Connick Windows

Thoughts, news and comments concerning the art and craft of Connick stained glass, published periodically by....

The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, Ltd., Orin E. Skinner, Founder Marilyn B. Justice, President Directors and Officers: Jonathan Ambrosino Theresa D. Cederholm Judith G.Edington Jonathan L. Fairbanks

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Connick Windows in Metropolitan Chicago 2010

Albert M. Tannler

For three days in September—from Tuesday the 14th through Thursday the 16th—visitors from Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania joined Illinoisans to explore the Connick legacy in



Holy Grail window center panel
Holy Grail Chapel
Disciples Divinity House of the
University of Chicago
Photograph courtesy of Disciples
Divinity House.

metropolitan Chicago. Participants were able to view over 150 windows designed and made by Charles Connick and by Connick Associates between 1913 and 1964 at 6 churches, 4 chapels, and a faculty club. The principal tour leader was British historian and Connick Foundation honorary director Peter Cormack. Details of the various Connick windows locations visited on the tour are listed on the web site, www.cjconnick.org.

Peter presented a keynote lecture at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evening; all the windows are Connick windows. Before the lecture, some 80 attendees were able to view windows in the church, designed by Ralph Adams Cram, and the parish house, designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw. The lecture was filmed and recorded by cinematographer Jim Griebsch, who also filmed segments of each of the tours; these took place on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning and afternoon. Tour attendance averaged 20.

Program participants included architectural historians, church historians, museum curators, a second-generation stained glass craftsman, members of the Hyde Park Historical Society (the program was advertised on the HPHS website), glass aficionados, and church members.

In addition to seeing buildings by well-known architects James Gamble Rogers and Ralph Adams Cram, the program offered an opportunity to visit some splendid if often overlooked 20th-century American Gothic buildings designed by Chicago architects Armstrong, Furst & Tilton; Edwin H. Clark; Coolidge & Hodgdon; Henry K. Holsman; Denison B. Hull; Howard Van Doren Shaw; Schmidt, Garden & Erickson; and Thomas Tallmadge.

The Connick Foundation wishes to thank the persons connected with the visited sites for their hospitality and interest. We especially wish to thank David Foote who served as local liaison and helped organize this event. David also led the tour of Northminster Presbyterian Church; he is completing a book on the Northminster windows.

Albert M. Tannler is Historical Collections Director, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and Director of the Connick Foundation and he and David Foote organized the Chicago Tour.

The Weide Collection Comes Home

Jeanne Wilson Clark, MA, BSN

With the addition of the Weide collection to the Connick Foundation, visitors - scholars and students alike - have the opportunity to experience the "epiphany" of objective confrontation with the works of Charles Connick, spanning a ten-year period, 1926-1936. It gives me great pleasure to be instrumental in bringing these privately held pieces "home" to the Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation.

I first became aware of the Weide collection of Connick art, following the death of Genevieve McCreary Weide, the mother of long-time family friend, Professor David L. Weide. The year was 1986 and my husband and I were captivated by the stained glass medallions that David had just hung between the layers of double-paned glass which were the front windows of the great room of his Las Vegas home. We were especially captivated by the strength of the brilliantly clear colors and the vibrant explosion of energy in the body of "The Golfer." David, the inveterate lecturer set about educating us about the collection in general and that piece in particular. With pride, he explained that the golfer was actually his mother, who was a gifted athlete. As a young graduate of Slippery Rock State Normal School in western Pennsylvania, Genevieve lived for a time in New



Golfer medallion by Charles J. Connick Photograph by Ian Justice

York City, and it was there that she became a close friend of Charles Connick. In 1926, Connick captured in water color, the very soul of Genevieve as she grieved for a friend who had drowned the previous day in the Monongahela River (Allegheny Plateau.) Connick made the depth of her pain palpable through his treatment of those exquisite pale blue eyes. Over the years, I came to recognize those familiar eyes etched into the countenance of her son as he grieved his own losses.

In the late 1920's, Genevieve married Dr. Herbert Finis Weide, a petro chemist and concert violinist. The young couple departed western Pennsylvania for California for Genevieve to begin her teaching and administrative career in Los Angeles and for Herbert (Hub) to continue his research in the petroleum industry and teach at Los Angeles City College. When David was born January 6, 1936, Connick presented the new baby with one of the Capricorns from his zodiac medallion work. Needless to say, this was a prized family heirloom. In addition to The Golfer and the Capricorn medallions, the Weide collection includes two other medallions, an unusual star and a remarkable blue bird. A set of three other watercolors round out the collection, and these are described here in David's own words, as images of "Western Pennsylvanian squalid mill-towns, slag-heaps, and 'company houses' of steel-workers. (Correspondence to M. Justice, June 25, 2007.) The terse and succinct description was typical of David's scientific prose and was written exactly one year prior to his own death, June 25, 2008. The Weide family friendship with the Connicks was treasured and nurtured over the years with correspondence, prints of recently completed work, photographs, and ultimately a beautiful letter to them from Mrs. Connick on the death of her beloved husband, a devastating loss that they mourned together. It is interesting that some of the words of Mrs. Connick are echoed in notes that Genevieve made twenty years later following the death of her own beloved, "Hub."

The Weide collection of Connick art consists of four medallions and four watercolors which came to David following his mother's death in 1986. He was indeed proud of the collection and of his mother's first-hand knowledge of Charles Connick. Following David's retirement as Professor Emeritus of Geoscience, University Nevada, Las Vegas, it was his expressed desire to have the collection returned to the Foundation. As a scholar, professor, and sometime curator, David recognized the academic value of the experience of *seeing and understanding* a collection of actual objects as opposed to merely *looking* at photographic representations of a collection. To this end, the Weide collection is coming "home."

Jeanne Clark has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Anthropology and Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She is retired from active nursing and continues to teach classes in holistic health care therapies for nursing continuing education programs.

A reminder: Receiving the newsletter by email would not only benefit the environment (using less trees) but also save money for the Foundation. Please sign up for email delivery on www.cjconnick.org under the menu item 'Stay in Touch.'