

BULLETIN

September 1996

New Staff

The Alaska State Museum is hiring two people to fill positions that are key to providing services to other museums and historical societies in the state.

During the most recent session, the Alaska State Legislature agreed to allow the Museum to keep additional funds from the money it receives in admission fees. This additional funding will allow the Museum to fill its conservator position, a position that has been vacant for two years.

The conservator at the Alaska State Museum is the only full-time professional conservator in the state. This position is dedicated to assisting other museum collections in Alaska. In the past, the conservator has offered workshops for museum staff throughout the state, as well as consulting services with museum workers on particular problems and conservation efforts.

The Museum Services position will also be filled, said Chief Curator Bruce Kato. This position, left vacant for almost a year, will offer a new focus by helping other Alaska institutions.

"The person who fills this position will be traveling much more than our Museum Services person has in the past," said Kato. "This new staff member will offer a wide variety of field assistance to museums and historical societies."

The person in this position will assist groups wanting to establish museums, as well as to existing museums that need technical assistance. Kato said he hopes to establish better communications with other institutions by sending the Museum Services person into the field more often than in the past. ■

Home Page

Alaska museums have a new way to communicate information about programs, available grants, exhibitions and events—the Internet.

Last fall, the Alaska State Museums entered the Internet age with its own Home Page. In June, the Museum put up a revised version of the page, focusing on the services it provides to museums and historical societies in the state. The Home Page also has separate links for the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.

Information now available on the Alaska State Museums' Home Page includes a list of federal and state grants that offer funds for museum-related activities and a list of staff members at the Museums.

The Home Page also has a comprehensive list of museums and historical societies in the state. When known, this list includes

links to e-mail addresses and home pages at these other institutions.

"We would very much like to have all museums in Alaska linked both to and from the Alaska State Museums as they come on the Internet," said Chief Curator Bruce Kato. "The Internet offers us a new way to communicate with each other, and to present the Internet-traveling public with a broad picture of the many exciting historical institutions in the state."

The Alaska State Museums will update and improve the Home Page on a regular basis. Eventually, it plans to put the Museums' collections catalog on the Page.

If your institution has an e-mail address or home page, drop us a line and let us know—we'd be happy to add you to our links. We also welcome suggestions on ways to improve the information we have available.

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Grants Awarded

A dozen museums and historical societies in Alaska received funds from the state-funded Grants-in-Aid program this year.

Altogether, the Alaska State Museum had 23 grant applications, competing for the \$85,600 in grant funds. The requests totaled more than \$170,000.

Museum assistance grants are awarded on an open, competitive basis to assist eligible museums and museum-related organizations by supplementing and improving their services. The museum assistance grants program promotes and advances professional museum standards and practices in the state.

The annual Grants-in-Aid program seeks applications in the spring and awards grants by mid-year. The State Museum mails application forms to all museums and historical societies. Those receiving grants this year include:

- The Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum in Anchorage received \$3,900 to refurbish its exhibit building and to replace entry doors to allow handicap accessibility.
- The Anchorage Museum Association received \$10,000 to develop a pilot project to digitize historical photographs in the museum archives. It received another \$3,000 to help museum directors coordinate programming.
- The Kodiak Historical Society received \$10,000 to protect the Baranov Museum collection by insulating the building and stabilizing its temperature and humidity.
- The Cordova Historical Society received \$4,600 to complete the third and final phase of a project to put accession data into an electronic data base.
- The Eagle Historical Society received \$1,450 to buy equipment and materials to upgrade its signage.
- The Tongass Historical Museum of Ketchikan received \$10,000 to develop the exhibition, *Salmon, Cedar and Gold: The History of Ketchikan*.
- The Pratt Museum in Homer received \$7,333 to upgrade and expand its intrusion and fire alarm systems and to buy conservation supplies.
- The Sheldon Museum and Historical Center in Haines received \$10,000 to modify existing space to increase archival collection storage.
- Museums Alaska in Anchorage, a professional organization, received \$9,975 to hold its statewide professional development conference in Anchorage Oct. 9-12.
- The Juneau-Douglas City Museum received \$10,000 to purchase and install compact storage units to better use limited space.
- The Resurrection Bay Historical Society of Seward received \$4,000 to complete the inventory of the object collection and to continue its photography inventory. ■

New Publica- tions

This summer's exhibition on the gold rush at the Alaska State Museum is the focus of a new publication by the Museum.

All That Glitters: A Centennial Exhibition on the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rushes is the title of the catalog, which accompanies the exhibit of the same name. Written by guest curator Kenneth DeRoux, the book describes the gold rushes and includes a large number of illustrations. The catalog is 36 pages, soft-cover, with 68 illustrations, in full-color and black and white. The cost is \$10. The poster for the exhibition is also available, 18" x 24", full color. \$8.

Other recent publications and posters from the Museum include:

Search for the Northwest Passage: A Bicentennial Exhibition on the Alaska Voyages of George Vancouver. This is an exhibition catalog written by guest curator Wallace Olson. 1994. 16 pp., 8 1/2" x 11", paper. \$5. The poster for this exhibition features a watercolor by Mark Myers. Legend included, 18" x 24", full color. \$6.

The poster, *Heaven on Earth: Orthodox Treasures of Siberia and North America*, 18" x 24", full color. \$6. These publications are available through the Museum Store, (907) 465-4840 or fax (907) 465-2976. ■

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

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Karen R. Crane, Director

September 23, 1996

A letter to Alaska museums and historical societies:

As the newly hired Curator of Museum Services at the Alaska State Museum, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ken DeRoux and, while this is a new position and a new challenge for me, I have a background in museum work in Alaska, so some of you may already know me.

I served as Curator of Visual Arts at the State Museum from 1982 to 1987, at which time I became acquainted with a number of other museums across the state. Since then I have worked on a variety of museum projects on a free-lance basis. Most recently I curated "All That Glitters," the State Museum's summer exhibit for the Gold Rush Centennial. If there is one constant theme that has been reinforced for me throughout this work, it is that Alaska's history and heritage is extraordinarily rich and diverse.

My first week at work conveniently coincides with this first issue of the Bulletin, so I have the pleasure of introducing it as well. The Bulletin will be a quarterly publication of the State Museums, providing information on Museum programs and services to the field, other resources of interest, and pertinent activities by other institutions in the State.

Providing services to the growing number of museums, historical societies, and related agencies in Alaska is a high priority for the Museum. I'm still orienting myself to the position but expect soon to be actively working with many of you on a variety of projects, from grant assistance, to workshops, to dealing with computer technology. If you have questions about any aspect of museum work, feel free to give me a call anytime, and I will do my best to help you find the answer. My direct line is (907) 465-2396. You can also e-mail me at: kderoux@educ.state.ak.us.

I will be attending the Museums Alaska meeting in Anchorage in October, where I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can. Please let me know how you think this position can best be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth DeRoux
Curator of Museum Services

Traveling Exhibit Schedule

The newest exhibition toured by the Alaska State Museum will be an exhibition on kayaks.

The exhibition, titled *Kayaks of Alaska and Siberia*, features kayaks, their tools and history. Exhibitions Curator Mark Daughhetee said he is now accepting bookings for the show.

Traveling exhibitions are an important part of the outreach activities of the Alaska State Museum. The Museum tours exhibitions that it creates and helps to tour exhibitions from other institutions. The Museum sends exhibitions to a number of venues in Alaska. In addition to other museums and historical societies, traveling exhibitions may also be seen at public libraries, bookstores and in schools.

Daughhetee works with organizations interested in traveling exhibitions to ensure the security and safety of the exhibitions. He

also provides publicity materials for each show and other technical assistance as needed.

In addition to touring shows with a limited travel schedule, such as Alaska Positive and the paintings of Lockwood DeForest, the Museum also has three other exhibitions ready to travel.

Works by the Eskimo doll maker Dolly Spencer, historic photographs by Winter and Pond and woodblock prints by Alaska artist Dale DeArmond are all shows available for smaller venues, said Daughhetee.

The newest exhibition will be this year's summer show, *All That Glitters: A Centennial Exhibition on the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rushes*. This exhibition features artifacts and photographs from gold rushes in Alaska and the Yukon.

For more information about any traveling exhibit, including a list of those available, contact Mark Daughhetee at (907)465-4819. ■

Preventive Conservation Videos

The Alaska State Museum recently purchased a series of videotapes on Preventive Conservation. The video series was conceived as a modest tool to introduce students of museology at the Université du Québec à Montréal to the concept of preventive conservation. It quickly became apparent that this educational resource addressed the needs of a wider audience of museum professionals and volunteers. Climatic, economic, and cultural conditions, different from those generally encountered in the colder regions of North America, will lead the users of these videos to adapt the advice

and standards presented to their own needs. The 19 videotapes link activities such as environmental control, lighting, proper handling practices, storage and emergency contingency planning.

The videotapes are available for loan from the Alaska State Museum. For more information please contact the Curator of Museum Services or the State Conservator. It is hoped that this tool will help the efforts of the many dedicated individuals in Alaska who are responsible for the care and integrity of their institutions' collections.

Home Page—
Continued from
front page

Our Home Page address is: <http://ccl.alaska.edu/local/museum/home.html>. The Museums Home Page is also accessible through the State Electronic Doorway (SLED). The Home Page can be found in SLED by going through Government Information, then State Agencies, then Department of Education and finally the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums.

"This Home Page serves us on many fronts," said Kato. "It reaches Alaskans who may never have been to either Museum, as well as providing our regular visitors with up-to-date information. We're excited about the almost limitless possibilities this new medium has for us. We invite you to visit us now, but also remember to keep dropping by in the future as we add new images and information." ■

Alaska State Museums

Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums

Alaska State Department of Education

Alaska State Museum

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Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, ASM 465-4826

Donna Baron, Registrar 465-4829

CONSERVATION

Brook Bowman, Conservator 465-4806

EXHIBITS

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Paul Gardinier, Exhibit Designer 465-4820

Elizabeth Knecht, Graphic Designer (part-time) 465-4807

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