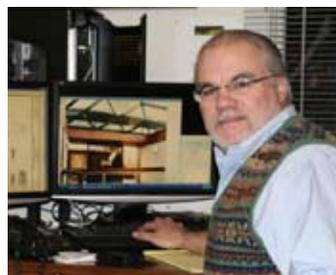




Past to Present

The Newsletter of the New Haven Museum

Winter 2010/Spring 2011



Clockwise from left: Gilbert F. Hogan, M.D.; Charles L. Granquist; Stephen P. Gurney; Judith A. Schiff; Leland Torrence.

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Museum Announces New Directors

At its Annual Meeting, the Museum membership elected a new president and four additional Board members. Walter R. Miller, Ph.D., who has completed his six-year term as a director and as President and CEO, has been appointed Executive Director.

Gilbert F. Hogan, M.D. returns to the Board as President. Dr. Hogan has had a long association with the Museum as a former Board member and as Chair of the Museum/Collections Committee.

Four additional directors were elected, two of whom are returning to the Board and two of whom are new to the Museum.

Charles L. Granquist is Executive Director of Pocantico Programs at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. He also serves as past president and trustee of the Shelburne Museum, has served as president of the

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and has extensive background in museum work.

Stephen P. Gurney is a graduate of Yale and the State University at Buffalo Law School. He has been a teacher, editor, Yale Squash Coach and Associate Director of the Yale Alumni Fund.

Judith A. Schiff, who returns to the Board, is Chief Research Archivist at Yale's Sterling Library and was recently honored for her fifty years of service to Yale. As a native New Havener, she offers a unique perspective on the history and growth of the city.

Leland Torrence also returns to the Board. He specializes in conservation, restoration and management of construction projects. His firm has been involved in restorations of many local landmarks, including the New Haven Museum.

New Family Programs

On Saturday, December 4, 2010, the New Haven Museum revived its Family Day program to great acclaim. A cappella groups and a pianist from Yale University graced the Clement Room, offering holiday songs as well as showcasing their talent in traditional African music, pop songs and Broadway numbers.

Children participated in brief discussions about two of Durrie's iconic winter scenes on display in the Museum, cultivating their observation and interpretation skills. Afterwards, children created their own paintings of snowy winter scenes based on the observations they made about Durrie's technique and style. Also available were Erector Sets, a New Haven invention, in honor of A.C. Gilbert, the man who saved Christmas, and a film screening detailing Gilbert's fight to maintain toy production in spite of the bleak prospect of WWI.

With live music, art workshops, refreshments donated by Mory's and the know-how and help of Hannah Jacobson, an intern in the Museum's Education Department, in planning the event, Family Day was a great affair for young and old.

On Saturday, February 5th, the Museum featured a Chinese New Year Family Workshop, which attracted dozens of families to the Museum to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. On hand was local New Haven artist Qian Lin, known for her paintings. Ms. Lin led the paper rabbit hat-making and paper lantern workshops. The Yale Children's Theater engaged children and families in song, dance and tales about Chinese New Year. Children also had the opportunity to design their own red envelopes, which are filled with money or sweets and traditionally handed out to children by older family members during the New Year.

During the February Vacation Week, the Museum offered a full week of programming designed for children ages 4 through 12. The programs focused on colonial New Haven history. Each day of the week featured activities and workshops that highlighted a



Clockwise, from top left: Liam Acton enjoys the performance by Shades and The Belle Chords; New friends were made as children worked together to make red paper lanterns; A bustling Clement Room as children make paper rabbit hats and paper lanterns; Members of the Connecticut 5th Regiment presented about life as Revolutionary War soldiers; Education intern Katie Van Nostrand leads a tour of the growth of New Haven; The Yale Children's Theater entertains during the Chinese New Year Family Day.

particular theme from that time period, including the Quinnipiacs, mapmaking, colonial arts & music, children's games and the American Revolution in New Haven. The Lancraft Fife & Drum Corps and the Connecticut 5th Regiment gave special interactive presentations to the delight of many children. In addition, a special workshop was coordinated with the Yale University Art Gallery, allowing children and families to learn about the life and culture of the 1700s through the objects and artworks on display at the Gallery.

Under Director of Education Michelle Cheng, the Museum's rotunda and other spaces are resounding with laughter and song from our increasingly active schedule of programs and events. Look for more family programs coming up at the Museum and the Pardee-Morris House during the summer!

Moving Forward

A Message from Executive Director, Walter R. Miller, Ph.D.

The New Haven Museum moves into the new year in high gear for the preparations for our 150th anniversary year in 2012.

As of the Annual Meeting, I completed two three-year terms on our Board of Directors and, according to the present by-laws, cannot continue on the Board as a director or officer. However, with the election of a new president of the Board, Dr. Gil Hogan, I have become immediate past president and a member of the board in that capacity. My personal role, as confirmed by vote of the Board, is to continue as Executive Director through the Board meeting in July 2011. I am proud and honored to have led this organization in the last few years and am pleased to participate as we move forward.

The addition of Charles Granquist to the Board brings into the Museum family a person of unique knowledge of the museum field on both the academic and professional levels with the extensive contacts we need to assist us in our search for a new Executive

Director who can enhance our capabilities in this crucial period. We have also added to the Board several more outstanding former directors and new members with special skills.

Gil Hogan is well known to us here, as a former member of the Board and, in recent years, in the crucial role of chair of the Museum Committee, which supervises our Museum collections. He has also served as chair of our Human Resources Committee and is now chairing the search for our new Executive Director.



Walter R. Miller Jr.

Executive Director

A Visit to the Smithsonian

By Christine Skeeles Schloss, Ph.D., Curatorial Consultant



life as much as Ault's work, except hers shows the diagonals and grids of the New Haven Green coursing with life." The exhibition will be on view March 11th - Sept. 5th, 2011 in Washington, D.C., and thereafter will travel to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri and to the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens.

Dee Dee Plummer's popular *The New Haven Green: A Winter's Day, 1944* has long been part of our permanent exhibit *New Haven Illustrated*. Her amusing take on New Haveners during WWII will soon reach a wider audience, when it is exhibited in *To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America*, organized by Yale University's Alexander Nemerov, Professor of the History of Art, with the Smithsonian American Art Museum. In requesting the loan, its Director Elizabeth Broun said, "Dee Dee Plummer's magical painting focuses on the geometries of local

As a stunning image of mid-century New Haven, Plummer's painting is featured on note cards for sale in the Museum's gift shop.

From the Photo Archives

By Jason Bischoff-Wurstle, Director of Photographic Archives

The Bridge between East Rock and Fair Haven

This photo of View St. was taken in 1928. The angle of the photo is northern, with East Rock Park looming before the photographer. View St. is part of the Cedar Hill neighborhood. Today, the sweeping views of both East Rock and the downtown skyline are somewhat isolated as the neighborhood is cut off from the adjacent neighborhoods by Interstate 91 and the geographic divide of the Mill River.

Cedar Hill developed in earnest in the late 19th century, as the farmland began to transform into the center of an industrial neighborhood. The Marlin Firearms factory was located across the river, and the A.C. Gilbert Company was also in close proximity to the area, along with the massive railyards just to the north.



View St. was populated by immigrant families predominately from Poland, Germany, Greece and Ireland. The mixed architecture of the street is organic evidence of this multicultural influence. View St. remains an unexpected pleasant surprise in the landscape of New Haven.

Volunteer Spotlight

Al Bosch has distinguished himself as a dedicated volunteer. He has been volunteering for the Museum since June 2010. With extensive experience in education, Al decided to embark on a project different from his work background but ideally suited to his personal interest: photography. Al chose to assist the Photographic Archives Department by scanning historic photographs and saving them on our internal server. The project is key to allowing the Museum to make these images easily accessible for research and sales. With his dedication to the project, Al has scanned countless photographs for the Museum.

Al has always been interested in New Haven history, and when he came across a volunteer listing on the United Way website, he felt it was the perfect opportunity to help out at the Museum. As dependable as can be, Al can be found at his desk every Wednesday.

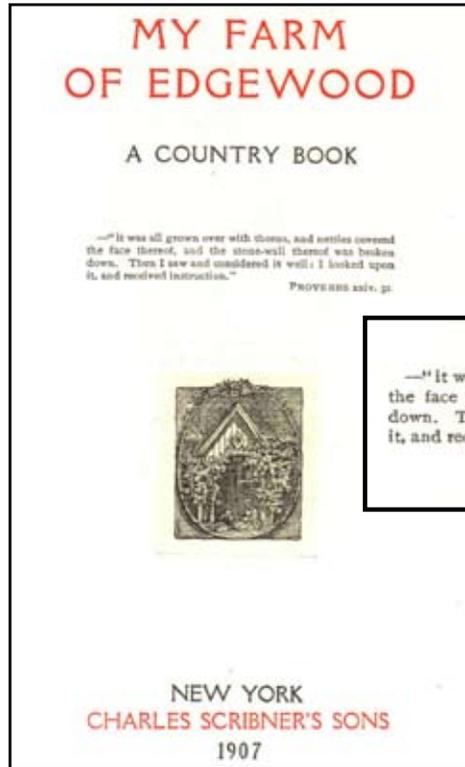


From the Whitney Library

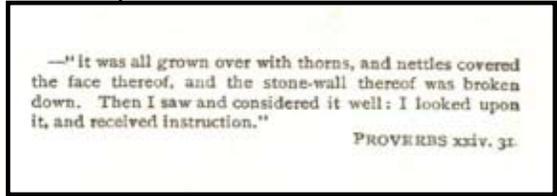
By James W. Campbell, Librarian & Curator of Manuscripts



1907 Edition, Volume 1, Portrait



1907 Edition, Volume 6, Title page



Donald Grant Mitchell

Donald Grant Mitchell (1822-1908) is described in the Dictionary of American Biography as an “agriculturist, landscape gardener, and author.” His contributions to New Haven include designs for a number of public parks in the City. His estate, “Edgewood,” gave its name to a street and some of the land is now a part of Hopkins School. He was proud to be a resident of New Haven and, especially, of Westville. The Westville Public Library, currently celebrating its 100th anniversary, is named in his honor.

Perhaps less well known today is his literary work. He wrote books about his home and travels, as well as fiction and poetry under his own name and a pen name, Ik Marvel. Emily Dickinson was taken with his work. Many copies of his works were published in the United States and in Great Britain.

In 1993, Frank and Medora Perri presented to the Whitney Library a sixteen volume set of the 1907 Charles Scribner’s Sons edition of Mitchell’s complete works.

A significant New Havener, Mitchell still has an influence in the literary world. A search of the Yale online catalog shows 238 author entries under Donald Grant Mitchell and another 9 under the pen name Ik Marvel. This gives some sense of the number of editions and republications of his works during his lifetime and after his death. One can still purchase at least a dozen reprints from online book distributors.

Many authors have made New Haven their home, but Donald Grant Mitchell is one who needs to be remembered and whose works would be worthy of revisiting in this new century.

Both Here and There: An Exhibition



Top: Visitors to the reception took their time to enjoy the artifacts, photographs, film and audio on view in *Both Here and There*.

Left: A rare treat was offered to visitors to Yale-China's exhibit opening reception. A lion dance that enlivened the halls of the Museum enters the Auditorium to everyone's delight.

The Museum is proud to host the Yale-China Association's exhibition, *Both Here and There: A Century of Transformative Encounters*.

Nancy Yao Maasbach, Executive Director of the Yale-China Association, first approached the Museum in October 2010 to discuss the possibility of hosting their exhibition. *Both Here and There* was first displayed at the Museum of Chinese in America last fall in New York City. *Both Here and There* makes use of personal accounts, images, artifacts and rare footage from early-twentieth century China to explore the power of cross-cultural exchange on communities and individuals an ocean apart. Since 1901, the Yale-China Association has built U.S.-China relations through programs in education, health, public service and the arts. Through this exhibition, Yale-China celebrates 110 years of offering programs that have had a profound influence on individuals in

both countries, which, in turn, have furthered their understanding of and interest in shaping Chinese-American relations in the 20th century. With the opportunity to reach out to a wider audience, the Museum was delighted to offer this unique show to New Haveners.

"The lives chronicled in this exhibit tell a greater story—one that explores the fundamental desire to be understood," says Maasbach. "The sentiment of *Both Here and There* reminds us that we do not have to choose a singular identity."

As the highlight of their exhibition, nine profiles of significant figures of the Yale-China Association are featured. In the exhibition, these profiles take the form of large-format photographs and two of them are accompanied by audio components. Their stories are at turns heart-wrenching and inspiring; they must be experienced in-person in the gallery. Seven of the profiles

have also been turned into notecards, an ideal souvenir for the gallery visitor, which are available for sale at the Museum's shop along with a book detailing Yale-China's history.

The reception on Thursday, February 17th featured a variety of refreshments, including some Chinese sweets such as mochi, a silent auction offering prizes such as brunch for two at the Water's Edge Resort as a fundraiser for Yale-China, and drumming that enticed a lion dance to greet visitors in the gallery that houses *Both Here and There* and eventually led them into the Auditorium. Chinese New Year fell on Thursday, February 3rd this year, but it is traditionally a two-week celebration. The lion dancing was not only a delight to watch but a perfect way to celebrate the Chinese New Year and to inaugurate the exhibition, which is on view at the Museum through April 30th.

What's Going On at the Museum?



Clockwise from top left: Families enjoyed the gallery discussion and painting activities offered during the Museum's December Family Day; Dr. Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist, engaged a full house who braved ice and snow to attend his lecture on Native American Archaeology in Connecticut in January; Dashon Burton, bass-baritone & accompanied by pianist Nathaniel Gumbs, performed *Songs of Freedom*, a concert held in honor of Black History Month and co-sponsored by Amistad Committee, Inc. and with support from Blacks in Government.

🌸 Honoring Richard C. Cavallaro 🌸

Donations made in memory of Richard C. Cavallaro, beloved New Haven resident and long-time teacher for New Haven public schools who passed away on February 3, will be used strictly to fund educational programs for New Haven public schools. The generosity of donors ensures that local children have the opportunity to learn about the city that they call home.

🌸 Call for Donations 🌸

The New Haven Museum Shop is accepting donations of items for the Shop's Tag Sale on Saturday, April 30th. Please call (203) 562-4183 ext. 10 for details.



New in the Museum Shop

This brand new 150th Anniversary Plate is now for sale at the Museum Shop for \$25. It is the first of the items that will commemorate the Museum's anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2012.

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Executive Director

Jason Bischoff-Wurstle
Director of Photographic Archives

James Campbell
Librarian & Curator of Manuscripts

Michelle Cheng
Director of Education

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Museum & Library Hours

Tuesday - Friday 10:00-5:00
Saturday 12:00-5:00

Admission

Adults: \$4.00
Seniors: \$3.00
Students (12+): \$2.00
Children: Free

Free First Sundays

The Museum is now open free to the public on the first Sunday of the month from 1 PM to 4 PM.

Pardee-Morris House

Open Sundays in July & August from 1 PM to 4 PM. Free admission.

Contact Information

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Editor & Designer: Michelle Cheng © 2011, New Haven Museum

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 25 8:00 PM The Wall Street Chamber Players; Music of Brahms and Saint Saëns. Series Tickets, \$60; Individual Tickets, as available, \$30. Reception to follow.

Sunday, April 3 NHM/League of Women Voters Film Series. "Around the World in 72 Days," documentary of Nellie Bly. Free.

Saturday, April 9 7:00 - 9:00 PM "Musical Revolutionaries" — The Haven String Quartet from Music Haven; Music of Charles Ives, Kevin Volans and Ludwig van Beethoven. Free.

Thursday, April 21 5:30 PM *The Forgotten Founding Father: Noah Webster's Obsession and the Creation of an American Culture*; lecture & book signing by author Joshua Kendall. Free.

Friday, April 29 8:00 PM The Wall Street Chamber Players; Music of Haydn, Puccini and Dvorak. Tickets, \$30. Reception to follow.

Saturday, April 30 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Museum Shop Tag Sale. Accepting donations. Please call (203) 562-4183 ext. 10 for details.

Saturday, May 7 7:30 PM Concert featuring Sergio Pallottelli, flute, and Irene Veneziano, piano; Music of Mozart, Faure and a Brazilian sonata for flute and piano. Members, \$20; Seniors, \$15. Reception to follow.

For more information on upcoming programs and events, please call (203) 562-4183 or visit www.newhavenmuseum.org.