



MOAH UPDATE

February 2020
Number 87

Invention & Technology
1750 - 1950

Cast Your Vote for MOAH!

By Ken Kormanak

With the Presidential elections about a year away, the media is full of candidates vying to get name recognition and your vote. MOAH has a wonderful example of a voting machine that harkens back to the days when it required you to pull down a mechanical lever to cast your vote. Our example is from the 1970s, weighs about 800 lbs., and has about 20,000 moving parts (see illustration 1).

When you wanted to cast your vote, you stepped into the voting booth and pulled a red handle above your head that closed a curtain for privacy. In front of you was a panel containing the names of each candidate or proposition and a lever above it. To cast your vote, you pulled the lever down for each selection. If you changed your mind, you could push the lever back up and select another choice. Once you had made all your selections, you pulled the red lever that opened the curtain and all the levers snapped back into their “up” position. This action caused the machine to record all your votes mechanically (see illustration 2).



Illustration 1

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Illustration 2

See Vote for MOAH, page 8.

From Our President

Jim Wall



Following the Money

In this episode of the President's corner, I want to give you some insight into the expenses of our museum, and let you know a bit more about how any money that you contribute is spent. As you might suspect, a large amount of the museum's funding goes to support the collection itself. This museum was set up to collect and preserve innovative technology and, as such, it is obligated to house and preserve that collection. And, also as no surprise, the second largest part of the museum's expenses is directed towards the museum's paid staff. Even though MOAH operates with a very lean salary budget, supplemented very heavily by our great volunteers, the payroll costs still must be met. But MOAH has quite a few other expenses that are just as important.

A key part of keeping a museum running is providing for general operational costs. These, the usual gas/water/electricity utility requirements, are very important because visitors to the museum expect acceptable temperatures inside, adequate lighting and functioning rest rooms (interestingly enough, so do our museum employees). Other operational costs include providing for liability insurance, fire and intrusion alarm coverage, and internet service. All are necessary for the continued operation of the museum.

There are also costs associated with the public presence of the museum. MOAH is fortunate to have the city-owned Williams House to display its exhibits. The historic, turn-of-the-century house is an attraction itself and not just the setting for our collection of technology. But even though the lease with the city is a beneficial one for the museum, it comes with its own set of costs. The city lease specifies that the museum is responsible for the maintenance and repair of both the house and the grounds. Each year, part of the museum's income (membership fees, annual appeal donations, and grant money) are used in conjunction with the museum's endowments to meet this obligation.

Over the years, the Williams house has required the replacement of the original forced-air heater, replacement or repair of rotted structural wood, window replacement, and multiple instances of clean-up after storm damage. Within the past year, the museum refinished and sealed the downstairs wooden floor. It was also necessary to paint the exterior wood surfaces of the Williams house, the Learning Center, and the Garage. These expenditures were required to meet our lease obligations and provide for an attractive visitor experience.

See From Our President, Page 9.

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Frank Livermore 1919-2000

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MOAH Update is published biannually with the intent to inform, amuse and enthuse friends of the museum.

Editor: Judith Lautmann

Printing: Prestige Printing

From Our Executive Director

Allison Wong



Celebrating 30 Years of MOAH

Time flies when you're having fun! This year, MOAH celebrates its 30th birthday. Reaching this milestone would not have been possible without our dedicat-

ed volunteers, staff members, the generosity of our donors and meaningful partnerships we have built over the years.

This year we are celebrating by honoring Frank Livermore, our founder and benefactor, and our mighty team of MOAH volunteers who built this organization from the ground up.

We are very grateful and fortunate to have some of the original volunteers of our museum still volunteering today. Each volunteer holds a special piece of history in our museum, and we would like to share their stories throughout the year.

MOAH will have a special exhibition featuring artifacts from Frank Livermore's collection. On display will be a selection of artifacts that were featured in the early MOAH exhibits. We will also feature the first artifact that Frank purchased, a Standard vacuum sweeper, which started his love of collecting electrical and mechanical artifacts.

On behalf of MOAH, I thank you for all of your support throughout the years. MOAH is what it is today because of you.

Can You Identify this Artifact?

This particular artifact is labeled "CE POTTER SAPULPA OKLA" and it received a patent in 1945.

What do you think it is? Give up? See Page 11 for the answer.



Volunteer Opportunities for 2020

MOAH is on the lookout for curious and active adult volunteers. We have a variety of jobs that can provide you with some fun and rewarding volunteer experiences while you meet and work with interesting people. There is also the possibility of task-based volunteering, allowing you to help us on your own schedule. For more information about volunteering at MOAH, please contact us at 650-321-1004 or admin@moah.org.

Gallery Assistants

Are you looking for a weekend volunteer project that requires only an occasional 2.5 to 4 hour commitment? Would you like to be part of MOAH's exciting exhibits and share your knowledge? We are looking for Gallery Assistants to take occasional shifts on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays either from 11:00AM to 1:30PM or from 1:30PM to 4:00PM. This is one area in which MOAH can really use your help!

Garden Volunteers

How about participating in the restoration and maintenance of a historic garden, while getting some fresh air and exercise and meeting some interesting people? MOAH's Garden Team is looking for additional personnel to help with both heavy and light garden duties. No experience is needed.

Education Instructors and Assistants

Have you ever thought about sharing your knowledge and talents with young people? MOAH offers weekend classes to youth aged 9+ in science and technology. We are always on the lookout for both instructors and assistants.

Exhibits Team Members

Do you love to work with others on creating educational and entertaining displays and exhibits? Do you have a passion for history? How about being a part of MOAH's Exhibits Team? We mount several exhibits each year and are looking for team members to assist with all aspects of research, development, and installation.

Publicity and Public Relations Team Members

Are you interested in communications and public relations? Do you wish more people knew about all of MOAH's great services? How about working with our Publicity Team to get the word out to our community?

Special Events Volunteers

Do you love to get involved with special events, fund-raisers, and parties? Do you like the excitement of working with a team to plan and execute themed functions? How about being a Special Events Volunteer for MOAH?

Current Main Gallery Exhibit

Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines!

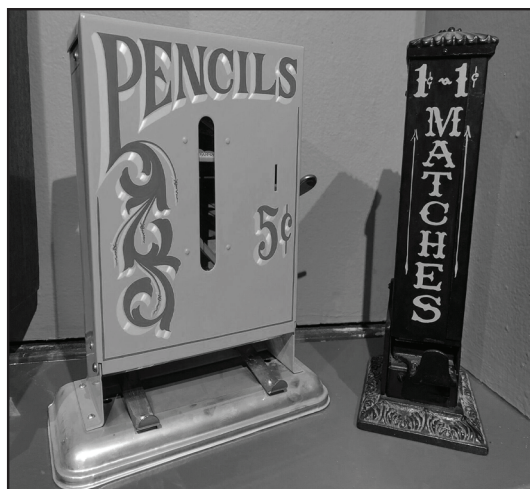
Now through February 16, 2020

Don't miss our current exhibition, *Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines!* The exhibition's last day is February 16, 2020.

Travel back in time to the period from the early 1900s to the 1950s when pennies, nickels and dimes were dropped into slots across the nation. Coin-operated machines were widely used in places of business such as general stores, toy stores, parlors, restaurants, bars, casinos and gas stations. See how businesses across America operated before the era of the credit card.



Vintage cash registers, vending machines, mechanical banks, a pinball machine, a mutoscope, gambling devices, slot machines and more will be on display.



Notable artifacts include a D. Gottlieb & Co. pinball machine (we welcome you to play a game or two!) and a Coca Cola vending machine.

MOAH Welcomes Its New, Returning and Upgrading Members!

New Members

Individual

Keith Brodie
Masoud Charkhabi
Lie-Yea Cheng
Carrie Gordon
Ken Guzik
John Ison
Judy Johnson
Nancy Schonher
Blair Whitney

New Members, cont'd.

Family

Bradley Fick
William Overton
Harris Romanoff
Robert Seehorn
William Wu
Joan Yeager
Sustaining
Kaaren Antoun

Returning Members

Sustaining
Bernard Ross

Upgrading Members

Family

Graceann Johnson
Margot Pratt
Sustaining
Char Bucholtz
Kevin Coleman
Valerie Fick
James and Margaret McClenahan
Sponsoring
Charlie Gillis
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Howard Crittenden
Len Ely

At the Lectern

October 24, 2019, marked the fourth time **Steven Wayne Yvaska** has shared his knowledge and humor with a MOAH audience. Steve's column, "The Seasoned Collector," appears regularly in The Mercury News.

A collector from the age of nine, Steve earned a Bachelor's degree at Syracuse University and went on to receive a Master of Science degree in Environmental Arts, with a thesis on Egyptian motifs in 19th and 20th century silver patterns.

As with his previous two MOAH visits, Steve's recent talk, "A Night of Favorites," took the form of an antique evaluation session. In advance of the evening, attendees were encouraged to bring treasured objects for Steve to talk about.

Among the items assessed were: a silver bowl, in the rococo style, possibly from the 18th century; a pair of silver candlesticks bearing a coat of arms that the owner believes may be Disraeli's; a carriage clock with beautiful chased work, made in New York; an Emile Galle vase; an art deco lamp base; a Community silver-plate service for eight; WWII-era carved wood pipes; a copper urn in minaret form; a small dish bearing the figure of a Victorian girl; a child's tricycle made of wood and metal; a silver-plate dish; a tiny Asian mask; a padlock, purportedly from the Civil War era; a WWI-era U.S. army lock with two keys; a glass cup from the 1903 Chicago Expo; a shaving mug with brush; a Kodak camera and case dating from WWI; a plate commemorating Queen Elizabeth's coronation; a Westinghouse radio from 1948; a gold-plated bracelet; a coin counter from the late 1940s.

Throughout the evening, Steve shared his thoughts on the world of antiques in today's environment. In essence, young people today "don't want our old stuff." For example, if a dish can't be put in a microwave oven or washed in a dishwasher, millennials just aren't interested in owning it.



MOAH Hosts Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Chapter



Honoring its ongoing commitment to forge partnerships in the community, MOAH recently hosted a lecture for the California Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

With forty years of canoeing experience, speaker Mark Jordan, lectures regularly on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, aiming to, "bring the men of the Corps of Discovery to life as they paddle down the Columbia, facing all the difficulties of river travel, and then meet the local tribes who were able to build incredible canoes." The title of Mark's talk at MOAH's Livermore Learning Center was The Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Canoes of the Native Tribes of the Northwest Coast.

Established in 1969, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is a non-profit organization that aims to "preserve, promote and teach the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark for the benefit of all people." The California Chapter of the organization was founded in 1995 and is headquartered on Emerson Street in Palo Alto.

The Changing Landscape of the Historic Williams Property

By Betsy G. Fryberger

More than a hundred years ago, when Dr. Thomas Williams and his wife Dora purchased this property—half of a city block running along Waverley between Homer and Forest—it was an open expanse with occasional California oak trees punctuating fields of hay. Today the plantings surrounding the original building, which served as both residence and medical office and now houses MOAH, are vestiges of earlier times: the century-old trees include a ginkgo, two English yews, and a trio of coastal redwoods that greet visitors as they approach, as does the remains of an old wire fence along the driveway.

Dr. Thomas Williams and his wife Dora studied at the young Stanford University and graduated in 1897. Both were born on the East Coast, one in Vermont, the other in West Virginia. Independent and adventurous, before they built their house here, they purchased land and built a cabin up along Skyline. Their two daughters were born shortly after the Palo Alto house was built (see *illustration 1*).

A little research brings some surprising finds. One old document shows an oak tree in front of their house near the fountain, now long gone. A second, later document indicates Eucalyptus and bamboo were planted along the back perimeter to protect their privacy in the years after they sold off the portion of their plot on Forest (where a tall apartment building was erected in the 1920s). Fortunately, these large and invasive plantings were removed in the 1990s after the younger daughter left the property to the city.

A fourth redwood, now standing near the driveway, was planted some fifty years later than the earlier trio and once stood with a companion. The survivor appears almost as large as its older relatives, probably because it received more water. A small pool next to the driveway is now marked with stones around its perimeter. We know that the pool was filled in with soil during the 1950s when the city's population rapidly increased, probably because of worries that someone might fall in. By that time, both parents had died, and the two daughters were spending much of their time on the ranch near Skyline.

The simple garden of the Williams family has endured several cycles of growth and decline. In one of the few old photographs, we see a laundry line (see *illustration 2*) where now the Frank Livermore Learning Center stands. A stone wall and swing dating to the early 1930s (see *illustration 3*), testify to the family's recent travels in Europe. Photographs from that time show the garden's flower plantings and stone-lined paths (see *illustration 4*). Bearded irises were among Dora's favorite flowers. Popular and much written about in the 1930s, several new cultivars were hybridized in the Bay Area. Elizabeth Gamble shared this admiration for bearded irises. Among the descendants of the Williams' plantings are a white tall bearded iris 'Purissima' (see *illustration 5*) and a smaller medium purple bearded iris (once called 'Eleanor Roosevelt' but probably is 'Crimson King') that blooms during the winter. On a recent visit to Filoli's garden shop, I noticed packages of both rhizomes for sale.

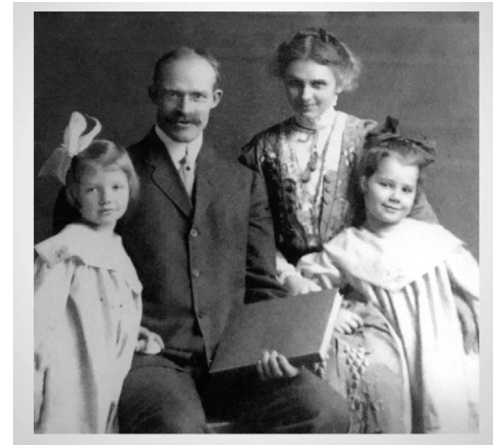


Illustration 1



Illustration 2



Illustration 3

See *Changing Landscape* on facing page.

Changing Landscape, continued from previous page.

An endowment fund was created in the 1990s naming the garden after Ruth Bell Lane. Over the years, the Garden Club of Palo Alto has supported a number of annual grants that have made possible many needed improvements, including: new irrigation systems; the pruning, removal, and renovation of overgrown areas; and the relocation of shrubs that have grown too large. Beginning in 2016, members of the Garden Club of Palo Alto have made annual summer plantings of vegetable varieties, recreating kitchen gardens appropriate to the World War II era (see *illustration 6*). This past year, its most ambitious harvest weighed more than 500 lbs. and was donated to a local food bank. Winter vegetables have been planted for the first time this year.

The Board of MOAH raised funds to replant most of the original hedge of *Pittosporum eugenoides*, but one stretch of the hundred-year old hedge was left along the inside of the driveway. This year the Board funded the newly planted grass area in front of the house. In addition to the Garden Club volunteers who focus on the kitchen garden, a small group of volunteers, to which I also belong, come weekly to water, weed, fertilize, transplant, and otherwise care for the garden. We welcome anyone who would be interested to contact us.

On April 9 please join me for a talk with Richard Hayden, Garden Director of the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, about historic gardens and their evolving role in today's world. Hope to see you then.



Illustration 4



Illustration 5



Illustration 6

About the Author



Betsy G. Fryberger grew up in Chicago near Lincoln Park and as a child spent time exploring its gardens, Glass House Conservatory, and zoo. At college she majored in History of Art and was a summer intern in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1958, she married David Fryberger. After doing graduate work at Harvard, they settled in Chicago where David received his PhD in physics from the University of Chicago and Betsy worked as an assistant curator in the Print and Drawing Department of the Art Institute. They moved to Palo Alto in 1967. David joined the staff of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and Betsy worked in San Francisco for R. E. Lewis, a dealer who specialized in Old Master Prints, Indian Miniatures, and Japanese prints. In 1970 she joined the very small staff of the Stanford University Museum of Art and remained there for forty years (including twenty after the earthquake when its name was changed to the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts). As curator of prints and drawings, she organized many temporary exhibitions and helped grow the permanent collection from some 500 works on paper to close to 5000. One of her favorite projects was a 2003 exhibition and catalogue *The Changing Garden: Four Centuries of European and American Art*. She became active in the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, serving on the education committee and remains involved as a docent. For the past five years she has volunteered at MOAH, with other members of the Garden Club of Palo Alto, creating a World War II Victory Garden. In addition, she helps with replanting and care of other areas, including the historic iris beds.

Vote for MOAH, continued from front cover.

If you were uncertain as to how to operate the machine, instructions were provided for you on the front panel (see *illustration 3*).

For those using the machine for the first time, there was a model outside the booth at the polling place to use and get accustomed to before stepping into the real booth (see *illustration 4*).

The history of the voting machine tells us that they were first created in 1892 by Jacob Meyers in Rochester, New York. They were lauded as a great triumph of the age, as they reduced the problems of the paper ballot, namely fraud. For example, during the heyday of corruption in New York City, members of the Tammany Hall political machine would pay off voters to vote for their candidates. Additionally, for the majority of illiterate immigrant voters, a Tammany Hall representative would accompany the voter to the polling place and “assist” him to mark the paper ballot on which candidates he was voting for.

It was believed that having a voting machine that allowed each voter to vote in secret, behind a screen, enabled the voter to vote his or her choice, even if they had been paid to vote for a specific candidate. With the choices arranged in columns (for parties) and rows (for candidates), even an illiterate person could be shown how to vote for a “straight ticket” by studying the sample outside the booth. The voter could also be shown where a particular candidate was located from a different party if he wanted to vote a “split ticket” (see *illustration 5*).

By the 1930s most large urban centers adopted them as the main way of voting. These machines were efficient at mechanically tallying each voter’s choices accurately and securely. However, if a mechanical failure occurred with a machine before the votes were recorded from it, they were all lost. They were also expensive, costing the equivalent of \$11,600 in today’s dollars. They were ultimately replaced by the punch-card method, which had its own set of problems (remember “hanging chads?”).

Since 2010, no mechanical lever voting machines have been used in U.S. elections. Their last production ended in 1982. And where did these mechanical behemoths wind up when they were no longer needed in service? Many were taken out to sea and sunk to create artificial reefs to protect America’s coastlines. Others went to museums or private collectors. You can still find them available on eBay for around \$700 - \$1000 (shipping not included).

Growing up in Chicago, voting on these machines was my first exposure to the exercise of my right of suffrage. Of course, in Chicago we had the favorite expression, “Vote Early and Vote Often,” but that’s a story for another time.

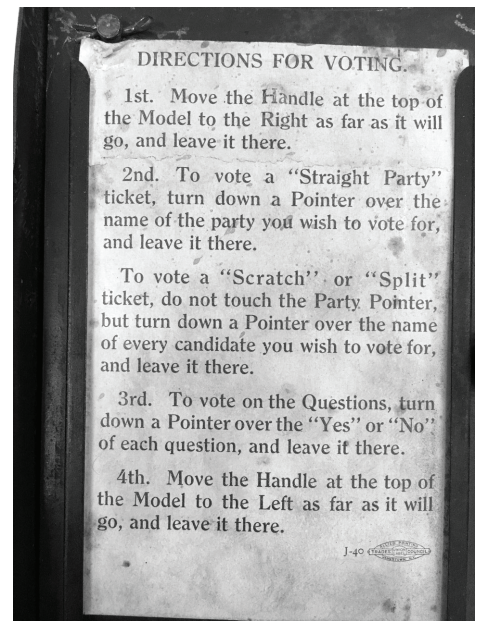


Illustration 3



Illustration 4



Illustration 5

Thank You, Nancy!

After four years of service to MOAH, Nancy Schonher, our Gallery Supervisor, retired at the end of 2019.

Nancy will be missed by the museum's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers as well as the many visitors who have come through our doors, greeted by her friendly smile and her passion for telling the MOAH story and history of the Williams' home and gardens.

The Museum of American Heritage sincerely thanks Nancy for her service and wishes Nancy all the best in her retirement!



From Our President, continued from Page 2.

The grounds of the Williams house are meticulously maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers, for which the museum is extremely appreciative and grateful. The appearance of the gardens and paths is an important part of any visitor's experience. The costs for planting, soil preparation, tree pruning, and (most significantly) water are covered by grants from the Palo Alto Garden Club, withdrawals from the museum-controlled Ruth Bell Lane Garden Endowment, and the museum's general operating funds. The beautiful results of these expenses are readily apparent to all our visitors!

Similar to the expenses for the Williams house, the museum has its warehouse to operate and maintain. Utilities, insurance, fire protection, and building maintenance are all necessary. Additionally, as the collection grows, additional expenses for shelving and other storage expenses are incurred. As the museum does not anticipate ever moving to a new storage facility, it is important to use this one efficiently for storage, display and access to its collection.

There are also expenses that are incurred as time passes and equipment ages. The museum's computers provide a good example of this. As the museum computers age, and their older software becomes unsupported, upgrades to both the computer platforms and their associated software packages are required. Even in the recent past, this would just have been the initial purchase price, and the reloading of already purchased application software. But the software industry currently uses a fee-based approach, and this adds the expense of monthly or yearly subscriptions for critical museum software. A portion of our yearly expenses is reserved for the replacement or repair of capital assets, which include everything from printers to forklifts.

MOAH receives some of its yearly income from visitors through voluntary donations, scheduled tours, and educational programs. But the vast majority of its funding comes from you, the friends of the museum. Membership fees and contributions at the end-of-year annual appeal provide the vast majority of the museum's operating funds. We have always been very conservative in the spending of this money. To date, we have been successful in keeping all of the museum's expenses in balance with our yearly income. However, each year our expenses increase due to inflation, so we are always searching for new members and organizations to step in and contribute alongside our current donors.

I hope that this has provided a quick look at all of the things our museum needs to spend money on. If you have any questions or suggestions, I would encourage you to reach out to me to discuss them. On behalf of the museum, I thank you for all of your continued support.

MOAH thanks ...

the following for their contributions over the past six months*:

AmazonSmile * Wes Anderson * Benevity * Beth Bunnenberg * Herbert Fischgrund * Charlie & Roberta Gillis
* Bob & Arlene Katzive * Alice Loughry * Palo Alto Lions Charities * Repair Café * James & Runore Smith

the following for their contributions to MOAH's exhibit *Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines*:

Art Adams * Beth Bunnenberg * Chris Carter * Dick Clark * Mike Forster * Patrick Liu * Charlie Gillis * Hasset Hardware * History San José * Bob Katzive * Nick Kiya * Ken Kormanak * Joe Welch American Antique Museum * Judith Lautmann * Wayland Lee * Bev & Jim Nelson * Michelle Overton * Nancy Schonher * Chris Smith * Dan Todd * Eileen & Jim Wall * Allison Wong

the Garden Club of Palo Alto and our MOAH garden volunteers who take wonderful care of MOAH's grounds and gardens:

Robin Allen * Connie Cavanaugh * Elaine El-Bizri * Betsy Fryberger * Kirsten Gildersleeve * Sarah Hurlbut * Kirsten Glidersleeve * Indraneel Gireendra Kasmalkar * Qing Xiao Keller * Mary Jo Levy * Nan Knoblauch * Sue Krumbein * Delia Laitin * Kathy Luchini * Carol Malcolm * Edith Miller * Herb Perry * Kevin Quinn * Winnie Siegel * Indy Ting * Cathy Wachtel

the remarkably talented and gracious musical artists who participated in our 2019 concert series:

The Peralta Consort * Rive Gauche / Left Bank Trio * Yuri Liberzon

MOAH Sponsors

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The MOAH Legacy Society

John Davis * Charlie Gillis * Trevor & Lori Heathorn * Jim & Bev Nelson *

Jim & Eileen Wall

* Donations received as of October 29, 2019

In Memoriam

Roger D. Brousal



Roger Brousal, who passed away on March 2, 2019, at the age of 94, had an illustrious career in the field of conservation. Having served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations, Monuments Branch, Roger went on to become Museum Conservator at the De Young Museum in San Francisco and subsequently Chief Conservator at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. In 1975, he became founder and codirector of the Museum Studies Program at Lone Mountain College.

Roger was a member of both the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) and the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and was founder of the Bay Area Art Conservation Guild.

Roger was introduced to MOAH by fellow member of the Elks Ralph Iglar, who served on MOAH's Board of Directors. He brought to MOAH his extensive knowledge and expertise in the areas of museum operations and the treatment of artifacts. He collaborated with Bob Beck in establishing MOAH's artifact accession procedures and was elected first to MOAH's Board of Directors and later to its Community Advisory Board. He also served on the Frank Livermore Trust's Board of Directors.

Answer to "Can You Identify this Artifact?" on Page 3

Turn this page upside down to read the answer below.

It is a heavy-duty nutcracker for pecans and English walnuts.



How to Join and Get MOAH for your Money!



Museum members receive this newsletter; attend lectures free of charge; receive a discount on workshops and special events; and are invited to special members-only receptions for each exhibit.

- Livermore Collector.....\$ 2,500
- Patron\$ 1,000
- Sponsoring\$ 500
- Supporting\$ 250
- Sustaining.....\$ 100
- Family\$ 50
- Individual Adult.....\$ 35

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Website: www.moah.org
E-mail: mail@moah.org
Located at 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto,
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Hours: Friday through Sunday, 11 am–4 pm
Admission: Free
Donations welcomed
Group tours available by appointment

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MOAH EXHIBITS, EVENTS, CLASSES

Exhibits: Friday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Group tours available at minimal fee)

Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines

In the Main Gallery, now through February 16, 2020

Special Selection of the Baer Collection

In the museum's back rooms

A Century of Mechanical Toys

In the Ehrlich Gallery

Permanent Exhibits: Kitchen; General Store; Dr. Williams' Office; Gardens; Print Shop;
Marshall Mathews Garage; Ely Family Children's Room

Events:

Lecture: *The Typewriter: An Innovation in Writing*, presented by Daniel Calderon, SFO Museum

Thursday, February 6, 2020, 7:00 PM, in the Frank Livermore Learning Center

Lecture: *Two Historic Gardens: Past and Present*, presented by Betsy Fryberger and Richard Hayden

Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7:00 PM, in the Frank Livermore Learning Center

Repair Café

Sunday, May 3, 2020, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM, on MOAH grounds

Lecture: *Cringeworthy and Bizarre Artifacts*, presented by Jim Wall

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 7:00 PM, in the Frank Livermore Learning Center

Summer Concert Series: *The Peralta Consort*

Thursday, June 4, 2020, 7:00 PM, in the Frank Livermore Learning Center

For additional events and our latest class schedule, please go to www.moah.org/calendar.