launching a new museum. Subjects include choosing a building, collections care, registration, exhibits, conservation, staffing, financial management, fund raising, and more. 152pp.



Museum Basics
Timothy Ambrose & Crispin Paine,
ICOM/Routledge, 1993.

A guide to "best practice" in every aspect of museum work. Museum organization, exhibition design, collections management, conservation, marketing, audience, management, facilities, and security are discussed. 313pp.

Organizing Your Museum: The Essentials, Susan K. Nichols, American Association of Museums, 1989
Practical information and advice that trustees, volunteers, or staff need to know about starting a museum and successfully managing every stage of its development. 180pp.

The Manual Of Museum Management
Barry Lord & Gail Dexter Lord, London: The Stationary Office, 1997.

Three main categories discuss the "why," "who," and "how" of museum management. New approaches to preventive care of artifacts and new technologies for documenting collections are discussed. Also included is an extensive range of case studies covering a wide variety of topics. 250pp.

A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections, 2nd edition. Marie C. Malaro, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1998.

Malaro focuses on collection-related problems and legal entanglement issues, reviews relevant cases and court decisions, and gives advice on when a museum should seek legal counsel. Completely revised, expanded and updated. 507pp.

Introduction to Museum Evaluation

Minda Borun & Randi Korn,
American Association of Museums, 1999.
This collection of articles explains how visitor studies can influence and improve museum exhibits, program planning, and services. The articles are supplemented with practical case studies that demonstrate the benefits of evaluation in museums, and lists of reading materials, organizations and resources. 130pp.

Practical Evaluation Guide,
Judy Diamond, AltaMira Press, 1999.

Visitor evaluations provide clues to the effectiveness of exhibits and programs and provide insights into how people learn in informal educational settings. This title presents the basic principles and techniques needed to design, implement, and present an evaluation project. 192pp.

Museum Strategy and Marketing, Neil Kotler & Philip Kotler, Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998.

This comprehensive guide to strategic planning and marketing for museums provides a framework for building revenue, audiences, and resources while maintaining and advancing the mission, rather than seeing marketing as antithetical to mission. 380pp.

Strategic Planning Workbook,
Bryan W. Barry, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 1997.
This workbook provides a guide for developing, implementing, and updating a strategic plan. Sample plan and blank worksheets are included. 129pp.

Beyond Strategic Planning, Douglas C. Eadie, National Center for Nonprofit Boards, 1993.

This booklet focuses on the practical steps boards can take to play a meaningful role in the strategic planning process. This work also helps identify key strategic issues and how to implement a plan to ensure that each issue is fully developed and addressed. 24pp.

Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

Richard T. Ingram, National Center for Nonprofit Boards, 1996.

This booklet describes the fundamental responsibilities of boards, focusing primarily on the whole board as an entity. Also included is a helpful list of responsibilities of individual board members. 24pp.

COLLECTIONS

Cataloging from Scratch: A Manual for Cataloging Undocumented Collections in Small Museums

Caroline M. Stuckert, MAAC Associates Inc., 1991.

This book discusses how to develop records for objects for which there is no indication of ownership, status or date of entry. This is perfect for new or existing small museums or historical societies that have never documented their objects or have inherited artifacts or objects without any accompanying paperwork. 92pp.

Caring For Collections, Susan J. Bandes, American Association of Museums, 1984.

AAM Bestseller! Developed by the AAM with the support of the NEH, this pamphlet explores the most important responsibility of all museums—collections care. More than 65 curators, registrars, and conservators discuss how to improve environmental conditions in museums, manage inventory, register objects, and enhance public awareness of museum collections. 44pp.

Caring For Your Art, Jill Snyder, Allworth Press, 1996.

This guide for artists, collectors, galleries and art institutions is a well-presented, easy to understand publication that introduces basic art handling in lay terms. Starting with a synopsis of the environment of art and its potential hazards, the book then details subjects including storage, framing, documentation, and shipping. Includes a discussion of insurance and security. 190pp.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach

Beverly Serrell, AltaMira Press, 1996.

This is a vital reference tool for all exhibit professionals. It includes discussions of label planning, writing, design, and publication. Contains resource list, glossary, and bibliography. 261pp.

Registration Methods For Small History Museums (2nd edition)

Daniel B. Reibel, DBR Publications, 1991.

This is the definitive guide to registration methodology for smaller institutions and beginning or part-time registrars. 246pp.

Good Show! A Practical Guide for Temporary Exhibitions

Lothar P. Witteborg, Smithsonian Institution, 1981.

This book offers practical guidance on creating temporary and small exhibitions, including basic steps for exhibition planning, design, fabrication, and installation. It includes information on security, conservation requirements, and accommodating visitors with disabilities is included. It also includes an outline of exhibition development, a bibliography, and a chapter on sources. A completely revised chapter on sources, an updated bibliography, and an exhibition development outline also are featured. 184pp.

Exhibition Planning and Management

American Association of Museums, 1992.

This primer of selected reprints on the core elements of exhibition planning and management from NAME. Articles are from: Innovation, Exhibit Builder, International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship, Industrial Design, and more. 112pp.

Help For The Small Museum

Armita Neal, Pruett Publishing Company, 1969/1987.

Long a standard work on the basics of building exhibits but now dated in some respects, especially with regard to label production, this book nonetheless provides numerous ideas and tips for designing exhibits and constructing exhibit cases, panels etc. 176pp.

Exhibits for the Small Museum

Armita Neal, American Association for State and Local History, 1976.

Also a standard work, still relevant in many ways but dated in others, this book expands on some of the material in *Help for the Small Museum*. It covers exhibit planning, scale models, case designs and interiors, lighting, mannikins and viewer dynamics. 169pp.

Going Public: Community Program and Project Ideas for Historical Organizations

Available for only \$12 (add \$3 for postage)

This is self-published by the Bay State Historical League. Cynthia Robinson came up with the idea for the book when she realized that not only were many of the historical societies in Massachusetts struggling with how to increase and diversify their constituencies, they were also hampered by lack of good creative ideas for projects and programs. The book, written by Gretchen Sorin and Robinson, describes 27 case studies of real projects from around the country that any historical society can adapt and emulate. Appendices provide "how to" information—how to plan, budget, publicize, and evaluate programs. They are less concerned with selling than with spreading these good ideas from other museums.

The booklet is available from:

Cynthia Robinson, Bay State Historical League
185 Lyman Street, Waltham, MA 02452

**ALASKA STATE
MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL
LIBRARY
CELEBRATE
100 YEARS**

The Alaska State Museum and State Historical Library marked their 100th birthdays this year. On Saturday, July 1, the institutions hosted a reunion party to honor volunteers and staff members who, over the decades, built what has become a world-class museum and library.

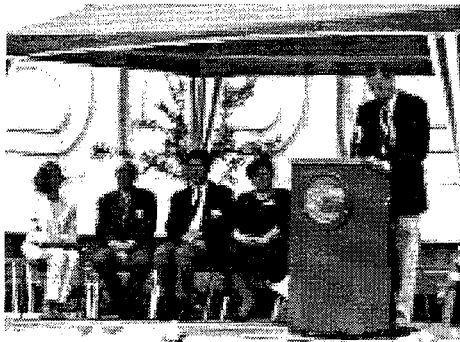
The festivities, which were held outdoors, since it never rains on museum festivities, began at 1 p.m. with presentations by Gov. Tony Knowles, Judge Thomas Stewart, Commissioner Richard Cross of the Department of Education and Early Development and Karen Crane, Library, Archives and Museums Director.

Speeches were followed by the Yan shu Ka (Tlingit) dancers; the cutting of a 100th anniversary cake, with Honorary Cake-cutters former First Lady Neva Egan, Gen Harmon and Inge Lorensen; a cannon salute so loud it surprised everyone; and the singing of the Alaska Flag Song by student vocalist, Anna Ruddy. A food court in the parking lot was provided by local street vendors. Additional festivities ran into the afternoon

with a performance by storyteller Brett Dillingham, the Russian Orthodox Church Choir and gallery talks on the centennial exhibition, *Looking Forward, Looking Back*. Former staff and volunteers took turns telling of special incidents they remembered from their work at the museum. A photographic timeline displayed pictures from the museum and libraries history, as well as photos of past employees. A videotape also showed highlights from the past thirty years.

In commemoration of the Library and Museum's centennial, the Museum is featuring the exhibition *Looking Forward, Looking Back*, curated by Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections. The exhibition features recreated early displays and traces the growth of both institutions. Visitors entering the exhibit pass through a facsimile of the facade of the museum from the 1920s into the main gallery as it looked at the time, with re-created early exhibits.

Also featured is a re-creation of the combination work area and reception room of Father Andrew Kashevaroff, a Russian Orthodox priest who became the Museum's first curator and librarian in 1919. The exhibition will be on display through fall of 2001.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Knowles, Judge Thomas Stewart, Commissioner Richard Cross of DOE&ED, Karen Crane, Library, Archives and Museums Director, and Gov. Tony Knowles.

Alaska State Museums

Alaska State Museum

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On the World Wide Web:

www.museum.state.ak.us

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Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums

Alaska State Department of Education and

Early Development

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