



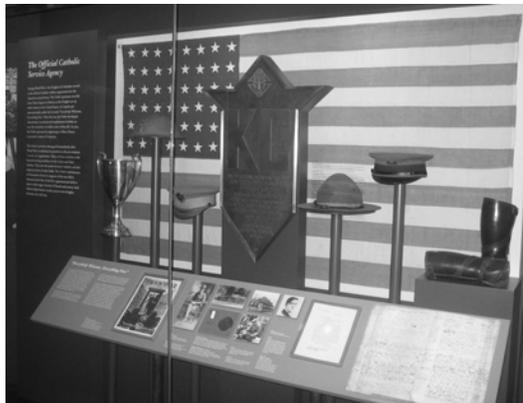
Past to Present

The newsletter of the
New Haven Museum and Historical Society

Seal of the City Award

The New Haven Museum & Historical Society will present the 15th Annual Seal of the City Award to the **Knights of Columbus** in recognition of their countless contributions in many areas of the greater New Haven community. Their philanthropy and volunteerism is often done without seeking recognition but the impact of their efforts is extraordinary. For instance, since 1972 the Knights of Columbus has provided major financial support for the Cancer Center at the Hospital of Saint Raphael. In fact, just last month the Knights announced that they are establishing a \$3 million endowment to benefit cancer care at St. Raphael's. Their award winning museum is one of the most sophisticated in the northeast. The Knights are a major employer and contributor to the local economy and their members and staff volunteer thousands of hours each year in service to the greater New Haven community.

An elegant reception at the Museum and dinner at the Lawn Club is being planned for



View of Knights of Columbus Museum

Tuesday, November 14th, 5 to 9 pm.
This year's event is intended to be a public "thank you" for the quiet but significant contributions the Knights of Columbus has made to greater New Haven.

Proceeds from the event will support education and community outreach programs at the New Haven Museum & Historical Society.

(Continued on page 4)

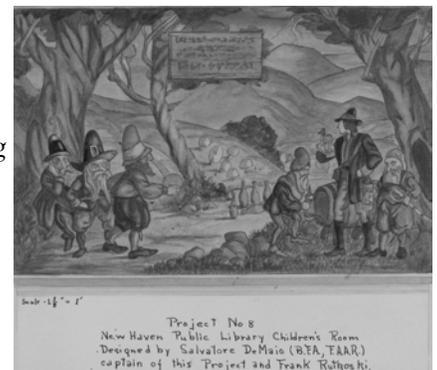
FEATURE EXHIBITON: The Federal Art Project in New Haven: The Era, Art, & Legacy

"On the walls of public buildings the heroes of legend and history come alive in glowing colors. New Haven watches, wondering and interested. The Government, it seems, has ordered a renaissance in art, and the New England city leads the way."

- **New Haven Register**, "Heroes Of Legend and History Become Alive on New Haven Walls"
by Rose M. Baker, 1934

During a six month period between December 1933 and June of 1934, New Haven served as a

"model" for other New England cities participating in the new work relief effort for unemployed artists emanating from Washington, D.C. This new program, called the Public Works for Art Program (PWAP) was the first in a series of federally funded relief programs that eventually



Rip Van Winkle original watercolor sketch New Haven Public Library by S. DeMaio c.1934 NHMHS 1999.420

Fall 2006

Inside this issue:

Director's Letter	2
Upcoming Events	3
Periscope	4
Whitney Library	5
Whitney Library Associates	5
Rotunda Exhibit	6
Education Update	7
Grant Support in 2006	7
Calendar of Events	8

(Continued on page 6)

NHMHS Vision

The Historical Society will be a catalyst for new experiences in local history and current events as an inclusive center in greater New Haven for historical investigation, discussion and interpretation.

Mission Statement

The New Haven Museum and Historical Society is committed to increasing knowledge and inquiry and providing an understanding and appreciation of greater New Haven history. Its programs, exhibitions and collections aim to stimulate discovery and interpretation of the past among a wide-ranging community of visitors, including families, students and scholars. The Society believes that an appreciation of the past will enable the public to make informed decisions and contributions to the future.

General Information

Hours:

Museum Hours:

Tuesday–Friday 10:00-5:00

Saturday 12:00-5:00

Whitney Library Hours:

Tuesday–Friday 10:00-5:00

Admission

Adults:	\$4.00
Seniors	\$3.00
Students	\$2.00
Children (6-17)	\$2.00
Under 6	Free

Contact Information

Phone: 203.562.4183

Fax: 203.562.2002

www.newhavenmuseum.org

Director's Letter

Greetings! It's great to be in New Haven, a place I have visited repeatedly during the 25 years I've been involved in museum work and historic preservation in Connecticut. It is also a kind of homecoming, since two of my four grand-parents were born and raised here.

Connecticut is at the center of the oldest, richest, most densely populated, and most cosmopolitan, region in the country. In 100 lifetimes you couldn't see and do all the amazing things there are to see and do within a few hours of here. It's a banquet for life-learning. I am delighted to step in at this time and be part of the continuing renaissance of this city and region.

One of the fundamental transformations of our time is the move from the Industrial Age economy to the "Knowledge Age" economy. New Haven was largely a creation of the Industrial Age. History will mark that we are living through one the greatest periods of economic and social upheaval. More than most cities, New Haven has what it takes to succeed in the new economy. Having spent years in Hartford and having visited and studied dozens of American cities, I am happy to report that the evidence is overwhelming that New Haven is several steps further along in its progress than any other city in the state or region.

We have work to do and this museum and the society that supports it (all of us) must also adjust to changing times,

not only for our good, but because what we do is indispensable, because our changing environment demands new and deeper places of refuge and discovery.

What will change look like? Traditionally, organizations like ours put a premium on buildings and collections while scrimping on expertise and staff. Evidence is overwhelming that success going forward will depend more on the "software" of people knowledge and technology than on the "hardware" of the buildings, equipment and collections, though developing and caring for those will remain critically important. Human resources, intellectual resources and our image and reputation are the key ingredients of success in the new Knowledge Age economy.

Over the next few months we will reexamine our mission and operations and look at how we serve the public. We will consider: Why do we exist? What are our assets? What kinds of partnerships and collaborations will enhance our service and sustainability? How will we support our business? If you received our recent Members Survey, I hope you'll consider filling it out. That's how we learn what you – our closest friends and supporters – wish us to be and do.

Our primary mission will be, as it always been, to provide excellent personal service and a superior visitor experience



for the people who live and play in this city and region. New Haven is also one of only a handful of locales in Connecticut that want and can succeed at attracting tourists. Ultimately the goal is to transform the visitor experience and our array of programs into something rivetingly engaging, joyful and fun.

It works for me and it can work for hundreds of thousands of others who, like us, increasingly crave places of refuge that stimulate the imagination, provide a sense of serenity and an environment conducive to leisure learning and chance encounters. Let's make this a place that people seek out because it provides a stronger, deeper sense of connection and community.

More than most places, the population of this city and region changes constantly. Nationwide, 16% of the population move every year. Here the number is higher. I'd like the New Haven Museum to be part of the "orientation" experience for all who come and go. I'd like families to discover what greater New Haven is and has been by enjoying our galleries and exhibits and using our magnificent library to deepen their understanding. I'd like to ramp up our adult programs so the Society develops a reputation as place of inquiry and entertainment – where great stuff is going on all

Upcoming Fall Events!

Join us for these programs and activities at NHMHS! Meet our new Executive Director, celebrate community organizations, explore our newest exhibition and take part in the on-going activities.

Welcome Reception for NHMHS Executive Director William Hosley

Tuesday October 27th, 5:30 to 7pm

We will host a free meet and greet reception for members and friends with our new Director William Hosley who will make short comments about New Haven's assets and the changing role of history in fostering community and civic engagement. It will also be a

the time – lectures, travel trips, workshops, films and fun.

Under Peter Lamothe, the Society embarked on an important and innovative "Community as Curator" program that enabled community-based organizations such as Congregation Mishkan Israel and Arte' Inc. and stories like New Haven's urban renewal and the work of young architects to be shown. It's an excellent beginning, but like everything we do, it needs support.

I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible. Know that you are always welcome. Communication is a major part of what a museum director does. It works best when we listen and learn from you. So do please be in touch and help us down the path as we make this a better and more meaningful part of your life.

And please consider joining us for a **free "meet and greet" reception** at NHMHS on **Tuesday, October 24th, 5:30 – 7:00 pm.**



Bill Hosley
Executive Director

hosley@newhavenmuseum.org

chance to discuss some of the questions raised by the new member survey. No reservation required. Refreshments will be served.

15th Annual Seal of the City Ceremony and Gala

Tuesday, November 14, 5:00 pm

This year NHMHS will be honoring the Knights of Columbus. Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres will be served here at 114 Whitney Ave.(5:00-6:30 pm) followed by a sumptuous meal and award ceremony at the New Haven Lawn Club. For reservations call or email 562-4183 x 10 or info@newhavenmuseum.org.

(Continued on page 7)

Periscope

Great Things to See and Do in New Haven

Art restoration as contact sport, what's not to love? If you have not visited New Haven Green lately, run don't walk to see the restoration in progress of New York sculptor John Moffit and Alexander Doyle's 1887 "Angel of Peace" – the crowning ornament of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in East Rock Park. The monument, which is dedicated to New Haven men who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War, is one of New Haven's most prominent landmarks and one of the only Civil War monuments in the country located on a mountain top. The monument is a veritable tableaux of American military history with inscriptions and artwork citing New Haveners' participation in such famous battles as Gettysburg and Port Hudson (Civil War), Palo Alto and Chapultepec (Mexican War), New Orleans and Lake Champlain (War of 1812), and Bunker Hill and Saratoga (Revolutionary War).

Not since the bronze figure was installed on the monument 120 years ago has it been possible to view this impressive artwork so closely. The great age of American public statuary (1875-1930) was one of the defining achievements of the 19th century's city makers. People like New Haven's George Dudley Seymour and Hartford writer (and co-author with Mark Twain of "The Gilded Age" - the book that gave the era its name) Charles Dudley Warner were great champions of urban parks and public sculpture. The region has a special place in the story because the Ames Manufacturing Company further up the Connecticut Valley in Chicopee, was unique among the region's munitions manufacturers when, after the Civil War, it retrofitted its cannon foundry for the casting of bronze statuary.

Seal of the City Award

In connection with the Seal of the City Award, there will be a special exhibition *The Knights of Columbus: At Home in New Haven*, highlighting the history of the organization. The exhibition will open November 14 and run through the



The "Angel of Peace" was cast there as were major works by Augustus St. Gaudens and Daniel Chester French.

Dedication Ceremony,
Soldiers & Sailors Monument, 1887

Alas, after a century the bronze shows signs of wear and tear, pitting, corrosion, scarring and abrasion. Watching the conservators at work has turned the Green into an outdoor artist's studio.

Mayor DeStafano and his staff are to be commended for this bold stroke of imagination – addressing an important conservation need and turning it into a public spectacle.

In the spirit of the new exhibition on the Depression-era's Public Works of Art Program opening here in November, Director William Hosley will share "Reflections on Public Art" at our 144th annual meeting (November 27th at 5pm). The short program will focus on American Victorian public sculpture in New Haven and throughout Connecticut.

continued from cover

end of the year.

We'd like to see many of our members and friends in attendance. If you did not receive an invitation, please contact us at 562-4183 x 10 or info@newhavenmuseum.org

From the Whitney Library

George Attwater sailed on the whaleship “Henry” from New Haven from 1820 to 1823. This was one of the few attempts by New Haveners to enter the profitable whale fishery. A New Haven crew served under a Captain and First Mate from Nantucket, one of the centers of American whaling. All was not well on the voyage as this excerpt reveals:

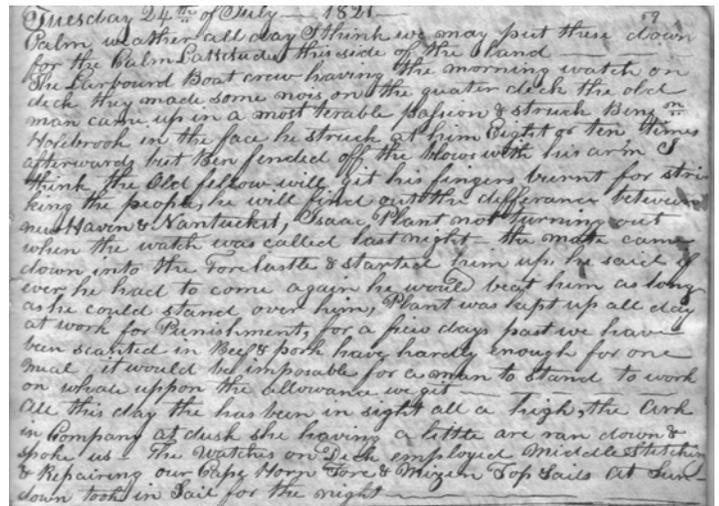
Tuesday, July 24, 1821

The Larbourd boat crew having the morning watch on deck they made some nois on the quarter deck. The old man came up in a most terrible passion & struck Benjn. Holbrook in the face, he struck at him eight or ten times afterwards but Ben fended off the blows with his arm. I think the Old fellow will get his fingers burnt for striking the people. He will find out the difference between New Haven & Nantucket.

Whitney Library Associates

The Whitney Library Associates was founded in 1994. It is made up of members of the Historical Society who have an interest in the work of the Whitney Library. The purpose of the organization is to support that work through membership fees and to learn more about issues relating to the Library’s collections and work.

Members of the Historical Society who join the Whitney Library Associates contribute \$100 per year for this purpose. Three programs are scheduled each year for members of the Associates. These usually include a “behind the scenes” look at items from the collections. In 2006, the Associates spent time examining New Haven Railroad manuscript maps, selections from our fine collection of bookplates, and the papers of Civil War Admiral Andrew Hull Foote. These early evening programs also provide an opportunity for members of the Associates to meet the Staff



Excerpt from George Attwater's Journal

The three-volume journal kept by Attwater was given to the New Haven Museum & Historical Society in 1879. It is now to be found in Manuscript Collection #22, “Maritime Collection.” In 2002, with funding from the Woman’s Seamen’s Friend Society of Connecticut, the work was edited by Kevin S. Reilly and published. Copies of the published journal are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

of the Society and to enjoy an evening of discussion with like minded individuals. Often members of the Associates have insights to share about the material being considered.

The funds raised through the Associates are used for library acquisitions and other projects in the areas of conservation, cataloging, and library development.

Thus far in the thirteen year history of the Whitney Library Associates, through the generous support of its members, much work of value to the Library has been accomplished.

All members of the New Haven Museum & Historical Society are invited to join the Associates. A membership brochure for the 2007 calendar will be sent in January. Please feel free to contact the Whitney Library with any questions.

The Federal Art Project in New Haven

continued from cover



E. H. Hart, FAP artist in his studio, c. 1938 photograph unknown NHMHS FAP neg. collection

grew into the Federal Art Project of the Works Project Administration (FAP/WPA). Cities all over the country were eligible to participate. The federal government paid the artists a weekly salary while municipalities found the resources to pay for supplies.

Communities formed a local committee to choose locations and

subject matter for the art. What made New Haven so successful was the unique combination of factors: the presence of a prestigious art school (Yale School of Fine Arts) to administer the program regionally, an eager and cooperative city government, and an ample supply of talented artists. This coordination made the difference. New Haven had developed according to a March 1934 **Christian Science Monitor** article about New Haven's participation in the PWAP, a "mural consciousness."

The New Haven Museum and Historical Society is going to be exploring this era of "mural consciousness" in its new exhibition entitled *The Federal Art Project in New Haven: The Era, Art, & Legacy*, opening November 30th, 2006. The Society will showcase its own collection of documents and artwork from the Federal Art Project including a salvaged mural, *Planning the Escape of Goffe and Whalley*, by Laicita Worden Gregg, formerly installed at Woolsey School in Fair Haven. Other artwork in-

cludes original artist sketches for school and library murals. The exhibition will also make use of the over one thousand photographic negatives from the Federal Art Project housed in the Society's photograph archive. These images contain some of the only references to artwork now gone.

The exhibition will put all of this artwork into historical context by providing a snapshot of New Haven during the 1930s and how the federal program was administered locally. The sub-

ject of the art was predominately taken from New Haven history, helping to promote civic pride during a time of economic uncertainty.

Themes of the artwork (for example, colonial history, inventors and industry, and the *Amistad*) will be highlighted throughout the exhibition, including artwork created by Federal Art Project artists for the state and city tercentenaries.

Rounding out the exhibition will be a section devoted to the current status of existing FAP artwork around the city. Photographs and comments from a cross section of New Haveners who have contact with the artwork and its heritage will be on display and help define what kind of legacy this program had locally. A specially created "Field Guide" to the Federal Art Project artwork will also be available.



Decoration for Nathan Hale School, original watercolor, 1933-34 NHMHS 1999.403

Men In Uniform Exhibition

Don't forget to visit this year's Rotunda Series exhibition, *Men In Uniform*, on view until January 27, 2007. The portraits of eight local men who served in the United States Army and Navy during the period of 1812 through 1865 bring dash and daring to the rotunda with their period uniforms and rich, complex histories.

Andrew Hull Foote, artist unknown c.1840 oil on canvas NHMHS 2001.11



Federal Art Project In New Haven Exhibition Related Programs for Youth and Adults

The Education Department is working to develop a variety of program opportunities in conjunction with the FAP Exhibition.

Beginning in January, workshops will be available to middle and high school students. These 90 minute to 2 hour programs will explore the issues of the Depression and New Deal era, the role of projects like the Federal Art Programs and the legacy of the works of art produced. Students will work with primary documents and use the

images and objects in the exhibition to gain insight into the issues that faced New Haven in the 1930s.



In addition to the school workshops, NHMHS will be offering a 3 part lecture series exploring the art, era and legacy of the Federal Art Program in New Haven and its place within the larger New Deal projects. This lecture series will take place in the spring.

2006 Grant Support for Exhibitions & Programs

NHMHS has received grant support for a variety of projects this year. Local foundations have generously contributed to the planning and implementation of the *Federal Art Project* exhibition and related programs.

NewAlliance Foundation has provided \$13,000 toward the development and implementation of the exhibition and related school and public programs.

The Connecticut Humanities Council has provided over \$7,100.00 toward

the planning of the exhibition as well. Recently, CHC awarded NHMHS funds toward the implementation of the exhibition.



The Humanities Council has also granted NHMHS funds towards the implementation of the Visitor Orientation Center project which will provide a welcome area with museum, library and program information in an easy to access format for all visitors.

Upcoming Events

continued from page 3

144th Annual Meeting

Monday, November 27th at 5pm

The New Haven Museum and Historical Society's 144th Annual Meeting. Election of officers. Executive Director William Hosley reflects on "Reflections on Public Art."

The Federal Art Project in New Haven: The Era, Art, & Legacy Opening Reception

Thursday, November 30th at 5 pm

Tour the gallery, enjoy refreshments and hear remarks from curator Amy Trout.

NHMHS Board of Directors

Dr. Marvin Arons, President

Michael Iannuzzi

Paula Armbruster

David M. Ladd

Dr. Gilbert Hogan

Elsie Chapman

Andrew Rubinoff

Elizabeth Alexander

Niall Ferguson

David Grigsby

Rick Jennings

Elise K. Kenney

Anthony J. Lasala

Jane Moore McGinn, PhD

Walter Miller

Troy Resch

John R. Sholtis Jr.

Leland Torrence

John Wareck

David White

Jeremy G. Zimmerman

NHMHS Staff

James Campbell

Librarian &

Curator of Manuscripts

Bonnie Campbell

Reference Consultant

Bill Hosley

Executive Director

Francis Skelton

Reference Consultant

Amy Trout

Museum Curator

Jennifer White-Dobbs

Director of Education

James Didrickson

Gail Johnson

Bill McKeon

Admissions & Security

Calendar of Events

FALL EVENTS

November

14—Seal of the City Award Night

5:00-6:30 Cocktail Reception at NHMHS

7:00-9:00 Gala Dinner & Award
at the New Haven Lawn Club

27 - Annual Meeting

5:00 pm

Reflections on Public Art,
Bill Hosley, Executive Director

30—Federal Art Project Exhibit Opening Reception

5:30—7:00

Opening Remarks and Exhibition Highlights Talk,
Amy Trout, Curator

SPRING EVENTS

March

21—Whitney Library Associates Program

5:00 pm

Dwight's Travels by Bill Hosley

Antiquarian & Landmark Society annual Lecture Series

May

Federal Art Project Exhibit Lecture Series



114 Whitney Ave
New Haven CT 06510