



LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART

Newsletter & Calendar of Events

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

NONPROFIT
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Elmhurst, Illinois
Permit No. 149

Return Service Requested

Museum Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays and Major Holidays.

Group Tours

A DVD program is available to all groups visiting the Museum for a nominal fee. Reservations must be made. Tours can be arranged for groups with special interests or needs. The Museum has facilities to provide access for physically disabled visitors. ♿

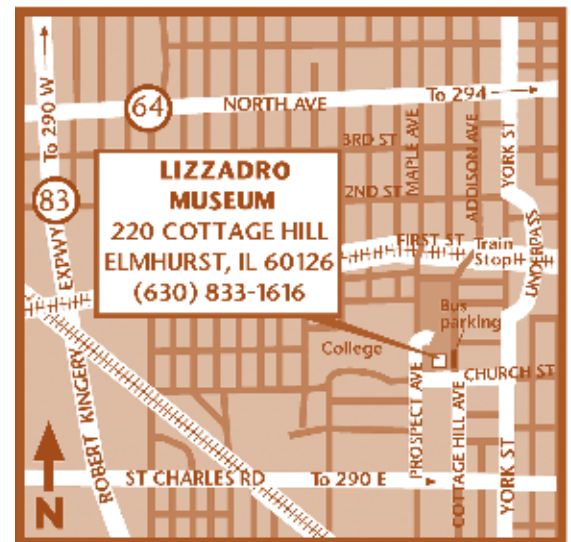
Visit us at lizzadromuseum.org

Check out our new website. See our greatly expanded Gift Shop inventory and search by stone. Museum members are able to receive their Gift Shop discount on-line. Volunteer forms are available.

Admission

\$4.00 Adults, \$3.00 Senior Citizens,
\$2.00 Students & Teenagers
\$1.00 children 7 to 12 yrs.
Free for children under 7.
Friday is Free day.
Members of the Lizzadro Museum and active members of the Armed Forces are admitted free of charge on any day the Museum is open to the public.

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Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program



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From The Director

Dear Patrons of the Lizzadro Museum,

Recently, the topic of ivory hit headlines news when two tons of elephant tusks and rhino horns buried under crates of avocados uncovered the illegal goods en route from Africa to Asia. Be assured the Museum does not sell or purchase ivory products nor condone the sale or support any illegal trade. The importation and sale of ivory in many countries has been banned or restricted since 1989.

So let me explain my reasons for choosing ivory as a special exhibit from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Lizzadro Museum collections.

First, ivory is unsurpassed as a carving material and nearly every culture has used and fashioned ivory. It is one of the organic gems along with coral, pearl, certain shells, amber and jet. Organic gems come from living or once living plants or animals and like a gemstone are considered rare, durable and beautiful. A large exhibition of ivory displayed at the Museum in 2004 was met with great enthusiasm by the public.

These ivories have been in archival storage and range in date from 200 to 60 years old. These pieces are exquisite examples of Chinese, Japanese, Indian, European and American works of art. However, this exhibit will also show current alternatives to using ivory such as tagua nut carvings from South America as found in our Gift Shop.

Secondly, our task is to educate people about what they are purchasing. In my twenty years here at the Museum countless visitors have brought in ivory pieces for identification. While museums cannot appraise, we help to identify material.

In conjunction with our special ivory exhibit, we are hosting two lectures. On October 9, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officers will talk about endangered wildlife products and regulations. Find out what is currently being sold abroad, what is illegal and not allowed into this country. Next on November 6, Robert Weisblut, President of the International Ivory Society, will lecture on how to identify ivory, its historical uses and the current value of ivory. Learn what pieces are collectable and what should be avoided.

I hope you will enjoy these works of art and come away with a better understanding of the precious gift that ivory has offered humankind throughout the ages. As always, I appreciate any feedback pertaining to this exhibit and other programs or exhibits at the Museum.

Sincerely,
Dorothy J. Asher
Director



“The Miner”

European circa 1875 is carved from ivory and encrusted with rubies and sapphires, stands on a base of lapis lazuli and silver-gilt with Champlevé enamel. This 9” high piece is one of a pair depicting peasant people at work. Pieces like this were produced for the growing European bourgeoisie in the second half of the 19th century and modeled after German figurines from the 18th century.



“Squash”

Japanese, *okimono* carved from ivory circa 1930. *Okimono* means display object and grew out of the netsuke carving tradition in Japan. In the 19th century with the influence of western dress, netsuke became a collectable item and the Japanese began carving elaborate *okimono* portraying scenes of everyday Japanese life. To the Western and European markets these pieces were considered exotic and highly collectable. This 3” squash depicts a fishing scene typical of these miniature fruits and vegetables produced by the Japanese.

IVORY FACTS

from Robert Weisblut

I. What is Ivory? It is the dentine portion of a mammal's tooth. Teeth are within the mouth, tusks are outside of the mouth. Ivory is usually from the incisors, and canines, but not molars. Dentine is covered by cementum and sometimes enamel.

II. What animals provide commercial ivory? Elephant family, hippo, walrus, whale family, and boars.

III. How can you identify ivory? By knowing the gross morphology, i.e. the size, shape, and grain patterns of each kind of tooth. NO such thing as hot needle test. Black lights are helpful in eliminating some kinds of polymers (plastics).

IV. What kind of objects are made of ivory? Both utilitarian and carvings. Some secular and some religious.

V. How long has ivory been used and why? Ivory has been dated as art at least from 40,000 years ago. It has always been "rare" and useful as it absorbs inks and stains and can be carved by any tool able to cut wood. The white color is often associated with purity.

VI. Where is most of the ivory produced?

China, Europe, Japan, Africa, India, Arctic and Pacific Islands to a lesser degree, not in South America.

VII. How much is ivory worth today? Better pieces are in demand, ordinary pieces are sluggish and down from their former highs. The Chinese are actively repatriating ivory.

VIII. Is ivory legal? Yes, to pre-ban ivory that is within the USA. Antique ivory can be sent between countries with a CITES permit. Raw ivory is forbidden between countries.



IVORY SUBSTITUTES FOR SCRIMSHAW AND CARVING

Type	Source	Hardness	Color	Comment
Tagua Nut <i>Phytelephas macrocarpa</i>	Colombia, Ecuador	2	Yellowish white.	For carving or scrimshaw. Can be stained or dyed. Has hollow interior.
Howlite $Ca_2B_5SiO_9(OH)_5$	U.S.A.	3.5	White w/black/grey veins.	Excellent material for scrimshaw with proper polish.
Datolite, Nodular $CaB(OH)SiO_4$	U.P. Michigan	5 – 5.5	White, pink, pale yellow or green.	Excellent for scrimshaw. Rare.
Plastics <i>Polymers, polycarbonate, nylon</i>	Man-made	3 (varies)	Any color.	Can be stained, carved or molded to look like ivory.

Special Exhibit



“IVORY” OCTOBER 5 THROUGH JANUARY 9, 2011

Features Chinese, Japanese, European and American works of art from the 19th to the mid 20th centuries from the collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Lizzadro Museum, and private collectors.

Regular Museum Admission

Lizzadro Museum Programs October – December 2010



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Regular Museum Admission

OCTOBER 9

“Buyer Beware: Purchasing Wildlife Souvenirs Abroad”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Inspectors, Laura DiPrizio and Kelly Ishmael educate consumers about endangered and protected animal species. Seemingly harmless products made from reptiles, coral, and ivory, to name a few are available in marketplaces all over the world. Travelers do not realize that several U.S. laws and an international treaty make it a crime to bring many of these wildlife souvenirs into the country. Learn the most common tourist souvenir purchasing mistakes. A hands on table, question and answer follows the lecture.

Lecture - Youth to Adult

60 minutes - 2:00 p.m.

Regular Museum Admission

Museum Members Free

Reservations Recommended

OCTOBER 16

“Fossil Collecting Field Trip”

New quarry! Travel by motor coach to a new quarry near Rockford, Illinois. Collect Ordovician Period (450 million years old) marine fossils in dolomite. Collectable fossils include: brachiopods, gastropods, corals, crinoids, trilobites and cephalopods.

Field Trip - Ages 8 yrs. to Adult

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$35.00 per person

Museum Members \$30.00

Reservations Required: 630-833-1616

**GIFT SHOP
ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**

November 19 to December 5, 2010
Museum Members receive a
20% discount on all purchases.

OCTOBER 23

“Meteorites and Meteorwrongs”

Do you think you have found a meteorite? Bring it in and have it identified by Dr. Paul Sipiera, meteorite specialist and adjunct curator at the Field Museum. Learn about the types of meteorites, where they are found and some of the more recent falls in our region. A hands on sample table helps in learning about meteorites and wrongs.

Lecture/Discussion - Youth to Adult

60 minutes - 2:00 p.m.

Regular Museum Admission

Museum Members Free

Reservations Recommended

NOVEMBER 6

“Ivory: The Organic Gem”

In conjunction with the Museum's special exhibit on ivory, Robert Weisblut president of the International Ivory Society, author and contributing editor on ivory for Schroeder's Antique Price Guide presents the facts on ivory. Learn what constitutes ivory, how to identify where it comes from, and its uses historically. See the types of ivory and the value of ivory objects in today's market. If you have a piece of ivory bring it in for an informal analysis and value.

Lecture - Youth to Adult

60 minutes - 2:00 p.m.

Regular Museum Admission

Museum Members Free

Reservations Recommended



Every Sunday Afternoon at 3 p.m.

“Ammolite: Birth Of A Gem”

Trace the origins of

Ammolite the shell fossil gemstone from Canada. As vibrant in color as opal, see how the gem is mined, cut, polished and sold. Learn why this gem is exclusive to Canada and how it was discovered and marketed.

DVD - 50 minutes. Regular Museum Admission

LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART
220 Cottage Hill Ave. Elmhurst, IL 60126 • 630/833-1616

www.lizzadromuseum.org



We would like to hear from you. Please direct questions or comments to info@lizzadromuseum.org

NOVEMBER 20

“Lapidary Activity Day”

Learn how gemstone jewelry is made and the types of lapidary art with members of the West Suburban Lapidary Club. See demonstrations of cabochon cutting, silversmithing, wirewrapping, beading and carving. Participate in creating a gemstone picture frame, making a rock critter and free jewelry cleaning. A great way to find out more about lapidary art and learn a new hobby!

Demonstrations & Activities All Ages

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free Admission

Group Reservations Recommended

DECEMBER 4

“Create A Gem Tree”

Lapidaries Bill and Lois Zima of the DesPlaines Valley Geological Society teach how to create a small tree using gemstones and wire. These beautiful trees never need water and make a great gift. All materials are included.

Activity - Ages 9 yrs. to Adult

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fee: \$20.00 per person

Museum Members \$15.00

Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

DECEMBER 11

“Scrimshaw Activity”

Scrimshander, Richard Kovanda presents the art of scrimshaw; a popular folk art form made famous by New England whalers of the 19th century. Today, ivory substitutions such as plastic, tagua nut and howlite can be used to create beautiful ink etchings. Learn from a master artist the tools and techniques of this unique art form. Tools and materials are provided to make your own creation to take home.

Activity - Ages 9 yrs. to Adult

1p.m. to 3p.m.

Fee: \$15.00 per person,

Museum Members \$10.00

Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616