



EXHIBIT BACKGOUNDER

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator
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Treasures & Curiosities

Sat FEB 20 - Sun MAY 20, 2010

In response to the community's request to see more of the artifacts stored at the Galt Museum & Archives on public display, Curator Wendy Aitkens invited community members to visit the storage areas and work with staff and volunteers to find favourite artifacts for inclusion in the special exhibit *Treasures & Curiosities*, opening Saturday, February 20. The result is an eclectic selection of 200 artifacts with amazing stories!

The Galt's Cultural History Collection reflects stories of commerce, immigration, education, community services, religion, transportation, military service, diversity and the personal lives of individuals who chose to live in southwestern Alberta.

A sample of the treasures on the Galt's artifact storage shelves include the 1951 World Cup Trophy won by the Lethbridge Maple Leafs, a Japanese bath or *ofuro*, and Anne Campbell's grand piano, to name just a few. Curiosities abound on those shelves too: an odd looking set of nurse and doctor dolls, a Humpty Dumpty circus set complete with tent, clowns and animals, a deer-legged tea table and home perm hair curlers.

"There is intrigue in the vaults of a museum," says Aitkens. "The fascination of historic objects is one of the foundations for museum collections. Objects make us wonder... "Who made this? Where was it made and used? What stories are there about the people associated with the object? Are the stories happy or sad, inspiring or confusing?"

The stories of *why* the artifacts were chosen are integral to this exhibit, and will be highlighted in the artifact labels. Reasons range from picking the oldest object in the collections known to have been made by a woman, to recognizing the contributions made to the community by relatives. There is the table and chair set from the Miners Library to honour area coalminers; a cassock and surplice reminiscent of what Father Leonard Van Tighem, Lethbridge's first resident Catholic priest, would have worn; a mallet and bone chisel in memory of becoming a nurse at the Galt School of Nursing; and a beaded bag chosen in honour of the people who honoured the Lethbridge College President with a Blackfoot name. A number of these stories will also be available on audio wands available at the front desk during the run of the exhibit.

Exhibit includes:

"Mother" Brooch
16th Canadian Highlander Uniform
45 RPM Turntable
50th Anniversary Lethbridge Maple Leafs

Air Flight Simulator
Album
Amber Necklace
Artillery Beret
Autographed Hockey Stick

Bale Hook(s)
Baseball Shirt
Bathtub
Bed Pan
Bell
Billy McIntyre Buffalo Coat
Black Dress
Black Handbag
Bone Flesher
Book
Boy Scouts Telegraph Key
Bread Pan
Buddhist Shrine Set
Buffalo Charm
Bustle Dress
Butter mold

Calf Weaner
Canada Winter Games Flag
Cap from Prisoner of War Uniform
Cassock and Surplice
Chain and scent box
Chinese Dragon Mask
Cigar Silk Hanging
City of Lethbridge Crest
Claw brooch
Conybeare Desk
Crokinole Board Game
Cross-stitch Samper

Decorative Radish
Demo Alarm Box
Dental Basin
Devil's Brigade Beret
Distillers' Pitcher Set
Doctor/Nurse doll set
Dog Tag
Doll Carriage
Double Barrel Shotgun
Doukhobor Lace Dolly
Dressmakers Dummy
Drinking Fountain
Duplicator Gestetner 120

Eaton's Nerve Tonic Pills
Electric train

Feed Grinder
Felt Boots
Film developing tank

Fireman's Ladder
Fire Brigade Helmet
First Special Service Force Uniform
Flute and Case
Four Man Drum

German Paper Currency
German WWII Helmet
Glass commemorative cup
Gold Medal from 1951 World Hockey Championship
Golf Club Bag
Gown Wedding
Grand Piano
Graphotype - black steel printing machine
Green Painted Door with Steel Bars
Grooved Maul

Hair perm machine
Handkerchief Box
Hanging Candle Lamp

Haylifting Fork
Henderson Lake wooden oar
Henkel 111 Bomber Model
Hide Scraper
Highland Costume Set
Hockey Medal
Honour Roll

Infants jumping chair
Instamatic Camera

Japanese Garden Sod Turning Shovel
Japanese Vase
Judo Uniform

Kendo Suit

Ladies Blouse and Slip
Ladies Work or Sewing Box
Lawn Sprinkler
Lethbridge Herald Newspaper Bag
Lethbridge Maple Leafs 1951 Hockey Sweater
Lethbridge Maple Leafs Sweater Patch
Lethbridge Sugar Kings Jacket

Mallet and Bone Chisel
Manual Meteorological Artillery Computation Graph
Mayor's Chair
McLeod Collar
Mechanical toy chimpanzee
Medicinal Bottle
Men's Swim Suit
Methane Indicator from Coleman Mines
Military Uniform Jacket
Miner Bronze by Corney Martens
Miner's Lamp Check

Miner's Library Table and Chair Set
Mochi Mallet
Model Anti Tank Gun
Model of the Warner Evangelical United Brethren Church
Model Solar System

Offset Press

Paintings, pastels and prints
Panzer IV Model
Perfume Bottle
Pink Ballet Slippers
Plaque
Plastic Doll
Plotter
Pysanky Eggs

Rabbit Plane
Radio
Rail Car Mover
RCAF Patch
Revolver and Luger
Rope

Saddle
Scythe and Snatch
Shipping Crate
Shoe
Sideboard
Silver Napkin Rings
Single head Drum
Skate, roller
Slide projector with set of slides
Slide Rule
Spinning Wheel
St. Michael's School of Nursing Shield
St. Patrick's Chair
Steel Molson Keg
Stein
Strap on Ice Cleats
Summer Theatre Sign
Switchboard

Thistle Brooch
Tofu Press
Traditional Lithuanian Women's Outfit
Transmitter and Control Unit
Tricycle
Trunk

Ukrainian Headdress

ViewMaster and ViewMaster Card
Violin

Wafer Iron
War Souvenir Belt
Wedding Veil
Wind Harp
Wood Stove

"Preparing them [the stories] was a very positive experience - helping me to really understand why I chose them [the artifacts]."

Barry Snowden, Lethbridge Historical Society

"It has been a fun project; thank you for inviting me to be a part of it. I loved having an opportunity to look through parts of the collection that I had never seen before."

Juliet Graham, Conservator

"I had a wonderful time choosing these artifacts and feel honoured to share why they are meaningful to me."

Kimberly Lyall, General Manager Chinook Country Tourist Association



Janine Deys: "...the homemade clothes remind me of the clothes my grandma always knit for my dolls that I enjoyed dressing them up in."



Shelby Zuback: "...the smell of it reminds me of growing up on my uncle's farm as a little girl."

A sampling of stories is included at the end of this media kit.

GRAND OPENING

Sat FEB 20 | 11:00 am

A Red Ribbon Affair held as part of

Museum Community Day | 10am to 4:00pm

Movies, children's games, face painting, a new exhibit treasure hunt and the screening of Lethbridge episodes of the "Canadian Antiques Road Show" throughout the day PLUS a fair of Treasures and Curiosities featuring exhibitors from 16 local and area cultural attractions:

Barons and District Historical Society, Crowsnest Museum, Gem of the West Museum, Granum Old Jail and Museum, Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, Helen Schuler Nature Centre, Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village, Medicine Hat Clay Industries National Historic District, Michelsen Farmstead Provincial Historic Resource, Museum of the Highwood, Nobleford Area Museum, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Taber Irrigation Impact Museum and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park / Aisinai'pi National Historic Site.

RELATED EXHIBITS

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator
tel 403.320-3907 | waitkens@galtmuseum.com

Archives Exposed...

MAIN LEVEL MEETING ROOMS

The photographic record housed in the Galt Archives is a rich resource of images, information and decorative ideas. Over the years, thousands of photos have been requested by Galt visitors for their personal or business use. This exhibit represents a small selection of images and articles from the 1880s to more recent times.

These archival resources, as well as hundreds of thousands of photographs and many more documents describing the land and people of southern Alberta, are available by visiting the Archives Reference Room on the lower level or online at www.galtmuseum.com.

Artistic Treasures & Curiosities

LOWER LEVEL GALLERY

"Art is your emotions flowing in a river of imagination."

Devin, Los Cerros Middle School, 1999

The art collection at the Galt Museum & Archives reflects the work of artists from southwestern Alberta or images stimulated by the area, in a wide spectrum of media from pencil, ink, watercolour and oil, to found objects and fibers.

Subject matter and personal perspective is as varied as the land, people and events in the region. People respond to art in very personal ways, choosing that which resonates with their personality, sense of colour, a memory or meaningful relationship.

Staff members gleaned through the collection and found pieces that had meaning for them. You're invited to reflect on this "river of imagination"... you may even gain insight into the staff psyche!

EXHIBIT RELATED PROGRAMS

MEDIA CONTACT: Leslie Hall,
Community Programs Coordinator
tel 403.320-4700 | leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com

Wed FEB 24

The Curator Presents... *Stories Behind the Artifacts*

Exhibit opens at 6:00 pm for viewing prior to program at 7:00 pm | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | includes exhibit access and refreshments

The fascination of historic objects is the foundation for museum collections. Stories about the people who owned, made, or treasured an artifact enough to keep it are what many respond to. Others respond to an object because of a personal memory or activity with something similar. These stories provide the human face and connection we find so fascinating. Others spark our imaginations - we wonder about their owners, time period, their use.

Curator Wendy Aitkens will present some remarkable personal connections with treasured objects.

Wed MAR 24 | Thu APR 22 | Wed MAY 19

Café Galt

Monthly evening program | Exhibit opens for viewing at 6:00 pm; program at 7:00 pm | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | includes exhibit access & refreshments

Wed MAR 24 | **The Looming Crisis for Public Collections**, with Josephine Mills

Collections are integral to the function of an art museum yet are all too often taken for granted. Over the last 30 years, art museums have adapted to significant change including the mix of public and private funding, implementing new technologies, and revising approaches to addressing their audiences. These changes have put pressure on the ability to care for and provide access to collections. There is an assumption that collections, and the individual objects, will always be there, but the reality is that without adequate support and attention, public collections are at risk. This lecture will focus on the issues at stake for public collections in Canada today and options for how to address these issues.

Josephine Mills is the Director/Curator of the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery and an Associate Professor in the Department of Art. She has worked as a curator and public programmer in art galleries and artist-run centres in Saskatoon and Vancouver. Mills has a PhD in Communication Studies from Concordia University and is a recent graduate of the Museum Leadership Institute at the Getty Center. Mills is Past President of the University and College Art Gallery Association of Canada and Chair of the Collection Issues Committee, Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization.

Thu APR 22 | **Earth Day panel discussion**

In addition to Up-cycling show and sale today - museum open from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm - explore a variety of "green" topics on the Environment with our interactive Earth Day discussion of panellists from Lethbridge College.

Wed MAY 19 | **Jewels of the Prairie: Natural Treasures of the Native Prairie Plant Garden**, with June Flanagan

Enjoy an evening of photographs and learn about the natural treasures in the Galt Museums outdoor exhibit - the Native Prairie Plant Garden. Explore what's in bloom in the garden and the prairies below this spring.

June Flanagan designed the new Native Prairie Plant garden surrounding the Galt Museum to celebrate the 2009 centennial of the Lethbridge and district horticultural society. Author of Native Plants for Prairie Gardens.

MAY 01 | 1:30 and 3:00 pm

Behind-the-Scenes Collections Tour

MAX 15 people | free with admission or to Annual Pass holders | pre-registration required: 403-320-3954 or info@galtmuseum.com

Tour the Museum's collection vaults with Collections Technician Kevin MacLean to see some of the treasures and curiosities that didn't make it into the exhibit! Learn how the Galt cares for the community and region's artifacts, about the work that goes into the donation process, ongoing artifact research, artifact access and community support. MacLean has been employed in the Galt's Collections Department since 1995.

FEB 03-MAY 26 2010

SENIOR'S PROGRAM *new!*

weekly Wednesdays | 2:00 - 3:00 pm | Program room opens at 1:30 | free with admission and for annual pass holders | includes coffee/tea | seniors annual pass \$15, or \$25 for family annual pass

Experience southwestern Alberta history and culture!

FEB 03 Artifact Bingo Get a sneak preview of artifacts featured in our new exhibit, and other treasures from the Collection as you play artifact bingo.

10 Archives 101 Ever wondered what Archives are all about? Learn the basics of archives as you go on this behind-the-scenes tour.

17 Into the Past: Blackfoot History and Culture with Blanche Bruised Head.

24 Lethbridge History Album Celebrate Lethbridge's history by creating an art piece using photos and articles from the Archives. Learn techniques you can use to make your own digital or paper memory albums at home.

MAR 03 Museums 101 Learn the basics of museums and their collections in this behind-the-scenes tour.

10 Métis History: A Blast from the Past Join Jacqueline Guest, author of 16 novels, to discover how the history of the Métis people in Canada continues to be a source of inspiration. Learning and laughing are guaranteed as we recreate the past in an unforgettable interactive session involving artifacts and actual facts.

17 Line Dancing Show and Lesson Watch a line dancing show and then learn some dances, or cheer others along as they try out the steps. Brought to you by the YuTuKanDanz group.

24 Coming of Age During the Great Depression In this talk, Professor Heidi Macdonald will use excerpts from 1930s diaries to examine how Canadian youth experienced the Great Depression

31 Fibre Art and the Art of Card Making Experiment with card making techniques and embellishments to make a one-of-a-kind greeting card with the Textile Surface Design Guild.

APR 07 Treasures & Curiosities of Southwestern Alberta Tour Enjoy this interactive tour of our special exhibit.

14 Old Time Sing-A-Long Sing along to classic tunes with Neva McNab.

21 Treasurers and Curiosities of our Native Plants Garden Listen to author June Flanagan as she talks about the treasures and curiosities of our native plants garden at the Galt, created by the Lethbridge & District Horticultural society.

28 Watercolour for total beginners Learn the basics of capturing Lethbridge's natural history using watercolours. Absolutely no experience required!

MAY 05 Southern Alberta Trivia Contest Have fun learning the treasures and curiosities of southern Alberta history in this trivia game.

- 12 **Forgotten History Exhibit Tour** There are a lot of interesting stories in the Galt Museum waiting to be explored. Come along back in time to the early days of Lethbridge to see if you have what it takes to be a pioneer on the prairies, or perhaps a City Founder!
- 19 **Learn Digital Photography** Join artist Mike Paterson in our beautiful viewing gallery (or patio if it's warm) and learn to capture historic moments using digital photography techniques.
- 26 **Gone but not forgotten: tales of the disappearing grain elevators** Author Elizabeth McLachlan shares a series of true stories, complete with photographs, of the disappearing grain elevators of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

FEB 06-MAY 29 [not FEB 20, APR 3]

Saturdays at 1:00

weekly program for families with children of all ages | *free with admission and for annual pass holders* | *includes exhibit access*

FEB 06 Old Fashioned Games Play with games from our Education Collection.

- 13 **Experience Blackfoot History and Culture** with Blanche Bruised Head in our Kainai Arbour.
- 20 **NO PROGRAM [enjoy our Museum Community Day instead!]**
- 27 **Handmade Treasure Boxes** Up-cycle coloured paper and boxes to make gorgeous decoupage storage boxes for your treasures.

MAR 06 Artifact Bingo Come play artifact bingo and win a prize!

- 13 **WARNING! Extreme History! A Blast from the Past!** Join Jacqueline Guest - author of 16 novels - to discover Canada's forgotten people, the Métis, and how they shaped our history. Laughing and learning are guaranteed as we recreate the past in an unforgettable interactive session involving facts and artifacts.
- 20 **Photo Cards** Learn to make handmade cards featuring treasured photos. Bring your own photo, or use one from our Archives.
- 27 **Make Your Own Memory Game** Learn about treasurers and curiosities from around the world as you make a memory game to take home and play.

APR 03 NO PROGRAM [enjoy Eggstravaganza instead!]

- 10 **Building Blocks** Decorate your own old-fashioned wooden building blocks.
- 17 **Hands on Alberta Timeline** Enjoy fun interactive activities and you explore the Treasures & Curiosities of our southwestern Alberta history exhibit.
- 24 **Earth Day Photo Frame** Decorate a picture frame using treasures from our coulees, then learn to search the Archives and select a photo for your frame.

MAY 01 Treasures from the National Film Board Watch NFB classics including *The Hockey Sweater*, *The Log Drivers Waltz*, and *The Cat Came Back*.

- 08 **Story Time** Celebrate Historic Lethbridge Festival with stories from the 1940s.
- 15 **Lethbridge History Album** Start your own album of local history using a collection of photos, articles and more from the Archives.
- 22 **Go Fly a Kite** Make and decorate your own origami kite, with the Textile Surface Design Guild, and fly it outside (if the weather is nice).
- 29 **Waking the Garden** Start native plant seeds for your own home, and explore the Treasures & Curiosities of our native plants garden at the Galt.

Guided Tours of *Treasures & Curiosities* 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.

EXHIBIT RELATED SPECIAL EVENT

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Harasem,
Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator
tel 403.320-4219 | lori.harasem@galtmuseum.com

Sat APR 03

Eggstravaganza: Treasures & Curiosities from Around the World

10:00 to 2:00 | Viewing Gallery

\$4/3/child age 1+; adults free; *annual pass holder rate*

Bring the family out for our annual must-hop-to event! Younger children will enjoy crafts and meeting the Easter Bunny; older children will enjoy special activities as we feature *Treasures & Curiosities* in our special exhibit gallery. This annual Galt event is fun for kids of all ages! Contact Lori for more information: lori.harasem@galtmuseum.com | 403.320-4219.

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UPCOMING 2010 EXHIBITS



FEB 12-MAR 21 ***Slap Shot: The Science of Hockey*** and ***Hurry Hard***
Celebrating the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympics

JUN 5-AUG 29 ***Kaahsinnooniksi Ao'toksisawooyawa***
[Our Ancestors have come to visit]: Blackfoot Shirts
Museum Community Day: Sat JUN 05 | 10:00 - 5:00

SEP 11-DEC 04 ***Galt Hospital: 100 Years***
Museum Community Day: Sun SEP 26 | 11:00 - 4:00

DEC 18-APR 10 ***Fakes and Forgeries: Yesterday and Today***
Museum Community Day: Sat DEC 18 | 10:00 - 2:00

HOURS OF OPERATION

SEP 01 to MAY 14 / 10:00 - 4:30 *mon-sat* / 1:00 - 4:30 *sun + hol*
MAY 15 to AUG 31 / 10:00 - 5:00 *mon-sat* / 1:00 - 5:00 *sun + hol*
CLOSED *Christmas & Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday*

For additional information and high resolution images please contact:
Anine Vonkeman, Marketing/Communications Officer
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www.galtmuseum.com

Treasures & Curiosities



EXHIBIT STORY SAMPLER

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator
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Bone Flesher
c. 1750 to 1900
Donated by Anonymous
P19738499000

Chosen by Blanche Bruisedhead

When I saw the older hide flesher made of bone, my imagination took off - 5000 years into the past. In my mind's eye, I saw one of my ancestors holding this animal bone, looking at it, turning it this way and that way. Being an artist and inventor, this person saw what could be made out of this animal bone and then began the work to make the tool. When the item was done, a tool was created to make anybody and everybody's work on hides that much easier and quicker. Many people looking at this bone tool today will not give it a second thought. But I hope that it will bring you into the past where your imagination can run away with you as well.

Switchboard
1951
Donated by Alberta Government Telephones
P19693991000

Chosen by Sheila McManus

I got really excited when I saw this switchboard, because it reminded me of a famous Canadian strike. In 1907 four hundred "Bell girls" (the young women who operated Bell Canada's switchboards in Toronto) went on strike for better working conditions. One of their complaints was that long-distance operators regularly got severe electrical shocks while connecting calls through the switchboards. This particular switchboard was used in Granum only a few decades later, and I wondered if the Granum operators got shocked or if they could have related to any of the other complaints the Bell strikers had in 1907.

Bread Pan

c. 1933-1960

Donated by Sue Kanashiro

P20060015002

Chosen by Reyko Nishiyama

The big enamel bread pan is much like the one my mother used to bake 6 to 7 loaves of bread. My favorite memory is of the smell of fresh baked bread that my mother would have cooled on the kitchen table as we got home from school. It was the most mouth watering smell ever after walking a mile and three quarters home from school. She would cut us big one inch slice of the warm bread which we would spread with homemade butter and a generous dollop of Rogers Golden Syrup! Yum!

We would fight for the crust but my older brother usually won out. Sometime, my mother would cover the loaf with another pan (the same size). When the dough rose, it would rise high enough to fill the top pan and lift it another inch or two. When the bread was done - it came out with 2 ears! We loved that. Good memories.

Handkerchief Box

c. 1940-1960

Donated by Pioneer Pemmican Club

P19990035124

Chosen by Janine Deys - student

I am a very neat person. I enjoy hiding away many things in boxes that I find pretty. These boxes can have anything in them, from junk to things I've hidden away forever. This why when I saw the box I really was able to connect with it. I wondered what else could have been kept in the box that might have been interesting. Also I find the number 99 on the box interesting. I wonder if it had any importance.

Feeding Pet Ducks

Helen Flaig

Oil & acrylic on canvas, 1997

Donated by Helen Flaig

P20020006008

Chosen by Miranda Grol

This artwork by Helen Flaig belongs to a series that depicts the artists childhood growing up in the prairies in the 1930's. Many of the works from the series remind me of my own childhood growing up on a farm in Southern Alberta. I identify with the naive, folk style of Flaig's work. In this painting I can see myself represented as the little girl.

Maple Leafs 1951 Hockey Sweater

1950

Donated by Don McLean

P19910055001

Chosen by Fred Baskerville

I have been playing hockey for 55 years, since I was 5 years old. It is my first love and, coming from Toronto, I am a die hard Maple Leafs Fan. I own a 1950 Toronto Maple Leaf Jersey.

My father and uncle played for a Junior Team in Simcoe, Ontario (circa 1950) and received notification to try out for Toronto Maple Leaf team. Neither was able to make it to tryouts because they both volunteered to go overseas during the Second World War. When they came back in 1945/46 their health didn't allow them to continue in hockey.

I also had the pleasure of personally knowing Don McLean and Billy Gibson, members of the Lethbridge Maple Leafs team that won the World Cup in 1951.

Turntable - 45 RPM

c. 1950-1955

Donated by Bill and Mary Skelton

P19900007018

Chosen by Carly Stewart

When I was a teen in the 1950s, 45 RPM vinyl records were just coming on the scene. They quickly became very popular among the younger crowd. Record companies saw that there was money to be made in small portable 45 RPM record players. Teens could carry it to their friend's home to dance or a teen could have one in their bedroom at home. Many parents liked this feature as this would put themselves out of ear shot of a teen who may play the same record over and over, eventually wearing the disc out.

Record companies, especially RCA, made good profits from the sale of the players, but most of all their sales soared when a new 45 sold well.

I personally didn't have a record player, but my sister had one and many of my friends had them. I bought a few records and lent or borrowed from friends as need be. Some of my wife's 45 collection show they were 99 cents each. I think you could buy a 45 player for about \$25.00 or so.

Popular records I recall are:

Bill Haley and the Comets - Rock Around the Clock

Dean Martin - Memories Are Made Of This

Paul Anka - Diana

Marty Robbins - A White Sports Coat and a Pink Carnation

Kitty Kallen - Chapel in the Moonlight

Everly Brothers - Wake Up Little Susie

Tennessee Ernie Ford - 16 Tons

Mechanical toy chimpanzee

c. 1966

Donated by Salvation Army

P19910050006

Chosen by Bradford Brown

I have to laugh every time I see it...It reminds me of the toy displays at all the old stores downtown at Christmas time. You see in the 60's, downtown was the best place to be during the Christmas shopping season! My friends and I would head downtown on the 4A bus from the North side. All the Christmas lights and street decorations were all the way up and down 4th. Avenue south, man what a site! The bus would park in front of the Eaton's building right across from Woolworths. We would race across the street (we would never used the crosswalk...that was for suckers!) just to be the first one to spin the revolving door on the Woolworths store as fast as you could.

The lights and people were every where and we would hit every big store on 4th. Avenue; Eaton's, Kresge's, Woolworths. We would run around for hours in those stores. We would take a break from that and play hide - go - seek in the new parkade behind Eaton's just to drive the commissionaires crazy. After that we would bumper hitch cars on all the side streets!!

The toy section of every store was the most intriguing....that gave us *"Nort-siders" a chance to play with every toy without actually paying for them!! Great idea!! I'll always remember the Mechanical Chimpanzee clacking away and always running out of steam....the batteries were bad those days and that poor store clerk would have to change them every hour! "I sure liked being a kid!"

**Northsider*

(noun) Nort-sider...a very special person that lived on the north side of the CPR tracks. Looked upon with envy from the other side of the tracks. A person with high moral values and very trustworthy.

World Cup Trophy

1951

Donated by City of Lethbridge

P19739333000

Chosen by Lois Williams

I think that citizens of Lethbridge would come and see this trophy, if they knew it was here.

I spent many years as a nurse manager of a long term care facility. Billy Gibson, who was a member of this award winning hockey team, was a faithful visitor to the ill and elderly. He would arrive immaculately dressed and very cheerful - and everyone felt better (staff, too) when he visited. I believe he was honored with an Olympic commemorative medal during the Salt Lake City Olympics. Billy visited the care facility with a Canada Sweater on and shared his medal with everyone. My choice of the World Cup for this exhibit is in honour of Billy Gibson...who was a wonderful citizen of Lethbridge.

Thistle Brooch

c. 1910-1920

Donated by Beth Fairfield

P19900032005

Chosen by Brendan Cummins

I chose this for two reasons. The first is the evocative image of the thistle, something very Scottish and emblematic of my grandfather's pride in his heritage. The second was for its simplicity and homemade look. It reminded me of something my grandmother or great grandmother might have worn; plain and yet beautiful; a token to be worn proudly on one's best church dress or going out coat.

Sod House

By Irene McCaugherty

Oil on canvas, 1977

Donated by Ron McCaugherty

P19990054008

Chosen by Rick Casson

I have always been taken with the lack of natural tree growth present in early pictures of settling on the prairies. Outside of the river valleys there was little if any natural forest. What we see today has been planted and nurtured by human endeavor. Therefore, the early settlers built shelters using prairie sod. As uncomfortable and crude as they were it was all they had. I can't imagine a -40 degree blizzard with only a sod shack for protection. Our forefathers were a hardy lot for sure!

I have been told that ancestors on my dad's side built a "soddie" and lived in it for one winter when they settled in west - central Saskatchewan.

My years in Printing Services at the University of Lethbridge made me aware of McCaugherty's great southern Alberta art. I actually printed invitations using her images of rural life many times. Mixing her and "soddies" was as added bonus.

The Bed Pan

c. 1900-1920

Donated by Myrtle Bodie

P20020075004

Chosen by Belinda Crowson

You see before you a lowly bed pan. A necessary, everyday tool of the hospital. Used in homes of yesteryear. Why did I choose an object that was mostly ignored and hidden? It's the story, of course. This bedpan played a role in leaving two young children without a mother. The mother came into the hospital to have a baby. When she was released from the hospital she went home with the bedpan for her to use. Sadly, the bedpan had not been completely cleaned and she picked up an infection from it and died.

The bedpan reminds me to look beyond the physical characteristics of an object and try to see the story behind it. It also reminds me of how quickly and unexpectedly life can be changed forever and that it is most important to treasure everyday. I have used this bedpan for presentations to both students and adults and its incredible how people both young and old react to the story of this bedpan.

Transmitter and Control Unit

1930

Donated by Transport Canada

P19770107000

Chosen by Barry Snowden

When I was a youngster, one of my interests was "crystal set" radios and I spent many the hour wearing headphones and "tickling" the galena crystal with a "cat's whisker" to detect a radio broadcast signal. My search for an example of this rudimentary radio technology - something small and relatively simple - ended at the other end of the continuum.

This artifact crossed over with another area of interest because it celebrates some of the region's important contributions to aviation development and history in Canada. My father, Ernie Snowden, was an RCAF pilot and flying instructor at a number of the British Commonwealth Air Training Schools in southern Alberta.

Between 1938 and 1948, Lethbridge was a main radio terminal for air radio traffic control from all major eastern cities and Edmonton and was a jump off for Calgary. It was part of the infrastructure of the Trans-Canada Airway (TCA), a network of airports with paved runways, lights, beacons and radio transmitters. Because the distances and the altitudes to which aircraft of the time were limited, the Crowsnest Pass was used for crossing the Rocky Mountains. Lethbridge was the airline hub for TCA flights east and west, air service north within Alberta and the port of entry for flights from the United States until aircraft could fly higher and farther enabling the transcontinental routes to shift north to Edmonton and Calgary.

The air radio control facilities also supported Canada's involvement with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during WWII. Kenyon Field hosted the No.5 Elementary Flight Training School prior to its relocation in 1941 because of persistent adverse weather conditions (high winds). It then became the home base for the No.8 Bombing and Gunnery School until the war's end. The transmitter remained in service until the 1950's. It is a fitting reminder of Lethbridge's key role in aviation progress.

Untitled

By Annabelle Meikle

Watercolour on paper, c. 1960 -1965

Donated by A. K. Hill

P19820001016

Chosen by Juliet Graham

I was attracted to this artifact because it is a little piece of Nova Scotia that ended up in Lethbridge, just like me. The island in this painting reminds me of Shut-In Island. I went to visit it with my brothers, and my sister and my father one sunny summer morning. We went in a little aluminum boat with an outboard engine. We had to time the tide right so we could get underneath the bridge in Indian Harbour before the tide made it too low to get through.

Past that, we were out of the shelter of Indian Harbour and in the wilder waters of St Margaret's Bay. When we reached Shut-In Island, it was very hard to beach the boat - the shore was so rocky.

We ran all over the island and saw the same granite rocks and moss and bayberry plants that were at the cottage but they seemed so different all the way over there! We had a little picnic of bread and cheese and cookies, and on the way home, the tide wasn't right so we had to go all the way round the point where the lighthouse is, making it an even longer journey home. My mother had a special code, she would hang a bright-coloured beach towel in the dormer window if the sea was getting too rough or if it was time for dinner and we could see it blowing as we entered the harbour.

Baroness

By Dora Trew

Watercolour on paper, 1926

Donated by Stanley Trew

P19738850000

Chosen by Coreen Putman

Our family enjoys canoeing down the Oldman River in the summer months. Many times in the late part of the summer as our canoe scrapes along the rocky bottom I have thought about the barges and steamers that were used to transport coal and I wondered how they fared. It never seemed a practical form of transportation in light of the nature of this river.

The painting is lovely. I think watercolours have a magical way of capturing the light of the prairie landscape. I also think the story of this steamer is an amusing one. It is a great reminder of the importance of getting to know the little place in the world that you call home.

This is Deutschland

c. 1942-1946

Donated by Johanna Wilson

P20080033021

Chosen by Bill Ramp

What attracted me to this artifact was the collection of images, which together evoked a world - not a world that actually existed, but one a prisoner might believe in.

The book is a scrapbook of pictures from Germany, so I imagine that they came from magazines the prisoner received from family or friends - or perhaps from a charitable organization or even an arm of the German government - via the Red Cross.

What strikes me is how peaceful the pictures are, and how they add up to an idealized and romanticized Germany - beautiful vistas, ancient towns and farmsteads, the sweep of a modern autobahn. These images are also resolutely apolitical. The depoliticization is understandable given the circumstances, but I wonder if the prisoners also *wanted* a Germany that had nothing to do with the politics of war, that was somehow "simply home." The tragic irony, of course, is that the peaceful, romantic Germany of these pages was an idealized fairy-tale - and the real Germany was being destroyed, first by the Nazi regime, and by the war they brought down on their heads, even as this scrapbook was being compiled.

Although the scrapbook relates specifically to Germany, it also partakes a broader aesthetic sensibility, a kind of romantic-nationalistic veneration of the past and of the picturesque that appeared in the 1930's in many European countries with the advent of cheap, mass-produced photography books and magazines.

Cigar Silk Quilt

c. 1910-1920

Donated by Anonymous

P20040012000

Chosen by Cecile McCleary

My abiding interest in textile arts is well stimulated by this marvelous piece of patchwork. It was a favourite of mine during my stint as Curator at this museum. Beautiful, a work of art and craftsmanship, it speaks to the curious. What were these treasured collectables - cigar silks? Who was this loyal "Maple Leaf" fan? Who practiced the refined art of embroidery? Was it learned at her mother's knee? This little beauty is a treasure and a curiosity. How could I resist!