

# MIDWEST MUSEUM BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART • 429 South Main St. • Elkhart, IN 46516 • (574) 293-6660  
Volume 31, No. 1 JAN/FEB 2009 MUSEUM HOURS: Tues. - Fri. 10:00-4:00, Sat. 1:00-4:00, Sun. 1:4-4:00 (Free)  
MEMBER AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

## The Art of Currency: The Dr. William Luther Family Coin Collection

*Selected Gifts to the Permanent Collection: 1998 - 2008*

The exhibition of the Dr. William Luther Family Coin Collection that was donated to the Midwest Museum's permanent collection **continues through February 22, 2009**. In December, two members of the Elkhart Coin Club assisted in the discussion of the coins on view during the weekly gallery talks. They will return with others for several more talks in January and February (see Noon-Time-Talks inside this issue). Take the time this winter to visit the museum and browse at your leisure, take in the coin exhibit and listen to a gallery talk about the different types of American currency.

This exhibition is sponsored by the  
**Elkhart County Community Foundation.**



*Claire Luther and her son, William Luther, Jr., attended the opening of the exhibition of the Art of Currency.*



*Silver Dollar, 1889, American designed by George T. Morgan, Philadelphia Mint, about 11,875,000 coined.*

*(below) George & Martha Washington on the "Educational" Dollar Silver Certificate, 1896*



The exhibition, **Selected Gifts to the Permanent Collection**, features 47 paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographic imagery that was curated from well over 850 donations received by the museum over the past decade. These works of art could have been given to many other institutions but have come to Elkhart from several collectors and artists from across the country.

## Coin Evaluation Day

Members of the Elkhart Coin Club will be available on **Friday, January 30** from **10:00AM to 3:00PM** to evaluate coins for museum members and the general public. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged. Large numbers of coins may require a special appointment outside of this arranged format. If you've always wanted to know what Grandpa or Grandma's coins are worth, this will be a golden opportunity to find out. You may contact the museum for additional information at 293-6660.

Visit Our Web Site At  
**WWW.MIDWESTMUSEUM.US**  
contact us by email:  
**mdwstmsmam@aol.com**

## Happy New Year's from the Director

I would like to thank the many Midwest Museum members who have helped make 2008 a great success. Through volunteer time and financial support, your efforts reflect the accomplishments of the museum. As we enter our 30th year, the Staff and Trustees are more dedicated than ever in making the MMAA a strong, engaging and inspiring institution for future generations.

Our special exhibitions have grown in popularity, our educational programs and lectures have reached wider audiences and we continue to receive gifts of art to enhance our already formidable permanent collection. Dr. Steven Conant, a former Elkhart resident, has bestowed over 50 drawings, paintings, and prints this past year. We are indeed grateful for his generosity to the Midwest Museum of American Art.

Our Docent Program has remained strong. Docents have begun volunteering on Sunday to give our Sunday visitors more insight into the art hanging in our permanent and temporary galleries. This redirection of energies became necessary when student tours all but discontinued in our school system.

One of the signal events this past year was having the Elkhart City Time Capsule put into one of the museum's vaults for safe keeping for the next 50 years. The Midwest Museum was saddened when the Genesis Fund was discontinued by the City of Elkhart. Many great art exhibitions made it to our museum thanks to monies from the Genesis Program.

The New Year of 2009 will be a challenge due to our economy but the Staff pledges to work hard in continuing to provide the citizens of Elkhart and surrounding communities with the cultural amenities they so richly deserve.

**Jane Burns**

## Special Sunday Seminars

Join us with members of the Elkhart Coin Club for three special Sunday talks about the *Art of Collecting Currency*. These talks are offered free to the public. Each presentation will begin at 2:00 PM and conclude by 3:00 PM. The following are topics and dates:

### Sunday, January 18 "Learning to Collect Coins"

Bring your family and learn about the basics of collecting coins from **June Rolstone** and her Grandson, **Jordan Miller**. They will address the issues of what to collect and how to go about it.

### Sunday, February 1 "Learning to Upgrade"

Every collector wants to find the best deal on a coin in better condition to replace the one before. **Wayne Matthews** and **Larry Linn** will present some of the details of upgrading coins and the process of going about it.

### Sunday, February 15 "The Grading Process"

If you've ever been to a coin dealer and wondered why there were different prices for the same coin then you will want to hear **George Baxter** discuss the "grading process". This collector's special interest area is Morgan Silver Dollars and he will use them as examples in his discussion.

Beginners and experts alike will enjoy and learn from these informative discussions about the *Art of Collecting Currency*. No pre-registration is necessary.

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## New Hours to be Observed

The Midwest Museum will now be open one hour earlier at 10:00 AM and close one hour earlier at 4:00 PM Tuesday thru Friday. Regular hours from 1:00-4:00 PM will be observed on Saturday and Sunday.

*Artist Timothy Grieb (b.1954-) stands in front of works created by himself and his mother, the late Eleanor Grieb (1925-2008), donated to the permanent collection in 2006 and 2008.*



*Artist Jay Burton Hellwege (b.1946-) of St. Louis attended the opening of the current exhibition. He is shown here standing next to his mixed media work titled, "The Golden Typewriter of Peace, and Unfortunately, Sometimes War", donated in 2008.*

## NOON TIME TALKS

*A Special Variety of Gallery Talks and Films*  
**FREE Every Thursday at 12:20 to 1:00PM**

Gallery Talks and seminars will examine various topics of *American Currency Collecting* and related themes in conjunction with the exhibits of selected gifts.

**JAN 8      *The Jefferson Nickel***

Gordon Yoder, retired banker, discusses Felix Schlag's 1938 design and his personal contact with the engraver.

**JAN 15      *Civil War Tokens & Storecard Tokens***

Richard Easterday examines "copperheads" or the cent-size tokens used by the millions during the Civil War.

**JAN 22      *Mercury Dimes***

Bob Dierking discusses the "Winged Cap" dime designed by Adolph Alexander Weinman in 1916.

**JAN 29      *Large Cents***

Assistant Curator Stacy Jordan looks at the large cents in the Luther Collection, the earliest of which is 1793.

**FEB 5      *Morgan Silver Dollars***

Curator Brian Byrn discusses the "Crime of 1873" and the advent of the George T. Morgan designed Silver Dollar.

**FEB 12      *Selected Gifts: A Decade of Donations to the Permanent Collection***

Brian Byrn discusses several donations of art and the collectors who have given them to the museum's permanent collection.

**FEB 19      *Charles & Ray Eames***

Assistant Curator Stacy Jordan looks at the architectural careers of two of the 20th Century's most respected designers.

**FEB 26      *Film: Biography of Norman Rockwell***

This A&E documentary features America's most beloved artist. His painterly vision captured an America shining with home-spun values and patriotic idealism. After a 60-year career Rockwell would become "America's Painter".

**NATIONAL YOUTH ART MONTH is coming in MARCH**  
*also a special series of three mini "Spotlight Exhibits" featuring never-before-seen works from the museum's permanent collection will open in the Spring...*

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Throughout Winter.**

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on line at  
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Special Seminars on Coin Collecting  
See dates and times inside this issue  
Luther Family Coin exhibit  
continues through February 22  
Visit the Rockwell & Overbeck Collections  
to make the Winter seem shorter!

Midwest Museum of American Art  
429 S. Main St., P.O. Box 1812  
Elkhart, IN 46515

