

Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt opens on February 3, 2017. *Statuette of a Cat*, 332–30 BCE. Bronze, Brooklyn Museum, Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 37.427E.



McCLUNG MUSEUM
of Natural History and Culture

QUARTERLY

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Letter from the Director



Historic archaeology supplements and at times challenges the written past. This fall, the exhibition *Knoxville Unearthed* showed us how trash from citizens of the past offers clues to help our understanding of aspects of Knoxville's history. As someone personally engaged in salvaging objects and information from downtown Knoxville, it is gratifying to see them interpreted for our visitors.

An event of national significance occurred this fall with the display of our iconic 800-year-old Native American kneeling male statue with its female counterpart—arguably the finest prehistoric sculptures ever found in the United States. I want to thank those individuals, foundations, corporations, and others who are supporting our efforts to permanently acquire the female statue and the owner for his desire to see this happen.

This year marked another banner year with record attendance and growing educational impact on K–12 visitors and UT faculty and students. Your support and our excellent staff make all this possible.

Jefferson Chapman, Director

Special Exhibition

Our new special exhibition, *Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt*, opens February 3 and runs through May 7, 2017.

The exhibition explores the role of cats, lions, and other feline creatures in Egyptian mythology, kingship, and everyday life through nearly 80 different objects from the Brooklyn Museum's world-famous Egyptian collection.

Likely first domesticated in ancient Egypt, cats were revered for their fertility and valued for their ability to protect homes and granaries from vermin. Felines were also associated with royalty and closely linked with a number of deities. Among the exhibition objects are depictions of lion- and cat-headed sphinxes and goddesses as well as domesticated cats. Also included is an extraordinary gilded Leonine Goddess (770–412 BCE), a diminutive bronze sphinx of King Sheshenq (945–718 BCE), and a small cast-bronze figurine of a cat nursing four kittens (664–30 BCE). Furniture and luxury items decorated with feline features are also presented.


Free public programs in conjunction with *Divine Felines* include a lecture on mummification by Bob Brier of Long Island University on February 21, 2017, and a lecture on cat behavior by Julie Albright of UT's School of Veterinary Medicine on April 2, 2017.

For more programming information, visit tiny.utk.edu/divinefelines.

Divine Felines is organized by the Brooklyn Museum in New York and curated by Yekaterina Barbash, associate curator of Egyptian Art at the Brooklyn Museum.



Figurine of a Standing Lion-Headed Goddess, Faience, Brooklyn Museum. Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 37.943E.



UT Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek and McClung Museum Director Jeff Chapman pose with two exquisite Native American sandstone figures. The museum owns the male figure—recently named the state artifact of Tennessee (left). Fundraising is ongoing for the acquisition of the female statue (right).

Support Acquisitions

The museum hopes to reunite two of the finest pieces of prehistoric Native American art found in the United States. Your support makes the acquisition of important objects like these possible.

Learn more or make a gift at tiny.utk.edu/mcclunggiving.

Arts & Culture Collection Search Launched

In October, the McClung Museum relaunched its website mcclungmuseum.utk.edu with a new online search option for the museum's Arts and Culture collection and streamlined navigation for greater ease of viewing resources and images online.

The museum launched its online collections search with several thousand objects from featured collections, including the museum's map collection, Roman objects, art works on paper, and selected photographs. Staff will slowly add additional collections from the museum's more than 28,000-object Arts and Culture collection.

Having access to collections online will have a particularly strong impact on research and teaching at the museum—professors, outside researchers, and students will be able to complete their own searches of the museum's collections to guide and inspire their work. The museum also hopes that by putting the arts and culture collections online, researchers and the public might help correct or add important detail and data to our collections.

Other collections slated for digitization in the upcoming months include more historic photography, Northwest Native American material culture, and Tang Dynasty Chinese ceramics.



New Acquisition

The museum recently acquired 19 16th–19th century maps of Asia as part of a generous gift from the Donald and Tina Sheff Collection of Asian Cartography.

Important maps in the collection include a 1606 depiction of Northern Asia, *Tartaria*, by Jodocus Hondius (1563–1612), which outlines important Silk Road trade routes from Moscow to China. Decorated with a Mongol encampment and costumed Tartars, this map was the first to show the Great Wall of China. Maps of China, Southeast Asia, and Northern Asia by Nicolas Sanson, “the father of French cartography,” were copied both in France and abroad for much of the 17th and early 18th centuries.

Other maps in the gift include detailed depictions of Chinese people encountered by travelers and increasingly accurate maps of South and East Asia. The collection illustrates the evolution of Western perceptions of Asia, as well as shifts in cartographic practice from the 1500s to the 1800s, and will be an invaluable teaching resource for the museum.

Left, top: Laurent Fries (c. 1485–1532), *Tabula Prima Asiae*, woodcut on paper, from a 1541 edition of Claudius Ptolemy's *Geographica*, published in Lyons, France by Melchior and Gaspar Trechsel and edited by Michael Servetus, 2016.6.1.

Left, bottom: Jodocus Hondius (1563–1612), *Tartaria*, hand-colored copperplate engraving on paper, published in France, 1606, 2016.6.4.

Community Engagement

Museum Hosts Open House and Training for K-12 Teachers

In conjunction with the East Tennessee Historical Society, the McClung Museum offered its first professional development workshop on historical research for school teachers. The program encouraged the use of public records and material culture in lesson planning. Charles Faulkner (pictured at right), professor emeritus in UT's anthropology department, and Tim Baumann (at far right), were instructors.

The museum also welcomed area K-12 teachers and fellow members of the Knoxville Area Museum Educator's Roundtable (KAMER) for an open house. Participants presented on various programs designed to enrich students' learning experiences at museums. Buzz Thomas, interim superintendent of Knox County Schools, gave the keynote address at the event.



Museum Academic Programs Partners with Nursing School

Karen Rose, McMahan-McKinley Endowed Professor in Gerontology at UT's College of Nursing, brought nine PhD students to the museum for an interactive workshop to sharpen the students' observation, diagnostic, and communications skills.

The collaboration—based on similar programs at Yale University, Cornell University, the University of Virginia, and other elite universities—equips students with a toolkit for improving clinical practice through visual analysis of art objects. The workshop teaches students to slow down, improving their diagnostic acumen by encouraging them to observe and articulate fully before making a conclusion about what they see.

Museum Collaborates with Cypher Knoxville for History & Rhythm Family Day

In September, the museum hosted a free family program in collaboration with Cypher Knoxville, a local community group dedicated to affecting positive change through hip hop. The museum's permanent collection served as inspiration for dancers, poets, and musicians to make connections between history and their individual artistic abilities. Visitors played rhythmic beats with djembe drums and participated in poetry workshops, break dance, and graffiti lessons. Partnerships with groups like Cypher Knoxville support the museum's ongoing efforts to welcome and engage with an increasingly diverse local community.



In the Spotlight

After more than a quarter century of service that has engaged more than 200,000 students, Debbie Woodiel will retire December 31. Under her leadership as an educator and assistant director, the museum blossomed as an educational resource for K-12 students, college students, teachers, and visitors of all ages. In addition, Woodiel's editorial skills ensured the label copy in more than 100 exhibits was clear and succinct. We thank her for her many years of service and leadership and hope she will stay involved as a volunteer!





Shop for your own holiday gifts and for someone in need!

Until November 30, come shop the kid/teen gift selection at the Museum Store or drop off unwrapped gifts to benefit Toys for Tots.

As a thank you, visitors who donate gifts will receive their choice of a coupon for \$5 off their next purchase in the Museum Store or a free gift.



The McClung Museum expresses sincere gratitude for your generous support during the past year.





A.



B.

People and Events

A. Knoxville Unearthed Opening. (L to R) Exhibition curator Tim Baumann, exhibition sponsor and longtime museum member Doug McCarty of McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Professor Dave Anderson of UT anthropology, and museum board member Steve Dean at the September exhibition opening.

B. Knoxville Unearthed Opening. Museum members Sharon and Bill Laing at the September exhibition opening.



C.

C. Unexpected Treasures Fundraiser. (L to R) Wray Williams and John Case of Case Antiques, McClung Museum Director Jeff Chapman, and special guest Lark Mason at the October event.



D.



E.

D. Sailing Along the Nile Family Fun Day. A young visitor proudly shares her Egyptian amulet craft at the August 27 event.

E. Orientation Tour for UT Undergrads. Incoming freshmen enjoy a flashlight tour of the museum's Ancient Egypt gallery.



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**McClung Museum of
Natural History & Culture**

1327 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

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Event Calendar

November

11/6: Lecture, Kim Trent: Historic
Preservation in Knoxville

11/7: Stroller Tour: Hooray for Elections!

11/13: Family Fun Day: Civil War:
A Soldier's Day

December

12/10: Family Fun Day: Birds and Prints

12/12: Stroller Tour: Tweeting Away!

January

1/21: Family Fun Day: Celebrate the
Chinese New Year!

1/23: Stroller Tour: Year of the Rooster

1/29: Civil War Lecture

Upcoming Museum Closures

Reminder: The museum will be closed on
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Day,
and New Year's Day.



Last Chance to Visit *Knoxville Unearthed*

Don't miss out on your last chance to
visit *Knoxville Unearthed*, which closes
January 8, 2017.