



MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

Summer Newsletter 2021

In This Issue

From the Director	2
Calendar of Events	3
Book Arts Roundtable	3
Back to School with Parsippany Public Library	4
New Acquisition	4
Summer Internships	4
Summer Drop In Crafts	6
Our Supporters	7
Save the Date!	7

What Can A Broken Plate Tell Us?



METC's newest exhibit, *Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection*, situates historic objects and documents at the forefront of the exhibit's narrative.

The cream-colored earthenware shell-edged platter pictured here is one of the many objects featured in

the "Construction & Process" case. Cream-colored earthenware is a type of ceramic body with a transparent lead glaze that was developed in England around the second half of the 18th century. Shell-edge decoration is characterized by a molded border on a scalloped rim with either blue or green underglaze decoration. Occasionally, overglaze enamels of purple, green, red, black, and brown were featured on shell-edged ceramic wares and vessels. Later in the 19th century, the rim is no longer scalloped and eventually the shell-edge decoration fell out of favor in the market. METC's shell-edged plate likely dates from the early 19th century, ca. 1800

- 1830. The scalloped rim includes green underglaze decoration. Underneath, the platter is stamped with the number "14" which likely refers to the mold used to create this platter. Molds offered more standardization and efficiency in manufacturing ceramic vessels. Molding was the process of shaping ceramic objects by pressing soft clay into molds made from hand-modelled prototypes



What is unique about this object is that it is broken. It might be assumed that broken objects shouldn't be in museum collections or that they hold no historic value or insight to the curator; however, broken objects in fact show the construction of an object, the process behind the creation of the object, or the materials used to create the object. Visit METC's newest Main Gallery exhibit to see this object up close. *Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection* will be on view until March 2022, come in and find your favorite object from METC's permanent collection!

From the Director



As Autumn approaches, we are excited for our students to begin another academic year, but we are also cautiously optimistic that New Jersey schools will once again be able to return to the museum for exciting and educational field trips. With the resurgence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 and new safety mandates changing daily, we will have to wait and see as we get ready to welcome kids back to METC. Fortunately, one of the many lessons learned over the past year and a half is that flexibility and innovation are possibly the most important qualities we possess. In 2020, physical closures and capacity reductions forced museums and galleries to find new ways to showcase content and programming to audiences, accelerating the shift towards digital. METC's ability to quickly transition to all digital programming enabled us to serve the community in a way we never imagined—reaching twice as many students as in previous years. The flip side of that, of course, is that most of this

programming was provided at no cost to the schools, which meant we had to find new and creative funding. Like other museums, we were eligible for certain COVID relief grants, and our donors and members stepped up to help us fill the gap, and for that we are extremely grateful.

During this crisis, we saw many museums rise to the occasion, emerging as extremely resilient, vital, and dependable institutions; and providing their respective communities with access to information, historical perspectives or simply a much-needed connection to other people. While this did not surprise those of us who work in museums, it encouraged others to recognize that museums are, indeed, essential community assets. And as we gear up for the new school year, and we recognize more than ever, the critical importance of digital content and engagement tools to engage, educate, and inspire audiences.

One of the best ways we can ensure that our educational programming continues to reach students in all schools throughout New Jersey is through our fundraising efforts. This fall, we are excited to host our Annual Gala Event on October 14, 2021. Make Magic Happen will be raising funds to provide free access to all students throughout the state and we will also be honoring NJ Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver for her work in education and historic preservation. Education has always been METC's overarching goal, but this year your support means even more as we continue to navigate the uncertainty and the disruption that has impacted all our lives.

I hope you can join us on October 14 to support METC and all the students, families, older adults, people living with disabilities and everyone else who relies on METC to provide unencumbered access and community service.

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement.

- Deborah Farrar Starker

Members Online Exclusive!

METC Members now have exclusive access to METC Digital Library! This Members Only webpage has videos of our many virtual programs including “Conquering Everest,” “Behind the Scaffolding with Evergreene Architectural Arts,” and our virtual architecture tour! We're also launching a new video series called “Conversations with the Curator!” Our Curator of Collections & Exhibits, Shelley, will share the stories behind five very unique objects! Members will also have the opportunity to learn about the people behind the scenes at METC with fun blog posts written by the METC Staff. Discover some museums that have made it to the big screen, staff book recommendations, and more!

Members! Be sure to check your emails soon for information on how to access this site!

Calendar of Events

For more information on these events or to register please visit www.metc.org.

Lenape Lifeways

September 25, 2021

2pm Meet & Greet, Lecture begins 2:30pm

Free with Regular Admission

Carla Messinger of Native American Heritage Programs will present this program at METC which explores the life and times of these peaceful, progressive people, comparing and contrasting their social customs, history, religion, family life, agriculture, hunting, healing practices, arts and crafts.

Annual Benefit Dinner

Make Magic Happen

October 14, 2021, 6:30pm

\$150 per person

Be a part of the magic that brings history to life at METC by supporting our educational scholarship fund at our Annual Benefit Dinner! We invite you to join us for an enchanting and magical evening on October 14, 2021 at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park.

Bottle Hill Day at METC

October 2, 2021, 10am –4pm

FREE

Celebrate Bottle Hill Day at METC where the past meets the present! Join us on the front lawn for traditional woodworking demonstrations and learn some modern home repair hacks from Tyler Merson of Merson Home Consulting Service. The whole family will also enjoy playing some historic lawn games. Admission to the museum is free to all!

Annex Sidewalk Art Show

Opens October 27, 2021

View banner artwork by New Jersey artists from the sidewalks of the METC Education Annex. Each banner will be a one-of-a-kind work of art using any medium of the artist's choice reflecting the theme of "Hope."

METC Partners with Book Arts Roundtable



"You Scared the Dickens Out of Me!"

Ellie Wasserman

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts is happy to announce an exciting new partnership with the Book Arts Roundtable (BAR)! BAR is an organization of book and paper artists and enthusiasts from New Jersey and the surrounding area. Through meetings, instructional workshops, exhibitions, information exchanges and collaborations, the Roundtable encourages play, exploration, growth and creative expression in the areas of book and paper art.

The BAR will now meet once a month in METC's Education Annex. The members of BAR will also be partnering with METC for hands on workshops throughout the year. The first of these many workshops will be just in time for the holidays in December. Check our website soon for more information!

METC last collaborated with the BAR in 2015 for the *Art of Books* exhibition. Several BAR members showcased their unique artwork thematically based on some of the James Library Building's many literary quotes.

Those who are interested in joining BAR, please visit <https://www.bookartsroundtable.com> for information on how to get involved!

Back to School at the Parsippany Public Library



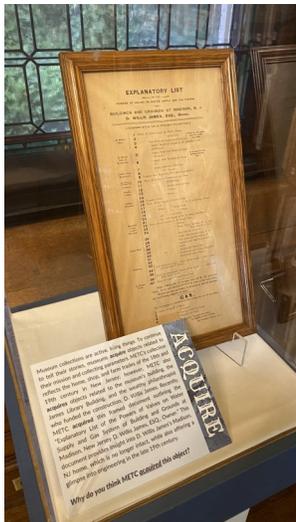
With only a small sampling of the collection on view, METC partners with museums, historic sites, libraries, and other nonprofit entities lending artifacts and archival material from the permanent collection via outgoing loans. A partnership with the Parsippany Public Library is METC's most recent endeavor to feature parts of the permanent collection at another venue.

METC Curator of Collections & Exhibits, Shelley Cathcart, with the assistance of summer intern Rachel Tramosch, recently installed a case exhibit located on the lower level of the library. Featured in the two cases are historic objects and archival materials from METC's permanent collection. This small exhibit explores education in the 19th century through a selection of books, receipts, workbooks, and artifacts.

Shelley's favorite object on display is a Map of New Jersey drawn by Jane Pierson in 1815. She was a student at the Madison Academy in Madison, New Jersey. Often, girls were taught at home or in female academies. At these academies, young girls acquired a knowledge of not only embroidery, drawing, music, and art, but also geography, history, algebra, Latin, and philosophy. Drawing maps, either by copying or tracing existing maps, was incorporated into girls' education in the early 19th century. The final product assisted young girls in understanding geography and cartography as well as honing their artistic skills and dexterity.

This exhibit will be on view until October 1st! Be sure to drop by the Parsippany Public Library off Halsey Street in Parsippany, New Jersey to see the exhibit.

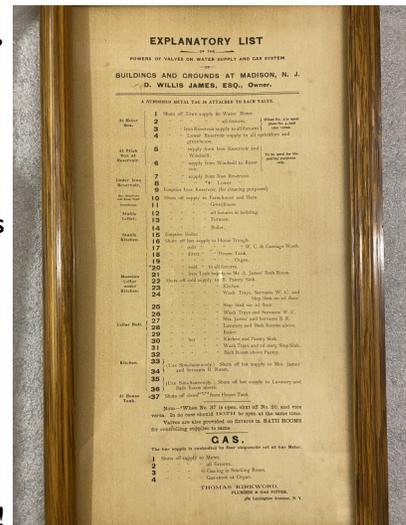
New Acquisition



METC recently acquired a historic document connected to D. Willis James, the wealthy businessman and philanthropist who funded the construction of the James Library Building. METC not only collects objects related to the home, shop, and farm trades of the 18th and 19th century, but also artifacts related to the museum's building, the James Library Building, and D. Willis James.

This document outlines the "Explanatory List of the Powers of Valves on Water Supply and Gas System of Building and Grounds at Madison, New Jersey D. Willis James, ESQ., Owner." The document provides a quick look into D. Willis James's Madison, NJ home, "Onunda," originally located in what is now Giralda Farms, which is no longer intact, while also offering a glimpse into engineering in the late 19th century.

This object is featured in METC's new exhibit *Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection*. Visit METC and our newest Main Gallery exhibit to the museum's newest addition to the permanent collection!



Summer Internships Wrap Up!



METC had a very special group of students assisting us this summer with various activities! Read on to learn more about our summer interns and their projects!

My name is Rachel Tramosch and I am a rising senior at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. I am a prospective Religion and Art History double major. Since starting my internship at METC, I have done a variety of jobs across collections management, curation, and education, including updating object locations in the museum's database, scanning and transcribing archival photos, and even painting the cases for the *Hidden Treasures* exhibit.

One of my favorite experiences was being able to go into the collection rooms and see all the objects in storage. I loved being surprised by what amazing objects are stored together, how many great artifacts the museum has, and learning how they should all be properly stored. There are some beautiful combs that I hope get displayed soon! I have enjoyed my summer at METC and I look forward to putting my new skills and knowledge to use at museums in the future!

My name is Christina Cannilla and I am an intern at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, working specifically with Marketing and Education. I am a rising senior at Salve Regina University with a Major in American History and a Minor in Theatre Arts. Over the course of the summer, I have taken part in a variety of programs and activities. I have helped work at the museum's family day and the summer concerts. For the marketing department, I helped collect research ways to utilize social media for effective forms of outreach. Additionally, I helped create, schedule, and produce an Alice in Wonderland themed series. But my favorite experience was working with the education department to design and work drop-ins and programs. I really enjoyed the program we did where we went to the South Mountain Annex School to run a program with them. I loved working with the kids and



hearing them speak about what it would have been like to live life two hundred years ago. This coming year, I will be entering my senior year of college and following graduation I am looking to go on to grad school in order to get my masters to become a teacher.



My name is Kathryn Vaillancourt. I go to Sacred Heart University and am double majoring in History and Art with a minor in Writing. This summer at METC scanned and catalogued documents, helped set up the main gallery exhibit, wrote social media posts, and helped with drop-in days. Setting up the exhibit was really cool, there were a lot of small details that go into making the exhibit function. While setting up the exhibit I got a chance to really learn how to properly handle objects, how to classify them, and how to organize the system. I also really enjoyed

learning about how to write social media posts, how to talk about different items in the posts and the right pictures to use. Since I am a junior I hope to get another internship at a museum to continue my education on museum studies!

Summer Drop In Crafts at METC



This summer, METC hosted five successful drop-in crafts and activities. These varied programs included Drop-in Day in Wonderland, with Alice in Wonderland-themed crafts, a scavenger around the museum, hot air balloons and a chance to experience how children went to school and had fun in the 19th century. These hands-on programs all offered a range of activities and brought in children of all ages – as young as 2 and even some adults got in on the fun! The drop-ins allowed families to experience some hands-on fun, while limiting their contact with others. The drop-in activities were accompanied by related activities on METC’s website and Facebook page, from excerpts of the original Alice in Wonderland story to videos showing how



to do the crafts, as the METC Education Department continues to provide multiple avenues to engagement for people of all ages.

METC MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

Make Magic Happen

A Night for the Museum

OCTOBER 14, 2021 | 6:30PM
PARK AVENUE CLUB

Thank you for Your Support

New & Renewing Members and Donors to our Annual Appeal*

Ms. Nancy Adamczyk
Mr. & Mrs. William Anderson
Mr. Anderson and Ms. Zowader
Mr. Victor Baran & Ms. Dawn Ortell
Mr. Martin Barbato
Mr. & Mrs. William Beaman
Dr. Suzanne G. Bowles
Mr. & Mrs. David Casey
Chester Library
Mr. Gregory Clare
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark
Mr. Walter Cummins
Dr. Barbara Day
Mr. William Diggs & Ms. Justine Mongan
Mr. William Diggs
Ms. Patricia B. Dufort
Mrs. Louise Easton
Ms. Jeanne Eisele
Ms. Rebecca Fields
Mr. & Mrs. John Forte
Mr. & Mrs. James Foster
Mr. Carl Frahn
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey J. Gertler
Mr. Stephen Gray & Ms. Kathleen Ulrich
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Grohol
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Haines
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Haralampoudis
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Hemmendinger
Ms. Ruth Herr
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jahnke
Mr. Thomas H. Judd
Mr. John Kimball & Ms. Astri Baillie
Ms. Marcine Kozlowski
Mr. & Mrs. Merrick Leler
Mr. & Mrs. William List
Mr. & Mrs. David B. Luber
Madison Public Library
Mr. & Mrs. George Mandala

Ms. Diane Mann & Mr. Dennis McKee
Mr & Mrs. Thomas McDonnell
Mr. Terence Mckenna
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome G. Medina
Mr. & Mrs. John Meek
Mr. Tyler Merson & Mrs. Victoria Vitarelli
Mr. Lee Meyer & Ms. Dominique Peck-Meyer
Millburn Free Public Library
Ms. Angelina C. Monti
Mrs. Rebecca Moody
Mr. & Mrs. Rodger Mull
New Providence Memorial Library
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palladino
Mr. & Mrs. John Parsekian
Parsippany Public Library
Mr. Ronald H. Partizian
Ms. Karen Perez
Ms. Kris Pfeifer
Mr. Arthur Powell & Ms. Joanne Spigner
Mr. Thomas Reilly & Mrs. Elizabeth Lee
Mr. & Ms. Brian Rhodes
Dr. & Mrs. Sam Romano
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Rosevear
Mr. Patrick Rowe
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Schaenen, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Stebbins
Mr. & Mrs. George Stevenson
Mr. David E. Strand
Ms. Marion S. Streater
Ms. Claire Town
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tramposh
Mr. & Mrs. Underwood
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Veza
Ms. Virginia Wilson

*From 5/13/21 through 9/1/21



9 Main Street
Madison, NJ 07940

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
founded by Edgar & Agnes Land in 1969 with their original collection of over 8,000 artifacts.

Our Vision

Sharing the past, imagining the future.

Our Mission

To inspire a connection with New Jersey's history, culture, trades, and crafts.

Acknowledgements

METC gratefully acknowledges generous funding from: The Fred W. Bruehne Trust • Borough of Madison • The Charles L. Read Foundation • Hyde & Watson Foundation • Madison Rotary • Madison Downtown Development Commission • Morris County Historic Preservation Trust • New Jersey Council for the Humanities • Orange Orphan Society • PSE&G • The Park Avenue Foundation • The E.J. Grassmann Trust • Provident Bank • New Jersey Historic Trust • The NJ Arts Recovery Act

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts receives an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



METC Board of Trustees

Martin Barbato, Chair

Ronald H. Partizian, Vice Chair

Tyler Merson, Secretary

Irene Maroney, Treasurer

Andrew B. Boles

Thomas H. Judd

Rodger K. Herrigel

Christon S. Kellogg

Patrick Rowe

Kaili Sanderson, Ph.D.

Michael Schloff

Virginia Wilson

Ex-Officio

The Honorable Bob Conley, Mayor of Madison

Advisors to the Board

Nino Coviello

Stacy Russo

David Strand

METC Staff

Deborah Farrar Starker
Executive Director

Angelica Diggs
Assistant Director, Operations

Shelley Cathcart
Curator of Collections

Nancy Phillippi
Bookkeeper

Jennifer Reilly
Communications Coordinator

Alexandra Lebovitz
Museum Assistant

Patron Services Associates

Erin Benz, Caroline Mull, Angie Wright

Educators

Kathleen Brennan Barrett, Ellen Krell, Griselle Casasola

Volunteers & Interns

Diane Celler-Samiljan, Rachel Tramosch, Christina Cannilla, Kathryn Vaillancourt

Or Current Resident

Proud to show
our
APPRECIATION

METC 2020 Vision
Virtual Benefit
November 5th, 2020
at 7pm



Rich Tierney
Financial Advisor
201 Columbia Turnpike Suite A
Florham Park, NJ 07932-1216
973-822-0411



Andrew B Boles, CFP®, AAMS®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor
Two Shunpike Road Suite 22
Madison, NJ 07940
973-377-2377

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING