

Museums eNews | May 2014

Kappa Kappa Gamma
FOUNDATION



IT'S HERE!

Fear not, faithful Friends of the Museums! Though down to the wire, we do have a Museums eNews to wrap up all the excitement of May. We are nose-to-the grindstone getting ready for Convention in June and only wish we could just box up both museums entirely and ship them to Houston for display. If you're going, we'll see you there! If you can't make it this year, we'll be sure to give you a full report in the June and July editions of the Museums eNews.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Thoughts From a Tour** I had a walk-in tour the other day with a gentleman from Los Angeles. [Click to read more](#)
- **The Museums at Convention** The During the General Convention in Houston, Texas, the history of women and the history of Kappa Kappa Gamma will be on full display. [Click to read more](#)
- **Enfranchisement to Employment** Speaking of Convention ... We are putting the finishing touches on the Museums Committee's latest exhibit. [Click to read more](#)
- **A Croquet Soiree** We are hosting our first ever croquet tournament... [Click to read more](#)
- **Shop 'til You Drop** Your purchase of museums merchandise helps support our educational and preservation efforts! [Click to read more](#)

Contact Us!

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Toll-Free 866.KKG.1870 | foundation@kkg.org
<http://www.snowdengrayhouse.org>

The Stewart House Museum
1015 East Euclid | Monmouth, IL 61462
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THOUGHTS FROM A TOUR



I had a walk-in tour the other day with a gentleman from Los Angeles. He was a retired photography professor and asked if photos were allowed during the tour. I consented and asked more about his career. He divulged that he has toured and photographed more than 300 museums around the world and that his preference is for smaller museums, like The Snowden-Gray House. He thought I might be offended by the designation “smaller,” but I told him that in fact I prefer smaller museums myself.

I was lucky to try my hand at working in all different types of museums before settling in Columbus. The giant federal museums, including those in the Smithsonian system, are awesome. Their behemoth size and federal status allow for some of the most incredible exhibits and facilities. For employees the professional rewards are great, but there is often very little variety. Positions in these museums are so specialized that straying from your professional niche can be difficult. In a small museum we can be more agile—; turn the ship’s course without upsetting the balance of the entire organization. Just today I gave a tour, did some light conservation work on an older book, scanned some photos to be digitized, talked with a generous donor on the telephone, and helped plan a fundraiser we’re holding in the fall. That amount of variety might scare some, but it energizes me. Thus the beauty of the “smaller” museum.

I was intrigued to learn from this gentleman that the most-visited museum in the world is not the Louvre in Paris or any of the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. He told me that Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley in Memphis, Tennessee, welcomes ten times more visitors than the Louvre. Whether his statistics are accurate or not, I’m inclined to believe the commentary that statement gives about smaller museums. Graceland isn’t your average small museum, but it’s also not the Louvre or the Smithsonian. The power of the small museum is often discounted because of small budgets or small numbers of visitors, but the personal interaction between docent or curator and the average visitor is a force that shouldn’t be ignored. We have the opportunity to personally connect our visitors to the time period and culture that’s displayed in our house museums and, help them to visualize themselves living at that time. I try to remember this every time I welcome a visitor who stops in at The Snowden-Gray House. Thank heaven for little museums!

Loyally,

Kylie Smith is the Archivist/Curator at Fraternity Headquarters and The Heritage Museum in Columbus, Ohio. For tour appointments or archives questions, Kylie can be reached at (614) 228-6515 or archives@kkg.org

THE MUSEUMS AT CONVENTION—MAKING HISTORY!

During the General Convention in Houston, Texas, the history of women and the history of Kappa Kappa Gamma will be on full display. Visitors will have an opportunity to see THREE exhibits with historic treasures from the Fraternity Archives and both of our museums. Four workshops will be offered, all with an angle on history. Convention-goers will likely catch a glimpse of some of Kappa's Founders wandering the halls of the Hilton Americas-Houston. Get all the history you can handle with this list of options at Convention...

Official opening of The Heritage Exhibit and ribbon cutting for *Tradition of Leadership® – Enfranchisement to Employment, 1920-1970*.

Wednesday, June 25, 4:45 p.m. Board Room 331 and 331 Prefunction

Museums Breakfast with special presentation by Edith Mayo, *George Washington*. (By invitation for Friends of the Museums at the Partner level and above)

Thursday, June 26, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Meeting Room 330

Kappa's Curiosities – A behind the scenes look at The Heritage Exhibit.

Thursday, June 26, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. The Heritage Exhibit, Board Room 331

Inspiring Our Future by Learning Our Past – Learn about plans for a Scholar-in-Residence at The Stewart House Museum.

Thursday, June 26, 2:15 – 3:15 p.m. Meeting Room 333

Kappa Founders Visit “The View” – Join Minnie, Lou, Jennie, Anna, Susan and Lou as they discuss the hot topics at Monmouth College in 1870.

Friday, June 27, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Meeting Room 333

Kappa from Suffrage Through the Turbulent Sixties – A special curator's tour of *Tradition of Leadership® – Enfranchisement to Employment, 1920-1970* with Edith Mayo, *George Washington*.

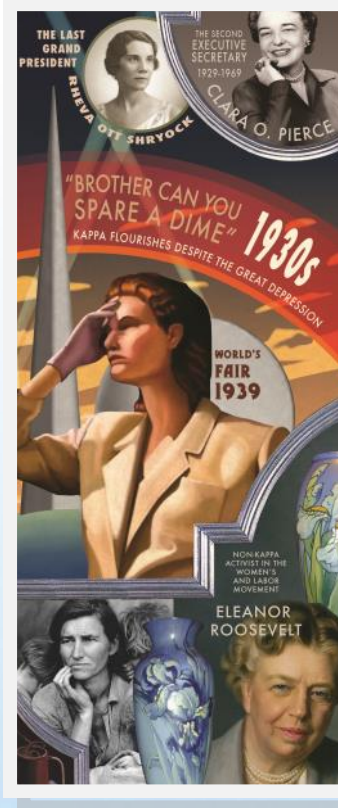
Saturday, June 28, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Board Room 331 Prefunction

Photo Spot 1 – Join the new member class of Xi Chapter at Adrian College in 1884!

Photo Spot 2 – Join the Founders in their composite!

Photo Spot 3 – Join the senior class from Epsilon Chapter at Illinois Wesleyan in 1892!

ENFRANCHISEMENT TO EMPLOYMENT



Speaking of Convention ... We are putting the finishing touches on the Museums Committee's latest exhibit, *Tradition of Leadership – Enfranchisement to Employment, 1920-1970*. The first exhibit, *Education to Enfranchisement, 1870- 1920*, had the most incredible designs from our staff graphic designer, Doug Distel.

To complement Edie Mayo's latest brilliant script, it was determined that we had to enlist the design services of Doug again—and boy were we right. Edie has a knack for bringing history to life through the written word and Doug has a knack for bringing Edie's writing to life with colors and images that mimic the designs of a particular time period. Once again they have both nailed it, and we can't wait for you to see the entire exhibit! It will be on display throughout Convention and then will be available for rental. We hope to have an online version ready soon, so keep an eye out for that. In the meantime, check out the 7-foot panel that will represent the 1930s.

A CROQUET SOIREE: WICKETS IN WONDERLAND

We are hosting our first ever croquet tournament on Saturday, September 20, 2014! The event begins at 11:00 a.m. with lessons in croquet, and a single elimination tournament begins at Noon. We'll have two leisure croquet courts for families and beginners, and two tournament courts for more competitive play. There will also be food trucks, live music, a children's area for crafts and games, and a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at The Heritage Museum!

Tickets are \$15 for individuals or \$20 for two. If you live near Columbus, mark your calendars and plan to join us! If you don't live nearby, you can still participate by spreading the word through social media and sponsoring a wicket. This is an exciting opportunity to share Kappa and our beloved Heritage Museum with the entire Columbus community. Contact foundation@kkg.org for more details.





Shop 'til you drop!

Books by Museums Committee member Edith Mayo, *George Washington*, make great gifts for friends and relatives. Diana Turk's *Bound by a Mighty Vow* is a fascinating read about the history of women's fraternities. Drop a line to a friend with our souvenir postcards from The Stewart House and The Heritage Museum or share our love of Kappa with teddy bears that proudly wear the letters KKG on hand-knitted sweaters made by Catherine Axline Williams, *Monmouth*.

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Visit www.kappa.org/museums
to place your order.

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