Dear Member,

These are exciting times for the State Historical Society of Missouri. In the following pages you will see reports about our growth and accomplishments over the past year in building and preserving collections, as well as expanding access to them; providing public programs and educational outreach; sponsoring and publishing new scholarship; broadening our statewide presence; and in other areas. One of the year’s highlights was the Missouri General Assembly’s passage of a bill authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of a new SHSMO headquarters in Columbia. While there is much work to be done and more funding needed before the new building can become a reality, the bond issue is an important milestone in a long effort to build a modern facility in which our mission may be more fully realized.

In anticipation of the new building, the Center for Missouri Studies was launched in August 2014 with the establishment of a fellowship program and a public speakers’ series. A dream of mine for many years, the Center will allow the coordination and expansion of the State Historical Society of Missouri’s wide-ranging programs to foster education, scholarship, and discovery of Missouri’s rich past. At its core it is really a celebration of the many paths of inquiry into the past—not only for history, but also for geography, folklore, anthropology, and other approaches. The Center for Missouri Studies will allow us to energize our commitment to being the preeminent organization for the study of Missouri’s history and heritage.

None of these dreams could be achieved without your partnership in our mission to preserve and tell the stories of Missouri and Missourians. Our work is made possible by your contributions of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for your trust and your support.

Best Regards,

Gary R. Kremer

Executive Director
Senior Fellow, Center for Missouri Studies
Financial Report

In the past fiscal year, members of the State Historical Society of Missouri and legislators of the Missouri General Assembly affirmed their continuing support for SHSMO and its mission to collect, preserve, and share the state’s history and heritage. In the spring 2015 session, the Missouri legislature voted to return SHSMO’s state appropriation to pre-recession levels for the coming year. Membership has increased by 25 percent since January 2013. Dues and gifts provide essential support for SHSMO’s work.

2015 Award Winners

Robert J. Mueller is the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award, the State Historical Society of Missouri’s highest honor, due to his steadfast commitment to the future of this organization. Since joining the Board of Trustees in 2004 and the Executive Committee in 2009, Mueller has helped create a new climate of leadership that enables SHSMO to adapt to the changing needs of its members and patrons while looking for new opportunities for growth. His knowledge and expertise in strategic planning has prepared SHSMO for the next chapter in its service to the people of Missouri.

To recognize and support outstanding scholarship on Missouri history, SHSMO also presents the following:


Missouri Historical Review Article Award ($750) for the article best contributing to an understanding of Missouri history. Kevin Scharlau, “Navigating Change in the Homophile Heartland: Kansas City’s Phoenix Society and the Early Gay Rights Movement, 1966–1971.”

Mary C. Neth Prize ($500), awarded biennially for the best article on women or gender issues in the previous two volumes of the Missouri Historical Review. Linda Harris Dobkins, “What Men Expected, What Women Did: The Political Economy of Suffrage in St. Louis, 1920–1928.”

Lewis E. Atherton Prize for outstanding doctoral dissertation and master’s thesis on Missouri history or biography.

Dissertation ($1,000): Matthew C. Hulbert, “Guerrilla Memory: Irregular Recollections from the Civil War Borderlands” (PhD dissertation, University of Georgia).

Established in August 2014, the Center for Missouri Studies fosters ongoing study of Missouri’s past, encouraging connections among scholars in fields such as history, geography, folklore, anthropology, journalism, and other disciplines. This new initiative consolidates and extends the State Historical Society of Missouri’s multifaceted efforts to support scholars, publish new works, provide educational programs, and promote greater understanding of Missouri’s history.

**Center for Missouri Studies Fellowships**

The Center presented its first fellowship awards in January. The 2015 recipients are Patrick Huber, history professor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, who received an Interdisciplinary Studies fellowship, and Taylor Desloge, a graduate student in history and American culture studies at Washington University, who was awarded a fellowship in environmental history. Each award includes a $5,000 stipend to complete a study that may be published in the *Missouri Historical Review* and presented at a public event within the state. The fellowships are intended to encourage scholarship in new or underexplored areas of Missouri history.

**Programs**

SHSMO hosted or sponsored more than 60 events in communities across the state. Talks, workshops, gallery tours, and other events helped attendees to discover history resources and learn how to work with them; promoted new Missouri history scholarship; and explored aspects of the state’s past ranging from race relations to the role of Missouri and Missourians in World War I. The 2014 annual meeting speaker, author and restaurant critic Todd Kliman, presented a historical exploration of the Norton grape and the rise of Missouri’s winemaking tradition in a talk on his book *The Wild Vine: A Forgotten Grape and the Untold Story of American Wine.*
National History Day in Missouri

In 2015, more than 3,000 Missouri students in grades six through twelve created National History Day in Missouri projects, investigating a wide range of topics addressing the NHD contest theme, Leadership and Legacy. After rising from regional competitions to the state contest, student finalists advanced to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition in Maryland, where they represented Missouri with distinction. Students from Missouri brought home a gold medal, two special prizes, and two outstanding entry awards.

Support for National History Day in Missouri continues to grow. The Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Sons of the Revolution 1776 established the Frank Wilkinson Award endowment in 2015. This award will help support a portion of the program for approximately the next 25 years. The Missouri Humanities Council continues to be a steadfast partner in making NHDMO possible.

Missouri Bicentennial Celebration

Charged by the legislature with spearheading the bicentennial celebration of Missouri’s statehood in 2021, the State Historical Society of Missouri continues to gather ideas on how to best interpret and commemorate 200 years of Missouri history. Focus groups were held in Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and Cape Girardeau augmenting those held in FY2014 to ensure every corner of the Show-Me State has a voice in the process.
SHSMO continues to expand its statewide presence, operating six research centers across the state. The centers combined to assist 4,469 visiting patrons. In addition, SHSMO provides online access to an ever-growing number of its collections.

Intent on enhancing its services to researchers and other visitors, SHSMO invested in a number of facilities upgrades at its various locations. The Cape Girardeau Research Center moved to larger and more accessible quarters on the first floor of Pacific Hall on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University and also added a new digital microfilm reader for patrons. The Kansas City Research Center reorganized its reading room and collections storage areas, installing new carpeting, fresh paint, patron researcher tables, and a dedicated table for architectural records. The Columbia Research Center also added new carpeting and other upgrades to its facilities. The newest center, located in Springfield, continues to grow and has added a new digital microfilm scanner to accommodate increased requests to view the collections.

SHSMO welcomed 576,125 visitors to its website. The most visited web page was Historic Missourians (http://shs.umsystem.edu/historicmissourians), which offers short biographies of notable Missourians written for elementary and secondary school audiences. Ten new biographies were added in 2014-2015. Public events and Missouri history topics are promoted online through social media outlets including Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, and Twitter. In addition to its own web pages, SHSMO broadens its virtual presence by partnering with organizations such as the Digital Public Library of America, a portal of freely available digital resources from libraries, archives, and museums across the United States. SHSMO participates in this program through MissouriHub, a partnership between Missouri institutions to facilitate and promote DPLA.
Collections

2014-2015 Art Exhibitions
All shows were at the Columbia Research Center unless otherwise indicated.

Audubon’s Paper Menageries: Birds and Quadrupeds (June 20–November 28, 2015)
Four Turbulent Decades: The Cartoons of Tom Engelhardt (May 9–October 17, 2015)
World at War—Women at Work (March 6–June 6, 2015)
The Civil Rights Cartoons of Tom Engelhardt (February 2–27, 2015), Ellis Library Colonnade, University of Missouri–Columbia
Boone County History through the Eyes of Student Artists (November 26, 2014–April 25, 2015)
Art for a World at War (October 14, 2014–February 14, 2015)
Lincoln, the Constitution and Popular Culture during the Civil War: Selections from the Collections of the State Historical Society of Missouri (September 6–October 31, 2014), Ellis Library Colonnade, University of Missouri–Columbia
Missouri and World War I (June 28–October 20, 2014)
Thomas Hart Benton’s American Mythologies (April 5–September 27, 2014)
Gladys Wheat’s Mother Goose in Wartime: An Illustrated Call for Conservation on the Home Front during World War I (March 4–October 18, 2014)

Art
Through strategic additions, the art collection has become the nation’s most significant Missouri-related collection. In 2014-2015 SHSMO acquired over 150 artworks, including an 1852 lithograph by Claude Regnier of George Caleb Bingham’s The Emigration of Daniel Boone. The uncolored example of Bingham’s print is extremely rare, and with its addition the State Historical Society of Missouri is now the only public collection in the nation with examples of all of Bingham’s lifetime engravings and lithographs. Two cartoons by Pulitzer Prize–winning cartoonist Bruce Russell and an acquisition of over 100 artworks, including ceramics and sculpture, from the estate of Robert Bussabarger also increased the depth and breadth of the collection.

More than 30 of SHSMO’s artworks were loaned to institutions ranging from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, allowing new and larger audiences to view significant works within the collection.

- Watching the Cargo by George Caleb Bingham was part of the traveling exhibition Navigating the West: George Caleb Bingham and the River, which visited the Amon Carter Museum, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- Thomas Hart Benton’s Negro Soldier, Invasion, Exterminate, and Again were loaned to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, for the exhibition American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood. The show will continue touring, traveling to Fort Worth, Kansas City, and Minneapolis.
- Two of Bingham’s prints were also loaned within Missouri: Verdict of the People to the Mercantile Library in St. Louis, and Canvassing for a Vote to the Jackson County Museum in Independence.

30+ loans showcasing the treasures in SHSMO’s collection across the nation.

150+ artworks added to the art collection in 2014-2015.

3,295+ miles traveled by Watching the Cargo as part of the national exhibition Navigating the West: George Caleb Bingham and the River.
Newspapers

Continuing its long tradition of preserving Missouri’s newspapers, SHSMO captured approximately 696,000 pages of current and historic Missouri newspapers on microfilm this year. The total number of reels of microfilmed Missouri newspapers is now 56,634. This growing collection has seen an increase in use outside of the research centers; 275 reels were shared through interlibrary loan, and 642 reels were purchased by libraries and publishers. Proceeds from these loans and sales help provide for the continued preservation of Missouri’s newspapers.

SHSMO is thankful to the following partners in preserving today’s news as a resource for tomorrow’s historians. The papers below provide complimentary subscriptions. They are listed in alphabetical order by the city of publication.

Adrian Journal
The Messenger, Adrian
Albany Ledger
Santa Fe Times, Alma
Appleton City Journal
Arnold-Imperial Leader
Ash Grove Commonwealth
Boone County Journal, Ashland
Aurora Advertiser
Douglas County Herald, Ava
Belle Banner
Star Herald, Belton
Bethany Republican-Clipper
Bland Courier
North Stoddard Countian, Bloomfield
Bolivar Herald-Free Press
Boonville Daily News
Bowling Green Times
Branson Tri-Lakes News
Linn County Leader, Brookfield
Buffalo Reflex and Dallas County Republican
News Xpress, Butler
Cabool Enterprise
California Democrat
Lake Sun, Camdenton
Citizen-Observer, Cameron
Lewis County Press-News Journal, Canton
Southeast Missourian, Cape Girardeau
Carl Junction’s Jasper County Citizen
Carrollton Democrat
Democrat Argus, Caruthersville-Hayti
Barry County Advertiser, Cassville
Cassville Democrat
Centralia Fireside Guard
Enterprise-Courier, Charleston
Mississippi County Times, Charleston
Clarence Courier
The Countian - St. Louis, Clayton
Clinton Daily Democrat
Clinton Eye
Cole Camp Courier
Columbia Missourian
Columbia Tribune
The Concordian
Crane Chronicle
Cuba Free Press
Daily Statesman, Dexter
Dixon Pilot
Prospect-News, Doniphan
Drexel Star
East Prairie Eagle
Edina Sentinel
El Dorado Springs Sun
The Star, El Dorado Springs
The Advertiser, Eldon
Reynolds County Courier, Ellington
Shannon County Current Wave, Eminence
Excelsior Springs Standard
Fairfax Forum
Democrat Leader, Fayette
Fayette Advertiser, Fayette
Jefferson County Leader, Festus
West Side Leader, Festus
Taney County Times, Forsyth
The Guidon, Fort Leonard Wood
Democrat-News, Fredericktown
Fulton Sun
Ozark County Times, Gainesville
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Collecting, preserving, and sharing Missouri’s rich history
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