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Kentucky Library & Museum

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Vol. 2, No. 2

News from The Kentucky Museum and Library

January, 1985

Let's Go To Bardstown With The Kentucky Museum And Library Associates!

Tours through "My Old Kentucky Home," a luncheon at the Old Talbott Tavern, and a casual stroll through one of Kentucky's most historic towns are just a few of the activities to be featured when members of The Kentucky Museum and Library take a field trip to Bardstown, Kentucky on Saturday, April 20.

Traveling by bus to the town in the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region, members and their guests will also be able to visit points of interest like Spalding Hall, home of the Oscar Getz Museum of Whiskey History, or Wickland, home of three governors. There will be ample time to shop in Bardstown's numerous antique shops or take a walking tour through the historic district.



A tour of Federal Hill, "My Old Kentucky Home," will be featured on a family field trip to historic Bardstown, Kentucky on Saturday, April 20 for members of The Kentucky Museum and Library Associates. [Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Department of Travel Development.]

Plans now in progress call for members and their guests to meet at the museum on the morning of April 20 at 7:30 a.m. and go by chartered bus to Bardstown, where the first stop on the agenda will be a visit to Federal Hill, the plantation made famous by Stephen Foster's ballad, "My Old Kentucky Home." Afterwards, a group luncheon at the Old Talbott Tavern is scheduled along with a full afternoon of sightseeing or shopping. Plans for an agenda which includes both structured activities and "free time" are now being made.

As a benefit of museum and library membership, the family field trip will be offered at minimal cost on a first come, first serve basis to museum members. As in other members' programs, invite-a-guest privileges will be in effect. Early pre-registration is encouraged to help in planning for the event. A special mailing will be sent out when plans for the field trip are more complete.

The Museum Store Brings Home The Kentucky Museum Experience

Feel the smooth texture of a handcarved wooden pear. Open an ornate Victorian locket and imagine your portrait inside. Heft a wrought-iron trivet and browse through a book that tells how to explore local history in your own back yard. To fully appreciate the experience of visiting The Kentucky Museum, be sure to pay a visit to The Museum Store.

If you saw a handcarved wooden chain in the Recent Acquisitions case, you just might find a similar article for sale at the store. And the Victorian silver in "Growing Up Victorian," the Kentucky coverlet on display as the "Textile of the Month," or the porcelain doll in "Curator's Choice" are all represented by items sold at the store.

(continued on page 2)

(STORE, continued from page 1)

"The store functions as an extension of the museum and provides a way of reinforcing the visitor's experiences here," said Nancy Gher, Museum Store operator. Citing examples of how the store relates to museum exhibits and collections, she pointed out that a visitor may view "Growing Up Victorian" and then be able to purchase a copy of *The Diary of Josephine Calvert* to get a firsthand look at the everyday life of a girl growing up Victorian in Bowling Green. Likewise, an admirer of Kentucky coverlets can find examples of handwoven coverlets at the store.

"What we sell must reflect not only the museum's collections, but also its concern for quality and authenticity," Ms. Gher said. She noted that this implied stamp of approval brings confidence to customers and pride to the craftspeople whose items are sold in the store.

Ms. Gher added that like quality, variety of merchandise is important: "As part of a non-profit, educational institution, we offer items ranging from 10 cents to over \$1,000." She commented that children are especially intrigued with the assortment of small toys, such as tops, tiny glass bottles, and folk toys in the toy bin, while adults especially seem to like the Kentucky craft items.

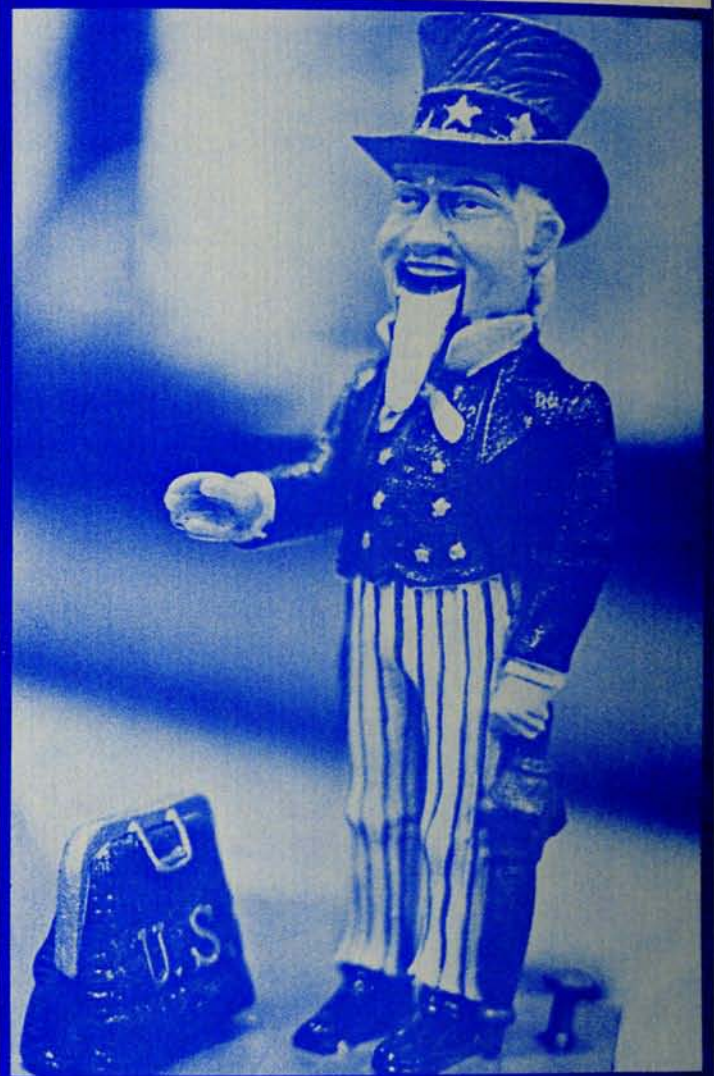
Emphasizing that new items are always being introduced, Ms. Gher said, "We now have a cross-stitch sampler kit to make a reproduction of the framed piece in the 'Growing Up Victorian' child's bedroom." She observed that shopping at the store is a good way to conclude a visit to the museum, "and the convenient parking lot close to the building makes it easy to just stop



Nancy Gher, Museum Store operator (left), shows a handwoven basket to Ky Sponberg, a visitor at The Kentucky Museum from Chicago, Illinois. Two handmade coverlets can be seen behind them.

in the store for a quick shopping trip anytime."

The Museum Store is open from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays. Closed on Mondays.



An Uncle Sam-styled iron bank is one of many historical reproductions available at The Museum Store in The Kentucky Museum.

The Fanlight, the newsletter of The Kentucky Museum and Library, is published quarterly with the July issue entitled *The Vinegar Hill Echo*. *The Fanlight* is published and distributed by The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. Telephone: [502] 745-2592.

Subscription is obtained through membership or ongoing volunteer work with the museum and library.
 Managing Editor. Diane Alpert
 Editor. Doug Nesbit
 Layout and Graphic Design. Donna Parker
 Educational Editor. Vicky Middleswarth

Editorial Excursions

In Review: New Acquisitions at The Kentucky Library

The Americans As They Are; Described in a Tour Through the Valley of the Mississippi, by Charles Sealsfield. London, 1828.

Reviewed by Nancy Solley, reference librarian, The Kentucky Library.

Travel accounts provide a valuable and interesting source for the study of American history. J. Winston Coleman's A Bibliography of Kentucky History has entries of such accounts which deal more or less with Kentucky. The Kentucky Library owns a significant number of the books listed by Coleman, a recent acquisition being Sealsfield's The Americans As They Are.

By 1828, when Sealsfield's book appeared, the pioneers had produced a somewhat settled society along the frontier. Steamboats were providing a dependable means of transportation. Cotton and sugar were becoming the major crops in the South and the expansion of slavery was becoming a political and moral issue.

Among the many visitors from Europe to the United States during the first half of the 19th century was the Moravian Karl Postl, who wrote under the name of Charles Sealsfield. The Americans As They Are traces his trip down the Ohio River from Cincinnati to the Mississippi, up the Mississippi to St. Louis, then down the river to Natchez and New Orleans.

Of special interest to local readers is Sealsfield's description of Kentucky and Kentuckians. He compares the state and its people unfavorably to Illinois and Ohio and suggests that slavery accounts for the difference. Kentucky is beautiful and fertile, he admits, but Kentuckians are "a proud, fierce, and overbearing set of people." A Kentuckian "seldom or never forgives."

Sealsfield does not recommend the state to new settlers because of slavery, insecure land titles, the court system, and other disadvantages.

Descriptions of Kentucky towns and cities, observations about the treatment of slaves, and a lengthy account of a yellow fever outbreak in New Orleans are other topics treated by Sealsfield. Influenced by the author's own prejudices and values, this colorful account adds to our knowledge of Americans and America as they appeared to a European in the second decade of the 19th century.



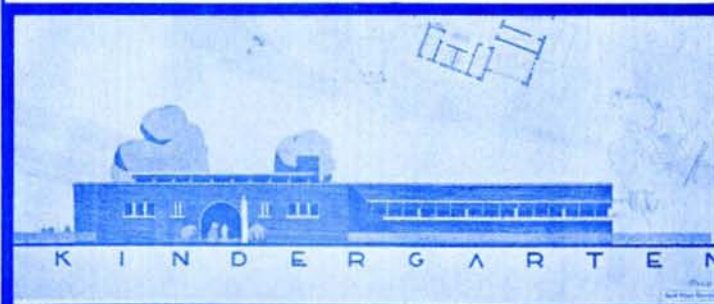
"Vito Girone" Traveling Exhibit To Open February 5

"Vito Girone: The Beaux Arts Education of an Architect," a traveling exhibit organized by the Kentucky Historical Society and funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council, will open at The Kentucky Museum February 5.

The exhibit features approximately 40 pencil sketches, ink drawings, and presentation renderings by Vito Girone, former architecture professor at Notre Dame and the University of Kentucky. The drawings date from the early 1930s until the present.

Girone's career has included city planning, painting, and industrial design, as well as teaching and architectural practice. It is his career as a student, designer, and teacher of the Beaux Arts architectural ethic that the exhibit addresses, according to the exhibit catalog.

The exhibit will remain here through March 18, when it will travel to the University of Louisville.



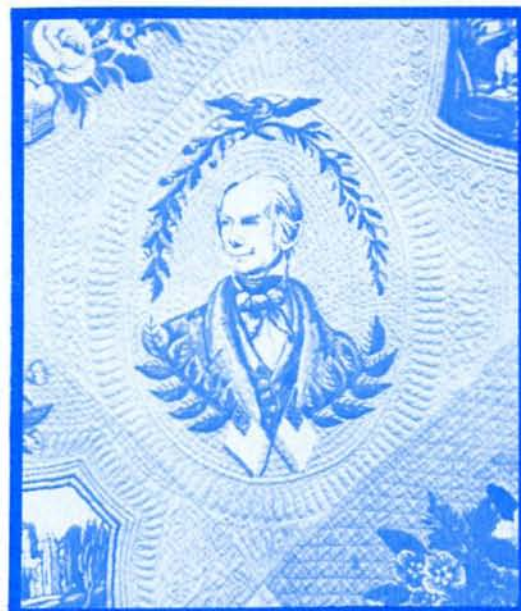
A Kindergarten, detail, 1933 is one of the renderings exhibited in "Vito Girone: The Beaux Arts Education of an Architect," opening February 5 at The Kentucky Museum.

What's Happening

- Tuesday, January 2
The Kentucky Building reopens following Christmas holidays.
TEXTILE OF THE MONTH: Child's palatine (shoulder cape).
- Tuesday, January 15
Recent Acquisitions exhibit changes.
- Wednesday, January 23
NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY: Come to The Museum Store for a 20 percent discount on stationery!
- Monday, February 4
DISPLAY: "Old-Fashioned Valentines." Kentucky Library.
- Tuesday, February 5
TEXTILE OF THE MONTH: Cocktail dress.
EXHIBIT: "Vito Girone: The Beaux Arts Education of an Architect" through March 17.
ADULT WORKSHOP: "Making Victorian Valentines." Pre-registration necessary.
- Wednesday, February 6
7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 13
9:30 a.m.
VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM: "Giving Tours in The Kentucky Museum: Introduction to the Exhibits."
- Saturday, February 16
10:00 a.m.
FAMILY WORKSHOP: "For the Birds - - And Their Friends." Pre-registration necessary.
- Tuesday, February 19
10:00 a.m.
BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROGRAM: "American Dolls - - Kentucky Dolls."
For members and volunteers only!
- Wednesday, February 20
9:30 a.m.
VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM: "Beyond Labels: Reading Objects, Photographs, and Buildings."
- 7:30 p.m.
LECTURE: "Beaux Arts Architecture in Kentucky." Dr. Will Morgan, University of Louisville (Tentative).
- Wednesday, February 27
9:30 a.m.
VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM: "The Games Guides Play: Gallery Activities for School Groups."
- Tuesday, March 5
TEXTILE OF THE MONTH: Camisole and Drawers.
- Tuesday, March 5-
Saturday, March 9
9:30 to 4:00 daily
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK: Come to The Kentucky Building for the Kentucky Herstory Scavenger Hunt!
- Tuesday, March 26
7:00 p.m.
BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROGRAM: "Behind the scenes at The Kentucky Library."

The Union is Preserved
(and so am I)

WKU—Printing paid from state funds, KRS 57.375.



FOR KIDS ONLY



FROM SAINTS TO SWEETHEARTS

Valentine's Day is named after St. Valentine, a Christian who was beaten to death in Rome in 270 A.D. Although Valentine's death has little to do with love, he died on the date of an ancient Roman festival held to honor the coming of spring. Early Christians often re-named old holidays for new saints, and that's how Valentine's Day came to be!

During the 1400s, young people observed Valentine's Day by drawing names from a box and sending gifts to the people they chose. As the years passed, sending romantic gifts and cards became a Valentine's Day custom. By the mid-1900s, many magazines featured Valentine's Day illustrations, and by the end of the century, February issues included stories, poems, and party suggestions for the holiday.

This February 14, visit The Kentucky Library's valentine display, then try some of the activities below. Have a heart - - and a happy, old-fashioned Valentine's Day!

THE STOLEN HEART

Here's a game from *THE DELINEATOR*, a women's magazine from the turn of the century. To play, you need a group of players. Choose one player to be "It," blindfold him, and give him a small paper heart to hold. Then, make a circle around him and chant this verse:

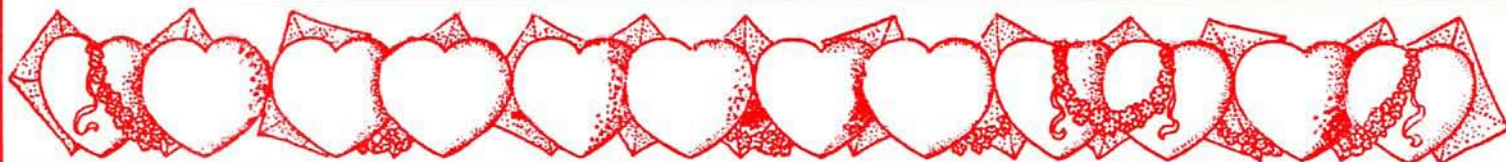
*Alack-a-day! Alack-a-day!
Someone has stolen your heart away.
But dry your eyes and calm your grief,
And see if you can catch the thief.*

While the players in the circle chant the rhyme, one player "steals" the heart and hides it behind his back. Then, "It" removes the blindfold and tries to guess who has the heart. If he guesses correctly, the person who stole the heart becomes "It."

SWEETHEARTS FOR THE SWEET TOOTH

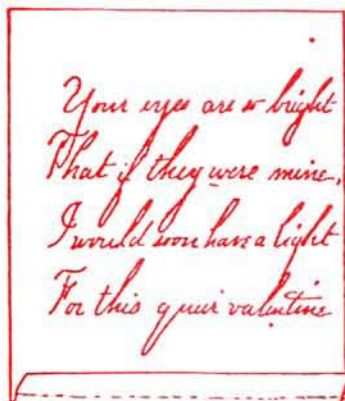
*With candied cherries, or cherries dried,
In orange juice soaked well,
Mix nuts, salted and finely ground,
When taken from the shell,
For sandwich filling extra fine,
When spread on bread and butter thin,
Together pressed, and heart shape cut,
These "Sweethearts" always win.*

"Sweethearts" was printed in the February, 1909, issue of *ST. NICHOLAS*, a children's magazine published from 1873-1940. *ST. NICHOLAS* featured stories, poems, letters from readers, and activity ideas. The Kentucky Library owns 60 years of *ST. NICHOLAS*. Come to the Library and discover an old-fashioned magazine that's still lots of fun!



Homemade valentines have been popular since the 1700s, when sweethearts spent hours cutting lacy paper cards and writing romantic verses. Over the years, tastes changed, and funny valentines became as popular as pretty ones. To recreate three old-fashioned valentines, follow these directions.

FIRECRACKER VALENTINE



1. Cut a red paper rectangle, 2x3 inches.
2. Cut a piece of tape, 3 inches long, and tape it to one of the long edges of the red rectangle, overlapping the edge.
3. Roll the rectangle around a 3/8-inch dowel, beginning at the edge without the tape and securing the taped edge to create a tube. Remove the dowel.
4. Cut a white paper rectangle, 4x2-3/4 inches, and write on it the verse shown here. Sign your name beneath the verse.
5. Cut a piece of string 3-3/4 inches long, and tape it to one of the short edges of the white rectangle. Roll the rectangle around the pencil and insert it into the red paper tube.

From THE DELINEATOR (February, 1901)

ROMANTIC VALENTINE

1. Cut a construction paper rectangle.
2. Edge it with "lace" cut from a paper doily.
3. Decorate it with scrap pictures of birds, flowers, or cherubs (available from The Museum Store).
4. Write a verse and sign your name on the back.



A display of old-fashioned valentines will open in The Kentucky Library on February 4. "Making Victorian Valentines," a workshop for ages 12-up, will be held in the Museum on February 6. Call 745-2592 for details.

SWEET COOKIE VALENTINE

1. Color the valentine with crayons or colored pencils.
2. Cut out the valentine.
3. Sign your name on the back.



From The Kentucky Library

Notes From The Hill

Editor's Note: This column, which examines the relationship between WKU academic disciplines and the collections, exhibits, and programs of The Kentucky Museum and Library, welcomes Dr. Joseph W. Gluhman, professor of art history and head of the Department of Art. Dr. Gluhman shares his insights as an art historian in this appraisal of the travelling exhibit coming to the museum, "Vito Girone: The Beaux Arts Education of an Architect."

"Vito Girone: The Beaux Arts Education of an Architect"

By Dr. Joseph W. Gluhman, professor of art history, and head, Department of Art

The Kentucky Historical Society exhibition organized in tribute to Vito Girone, a retired University of Kentucky professor of architecture, is presented as evidence of the validity of the orientation that his work represents. The show's 40 examples, mainly drawings, include designs for a radio cabinet and a tea set, an imaginary building that would be the world's tallest, a nude figure study, views of the Guggenheim Museum and of the Angkor Wat temple complex, a project for an amusement park, and another for a nuclear research center. Most were executed during his student years.

The major influence evident in this work was Girone's training at the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design which was founded in 1916 in New York City by graduates of France's principal architectural school in order to emulate

and to promote its methods. Beaux-Arts training emphasized study and mastery of a standard vocabulary of historical (especially classical) forms, skillful renderings of meticulous, detailed drawings, a collaborative approach, conventionality, and the striving to succeed in highly organized competitions.

The text of the show's illustrated catalog extols traditionalism, but also condemns modern architectural design. It suggests that the Beaux-Arts approach has been unjustifiably slighted.

In fact, official French architecture enjoyed overwhelming prestige and influence in the U.S. from the 1860s to the 1930s. Through the development, national distribution, and judging of standard design projects, the Beaux-Arts Institute dominated the architectural programs of American universities for a generation. Beaux-Arts values and practices had been abandoned by the French long before they were by Americans, largely because they were an exhausted system in which once appropriate means had become needlessly restrictive ends.

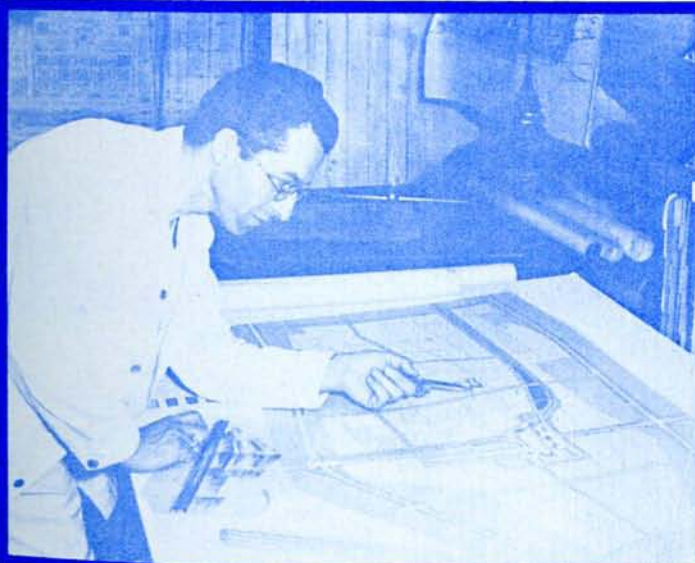
Within historical and geographic perspectives, this show provides valuable insights into some issues of continuing importance in architectural philosophy, education, and practice.

Museum Consignment Sales Gallery Open For Business

The next time you visit The Kentucky Building, be sure to see the Consignment Sales Gallery, now open for business in the Garden Gallery on the ground floor during normal Museum Store hours. The gallery is now featuring works by Neil Peterie, John Warren Oakes, Bill Weaver, and Albert Y. Wong, all faculty members of WKU.

Coming Next Issue:

The Kentucky Museum's spring quilt show, opening April 2, a travelling exhibit on the Shakers, and more news on the members' field trip to Bardstown will be featured.



Vito Girone examining his City Planning Scheme for Orange, New Jersey in 1940.



The Kentucky Museum, as a nonprofit organization and a part of Western Kentucky University, welcomes your membership support. Funds from this source contribute significantly to our resources for providing programs for an ever-widening public. For information on membership benefits such as receiving The Fanlight newsletter, discounts at The Museum Store, invitations to receptions and special activities, and more, see Doug Nesbit at The Kentucky Building or call him at (502)745-2592. The form below is provided for your convenience in selecting an appropriate level of participation. Simply fill out, detach, and mail to: Public Information Officer, The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Please make checks payable to The Kentucky Museum and Library.

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Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for the membership category circled below:

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Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101
Telephone (502) 745-2592

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