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FAKES & FORGERIES SIDE-BY-SIDE IN NEW EXHIBIT

OPENS SAT **DEC 18** | 10-4:30 | **MUSEUM COMMUNITY DAY**

Can *you* tell the true artifact from the fake? The Galt Museum & Archives invites visitors to test their skills in *Fakes & Forgeries: Yesterday and Today*, an interactive travelling exhibit produced by the Royal Ontario Museum opening Saturday, December 18, 2010 as part of the Museum Community Day from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is free all day with special activities planned.

Fakes & Forgeries presents 115 authentic items next to counterfeit products that run the gamut from historical specimens and cultural artifacts, to household items and designer name brands.

"Fakes and forgeries are everywhere in our world, but this is nothing new," says Wendy Aitkens, Curator at the Galt. "Counterfeit money has been around since the use of currency began some 2500 years ago. Forged art, archaeological specimens, fossils and other collectibles have been sold on the black market for generations. Many reproductions were made hundreds of years ago as legitimate souvenirs or modest replicas for the local market. As they resurface today they are often sold as the real goods. More recently, pirated software, music, movies and knock offs of more expensive clothing, accessories, automotive parts and technical equipment have been sold to and used by many of us."

Visitors of all ages will learn how to tell authentic pieces from sly forgeries and discover the fascinating lengths forgers will take to hoodwink the unwary. The exhibit provides information to help visitors identify and avoid misrepresentative articles, including pirated computer software and counterfeit currency.

Programs reflecting the theme will be offered throughout the run of the exhibit, including weekly family activities during **Saturdays at 1:00**, presentations on the first and third Wednesday monthly as part of **Wednesdays at the Galt** for senior, **The Curator Presents...** in January and a special guest speaker for **Café Galt** in February.

Fakes & Forgeries is a travelling exhibit produced by the Royal Ontario Museum, and made possible in part by a grant from the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

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Exhibit website: www.galtmuseum.com/exhibits-fakes.htm

EXHIBIT BACKGROUNDER



Fakes and Forgeries: Yesterday and Today

Sat DEC 18 2010 to Sun APR 10, 2011

The 1,500-square-foot exhibition features 11 cases, each devoted to a different category of artifacts and their corresponding forgeries. Every display provides hints on how to tell the real from the fraudulent and provides the visitor with a chance to guess an authentic artifact or specimen from an almost identical forgery. Seven cases feature items from the ROM's collection, spanning the Museum's dual mandate of Natural History and World Cultures. Two cases display modern knock-offs ranging from black market DVDs to designer brand clothing and accessories. Microsoft Canada contributes a case on counterfeit computer software and the Bank of Canada provides a display on the history of counterfeiting currency in Canada and an array of counterfeit bank notes.



HISTORICAL FORGERIES

Fakes & Forgeries illustrates how the forging of art and collectables has plagued the world for centuries whenever collector demand has outstripped supply of a genuine article.

The display entitled **Egyptian Antiquities** looks at popular culture's transfixion with ancient Egypt and how a variety of unscrupulous counterfeiters have capitalized on that fame by flooding the marketing with a variety of fake Egyptian artifacts, such as statues, reliefs and figurines. An example is provided of

two similar fragments of reliefs, one authentic and one fake, of the type that once decorated walls and columns in ancient Egypt. The crude and contrived representation of the imposter's facial features, along with several other inaccuracies, such as an improperly illustrated crown of Upper Egypt, stand in stark contrast with the genuine artifact. The genuine relief, dating between 2040 and 1963 BC, displays crisp assured carving and clean draughtsmanship that results in an organic cohesiveness of the face.

The **Improving on Nature** case demonstrates how alteration of minerals can run the gamut from enhancing a genuine specimen to fooling investors into sinking millions of dollars into a worthless mining claim. Visitors are educated on how to distinguish between a real gold nugget and a fake: a copper nugget covered in a thin gold plating. The secret to differentiating between them is weight. The density of pure gold is 19.3 gram/cm³, while the density of copper is 8.9 gram/cm³. Therefore a nugget of gold should weigh more than twice as much as the same size piece of copper.

Mystery in Mexico examines the fascinating Zapotec civilization and how, in the early 1900s, a large-scale wave of hundreds of pre-Columbian pottery came onto the market. The forgeries were crafted using ancient techniques and were so convincing that they ended up in the collections of major museums around the world, including the ROM. Presented are four urns, two of which are genuine (created between 200-500 AD), while two are clever fakes (likely made between 1907 and 1915). In order to distinguish the genuine artifacts, the urns were tested with a process called "thermoluminescence", which measures when an object was fired in a kiln. Another way to identify the fakes from the real is to look for inconsistencies in design motifs used. Forgers will often copy various elements, such as feathers, tunics, pedestals, etc., from authentic artifacts, but combine them in a way that doesn't make artistic sense.

Fine glassware, ceramics and porcelain are examined in **Setting a Fine Table**. The display includes an examination of an authentic Chinese-made hand-painted porcelain plate from the late 18th century versus an English factory-produced imitation from 50 years later.

In **Chinese Mysteries**, real and fake artifacts, such as mirrors, spearheads and belt hooks are scrutinized. This section also illustrates the difference between recently-made objects paying respectful homage to the past versus fraudulent pieces made with the intent to deceive.

Women from Ancient Greece examines ancient Greek terracotta statuettes known as "Tanagra" figurines. The figurines usually depict fashionable women standing in relaxed poses and are named after the ancient Greek town of Tanagra, which flourished from about 330 to 200 BC. The people of that region often buried their dead with such terracotta figurines. For millennia these graves remained undisturbed until, in 1871, local villagers began finding the tombs and looting them of their valuable contents. Within a few years almost 10,000 graves were plundered, flooding the antiquities market with thousands of genuine Tanagra figurines. The artifacts proved so popular to collectors that by 1876 outright forgeries were being mass-produced, swamping art markets with counterfeit statuettes. *Fakes & Forgeries* presents a number of such real and fake artifacts. The authentic figurines were cast using a two-piece mould with a separate base. The women depicted wear their hair in a style known as a "melon" coiffure, where hair is divided into wide, deep waves or ribs from ear to ear, and fastened at the back of the head in a knot or bun. The figurines' clothing would also appear natural with realistic-looking folds. The Victorian-era forgeries, while somewhat convincing upon first glance, lack the hallmarks of proper technique and delicacy of detail.

Fossils: Buyer Beware delves into how the remains of once-living organisms can either be tampered with to increase their value or even entirely faked by dishonest dealers. Fossils of trilobites, 550 to 250 million-year-old undersea creatures distantly related to lobsters, are particularly susceptible to forgery due to their high appeal to collectors. While Morocco is known for its superbly preserved trilobite fossils, the country also has a thriving cottage industry that takes less-than-perfect fossils and enhances them to appear more attractive to unsuspecting buyers. *Fakes & Forgeries* displays Moroccan specimens of the trilobite species *Acadoparadoxides briareus* that range from completely uncorrupted to severely manipulated. To tell them apart, it is known that the genuine article features 18 thoracic segments and is bilaterally symmetrical. One forgery showed 13 spines on one side and 15 on the other, making the creature suspiciously lopsided. These forgeries are dangerous to researchers as the process of fraudulently enhancing a specimen can actually destroy the authentic portion's scientific value.

MODERN FAKES

The display entitled **Counterfeits Equal Theft** explores trademark infringement and warns of the dangers of unwittingly buying knock-off brands. Counterfeiting consumer goods is the world's fastest growing crime wave, robbing billions of dollars and thousands of jobs from legitimate companies and retail stores. It also reduces government tax revenue and contributes to the growth of organized crime. In Canada, the cost of counterfeiting and piracy in lost tax revenue, investment and innovation is estimated to be in the billions annually. Ultimately, the consumer also suffers as the counterfeit goods are often of substandard quality materials and workmanship. Displayed are a variety of knock-off goods bearing the registered intellectual properties of the brand owners indicated including a bogus Chanel bag, a fake Nike running shoe and counterfeit True Religion jeans. One item, a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey, is so convincingly faked that even the CCM tags and logo have been copied.

Every household item in the case labeled **Really Good Deal?** is counterfeit. The products, ranging from black market DVDs, toothpaste, electrical cords and even hockey equipment, are often of poor quality and can cause injury or, in extreme cases, death. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and CSA Group offer the following advice for educating consumers:

- Be suspicious of an item with an unrealistically low price
- Always buy brand-name items from reputable, well-known retailers with clearly stated return or exchange policies
- Exercise caution when making a purchase online

Computer Software Piracy and Counterfeiting explores pirated software and alerts consumers to the dangers of counterfeit products. Some of the risks include introducing viruses into the computer or unwittingly providing credit card information to theft rings when purchasing the bogus programs. At the very least, pirated software may be incomplete or defective. At the worst, it can damage computer systems and steal information from the unwary consumer. Displayed are some examples of genuine and pirated computer software including an XBOX 360 game and Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003 software. One easy way to tell whether software is genuine is to check the underside of the disk. A pirated disk will often have a purple surface indicating that it's recordable. Genuine Microsoft products contain a Certificate of Authenticity label affixed to the outside of all product packages. This label contains a number of security features and is difficult to forge. The display also reminds consumers that unauthorized duplication of computer software is illegal.

The **Countering the Counterfeiters** case displays past and present examples of genuine Canadian currency as well as corresponding fakes, sketching a history of the counterfeiting of Canadian bank notes. As advances in printing technology improved, so too did the quality of forgeries and the need to stay one step ahead of imposters. Most fake bank notes are produced and distributed by organized crime to finance other illegal activities. Vigilance is required by all citizens in financial transactions, as once a forged bank note is accepted, there is no recourse. Reimbursement is impossible; it's illegal to pass along the fake note. In order to arm the public, the exhibition details the latest advances in technology, such as ghost images, metallic stripes and two-toned ink, used by the Bank of Canada in modern currency to help everyone distinguish authentic from counterfeit bank notes.



QUOTES

Paul Denis, ROM Assistant Curator in the Department of World Cultures:

“For centuries, forgery of art and collectibles has plagued the world, and with the trend toward steep increases in art prices, the forger’s nefarious trade will certainly continue to grow. Today’s counterfeiters also go far beyond the art market, creating all manner of phony consumer goods: designer clothing, jewellery, electronic equipment, computer software, pharmaceuticals, and even food. *Fakes & Forgeries* details a history of forgery around the world as well as modern scams and provides handy tips to avoid being fooled in the future.”

William Thorsell, ROM Director and CEO:

“The subject of forgeries, counterfeiting and piracy is not only fascinating in a museum context but is also an issue that is very much present in our everyday lives. The ROM is pleased to partner with Microsoft Canada and the Bank of Canada to help arm Canadians across the country with knowledge of frauds past and present.”

Michael Eisen, Chief Legal Officer for Microsoft Canada:

“Microsoft is thrilled to be able to contribute to this exciting and educational exhibit. For as long as art has been created and products have been made and distributed, the underworld of forgery and counterfeiting has existed. Lifting the veil on this black market activity confirms that although times and related technologies have changed, people are still as likely today to let the Trojan Horse through the gate as they were thousands of years ago.”

Gerry Gaetz, Chief of Currency at the Bank of Canada:

“We are proud to collaborate with the Royal Ontario Museum on this new educational exhibit. This exhibit is a wonderful opportunity to show Canadians how important and easy it is to check their bank notes for fakes!”



EXHIBIT RELATED PROGRAMS

MEDIA CONTACT: Leslie Hall,
Community Programs Coordinator
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Museum Community Day

Sat DEC 18 | 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Free admission and activities throughout the day celebrating the new exhibit:

10am-4pm Hey kids! Learn how to tell the difference between a real and a counterfeit bill and how different currencies were used throughout history (coins, cocoa beans, tea brick, furs) and how they would have been counterfeited.

11:00 am Exhibit Grand Opening | Viewing Gallery

PRESENTATIONS:

11:30 am Counterfeit Products with Cst. Blaine Stodolka (40 min) During this session you will discover that Intellectual Property (IP) Crime is a universal term that refers to the theft or unauthorized use of Intellectual Property rights such as copyrights, trademarks and patents. You will also learn other terms which relate to Intellectual Property Crime such as piracy, bootlegging, product counterfeiting and package or logo counterfeiting.

12:30 | 2:00 | 3:00 Identifying Counterfeit Money (30 min) Protect yourself against bank note counterfeiting. A Power point presentation that will demonstrate the security features on Canadian bank notes and the procedures to follow if you've been handed a counterfeit bill. Presentation will end with a question period.

FILM SCREENINGS:

1:00 pm Catch Me If You Can, 2002 (140 min) Frank Abagnale (Leonardo DiCaprio), Jr. worked as a doctor, a lawyer and as a co-pilot for a major airline, all before his 18th birthday. A master of deception, he was also a brilliant forger, whose skill gave him his first real claim to fame: at age of 17, he became the most successful bank robber in the history of the United States. FBI Agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks) has made it his prime mission to capture Frank and bring him to justice, but Frank is always one step ahead of him.

3:00 pm The Sign of Four: Sherlock Holmes' Greatest Case, 1932 (75 min) A young woman turns to Sherlock Holmes for protection when she's menaced by an escaped killer seeking missing treasure. However, when the woman is kidnapped, Holmes and Watson must penetrate the city's criminal underworld to find her.

Wednesdays at the Galt

JAN 05 - APR 06: first & third Wednesdays monthly | 2:00 - 3:00 pm / *admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required | refreshments*

An informative program bringing our exhibits and collections to life for adults 55+. Topics range from hands-on learning to lectures by special guests, behind-the-scenes tours and tutorials, historical anecdotes to contemporary conundrums. Note the change from weekly to bi-weekly.

JAN 05 **Year of the British Home Child Quilts** British Home Children quilt project designer Hazel Perrier shares her journey of discovery about her grandfather's origins as a British Home Child - one of the 100,000 orphaned children brought to Canada between 1869 and 1948.

19 **Photoshop for Total Beginners** Learn Photoshop and other digital photography basics from photographer Mike Paterson. No computer experience required!

FEB 02 **Métis History** The story of Roderick and Angelique McKenzie's twelve children in the 1800s as Métis in Canada.

- 16 **Mischief and Malice: Crime in the Museum** Charleen Davidson share stories and photos of museum mysteries, malice, fakes and forgeries, from a 2008 University of Toronto virtual exhibit on the subject.
- MAR 02 **Protecting your identity** Bernard Brady from the City of Lethbridge describes on-line scams and how to protect your identity.
- 16 **A History of Health & Wellness Services in Lethbridge** Learn about the history of soap making, and make your own bar to take home using an easy modern method with **June Vollans**.
- APR 06 **Soap Making** Learn about the history of soap making, and make your own bar to take home using an easy modern method with **June Vollans**.
- 20 **A Western Police Force** The formation of the North West Mounted Police changed the course of western Canadian history. Curator **Wendy Aitkens** discusses why and when the force was created, its responsibilities, and how the 300 original Mounties carried out those tasks.

Saturdays at 1:00

JAN 08 - APR 16 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm / weekly family program [adults required to attend with children] / admission rates apply / free for annual pass holders | registration not required

This interactive program animates our exhibits and collections for families with children of all ages.

- JAN 08 **Paint like the Masters** Experience art history with these exciting painting projects inspired by artists such as: Picasso, O'Keefe, and Warhol.
- 15 **Flying Saucers** Make a toy flying saucer and learn about some historic flying saucer sightings.
- 22 **Make Your Own Rub-on Tattoo** Learn to design and print your own rub-on tattoos using special paper.
- 29 **Métis Jigging** Learn to dance the Red River Jig from Roy Pogorzelski of the Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge.
- FEB 05 **Tall Tales** Canadian Tall Tales: bigger than life - or are they? Storytelling with costumes and audience participation. Invent and draw your own tall tale character and story!
- 12 **Paper Flowers** Get ready for Valentine's Day with these beautiful fake flowers.
- 19 **Sock Monkeys** Celebrate the Family Day weekend with this historic craft: make and decorate a unique sock monkey.
- 26 **Learn Magic Tricks** Learn three magic tricks to take home and dazzle your friends.
- MAR 05 **Museum CSI** Use forensic science to uncover fakes and forgeries in this activity from the University of Lethbridge Youth Science Programs. Be prepared to solve a crime!
- 12 **Counterfeit Money** Learn about the history of currency and counterfeit detection in this program from the Currency Museum of Canada.
- 19 **It's Not Magic It's Science** Make fake slime and more in this hands-on University of Lethbridge science presentation.
- 26 **April Fool's Stage Makeup** Learn to make fake scars, blood, and other effects from drama teacher Duane Petluk.
- APR 02 **Soap Carving** Learn soap carving and make your own decoy in this fun activity.
- 09 **Worm Compost** Make your own smell-free kitchen composter.
- 16 **Fabergé Eggs** Make a fake Fabergé Egg for Easter.

The Curator Presents... *Fraud Affects Us*

Wed JAN 26 | 6:00 pm exhibit tour | 7:00 pm presentation / admission rates apply / free for annual pass holders | refreshments

Producing fakes is as common today as in the past. Many museums and art galleries have fallen prey to unscrupulous sellers of art and antiquities. Curator **Wendy Aitkens** will discuss the

phenomena of fakes and forgeries in the museum community, and encourages the audience to bring stories of fakes and forgeries they own or know of.

Café Galt

6:00 pm doors open for exhibit viewing | 7:00 pm program / *admission rates apply* / *free for annual pass holders* | *registration not required* / *refreshments* / *see website for updates*

Treat yourself to a night at Café Galt - designed to educate, entertain and enrich! Explore and discuss current exhibits and ideas, take in film screenings, workshops, lectures and other unique experiences.

FEB **Canadian Pickers** A 'behind the scenes' look at the adventures of the new History Television series. Host **Sheldon Smithens** will talk of some of the people, places and the search for antique treasure in southern Alberta, and across the country.

Guided Tours of *Fakes & Forgeries* or of the permanent exhibit are available for groups and classes: call Belinda Crowson, Museum Educator to book. 403.320-4248 | belinda.crowson@galtmuseum.com.

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For additional information, to arrange for interviews or to receive high resolution images please contact **Anine Vonkeman**, Marketing/Communications Officer
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www.galtmuseum.com

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator
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until JAN 30, 2011

The Fabric of British Home Children



Earlier this year, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announced that parliament designated 2010 as the **Year of the Home Child in Canada** in an effort to "honour the great strength and determination of this group of child immigrants, and reflect on the tremendous contributions made by former Home Children and their descendants to the building of Canada."

For hundreds of years children were removed from orphanages in Great Britain and sent to live with families in Commonwealth countries around the world. More than 100,000 children arrived in Canada between 1869 and the 1930s where they often worked as farm labourers or domestic servants.

Two quilts created by Hazel Perrier from Claresholm, Alberta honour the British Home Children. One quilt includes squares sent to Perrier from the ancestors of British Home Children. The other is a personal reflection of her own family connections to children sent to Canada from the United Kingdom.

FEB 08 - MAY 22, 2011

Archives Exposed... On the Button

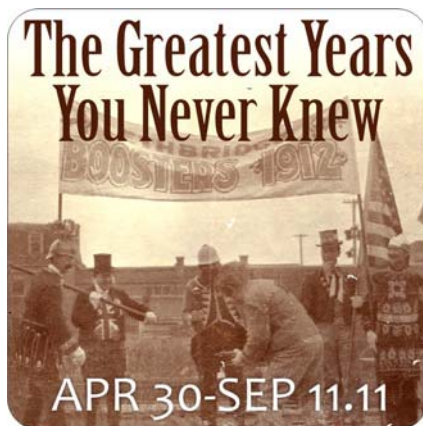
Since 1887, curling in Lethbridge has been a welcome winter activity for people of all ages. The Galt Archives has hundreds of photos of the people involved in league and bonspiel curling. Many are not identified... can you help?

FEB 19 - MAY 01, 2011

Vivian Bennett: *Kitchen Talk*

Main and lower floor hallway

Kitchen Talk is a series of paintings by Vivian Bennett reflecting the thoughts, ideas, torments and joys of women. The farm kitchen is a place where decisions are made to further the welfare of the farm, the family and the community. Running alongside the farm kitchen is the history of the farm wife. The farm kitchen is part of the fabric of our Canadian women's heritage. Whether you grew up on the farm or are still living on one, as a woman, you have indulged in "kitchen talk".



Sat APR 30 to Sun SEP 11, 2011

The Greatest Years You Never Knew: Lethbridge from 1906-1913

Lethbridge changed forever between 1906 and 1913. These were years of incredible population growth and many new businesses and industries made Lethbridge home. It was a time of wild optimism as fortunes were made. In many ways, these were the greatest years in local history and were vital in shaping the Lethbridge we know today.

Guest curated by Belinda Crowson.