

Council History

Part Three - The Third Ten Years

1975

The new Downtown Gallery in the F&M Center opened with a big party attended by 332 people. Council continued to supply volunteers to man the exhibitions there.

The Council took in 85 new members, and began a policy of annual review of volunteer hours and attendance at meetings.

Bill Gaines thanked the Council for their hard work in providing all the opening parties for the Loan-Own Gallery. After 10 very successful years and 100 openings, Loan-Own became the Art Sales Gallery and was located next to the Council Sales Shop.

Council members got a special preview of the new Council Sales Shop (*fig. 1*) after the October lecture-luncheon. The Shop opened to the public the next day.

Council gave more than \$11,500 to the Museum, to be divided between the Council Curator Fund and the Council Trustee Contribution Fund.

1976

Following the January lecture-luncheon, Council members were the first group to tour the newly completed North Wing. Museum staff served as their guides.

The North Wing (*fig. 2*) opened over two weekends in January, with nearly 17,000 visitors. The Council provided hostesses and tour guides for both weekends.

Record business was enjoyed in the new shop, which required many more volunteers to man the enlarged space.

The Council planned and hosted the first Heirloom Discovery Day in April, with experts from Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York doing the appraisals. The public was invited to attend (*fig. 3*) and the Council realized a \$5000 profit, which was donated to the Degas Exhibition.

The Art Sales Gallery reported sales totaling \$19,300.

Boston, Northern Italy and England were the destinations for Council trips. Council Tour Guides visited several museums in the Raleigh area.

In October, Dr. Peter Mooz took over as Museum Director, and spoke to the Council at the November lecture-luncheon. Following these remarks, author Tom Wolfe and Judith Goldman of the Whitney Museum of Art "debated" their differing views of art; the debate was moderated by Bill Gaines.

Council contributed \$10,000 to the Council Curator Fund, \$8000 to the Library Fund, \$7500 to the Fellowship Fund, and \$4000 to the Film Purchase Fund. There were additional gifts totaling over \$4000.

1977

The Aspects of Art series was entitled "Artists on Art." Four artists, each representing a different medium, discussed their work.

Council trips included the "Treasures of Tutankhamen" exhibit at the National Gallery and a weekend trip to Wintertur.

The Council newsletter, The Councillor, debuted in March under the editorship of Jane Reid. The plan was to publish twice each year, in the spring and in the fall. Each issue included an article on the Shop, an art quiz, and information on the work of Council volunteers.

At the suggestion of Director Dr. Peter Mooz, a special event, "conTempo," was held in the new wing—an evening just for fun and entertainment, and a preview of the Virginia Artists 1977 Exhibition.

A series of "Little Dinners" for Council members began; each included dinner in the Members' Suite followed by staff talks on pieces in the collection or aspects of Museum operations.

Approximately 13,000 people were taken on tours by 55 Tour Guides who had completed an intensive eight-week training course. What began as a small study group became the Tour of the Month program, a regularly scheduled event open to the general public.

1978

The Southeastern Museum Conference was held in Richmond. Council volunteers served as goodwill ambassadors and as tour guides for the event.

Non-Council members were permitted to apply for volunteer positions within the Museum, provided they were Museum members. These volunteers could apply for Council membership after two years of satisfactory volunteer service.

Heirloom Discovery Day began with an elegant preview party held the night before the public event. Sotheby Parke Bernet again gave the verbal evaluations.

Council Tour Guides hosted a "Day in the Galleries." Small groups of Council members moved from gallery to

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gallery, hearing mini-lectures conducted by the guides. Afterward, all enjoyed wine and cheese in the Tapestry Hall.

The sum of \$25,000 was donated from the Trustee-Council Contribution Fund to establish a conservation laboratory in the Museum.

1979

The Council donated \$10,000 to help the Museum host the Chatsworth Exhibit, which proved to be a blockbuster event. Large numbers of visitors enjoyed tours by Council Tour Guides, and the special Chatsworth show realized big profits. The Council Shop amassed gross sales in excess of \$230,000.

A gift of \$10,000 was made to the Museum to help fund the Institute of Contemporary Art, a new enterprise which also received Council volunteer help.

The Council welcomed 60 new members at the May meeting. Members enjoyed trips to Lexington and to Washington, D.C.

Youth Gallery Guides joined the Junior League volunteers in taking younger school children through the Artmobile (parked in the Museum parking lot) and through the Museum itself (*fig. 4*).

The Council placed seven different Christmas trees throughout the Museum for the Christmas Open House.

1980

In celebration of its 25th year, the Council planned many special events. Charter members, 27 of whom were present, were honored at the January luncheon. Past Presidents were honored at the luncheon in May. A grand twenty-fifth anniversary ball was held for Council members and their husbands on May 17 (*fig 5*).

As a special anniversary gift to the Council, the Tour Guides planned two "Mornings in the Galleries," one in February and one in March. Twelve galleries were open with 49 guides giving mini-lectures on the art.

Jane Reid, long time Council member and Tour Guide, wrote a history of the Council's activities entitled 25 Years of Service. A copy was given to each Council member.

Thanks in great part to many years of gifts (totaling \$87,000) from the Council, the Museum Library owned 40,000 volumes.

In its silver anniversary year, the Council Shop funds donated to the Museum amounted to \$67,000. In addition, the Council gave tablecloths and napkins and a 19th century silver ewer, which went on display in September as part of an exhibition.

The Museum Trustees presented a resolution honoring the Council's countless hours of work and its gifts totaling over half a million dollars.

At the request of Director Dr. Peter Mooz, the Council donated \$19,000 to support the exhibition "Art of South Italy: Vases from Magna Graecia," planned for 1982. In addition, \$23,000 was taken from the Council Curator's Fund for the purchase of a special gift for the exhibition of a red-figured Greek lekythos (large vase) from Apulia.

The Council Board voted that all new members be required to work in the shop during their first year of membership.

1981

The Council membership welcomed 76 new members, thus making over 400 active volunteers working in many areas of Museum operations.

Council members assisted the Museum in soliciting donors to an Endowment Fund campaign; Council members contributed over \$208,000 (*fig 6*).

The "Little Dinners" took place in February with a preview of an exhibition of Virginia prints and drawings, and in March with Dr. Joseph Dye speaking on Asian art. In November, the event had a French theme. All were well attended.

The Council contributed funds totaling over \$57,000 to the Museum's Anniversary, the Library, the Conservation Lab, the Collections Fund, the Intern Program, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, among others.

1982

In preparation for the upcoming exhibition, "Art of South Italy" and the Council-sponsored trip to Italy, several special events occurred. These included a mini course on Italian art, and a Little Dinner with an Italian theme.

The Council Board addressed the issue of active members who were not fulfilling their required volunteer hours. The Board also decided to admit smaller groups of new members every spring, so as to more easily assimilate them into Council activities. Dues were raised for the first time, from \$5 to \$10.

The Council Tour Guides provided tours to 15,000 Museum visitors. The Gallery Hostess ranks swelled to 48, with special training given by staff members.

At the request of Charles L. Reed, Museum President (in the absence of a Director), the Council Board approved a special allocation of \$36,800 for the purchase of equipment, the redesign of an Artmobile, and to fund two Museum internships. \$75,000 went into the Council Trustee Contribution Fund.

In recognition of his many years of great service and guidance, Bill Gaines was honored by the Council prior to his retirement from the Museum in September. A sculpture was commissioned as a gift, and Mr. Gaines became the first male honorary Council member. Dr. William Rasmussen became the new Museum liaison.

1983

In January, the Council entertained the wives of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and 68 state legislators with tours of the Museum, lunch in the Member's Suite and a matinee performance at the Virginia Museum Theatre.

Council members sold acousti-guides during the very successful Fabergé exhibit; this exhibit also helped Shop sales reach record highs.

The Council updated its contract with the Museum for the first time in 10 years. Groundbreaking for the new West Wing expansion occurred, and another successful Appraisal Day was held in April. A Speaker's Bureau was started and administered by the Council. MasterCard and Visa usage became available to shop customers, and the 50 Tour Guides toured 15,066 people through the galleries.

The Council Travel Committee was asked to plan and execute trips for the Museum membership as well as Council members, necessitating an expansion of the committee.

In conjunction with the opening of the "Art in the South" exhibition, several special events occurred, including activities for children, special lectures, and "Jazz and Jambalaya", a party for Council members and their guests.

The Council gave \$69,000 to the Museum for various projects and equipment, and for two Museum interns, one of whom was Kathy Morris.

1984

Council members and the Museum again entertained the wives of legislators, and conducted a separate event for the legislators (*fig 7*).

Paul Perrot became the new Director of the Museum, and attended the February lecture-luncheon with his wife, Joanne.

The Youth Guild, a two-year-old collaboration of the Museum and the Council focused on getting area high school students involved in Museum activities, was invited to follow Tour Guides who were giving tours to elementary school students.

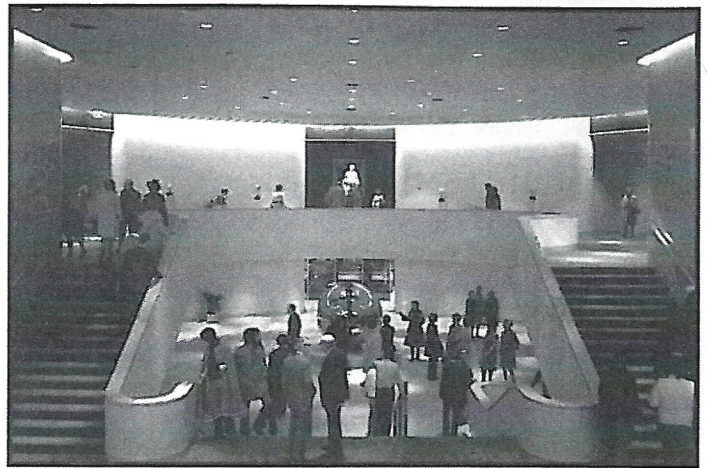
Council purchased a new 18-foot Christmas tree, and sufficient ornaments, for the Museum and hosted a Holiday Open House (*fig 8*). The Travel Committee planned trips to North Carolina and to France. The Council Tour Guides and Junior League Docents all became known as Docents

A "Happening" in the Shop featured Virginia artists showing and modeling their creations of wearable art. The Shop expanded into the area once occupied by the Art Sales Gallery.

Council gave the Museum \$99,000 for various projects.



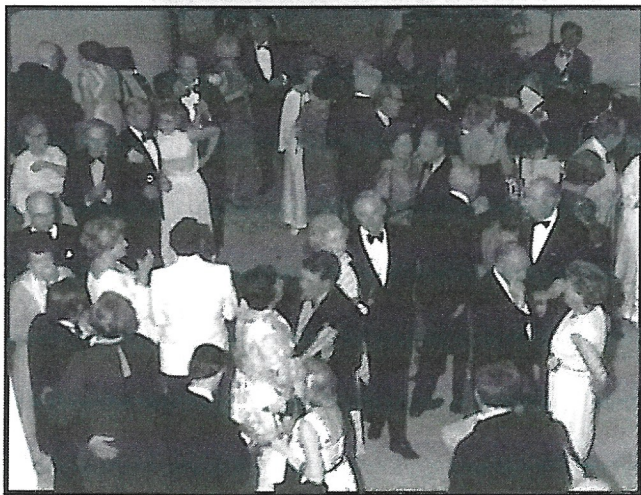
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