

Collections Report: July 2018

Read out temperature and relative humidity data loggers. Performed research on best practices, particularly for the historic structures not containing temperature and humidity control. Humidity levels were high in some storage locations. Research with the help of Matt, as to what regulations we can affect with our current system is ongoing. There is the possibility that additional dehumidifiers/humidifiers need to be purchased to better regulate environmental factors.

Data accumulation continues to be performed on deaccessioned items found in the deaccession notebook.

Contacted the Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum to request information on a compass on loan to us (placed within the pilot house of the Katherine V during the summer months). A loan agreement could not be located and the Maritime Museum director indicated that he didn't know if there was one. It was agreed that I would generate a new loan agreement and mail it to him. Photographs and an accurate description, including measurements all were generated for the loan agreement.

Matt and I hand-carried a return of eight pieces of art from the APlex. Condition reports completed on the eight items. During this time accurate titles for three of the items were found through research. Data entry is being performed to input the information into PastPerfect

Attended the exhibition opening and open house for the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway.

Introduced to community leaders and constituents at the Independence Day parade and events.

Insurance questions and research being performed to better understand our current fine arts policy and the limitations therein.

Cataloging and condition reporting the 43 Ted Fines pieces for his upcoming show (42 to be displayed). Finished paperwork and insurance requirements.

Continue to work on documents and forms to bring Besser Museum up to best practice standards as well as limit liability.

Assisted with Collections Use Request application from Rose Marie Guthrie to photograph a recent acquisition for inclusion in a future publication. Currently processing two other Collections Use Requests; one will be executed in August, with the other I need to ascertain a good time for the extensive use of items and resources being requested.

In the process of developing an exhibition that will focus on museum manners as well as collections care and consideration. Aiming for an opening date in January.

Beginning the process of cataloging the taxidermic specimens received from Cranbrook, as well as researching the restrictions and limitations imposed during the acquisition process.

Created a project for volunteers that will assist with researching biographical subjects connected to art and artifacts that we have in our collection. This information takes a lot of time to gather but is an integral part of collection management and use, since the information can assist in future research, physical and virtual exhibitions, and can even affect insurance. This project was developed in three steps, compiling artists names (we are starting with artists, there will be more biographical subjects in the future), creating a list of fields and field descriptions, and the creation of a Sample. Interested volunteers will be sent five names to research, as well as the field descriptions, sample, and a blank template. This will be an ongoing project available for volunteers who might want to work from home and have an interest in researching people.

Photographed and removed background on some collection pieces for possible inclusion on the Collections Donation landing page.