

30th Annual Washington, D.C. Historical Studies Conference

November 7-8, 2003



First Gallery 1947 oil on canvas by John Robinson
RLJ Art Acquisitions II LLC
from the Barnett Aden Collection

The 2003 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture

The City Museum of Washington, D.C.

November 7, 5:30pm Reception, 6:30pm Lecture

Space is limited. Reservations required. Please see attached registration form to reserve seat(s).

The Barnett Aden Gallery:

A Home for Diversity in a Segregated City

Jan G. Abbott, Lecturer, The University of Tennessee,

Ph.D. candidate and BET Fellow,

The Pennsylvania State University

Opened in 1943, the Barnett Aden Gallery was the first and most significant private gallery including African American art created in Washington, D.C. and the collection formed there remains of major importance to American art history. Abbott, in a fascinating slide-illustrated talk, will analyze the profound effect of this gallery within the Washington art community.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

9:00am-9:30pm *Registration*

9:30am-11:15pm

Plenary Session: Civil Rights in Washington: 50th Anniversary of the Thompson's Restaurant Case

Moderator: Marya Annette McQuirter, Ph.D., independent historian

The Thompson's Restaurant Case, 1872-1953: A Historical Summary

Marya Annette McQuirter, Ph.D., independent historian

Marya McQuirter, independent historian, will provide an overview of the case beginning in 1872 when the first Reconstruction statute against racial discrimination in public places was passed, to the direct action against the Thompson's restaurant on 11th Street in 1944, to the continued activism of the CCEAD from 1949-1953 that led to the landmark Supreme Court case.

Forer and Rein: The Odd Couple, the Inquisition and the Desegregation Initiative

Fred Solowey, independent labor journalist, communications consultant, and veteran activist in union and international solidarity work.

Fred Solowey, independent labor journalist and communications consultant, will examine the extraordinary story of the law firm of Forer & Rein, its total emersion in the fight against the "inquisition," i.e., the McCarthy forces, and in this context, its participation in the heroic desegregation battle in Washington.

'Dreadfully hard to wait': Annie Stein, Mary Church Terrell, and the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of the D.C. Anti-Discrimination Laws

Thai Jones, independent researcher; grandson of Annie Stein, currently writing a history of his family's political heritage.

Thai Jones, independent researcher, will discuss his grandmother Annie Stein, secretary of the Coordinating Committee, and her impact on the effort to desegregate Washington lunch counters. He will place this seminal civil rights movement in the context of the 1950s capital, where anti-communism and racism competed to become the city's most divisive issue.

11:30am-12:30pm - Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Chronicling D.C. in the 19th Century

Moderator: Laura Schiavo, Exhibitions Curator, City Museum

A Rising Star: The first 50 years of the *Evening Star* Newspaper, 1852-1902

Faye Haskins, Archivist, Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

Faye Haskins, Archivist, Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library, will discuss the rise of the *Evening Star* from a modest daily begun in 1852 to a major newspaper by 1902. She will review the *Star's* role as a chronicler of events and champion of civic improvement in Washington, D.C. during this historic period.

Art and Artists in Washington: The Curator's Journals of William MacLeod, 1876-1886

Marshall Kiker, Assistant Editor, Curator's Journals project, Corcoran Gallery of Art

Marshall Kiker, Assistant Editor, Curator's Journals project, Corcoran Gallery of Art, will discuss the detailed journals of William MacLeod, the first curator of the Corcoran, and the NHPRC-funded project to prepare the journals for publication. MacLeod's journals document not only the administrative activities of the gallery, but also people, places, and events in Washington, D.C.

Session B: Perspectives on Alley Communities

Moderator: Michele Gates Moresi, Ph.D., historian, Office of

Diversity and Special Projects, National Park Service

Warren Street Northeast: A Working Class African American Community on Capitol Hill, 1880-1930

Patsy Fletcher, independent scholar

Patsy Fletcher, independent researcher, will discuss Warren Street Northeast, a one-block street on Capitol Hill developed in the 1870s. For most of its history, Warren Street was segregated by race and peopled by first generation freedmen and their descendents, offering a glimpse of post-Reconstruction/early 20th century African American community development in Washington.

Discovering Hidden Washington: The Alley Communities of Washington, D.C.

Diane Kresh, Director, Public Service Collections, Library of Congress

Diane Kresh will describe an interactive educational outreach program designed by the Library of Congress, in partnership with The Washington Revels, for 4th and 5th grade students. Through period appropriate music, dance, children's games and Library of Congress collections, the alley communities of the late 19th century come alive. A live performance will be part of this presentation.

12:30pm-2:00pm - Lunch & History Network

Informal presentations on local history resources and historic sites. Box lunches may be ordered from the City Museum Café during registration.

2:00pm-3:30pm - Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Community Traditions

Moderator: Jill Connors-Joyner, Exhibitions Curator, City Museum

Breathing Life into the Body Politic: Irish Immigrants and 1850s Washington

Bell Clement, Vice President for External Affairs with The Kerry S. Pearson LLC; doctoral candidate, American urban history, The George Washington University

Bell Clement, GWU doctoral candidate in American urban history, will examine Washington's mid-19th century Irish community against the backdrop of the city's politically turbulent 1850s. She will discuss the interaction of the Irish community with Washington's evolving municipal government and explore the impact of Irish presence on the District's political climate.

Cuban Diaspora: The Washington Community

Caridad de la Vega, Historian, National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Register, History and Education division, National Park Service.

Caridad de la Vega, Historian, National Park Service, will examine the multiple factors that attracted Cubans to resettle in the nation's capital, the five nuclei that resulted from this settlement, and the differences and similarities between the major centers of Cuban population in the United States as compared to the Washington Cuban community.



Easter Monday at the National Zoo, 1936.
Photo Archives, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution

Easter Monday at the National Zoo: The Evolution of an African-American Family Tradition

Jeffrey Hyson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia

Jeffrey Hyson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University, will explore the development of the African American family tradition of celebrating Easter Monday at the National Zoo. He will reconstruct the holiday's history and analyze its significance by examining newspaper accounts, administrative documents, archival photographs, and oral histories.

Session B: Past and Possible Futures of Small Urban Cemeteries: How Four D.C. Cemeteries Have Coped with Modern Times

Moderator: Hayden M. Wetzel, Chair, Woodlawn Cemetery Advisory Committee

The presentation will provide an overview of the nearly 200 past burial sites in Washington and a description of the 35 existing ones, along with descriptions of the history and present conditions at three specific cemeteries. The panel will discuss various factors that shape the future of under-funded urban cemeteries. An expert on local burial practices and genealogy, Paul Sluby, will join the panel for questions from the audience.

Presenters:

Carter Bowman, Historian, Mt. Zion Methodist Church

George Dines, President, Woodlawn Cemetery Association

Linda Harper, Board member, Congressional Cemetery

3:45pm-5:15pm - Concurrent Sessions

SESSION A: Sex in the City

Moderator: David DeLeon, Ph.D., Department of History, Howard University

An Incurable Romantic: The Life and Loves of John Moore McCalla

Mark Herlong, Ph.D., independent scholar

Mark Herlong, Ph.D., independent scholar, examines the unique diaries and letters of 19th century doctor and businessman John Moore McCalla, in which he describes his romantic liaisons with at least two women and fifteen men. These documents provide unparalleled insight into same-sex relationships and larger issues of friendship, marriage and sexuality in 19th century Washington.

The Moen's Affair

Donna M. Wells, Prints and Photographs Librarian, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University; doctoral candidate in history at Howard University

Donna M. Wells, Prints and Photographs Librarian, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, explores the controversy surrounding scientist Herman M. Bernelot Moens, whose theories about racial mixture, and his affair with an African American teacher, outraged both the black and white communities in the 1920s.

Working for Nothing but for a Living

Sharon Harley, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Afro-American Studies Program, University of Maryland-College Park

Sharon Harley, Ph.D., Associate Professor Afro-American Studies Program, University of Maryland-College Park, will discuss the life of Odessa Marie, a prominent member of Washington's criminal upper echelon during the mid-twentieth century, whose operations reportedly sold everything from bootleg liquor to sex.

SESSION B: Adolf Cluss from Germany to America: Shaping a Capital City Worthy of a Republic

Moderator: William Gilcher, Ph.D., Goethe-Institut

Attracted to the unique problems of a new capital city in a young democracy, Adolf Cluss drew on national and international ideas in architecture, building technology, city planning, civil engineering, and public education to build modern buildings and public spaces and to attack the problems of public health, safety, and planning.

Presenters:

Tanya Edwards Beauchamp, architectural historian and independent scholar, examines Cluss's internationally-acclaimed design of urban public school buildings.

Joseph L. Browne, Ph.D., Historian and Director of the Cluss Exhibition Project, discusses Cluss's city planning contributions during the Shepherd era.

Cynthia R. Field, Ph.D., Chair of Architectural History and Historic Preservation, Smithsonian Institution, will critique the work of Cluss on the National Mall.

Sabina Wiedenhoef, Architectural History Specialist, Smithsonian Institution, will examine his immigrant experience based on recently-translated letters and papers.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

East of the River Tour, 9:30am-3:15pm. Special guided bus tour of Southeast Washington, with stops at historic Woodlawn Cemetery, Civil War earthworks in Fort Dupont Park, Uniontown, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, St. Elizabeth's Hospital campus, and the Anacostia Museum, with a stop for lunch, location to be determined. Cost: \$15 to be paid in advance (does not include lunch). Bus leaves from the City Museum, 801 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.

The 30th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies is sponsored by the Washingtoniana Division of the District of Columbia Public Library, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., The Center for Washington Area Studies, The George Washington University, and Humanities Council of Washington, DC.

Join historians, preservationists, neighborhood researchers, and students at this free conference. All sessions take place at the City Museum. **Space is limited. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Please reserve by November 1 online at www.citymuseumdc.org, fax to 202.383.1870, call 202.383.1809 or mail to:

Historical Studies Conference
City Museum of Washington, D.C.
801 K Street NW at Mount Vernon Square
Washington, DC 20001

I will attend the following:

- Historical Studies Conference Sessions - November 7, 9am-5:30pm, free
Number of people attending____
- 2003 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture - November 7, 5:30pm, free
Number of people attending____
- History Network lunch - November 7, 12:30pm
You may order and purchase a box lunch at registration.
Number of people attending____
- Bus tour East of the River - November 8, 9:30am, leaves from the City Museum, \$15 each (does not include lunch)
Number of people attending____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

- A check made payable to The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. enclosed.
- Please charge my Visa/MC

Card # _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____