



**NORWICH**  
UNIVERSITY™

Sullivan Museum and History Center  
in association with the Smithsonian Institution

# THE *Rotunda Report*

2014 FALL ISSUE

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES BI-ANNUAL REPORT



158 HARMON DRIVE  
NORTHFIELD, VT 05663

802-485-2183

[www.norwich.edu/museum](http://www.norwich.edu/museum)

HOURS:

Monday–Friday, 8 am - 4 pm

Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm

during the academic year

## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS:

**BILLBOARD BUILDINGS: COLLAGE AND  
MIXED MEDIA BY ARTHUR SCHALLER**



## 1864: SOME SUFFER SO MUCH



## From the Director's Chair

### *Sullivan Museum and History Center named 1st Smithsonian Affiliate in Vermont!*

Dear Sullivan Museum and History Center Supporters and Friends,

The Sullivan Museum and History Center has been accepted as a Smithsonian Affiliate in the national program which includes 196 museums. The museum is the first affiliate in the State of Vermont and New Hampshire. It is an honor for the museum to be included

with these other 195 institutions. The program was established in 1996 and is a partnership between Affiliate museums and the Smithsonian's representative 19 museums. The Affiliate program enables museums to host objects from the Smithsonian in their exhibitions. The Smithsonian has 137 million objects in their collections, and at any one time, only 3-5% of these holdings are on view. The program provides access to speakers for events and special educational workshops for schools, teachers and the community. In addition, the Sullivan Museum and History Center will offer Smithsonian Level Membership to the Associates, which will include Smithsonian Membership, and receipt of the Smithsonian Magazine/Air and Space Magazine. As an affiliate the museum may use the Smithsonian Logo in its advertising and highlight this partnership within our publications.

The association between Norwich and the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution is through our esteemed alumni, George M. Colvocoresses, adopted son of the Alden Partridge. George M. Colvocoresses served on the Wilkes Expedition from 1838-1842 and was part of the collecting party throughout the voyage. The items collected were the property of the U.S. government and they were displayed for a decade at the Patten office prior to being installing in the newly established Smithsonian which Congress had approved with the understanding that the collection would be exhibited and housed there in the new National Museum. The collection came to the "Castle" in 1858 and has been a part of the National Natural History museum, now one of the 19 Smithsonian museums.

The Sullivan Museum and History Center celebrated the official recognition ceremony on September 2, 2014 with a small installation of Wilkes Expedition artifacts generously on loan from descendant Mr. Harold Colvocoresses, NU 1968. We hope you will join with us in celebrating this significant accomplishment of the Sullivan Museum and History Center at Norwich University.

Museologically yours,

Sarah E. Henrich  
Director



(left to right) Harold Closter, Director of the Smithsonian Affiliates, Sarah E. Henrich, Director of Sullivan Museum & History Center, and Senator Patrick Leahy displays official certificate.

## *Billboard Buildings: Mixed Media and Collage by Arthur Schaller*

Recently this summer we welcomed the collage work of Norwich Architecture Professor Arthur Schaller. His mixed media billboards in two and three dimensional form is a colorful addition to the galleries.

Schaller has been teaching at for the past sixteen years, at the School of Architecture and Art at Norwich University where he served as Dean from 2005 to 2010. His

Billboard Buildings are variations on frontal views of rambling- but ordered- long thin buildings perched on legs and located in rich color and textural space. They strive for a balance between abstract formal two-dimensional composition and speculative spatial realism. This combination of printed surfaces makes the viewer question if they are gazing at something two dimensional or

three dimensional. He has a unique talent for combining and exploring printed found materials. In addition to the two dimensional works in the gallery, there are several three-dimensional constructs that incorporate the layers of his two dimensional works.

**Join us this fall for a Lunch n Learn with Professor Arthur Schaller!**



## *Wilkes Expedition Artifacts on Exhibit*

Thanks to a generous loan of items from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Colvocoresses, the Sullivan Museum and History Center was able to host this small installation of objects from the Wilkes Expedition, 1838-1842 during our Smithsonian recognition ceremony. These are part of Mr. Colvocoresses private collection handed down through his family. George M. Colvocoresses was a member of the sailing party on the expedition, and collected with other crew members items from the Pacific Islanders as well as other peoples they encountered on their world travel. On view are samples of war clubs, a shell upper arm bracelet, and a 6" married lady's grass skirt. The items are in excellent condition, and provide an insight into this culture and their artistic expressions. The war clubs are highly incised and decorative, with patchwork lines and cross hatching. All three are substantial in weight, and are examples from the Fiji Islands. They include a rootstock club, a lotus club with a wide flat blade, and a short throwing club. A special thank you to descendant Harold Colvocoresses for sharing these wonderful artifacts with the Sullivan Museum and Norwich University. Please watch for our upcoming exhibition, (The Explorers of Norwich in 2017), highlighting the Wilkes Expedition, the Rogers-Ringgold Expedition and the Transcontinental Railroad Expedition.



# How do you access the Sullivan Museum & History Center?

*Here are just a few ways:*

*Use the museum as your “classroom”.* Course assignments can be based on the museum’s collection and exhibitions. Periodic changes in the exhibition installations provide new material for use in classroom instruction. The conference room is available for up to 26 seated students to review and handle artifacts from the collection. The conference room has media capability, white board and overhead facilities.

*Share your expertise as part of the Museum’s Lunch and Learn series.* We are open to faculty participating in providing program offerings during the academic year on specific topics you are conducting research on, or topics related to Norwich history. A small stipend is provided for presenting at the museum for these programs. Contact the Director at 802.485.2448 to discuss your ideas and interest in presenting to the Norwich University community.

*Volunteer and be part of the action, one, two or more days a year.* You can assist the registrar or exhibitions associate with interesting projects in the museum. Enjoy sleuthing? There are plenty of “whatsits” in the collection that make fun research projects for students, faculty and the community. Contact the Museum Registrar at 802.485.3289 to discuss an opportunity to get into the “action” with collections.

## **THE EARLE MURAL CONSERVATION PROJECT:**

In 1956 President Ernest N. Harmon commissioned William Earle to illustrate the accomplishments of famous Norwich University alumni who played an important role in the history and formation of Norwich. When Earle completed the paintings, they were hung in Harmon Hall’s dining facility until Wise Campus Center was constructed. Because they were on display so long, dirt, light, food fights and just general aging affected the paintings causing damage.

With the help of the Tawani Foundation, the Sullivan Museum and History Center has undertaken a project with Phillips Art Conservation Studio to conserve each of the Earle paintings, essentially removing the decades of dirt, and food debris, from the artworks, placing them on better supports (stretchers), and either re-displaying them or placing them into the museum’s storage area. To date “Ward in the Tai-Ping Rebellion” and “President Ransom in the Mexican War,” two of the largest murals in the collection, have been conserved and were re-installed in Wise over the past winter.

Two other paintings, General I.D. White and Lt. General Edward Hale Brooks have been conserved as well and are on exhibit or are being prepared for future exhibition. The remaining murals are with Phillips Art Conservation being worked on and the results are going to be phenomenal when they are returned. This conservation will help preserve them for years to come for the enjoyment of the entire Norwich University family. If you’d like more information on this project, please let us know, we’d be happy to talk to you more about what’s involved and other exciting conservation projects that we’re undertaking in the months to come.

***Help us build our collection!***

## **Call for Objects**

**We’re undertaking a lot of exciting projects here at the museum leading up to the Bicentennial and if you haven’t stopped in to visit in a while, come in see what new exhibitions we’re working on!**

**Some of our refreshed displays are in need of objects and if you have anything you’d like to donate or loan related to World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, or the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars, please contact us to discuss what you may have. We’re also looking for images of Norwich Alums from these wars for our exhibition panels and would be happy to talk to you about what we’re looking for!**

**And as always, if you have any artifacts related to your time here at Norwich that you’d like to donate to the museum, please contact John Hart, the museum’s Registrar at (802) 485-3289.**

**The Sullivan Museum and History Center tells the story of you, our alumni, help us preserve your rich history for generations to come!**

# Sullivan Museum and History Center

## Adopt-An-Artifact Program

The Museum Associates initiated the Adopt-An-Artifact Program in 2011 to bring together prospective “Adoptive Parents” with artifacts from the Museum collection that are in need of restoration.. The “Adoption Fees” listed below are the estimated costs of treatment submitted by professional conservators.

If you are interested in adopting an artifact , please choose the object that interests you and commit to its conservation on the form on the reverse of this sheet. The Museum Associates request that you donate one half of the fee at the time of “Adoption” and the other half once the conservation is complete and the artifact is ready to be displayed. We encourage group adoption as well as single donor adopters.



### Painting Conservation

In 1940 the Norwich University Class of 1920 donated this painting in memory of three classmates who died during World War I. Since that time the surface has become dirty and needs conservation. The treatment will include the surface cleaning, applying a new layer of varnish, restoration of paint loss, and application of a new backing board.

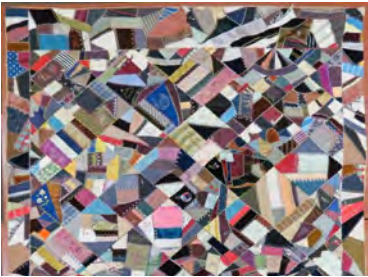
Adoption Fee: \$772.50



### Rare Painting Conservation

This painting has hung for many years and needs conservation, which includes the following: consolidating areas of loose paint, repairing tears in the canvas, surface cleaning, applying a new varnish layer, restoration of paint loss, and attaching a backing board with new hanging hardware.

Adoption Fee: \$2,855 (Great for multiple “Adopters”!)  
or \$713 for four adopters



### Victorian Era Crazy Quilt

Recently acquired, this quilt is from the family of William Munson (NU 1854). It presently needs to be cleaned, have areas of loose threading repaired and reinforced, and areas of loss protected. A rod pocket will be added to help the museum exhibit this object in the main gallery.

Adoption Fee: \$1,920 (Great for multiple “Adopters”!)  
or \$640 for three adopters



### Parade Baton

Believed to be a Grand Army of the Republic Parade Baton, this is a recent purchase from the William Munson (NU 1854) family. It currently needs attention to the ribbons that are attached and to the copper sphere at the end.

Adoption Fee: \$1,570 (Great for multiple “Adopters”!)  
or \$523 for three adopters

# Artifact Adoption Form

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Adopt-An-Artifact

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to pool my resources with others to Adopt-An-Artifact

Please indicate which artifact you are interested in adopting:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

### *From the Registrar's Office:*

As I started to think what I'd like to highlight from our recent acquisitions, it struck me that this was no easy feat. I am constantly amazed by the generosity of the Norwich Alums who have thought of the museum and are so willing to donate their collection to us and share their stories and memories. Not a day goes by that I'm not cataloging a new acquisition or working with a donor to arrange for another to be sent to me. But, I decided in the end to mention two acquisitions that stood out to me, not only for their rarity, but also for the stories told to me by the donor.

The first highlight I want to share really hit a chord with me on a personal level. Bill Frattini (NU 1974) contacted me in early 2014 to talk about his father, Louis' material from World War II. Louis (NU 1945) was an amazing individual, and the pride that Bill had in his father was easily heard in his voice. He mentioned photographs, a hand-drawn map of Louis' travels from England to Europe and all over the continent, medals, uniform parts, and even a jar of sand from Omaha Beach. We talked further and the idea came up that maybe Louis would want to do an oral history. Sadly, just days after Bill and I spoke, Louis passed away, never being able to do the oral history that seemed to raise his spirits. Bill began sending me parts of his father's life from Norwich and World War II and it's been an honor and pleasure to receive and work on them on behalf of the university and the museum. Sometime in the near future, Bill plans to come to the museum and hand-deliver the map that his father drew, a day that will no doubt be emotional for everyone, not only because there is such a story behind it, but because, as Bill as mentioned a few times, the map will be "coming home" where Louis would have wanted it to reside.

The second highlight is no bigger than a magazine and it was, in all honesty, a chance find and a brilliant stroke of luck. In the first few months after joining the staff, I dove into some research on the paintings in the collection and discovered that one of them, which is untitled until we can do more research, was painted by an Italian artist, Fortunino Matania, who moved to England during World War I. Matania's body of work is astounding and his fascination with the cavalry is evident in most of his art. In doing a bit of sleuthing online, I discovered a gallery in England that had the ORIGINAL study that Matania created before painting the larger oil on canvas work.

I contact the gallery and after talking with them and Matania's biographer, I not only learned more about him, his life story, and his works. The fact that the study, and the painting for that matter, is astounding—Matania's studio was bombed during the London Blitz in World War II. After some very careful consideration, the museum decided to purchase the study and it arrived wrapped up, safe and sound—it was like Christmas morning for us all when we opened it up! We're hopeful to exhibit the study and the painting side by side sometime in the near future after the painting is conserved (see the insert for Adopt an Artifact) to highlight our Matania contemplated his work and modified it from the study to the canvas.

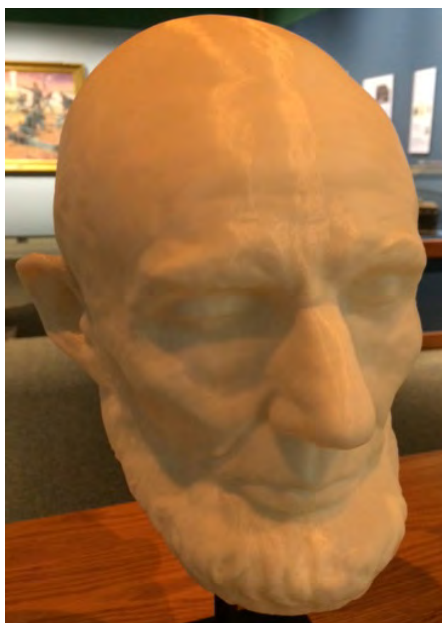


Artillery Painting, ca. 1914-1918,  
Fortunino Matania (1881-1963),  
Oil on Canvas, NU595.

**Artillery Study**, 1914  
Fortunino Matania (1881-1963),  
Watercolor on Board, 2014.51.



# NEW ACQUISITIONS



(Above)  
3D-Printed sculpture of Abraham Lincoln, based on the life mask by Clark Mills (1810-1883) Created in cooperation with Norwich University Mechanical Engineering and the Smithsonian Institute

Cord, Patches, 1960 Norwich Banner  
Estate of Doug Auer '60

Class of 2005 rings, collar tabs, and presentation case  
Gift of Gregory R. Wortman '05

Field Telephone  
Transfer from National Electronics Museum

Framed Scout Camporee Patches (18 in total)  
Gift of John Larney and Erin K. Themig '00

Uniform Patch "13-6"  
Gift of Austin L. Scatena '17

Mountain Cold Weather Rescue and Climbing Objects  
Gift from Norwich University Mountain & Cold Weather Company

Norwich University Ephemera  
Gift of Robert V. Guptill '68

Presentation Jefferson Cups and Framed Poster  
Gift of GEN Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.) '59 & H'91

The American Legion Monthly, November 1929,  
cover features painting 'Armistice' in collection  
known as The Valedictorian, Museum Purchase.

Presentation box of Medals and Ephemera from Ira L. Reeves, Former Norwich University President,  
Gift of Margye Solomon

Norwich University Uniform and Presentation Gifts  
Gift of Maj Donald A. Aspden, USAF '88

Artillery Study by Fortunino Matania (The Museum has the actual painting in the collection.)

Museum Purchase (See Story)

Civil War-era French Model (Light Cavalry) 1822 Saber, made by Châtellerauld in 1860.

Gift of John E. O'Neil '63

Class of 1963 Reunion Baseball Cap

Gift of Leonard N. Palmer '63

Russian Army Desert Uniform

Gift of Richard E. Schmidt '62

Ephemera collected while a Cadet

Gift of David J. Whaley '76

Comic Battle Chess Set

Museum Purchase

Aftermath of War Chess Set

Museum Purchase

1963 Class Ring

Gift of Joseph M. Machnowski '63

Personal Ephemera of William D. Munson, Class of 1854,  
in 13th Vermont Regiment during Civil War.

Museum Purchase

Norwich University Uniform Buttons

Gift of Lori Sylvia

Powder Box, Bracelet, Pin, Spur

Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Ring '57

"Keep Calm and Stand By" T-Shirt

Gift of Agustin Borjas, Jr. '13

Cavalry Saddle, likely used by Maurice L. Bugbee '29

Gift of Sandra Cutler

(Below)

World War II and Norwich University Ephemera

Gift of William L. Frattini '74 in Memory of Louis Frattini '45



# Sullivan Museum Associate Membership

## October 1, 2014- May 31, 2015

A financial gift to the Museum Associates helps make the museum outstanding, in many different ways. A gift to the Associates will support the programs and initiatives described in our annual operating budget. In FY14, for example, if the members approve the proposed budget, a gift will help support the Lunch N' Learn Series, inventory for our "gift shop" and "book store", annual meeting expenses including our guest speaker, the Rotunda newsletter, our student service prize, Honorary Memberships for NU graduates, outreach programs and special projects like Sabine Sally and other smaller activities. If you would like to support these activities with a gift, please so note on the memo line of your check "Museum Associates". This will eliminate any confusion about where the gift is to be directed. The generous support shown to the Associates thus far has allowed our fledgling organization to make an important contribution to our very dynamic museum.

A financial gift to the Sullivan Museum and History Center is always gratefully received by the University. An "unrestricted" monetary gift to the museum will be available to the staff to support any initiative or need that is not or cannot be funded through the museum operating budget. If the gift is not used in the year it is received it is carried forward into the next fiscal year, and so on, until it is utilized. Gifts provide a margin of excellence and help

We thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Join Me Up at the Following Level:

\$ 5.00 Student       \$100.00 Smithsonian Level\* (benefits received -Smithsonian Magazine, Reciprocal memberships with Affiliates program)

\$ 25.00 Regular       \$500.00 Sponsor       \$1000.00 Founder

\$100.00 Patron       I wish to give an additional gift amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To show appreciation to our members we list names in the Museum Associates Newsletter,  
Please check if you wish to remain anonymous

Check enclosed       MasterCard       Visa

Please bill my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_      CCV \_\_\_\_\_ (this is the 3-digit code found on the reverse of your card)

Signature Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a credit card receipt mailed to you?       Yes       No

Please return this form along with your payment made payable to 'Sullivan Museum & History Center' and mail to:  
Norwich University Development and Alumni Relations  
158 Harmon Drive, Northfield, VT 05663



Sullivan Museum and History Center

# Donors & Members

January 1, 2014 – May 31, 2014



Bert & Donna Alexander P'92  
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Briggs '68  
Col & Mrs. John M. Bukowski, USAF (Ret.) '85  
Dr. Robert W. Christie '44 & H'72  
Harold Colvocoresses  
Ed & Ingrid Crosbie '73  
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H'75 & H'93  
COL & Mrs. Paul V. Valvo, USA (Ret.) '60  
Martin '55 & Miriam '56 Wasserman  
Michael Williams '91

## SULLIVAN MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

### Museum Associates Executive Committee 2013-2014

**Patricia Leavenworth**  
*President*

**Robert Guptill**  
*Vice President*

**Nancy Braman**  
*Secretary*

**Lauren Wobby**  
*Treasurer*

**Carol Todd**  
*Member at Large*

### MUSEUM STAFF

**Sarah E. Henrich**  
*Director*

**John Hart**  
*Registrar*

**Katherine Taylor-McBroom**  
*Exhibits Associate*



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**PAID**

Permit No. 4  
Northfield, VT

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



### *1865: Out of the Ashes: Assassination, Reconstruction and Healing the Union*

Join us for the final exhibition in the series of five commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. This exhibition will focus on the aftermath of President Lincoln's assassination, the rehabilitation and restoration of the South and efforts toward moving the country into a unified whole.

January 19, 2015-December 18, 2015

### **Sullivan Museum and History Center Mission Statement**

The Sullivan Museum and History Center seeks to be a lively, compelling and anchoring presence in our community; to serve as a dynamic resource, to improve cultural and educational opportunities for the Norwich community; to enhance our reputation as a unique institution of higher education; to promote Norwich and the Norwich experience; and to demonstrate who we are in the present through interaction with our past, our community, our beliefs, and the vision we hold for the future.