



Signature Series



MIAMI UNIVERSITY



Energy

Innovation and Impact

THE ATOM AND AMERICAN LIFE

The Pennsylvania Heritage Society highlights PHMC's 2009 theme, "Energy: Innovation and Impact," with a *Signature Series* lecture and reception at 7 p.m. on March 12, 2009, at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg. The lecture will be given by Allan M. Winkler, distinguished professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Dr. Winkler is the author of several books on Cold War America, including *The Cold War* (Oxford University Press, 2000), and *Life Under a Cloud: American Anxiety about the Atom* (Oxford University Press, 1993). He received Miami University's Benjamin Harrison Medallion "for outstanding contributions to education of the nation."

This lecture is supported by a Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education and is arranged through the Organization of American Historian's Distinguished Leadership Program.

NEW DEAL POST OFFICE MURALS EXHIBIT OPENING

In 1933, the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched an ambitious program to place murals and sculptures in post offices across the country, including Pennsylvania. To coincide with the 75th anniversary of the New Deal, The State Museum of Pennsylvania opened the special exhibition "A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals" on November 22, offering visitors a glimpse of some of these extraordinary artworks, brought together for the first time.

On November 23, the Friends of The State Museum of Pennsylvania hosted a public reception for the exhibit's opening to highlight these fascinating treasures.

Exhibition curators David Lembeck, a mural historian, and Curtis Miner, State Museum curator, were on hand to meet guests and discuss the exhibit, which will run through May 17, 2009.

"A Common Canvas" is supported in part with grants from the Auchincloss Family Fund of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities (FEC) on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. S. Sloan Auchincloss, and the Shearer Family Fund of FEC on behalf of R. Scott and Kathy T. Shearer.

Please see related article on page 43.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MUTMANSKY

U.S. Post Office Building, Selinsgrove: *Susquehanna Trail* (1937) by George Warren Rickey.

Please note that special events may require fees in addition to PHS membership benefits or regular admission prices. Some historic sites and museums have modified hours during the winter season. Please contact desired destinations ahead to verify details.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BUSHY RUN BATTLEFIELD

Jeannette, (724) 527-5584
www.bushyrunbattlefield.com

January 31 Weapons Show 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

February 21 Meeting and Lecture 1 p.m.

March 27–29 Ohio Country Conference 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

GRAEME PARK

Horsham, (215) 343-0965
www.ushistory.org/graeme

February 14 Sweethearts Tours 4:30 p.m.

HOPE LODGE

Fort Washington, (215) 646-1595
www.ushistory.org/hope

March 14 Colonial Cooking Workshop 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Northumberland, (570) 473-9474
www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

January 4 Twelfth Day 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

March 29 In Her Own Words, Women's History Month Program 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Scranton, (570) 963-4804
www.anthracitemuseum.org

January 17 Knox Mine Disaster 50th Anniversary Commemorative Program 2 p.m.

SOMERSET HISTORICAL CENTER

Somerset, (814) 445-6077
www.somersethistoricalcenter.org

February 7, March 14 Historia's Secrets: Historic Clothing-Making Workshop 9 a.m.

March 19 Genealogy Lecture: Land Patents, Warrants, Surveys 6:30 p.m.

March 27–29 School of Coopering *Registration required.*

WASHINGTON CROSSING HISTORIC PARK

Washington Crossing, (215) 493-4076
www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing

January 31 Bake Oven Class 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

February 14–15 Cooking for Washington 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

March 7–8 Charter Day 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

March 29 Tavern Cooking Class 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

EXHIBITS

PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Scranton, (570) 963-4804
www.anthracitemuseum.org

February 1–28 Black History Month Highlight: Anthracite Bust of Abraham Lincoln by C. Edgar Patience

THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, (717) 787-4980
www.statemuseumpa.org

Through May 17, 2009 "A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals"



PHMC SOMERSET HISTORICAL CENTER/PHOTO BY CHARLES E. FOX

Somerset Historical Center

DR. G. TERRY MADONNA: PENNSYLVANIANS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

More than 130 guests joined the PHS and The State Bookstore on October 27 to glean timely political knowledge from noted pollster and Franklin and Marshall College professor G. Terry Madonna. Speaking just days before the presidential election, Dr. Madonna shared his insights on the current election based on elections in history, particularly in the 1980 race. Dr. Madonna is the author of *Pivotal Pennsylvania: Presidential Politics from FDR to the Twenty-First Century*, which explores Pennsylvania's role in politics beginning in the 1930s, and coincides with PHMC's celebration of the 75th anniversary of the New Deal.

PHMC historian Kenneth C. Wolensky provided commentary on the issues and policies of the current election from a twentieth-century perspective prior to Dr. Madonna's *Signature Series* lecture.

Dr. Madonna's book is available online at www.pabookstore.com.

The event was sponsored in part by PennCord, the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy.



PHOTO BY DON GILES/PHMC

Franklin and Marshall College Professor G. Terry Madonna

NEW DEAL POST OFFICE MURALS TOUR

Twenty-six members and guests enjoyed a beautiful autumn day viewing New Deal era artworks installed in post office buildings throughout the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre areas on October 7. New Deal mural historian David Lembeck and State Museum curator Curtis Miner provided fascinating background stories about these artworks and their communities. The tour included stops at post offices in Freeland, West Scranton, Pittston, Kingston, and Plymouth, as well as the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton. Chester J. Kulesa, site administrator of the museum, hosted the group and provided a special behind the scenes glimpse of the museum's collections storage.

To learn more about these artworks, visit The State Museum of Pennsylvania's exhibition "A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals." The exhibit is co-curated by David Lembeck and Curtis Miner, with photographs by Michael Mutmanský.



PHOTO BY DON GILES/PHMC



PHOTO BY DON GILES/PHMC

PHS members and guests enjoyed discussing New Deal era post office artworks with David Lembeck (above, holding red folder) on October 7. Lembeck and Curtis Miner (left) at the Plymouth Post Office during the PHS New Deal Post Office Murals Tour.

WELCOME NEW PHS MEMBERS!

Cheryl E. Adams • Dawna Aiken • Daniel C. Arnold • Mr. and Mrs. Keith Bailey • David M. Barr • Samuel P. Black IV • Diana Breed • Sara H. Brower • The Brower Family • George M. Busch • Margaret A Callanan • John Canning • Rosemarie Carlucci • Joseph Carr • Russ and June Case • William Chambers • Georgianna Coles • J. D. Dawson Jr. • Cristin Edwards • Christina Edwards-Ronning • Mr. and Mrs. John Eichert • Ralph and Sherry Ellenberger • Karen Emery • Mr. and Mrs. Morton Feingold • M. J. Fischer • Donna Fisher • Mark Foley • Diann Frampton • Frederick Frey • Veronica Gabriel • Rebecca Gooden • Ehren and Jan Graber • Gail Guimond • Stephen J. Harmelin • William P. Harris • Lori Hawryluk • Ron and Pam Hoagland • Barbara Houston • Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Kolb • Anne Krulikowski •

Greg and Kathleen Leedy • Caroline Leland • Lisa C. McCarty • Charles McDonald • Shawn McLaughlin • James Miller • Dianne Mitchell • Debbie Murdock • Pamela A. New • Clyde and Jeanne Patches • Ronald and Theresa Ratcliffe • Lorraine Reed • Simon Richter • Donald Robbins and Nancy Green • Rich and Julie Roberts • Christopher Roeben • The Rogers Family • Thomas E. Rotunno • Laura Salefski • Christian and Karen Shalters • Rowland and Diane Smith • Charles and Mary Stamm • Mike and Margie Strader • Charles L. Strayer • Harry A. Stutzman • Carolyn Tomaro • Susanne Tomlinson • Jeffrey L. Wallitsch • Donald Walters • Roger White and Ann King • Emily Sue Whitman • Edie Wilhide • Mike and Christi Wood

ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE SUMMIT

PHS and The State Museum of Pennsylvania hosted an Environmental Heritage Summit on Saturday, October 11, 2008, in Harrisburg, to convene several environmental historians and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and representatives from several Pennsylvania-based science centers. The summit explored the definition of a broad interpretive framework for environmental history initiatives under consideration at The State Museum and served to cultivate relationships with practitioners around the Commonwealth involved in environmental history and education. The consulting environmental historians were Dr. Joel Tarr and Dr. Vagel Keller, Carnegie Mellon University; Dr. Ellen Stroud, Bryn Mawr College; Dr. James Grace, DCNR; and Dr. Jeffrey Stine, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. The event was sponsored in part by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals.

Annual Appeal 2008–2009

CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE!

Your generous financial contributions to our Annual Appeal have helped sustain *Pennsylvania Heritage*[®], the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, and PHMC for many years. Please consider a tax-deductible donation at this time to continue the tradition!



PHOTO BY DON GILES/PHMC

Shoppers browse the wares at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania booth in 2006.

HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE 2008

This year's Holiday Marketplace was our biggest ever! Fourteen different museum stores from the Pennsylvania Trails of History[™] and other partners joined us for two days of festive shopping and holiday cheer in the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg, November 20–21, 2008.

This year's participants included Ephrata Cloister; Landis Valley Museum; Pennsbury Manor; Pennsylvania Military Museum; Radius, The State Museum Store; The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania; Somerset Historical Center; The State Bookstore; Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and Pennsylvania Department for Conservation of Natural Resources and Wild Resource Conservation Program. Harrisburg Dairies provided complimentary eggnog to shoppers. The event was sponsored again this year by the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU).



PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE SOCIETY[®]



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The Pennsylvania Heritage Society is a non-profit organization supporting the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the official state agency charged with preserving and interpreting the Commonwealth's heritage and culture.

Your membership (Individual level and higher) in the Pennsylvania Heritage Society provides free general admission to all PHMC sites throughout the Commonwealth as well as Time Travelers benefits—free or discounted admission and store discounts at more than one hundred museums nationwide. Call us for additional information and a list of participating sites and museums.