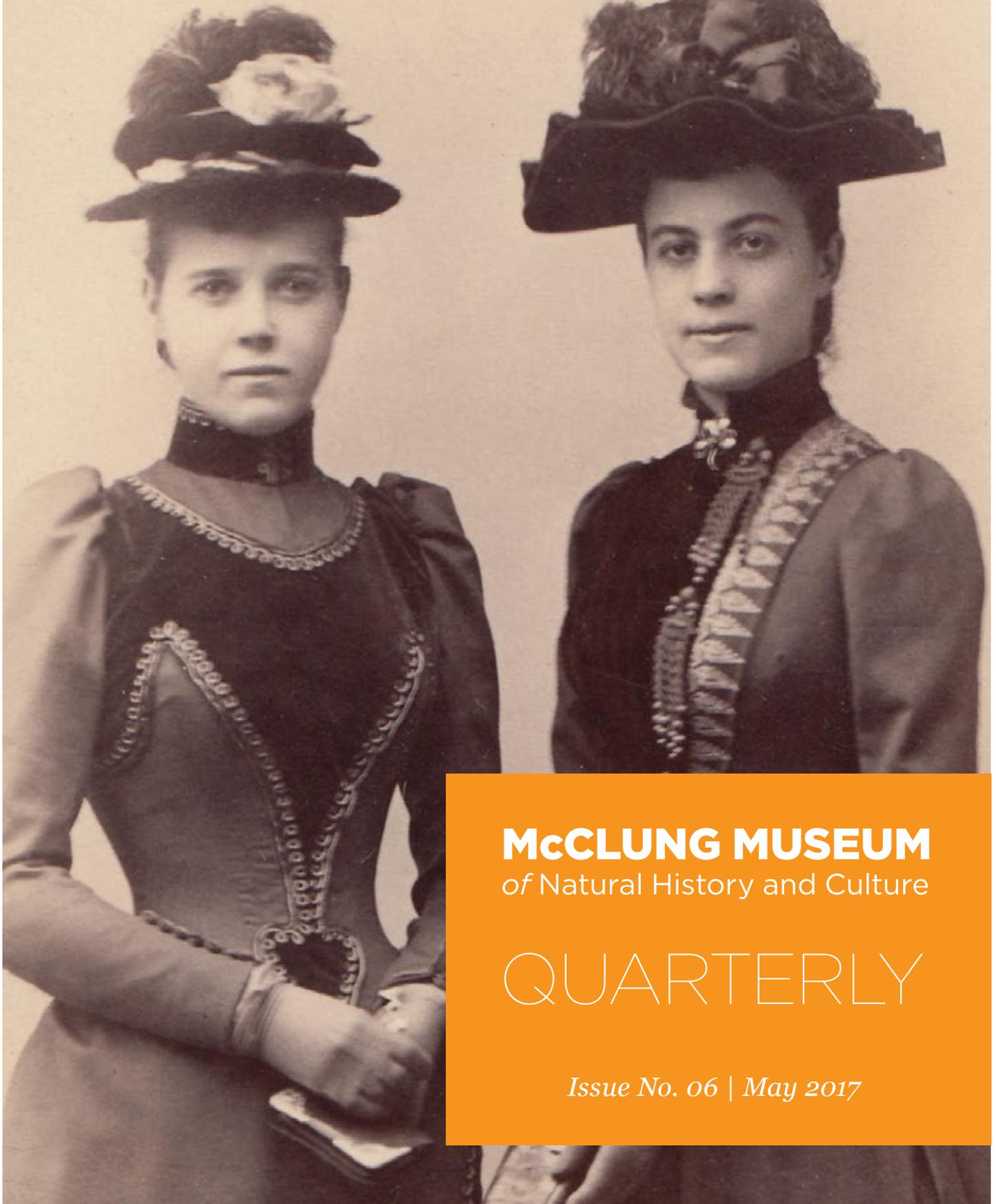


Ellen McClung and Viola F. Snyder, 1890,
Le Rue Lemer, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
Carte de visite, Bequest of Judge John Webb
Green and Ellen McClung Green, 1957.3.628.1.



McCLUNG MUSEUM
of Natural History and Culture

QUARTERLY

Issue No. 06 | May 2017

Letter from the Director



As an American Alliance of Museums accredited institution and a Smithsonian Affiliate, we are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, community service, and professional practice. But how does one measure museum success? Metrics we consider strong indicators of success in 2016 include fulfilling our educational mandate with 5,800 K–12 students receiving docent-led instruction, 85 university classes with over 3,000 students experiencing object-based learning, and hosting 58 public lectures and programs. This is complemented by the installation of three temporary exhibitions along with our six permanent exhibitions.

The 77 individuals conducting research in the museum collections and the generation of 42 academic publications, theses, dissertations, papers, and posters all reflect the museum's contributions to scholarship. We see the quality of the museum and its reputation through top ratings by the American Automobile Association, TripAdvisor, Best of Knoxville, and the Tennessee Association of Museums. Attendance exceeding 58,000 and strong financial support from donors round out our metrics of success.

Jefferson Chapman, Director

Special Exhibition

During the American Gilded Age, which offered unprecedented access to consumer goods, what one owned or had the ability to buy became an important way to assert one's identity.

The upcoming exhibition *Fish Forks and Fine Furnishings: Consumer Culture in the Gilded Age*, May 26–August 27, 2017, examines consumerism during the Gilded Age (1870–1900)—a time of rapid modernization and great expansion of the country's middle class. Though there was also vast income disparity, Americans experienced an increase in overall quality of life.

Mass manufacturing permitted most people to buy a wealth of new goods, and the growth of trade and travel meant that Americans had new access to, and interest in, goods from around the world. Suddenly, the middle class could emulate the wealthy, and identity was bound more than ever to possessions.

From fish forks and fashionable dress, to furniture and fine china, the seemingly superficial personal and household objects consumed during this era are visible and powerful symbols of wealth, social power, and class. They speak not only to the great changes occurring at the time, but also to a continuing preoccupation today with the things Americans choose to buy, wear, and display.

The exhibition is curated by assistant director and curator Cat Shteynberg and curatorial assistant Melinda Narro. Support is provided by Home Federal Bank of Tennessee, the Henley and Peggy Tate Museum Fund, and Clarence Brown Theatre.

See more information about exhibition-related programming and special events at tiny.utk.edu/fish-forks.



Prometheus Bound and the Oceanids, c. 1880–1900, sculptor unknown, German, copy after 1879 marble sculpture by Eduard Müller (German, 1828–1895), Ivory, Bequest of Frederick T. Bonham, 1958.5.112.

Two young visitors enjoy the special exhibition *Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt*, from the Brooklyn Museum.



Support Free Admission

Your support helps us provide free access to more than 58,000 visitors each year.

Learn more at tiny.utk.edu/mcclunggiving.

Research at McClung

Melinda Narro's face is familiar to most McClung Museum regulars—she spent much time at our information desk, working in the Museum Store, volunteering at our Family Fun Days, and serving as a curatorial assistant. In her curatorial assistant capacity, she helped write labels and complete research on the upcoming exhibition *Fish Forks and Fine Furnishings: Consumer Culture in the Gilded Age*.

While completing object research for that exhibition, Narro came across a set of Victorian trade cards advertising various products from glue to coffee to chocolate. Trade cards were an early form of collectable advertising—they included an image on one side and an advertisement on the other, allowing manufacturers to charm potential buyers and set themselves apart from their competition.

Narro created a mini-exhibition in our research case on the museum's ground floor to highlight several trade cards and their fixation on stereotypical Egyptian imagery. She notes, "advertisements harnessed Egypt's association with luxury and ancient knowledge to lend an aura of exotic decadence and antique authority to commodities." The mini-exhibition, *Selling Egypt: Imagery in Victorian Advertising* (February 14–May 15), explores this period exoticism. Its exploration of consumerism is the perfect complement to *Fish Forks and Fine Furnishings*.

Narro is currently an intern at the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton, Texas, and has been accepted into the MA program in art history at the University of Kansas.



Melinda Narro's *Selling Egypt* mini-exhibition installed at the museum.

New Exhibition: *The Art of Botanical Illustration*



To celebrate spring, 47 hand-colored engraved botanical illustrations by four early artists have been installed in the pull-out print case in the entrance to the Decorative Arts Gallery.

Basilus Besler (1561–1629), a Nuremberg apothecary, assembled an herbal guide depicting over 1,000 flowers, which was a significant effort to systematize botanical nomenclature. Mark Catesby (1683–1749), “the Colonial Audubon,” published *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahamas* containing the earliest color prints of American flora and fauna.

The Scottish illustrator Elizabeth Blackwell (1707–1758) produced *A Curious Herbal*, which was designed as a reference work of 500 medicinal plants for the use of physicians and apothecaries. Finally, the featured engravings of lilies are by Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840), who was nicknamed “the Raphael of flowers” and has been called the greatest botanical illustrator of all time.

These four artists represent a small sampling of the museum's large, world-class natural history print collection. The exhibition will be on view through November 2017.

Basilus Besler (1561–1629), *Hemp-leaved Althaea & Musk Mallow*, hand-colored copper plate engraving from *Hortus Eystettensis*, Nuremberg, 1613. Gift of Jeffery M. Leving, 2017.2.4.

Community Engagement

An Auspicious Beginning: Happy Year of the Rooster!

In celebration of the new lunar year, the McClung Museum partnered with UT's Confucius Institute to offer an afternoon of cultural enrichment. Members from the local Chinese community showcased their skills in traditional arts such as calligraphy and music. There were also martial arts demonstrations, a fan dance performance, and tai chi lessons. The event was an excellent opportunity to highlight the museum's Chinese art collection, contextualizing its objects within the rich culture that produced them. More than 300 visitors joined the festivities, making this program one of our most successful family days of the season.



UT English 102 Classes Get Inspired in Museum Galleries

Students from the university's English 102 classes visited the museum to explore the role of physical objects in archival research. Using visual analysis techniques and critical-thinking skills, the students examined objects from the museum's collections and made inferences based on their observations. Jesse Stratton's classes looked at objects related to rebels and outlaws, while Jill Fennell's classes examined objects representing various aspects of the American South. Students further developed these skills through individual projects, in which they researched specific objects to feature in cohesive digital exhibits.

Open Houses Invite Members, UT Community into Museum

Drop by the Object Study Room between 1 and 3 p.m. the first Friday of each month for our First Friday Open House. These casual sessions offer members, as well as students and faculty, an opportunity to explore objects in our collection not normally on view and to engage in lively discussions about the chosen theme. The first session, timed with the opening of *Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt*, featured cat-related objects for a fun look at our feline friends. In March, we celebrated Women's History Month by bringing out objects from our collection by female artists and objects that featured other female groundbreakers.



In the Spotlight

Please welcome Callie Bennett as the McClung Museum's new assistant educator. Bennett will be primarily responsible for family programming but will also work closely with PreK–12 curricula and its implementation.

She has experience working with young students in programs like Kids U summer camps and our own Archaeokids summer camp. She previously served the museum as a graduate assistant for the education department.

Bennett holds a BA in anthropology and psychology as well as an MA in anthropology from the University of Tennessee.

It's Not too Late to Sign Up! Summer Camps 2017



JURASSIC KIDS CAMP

Ages 2 & 3 plus caregiver
June 13-15, 9-11 am
Cost: \$35
Registration Deadline: June 6

DINO EXPLORERS CAMP

Ages 4 & 5
June 20-22, 9-11 am
Cost: \$40
Registration Deadline: June 13

ALL THAT GLITTERS CAMP

Ages 4-6
July 11-13, 9-11 am
Cost: \$40
Registration Deadline: July 3

ARCHAEO KIDS CAMP

Rising 4th-6th graders
June 26-30, 9 am-noon
Cost: \$110
Registration Deadline: June 19

FOSSIL CAMP

Rising 4th-6th graders
July 17-21, 9 am-noon
Cost: \$110
Registration Deadline: July 10

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE TAILGATING EXPERIENCE?



The museum is available to rent up to four hours prior to kickoff during home football games.

You can also host your next special event or viewing party at the museum.

See mcclungmuseum.utk.edu/about/rental for details.

Group Type	After-Hours Rate
Nonprofit Group	\$100/hr
Corporate/Private	\$300/hr
Group Tailgating	\$5,000 for exclusive unlimited access

Discounted rates apply for museum grand benefactors and University of Tennessee groups. For details, call 865-974-2143.

People and Events



A.



B.

A. *Divine Felines* Exhibition Opening. (L to R) Susan Dakak, president of the Arab American Club of Knoxville, Jefferson Chapman, museum director, and Audrey Duncan, museum member and exhibition sponsor, at the February opening of *Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt*.

B. *Divine Felines* Exhibition Event. Drs. Wahid and Samia Hanna, Arab American Club of Knoxville members and exhibition sponsors, enjoy our program celebrating Egyptian culture.



C. Purrs from the Past Family Fun Day. Children with the Arab American Club of Knoxville delight the crowd with their Egyptian dance performance during our family event.



D. Dig in Faculty Appreciation Lunch. UT faculty joined museum staff in the Decorative Arts gallery for a lunch and workshop on using the museum's collections in teaching.

E. Darwin Day. Museum volunteer, graduate student in earth and planetary sciences, and Darwin Day organizer Jen Bauer poses with a young visitor in the Darwin photo booth.

New Museum Store Manager, Lecy Campbell



Please welcome Louise "Lecy" Campbell as the new Museum Store manager. Lecy is a UT graduate with a degree in fine arts.

Lecy joined the museum in March and brings a breadth of experience to the role having worked as a both a store manager and an independent sales representative for approximately 15 years. In her spare time she works as an artist designing and making handcrafted tile.

She is excited to apply her keen eye and sales experience to the Museum Store. We invite you to come in and see what's new.



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**McClung Museum of
Natural History & Culture**

1327 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

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Event Calendar

May

5/5, 1–3 pm: First Friday Open House
5/6, 1–4 pm: Family Fun Day: Day of Clay
5/15, 10–11 am: Stroller Tour: Mask Makers
5/25, 5–7 pm: Members' Opening, *Fish Forks and Fine Furnishings: Consumer Culture in the Gilded Age*

June

6/12, 10–11 am: Stroller Tour: Tea Time with Toddlers
6/13–6/15: Jurassic Kids Camp, Ages 2–3
6/20–6/22: Dino Explorers Camp, Ages 4–5
6/24, 1–4 pm: Family Fun Day: Mind Your Manners
6/26–6/30: Archaeokids: Exploring Ancient Art & Archaeology Camp, Ages 9–11

July

7/10, 10–11 am: Stroller Tour: Say Cheese
7/11–7/13: All That Glitters Camp, Ages 4–6
7/15, 1–4 pm: Family Fun Day: Gilded vs. Golden
7/17–7/21: Fossil Camp, Ages 9–11
7/21: Lost & Found Luncheon, Knox Heritage, "Knoxville in the Gilded Age"

Upcoming Museum Closures

A reminder that the museum will be closed Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day and Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day.

First Friday Open House This Week!

Join McClung staff from 1–3 pm Friday, May 5, for an open house revealing interesting collections not on display in the museum in our Object Study Room #53.