

# Field Notes

Volume 3 - Number 2

Fall 2018

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**Words to Music:**  
**Songs of Eugene Field**  
**Thursday, November 15, 2018**  
**Sheldon Concert Hall**

Join highly acclaimed opera soprano Christine Brewer and tenor Scott Kennebeck as they perform Eugene's most beloved poems, set to music and accompanied by pianist John Walsh at the Sheldon Concert Hall on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 8 pm. Christine, named one of the top 20 sopranos of all time by BBC Music, has performed with numerous international opera companies. Scott, who has also performed internationally, is Executive Director of the St. Louis Cathedral Concerts. This magical evening starts at 5 pm with drinks and dinner in the Louis Spiering Room at the Sheldon. The evening will mark the release of the Field House Museum's new CD of works by Eugene Field with proceeds of this event making possible the continuing educational and cultural programming of the Field House Museum. Invitations will be mailed soon.



## Book Release

*With  
ten thousand  
Kisses*

Don't miss out on your chance to get the limited-edition book, *With ten thousand Kisses!* This beautifully hard-bound book is a compilation of 56 letters handwritten by Eugene to his beloved Julia. If you would like to reserve a copy, please contact the museum to order this collector's edition book, which will be available by Valentine's Day 2019. Save the date for Friday, February 8, 2019, as we will have a special celebration party to mark the release of *With ten thousand Kisses!*



## Upcoming Events at the Museum

**October 25, 5 - 7:30 pm** - History Happy Hour

**October 27** - No Tricks – All Treats Kids Halloween Spectacular: Dress up and head over to conjure up creative crafts, play ghoulish games & spin silly stories for Halloween.

**November 15** - *Words to Music* Dinner & Performance at the Sheldon Concert Hall

**November 29, 3 - 8 pm** - The Saint Louis Historic Holiday House Tour

**December 1** - "A Spirited Holiday Past" by Historic Saint Louis



## Treasures from the Collection

### Monteith Bowl

Truly a Field family treasure, the Monteith bowl in the Museum's collection has quite a special provenance dating back more than 250 years. Perhaps you have admired this beautiful bowl, typically displayed in the dining area (double parlor) of the historic Field house. Currently, the unique ceramic bowl holds a place of honor in the main gallery.

By definition, a Monteith bowl is a large punch bowl featuring a notched rim for suspending and immersing punch cups and wine glasses in iced water, thus allowing each cup or glass to be chilled prior to use. Punch was adopted in the 17th century by sailors bound for the East and West Indies, who created it from ingredients such as rum, citrus, and spices found at

their ships' destinations. The sailors brought the drink back to Britain, where it soon gained popularity in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic versions.

The bowl in the Museum's collection was manufactured by Antonibon, a producer of fine ceramics and pottery based in Nove, Italy in the north-eastern province of Vicenza. The highly respected Antonibon factory was located in this small, nondescript village – a village where ceramics industries have flourished for centuries. The Museum's brightly colored ceramic punch bowl, with hand-painted pastel flowers and vines, sits on a pedestal and was frequently a centerpiece in the homes of the various Field families.

The trail of the bowl's arrival at the Museum is long and interesting, if not somewhat confusing. The bowl was a gift to Eugene's great-great-grandparents, Seth Field and Mary Hubbard, at the time of their wedding in 1764. Future guardians of the bowl include Eugene's grandfather, General Martin Field; then his father, Roswell Martin Field; and ultimately Eugene. Years later, Eugene and wife Julia's eldest daughter, Mary French (known as "Trotty"), became the owner of this family heirloom. The bowl was eventually given to Trotty's son, Eugene Field Englar, and his wife, Evalyn Smith Englar. It was Evalyn who transferred the Monteith bowl to the Museum (at the time known as the Eugene Field House) in 1955.

The next time you visit the Museum, be sure to view this very special Field family treasure which is still exquisite at over 250 years old.

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## Staff "Field" Trips



In working to create and maintain connections within the St. Louis museum community, staff and volunteers have started a monthly "in the field" trip. While visiting others within the museum and preservation community, there is a chance to learn what has and has not worked for them, how they give tours and create exhibits, and what types of museum practices they use. Not only does this establish a rapport with others - it also helps improve Field House Museum exhibits and education.

The first trip led us to the Old Ordnance Room at Jefferson Barracks where Curator Mike Venso showcased their current exhibit along with exhibit design tips and hands-on activities. Bellefontaine Cemetery was the second trip where Dan Fuller, Event and Volunteer Coordinator, provided a guided tour tailored to our interest in the Field family and the historic judicial system of St. Louis. The Field family plot proved very interesting with eleven burials spanning three generations over a period of forty years. Most recently, at St. Louis Mercantile Library, We met with Curators Posche Schlapper and Nick Fry who showed us their National Inland Waterways Library and John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library followed by a tour of the main library.

## Let's Play Ball!: Historic Games of America's Favorite Pastime



Members of the Saint Louis Brown Stockings Vintage Baseball Team pose with Ed Nickels and granddaughter, Frankie.

The Field House was filled with baseball and history lovers alike on Friday, July 20, for the opening of our newest exhibit, *Let's Play Ball!: Historic Games of America's Favorite Pastime*. The reception, catered by SqWires Restaurant, featured an exclusive display of a pennant and ticket from the St. Louis Cardinals' 1926 World Series victory. The personal collection of historic baseball-themed games, owned by Mr. Ed Nickels, is displayed on the third floor of the historic house.

The collection spans almost 80 years with examples dating from 1888 to 1961. The games take a variety of forms, from bagatelle boards and dice games to board games and playing cards, demonstrating the immense popularity of America's favorite pastime. Pop culture, advancements in technology, and changing aesthetics

can be traced as you walk through the exhibit.

With enlightening information about national and local baseball history, Eugene Field's ardent admiration of baseball's resident rule-breaker and kindred spirit, Mike "King" Kelly,

and how the sport found its way into the pockets and onto the tables of the American population, *Let's Play Ball!* is sure to feed the fire of baseball lovers, rebels, and history aficionados with gusto.

If you missed the reception, come by today to take in the vast collection and stop by our gift shop for your very own baseball-themed game and an exhibit booklet that delves into some of the most interesting games in the collection. The exhibit is on display until January 20, 2019. You may recognize some of your favorite games from childhood and even catch a glimpse of a few that were made right here in St. Louis!



Ed Nickels giving a presentation of his collection to guests.

## Fair St. Louis

Forest Park bid adieu to Fair Saint Louis as "America's Biggest Birthday Party" moved back to the Gateway Arch National Park. Approximately 300,000 guests attended the three-day celebration where families and friends enjoyed copious amounts of entertainment and food. This year the Field House Museum joined the party in the Purina/Ameren Festival Zone, where attendees made paper fans, spool tractors, yarn dolls, and writing with quill and ink. Kids of all ages, and many adults, enjoyed learning about the Field House Museum while creating unique keepsakes to take with them. Look for more community outreach and programming from the Field House Museum in the future.



## Eugene and His Works: The Adoration of the Children's Poet

Lullabies are nearly as old as human civilization. Passed down from generation to generation, they are a child's first introduction into society. *Eugene and His Works: The Adoration of the Children's Poet* explores the lullabies that endeared Eugene Field to the public and set his name to memory.

The exhibit draws emphasis upon classics such as "Wynken, Blynken, & Nod" and brings to light lullabies



based on his travels from around the world. Located within the Eugene Field Library, *Eugene and His Works* presents many early versions of his published writings from the

Marianne & Peter Gleich Collection. Visitors will cherish the many wonderful books on display, including an original of *A Little Book of Western Verse*, as well as beautiful copies of *Lullaby Land* and *In Wink-a-way Land*, all of which are sure to inspire the imagination and take one back to childhood.

Pass on these treasured poems to the next generation when you stop by the Eugene Field Library, now through mid-November, and see *Eugene and His Works: The Adoration of the Children's Poet*.



## “Little Boy Blue and the Dangerous Streets” Speaking Event



In July, the Museum hosted guest speaker Dr. Bonnie Stepenoff, a local historian and former professor at Southeast Missouri State University, for a presentation on St. Louis history. Dr. Stepenoff described the dark side of nineteenth and early twentieth century St. Louis through the eyes of innocent children. In her presentation, Dr. Stepenoff focused on the forgotten orphans and newsboys who were left to fend for themselves on the streets to survive. The presentation was held in the Eugene Field Library and was followed by a brief Q&A and light reception.

As a new outreach project, the museum is starting a Speaker Series in 2019 to be held in the Eugene Field Library. Topics will range from St. Louis society in the 1800s to Eugene's poetry and Roswell's work on the Dred Scott case. Look for more information on upcoming presentations on our website and in future *Field Notes* newsletters.

## **WELCOME MEMBERS**

The Board of Trustees and staff thanks the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations:

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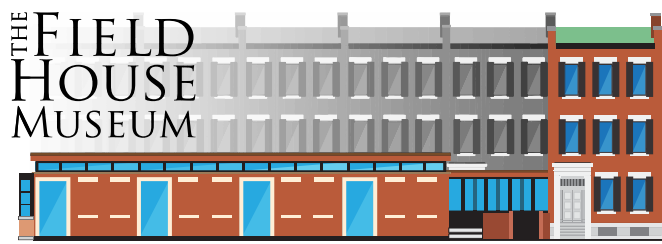
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## **A Special Thank You to the Questers**

A recent generous grant from the Eugene Field Questers Chapter #151 enabled the Museum to repair the pier mirror, which was located in the gentlemen's parlor. The mirror, notably the upper portion, was beautifully restored by local experts at Zollinger's Furniture Company. The grant also provided funds to refinish the doors of the bookcases in the second floor library. The Field House Museum Foundation greatly appreciates the continued support of the Eugene Field Questers and thanks its members for their assistance in helping maintain the Museum and its collection over the years. We look forward to continuing the special relationship.





**WHERE INSPIRATION HAS A HOME**  
634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102

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L to R: Marianne & Peter Gleich,  
Stephanie Bliss, and Joe & Linda Maloney

## History Happy Hour

History Happy Hour is a program that offers guests a relaxing after-hours experience at the Museum. Each event will highlight an exhibit at the Field House Museum as well as local food and drink establishments. The first History Happy Hour, in June, proved to be a fun collaboration. Hors d'oeuvres were donated by Pieces Board Games Café and Bar in Soulard, coinciding perfectly with the featured display *Prominent Pieces: The Golden Age of Board Games*.

After the success of the first History Happy Hour, we excitedly hosted our second event on Friday, August 24, showcasing *Let's Play Ball!: Historic Games of America's Favorite Pastime*. 4 Hands Brewery sponsored beer for guests., and the evening was highlighted by a giveaway of Cardinals tickets, donated by Tony and Susan Favazza. Look for the next History Happy Hour in October!

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