

Souvenirs! Get Your Souvenirs!! Chicago Mementos and Memorabilia

Souvenirs! Get Your Souvenirs! is the latest in an ongoing Special Collections archival series, Discover Hidden Archives Treasures. This installment focuses upon Chicago's two World's Fairs: the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the Century of Progress in 1933-1934.

The inspiration for this show was objects and ephemera from the Ian Mueller Collection of Chicago Memorabilia. Professor Ian Mueller (1938-2010) was the University of Chicago's preeminent scholar in Greek philosophy of science and the reception of Plato and Aristotle in late antiquity. He may have been best known for his many academic accomplishments, but in his spare time Professor Mueller loved to collect souvenirs and memorabilia relating to Chicago, the University, and the two World's Fairs. The theme of this exhibition also allowed us to draw on other collections in an effort to document these two World's Fairs.

2013 marks the 120th anniversary of the World's Columbian Exposition, open from May to October 1893. Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, the fair covered more than 630 acres in Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance. Over 27 million people visited the fair and saw new inventions and highlights in fields as diverse as mining, agriculture, and the liberal arts. This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the Century of Progress International Exhibition, which was a celebration of the centennial of the City of Chicago and – as the programs and souvenirs illustrate – a fair dedicated to technological innovation. Over 48 million people visited the fair, which took place on Chicago's lakefront, between 12th and 39th Streets. Though science and technology were the main themes of the exposition, the fair also included venues dedicated to American history, printing history, religious groups, and specific corporate sponsors; as well as venues for other countries to highlight their history and tourism.

Souvenirs! Get Your Souvenirs! celebrates these expositions with a special attention paid to the ways in which visitors memorialized their travels through keepsakes and ephemera – from postcards, ticket stubs and guidebooks to home décor, and commemorative medals

Tell Your Friends

Century of Progress attendees were encouraged to capture and share their experiences with their family far and wide. Major companies like Western Union, Bell Telephone and a new Air Mail service encouraged fair goers to “send a telegram or make a phone call” right on the fair grounds. The Air Mail service actually picked up the letters right on the lake front while the fair goers watched them fly away.

History of Printing at the Century of Progress

Within the fair several venues highlighted our colonial heritage and the history of printing – specifically the Benjamin Franklin print shop. A treat for fair goers included watching the illustration and printing process known as ‘woodcut’. The limited edition piece on display was created by several artists. The woodcut artwork was created by Charles Turzak, a well-known Chicago artist and muralist, at the Lincoln village. The printing by George C. Domke and typography by R. Hunter Middleton was created at the Franklin print shop. Only 1500 copies were made during the fair.

Illinois Host House, Century of Progress Abraham Lincoln Exhibition

Abraham Lincoln’s father, Thomas Lincoln, designed and built this pie safe. Lincoln collector William E. Barton acquired the pie safe along with thousands of other Lincoln related artifacts, letters and other documents, books, photographs, sheet music, paintings, posters and broadsides, including a signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1932, at the urging of faculty in the Department of History, Barton's collection of Lincolnia was acquired by the University of Chicago Library. In May 1933 planners for the Illinois Host House at the Century of Progress Exposition approached M.L. Raney, Director of the University Libraries at the University of Chicago. Initially the planners were approaching the University simply to inquire as to whether they had Lincoln memorabilia they wished to display in a Lincoln exhibit at the world’s fair. Eventually, Raney became involved in the larger planning of the exhibition and even helped solicit other Lincolnia pieces from other libraries, museums and private collectors.

In the summer of 1934, facsimiles of documents, original art and artifacts, including the Thomas Lincoln pie safe from the Library’s Barton Collection of Lincolnia, were exhibited at the Illinois Host House at the Century of Progress exposition in Chicago.

Bring the Kids

Both of the world’s fairs provided entertainment for all visitors—including children. The World’s Columbian Exposition dedicated a Children’s Building, which housed a gymnasium, toy exhibits, workshops and lectures, and a nursery where parents could drop off their children while they visited other parts of the fair. The “Enchanted Island” at the Century of Progress International Exhibition set aside five acres of land between the lake and the lagoon for children’s entertainment and included a fairy castle atop a towering mountain, a house of marbles, a theater, a mechanical zoo, and a miniature railroad.

Find Your Way

Visitors were greeted with hundreds of acres of fairgrounds and buildings housing thousands of exhibits at Chicago’s 1893 and 1933 world’s fairs. Official guidebooks, maps, and exhibit brochures helped people navigate through the fair and directed them on the best use of transportation and facilities. These same guidebooks and brochures also served as souvenirs for the visitor, helping them record and recollect their fair experiences and memories.

Capture the Moment

What better way for visitors to memorialize their time at the world's fairs than through visual material. Visitors to the 1893 and 1933 world's fairs could purchase official photographs and illustrated histories of the fair to summarize and record their experiences. Many also took their own photographs and notes on what they saw and felt at the fairs, creating personal tokens of remembrance.

Ian Mueller Collection of Chicago Memorabilia

This lithograph highlights many of the venues at the Century of Progress Columbian Exposition. As with the 1893 fair, the 1933 Century of Progress focused mainly on the scientific and technological advancements – medicine, food production, transportation – but they also included venues for children, specific corporations highlighting their products, venues that took a look back at our history such as Colonial village or sites that showcased various US cities or other countries, encouraging travel. All of these unique venues provided some type of souvenir brochures, pamphlet, postcard or ephemeral item to take away. These are just a sample.

Decorate Your Home and Set Your Table

Home furnishings are a common type of souvenir, as evidenced by the posters, mugs, and refrigerator magnets populating souvenir shops all over the world. But the limits of what could be turned into a souvenir were tested during the World's Columbian Exposition and Century of Progress Fairs. Are you fastidious about keeping a clean table in front of guests? Then perhaps your trip to the World's Fair would best be memorialized by a souvenir table scraper. Or, if you often host guests who enjoy a “chew,” why offer them a plain old spittoon when you can commemorate your trip to the World's Columbian Exposition with an official Fair spittoon? This display showcases the many ways in which souvenirs have been adapted for use in the home.

The Story of Hiram Walker Distillery and the World's Fair

One of the many eateries at the Century of Progress International Exposition was the Canadian Club café, operated by Hiram Walker distillery. It was built to seat 1,500 on its ground floor and to house a company exhibit on the upper level. The distillery produced “miniature bottles” of whisky and gin to sell to thirsty fair-goers at souvenir stands in the Canadian Club exhibit. However, the exhibit was abruptly shuttered in June 1934 due to a disagreement over the souvenir liquor sales: Fair management decreed that liquor could only be sold in a restaurant, not at souvenir stands. William E. Hull, vice president and general manager of the distillery, responded by closing the Canadian Club exhibit and threatening to sue the Fair. However, the Canadian Club restaurant continued to serve Hiram Walker liquors crafted into cocktails like these listed in a brochure produced by the distillery for A Century of Progress.

Amuse Yourself 1893

Invitations, passes, and programs for World's Columbian Exposition Dedication and Opening Ceremonies

October 1892 and May 1893.

Harriet Monroe. Papers

Poet Harriet Monroe was among the lucky few who witnessed the dedicatory and opening ceremonies of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition from a front-row seat. Ms. Monroe was commissioned to write a special Ode for the fair, which was read aloud by actress Sarah C. Le Moyne during the opening ceremony. Monroe kept her invitations, tickets, and programs as souvenirs of the momentous occasion in both her career and in the life of her city. This included a hand-written card from architect Daniel Burnham, Director of Works for the fair, granting Monroe and her guest's transit aboard the S. S. Argo to Jackson Park.

Amuse Yourself 1893

Banquet menu, fireworks program, inaugural reception dance card, World's Columbian Exposition Souvenir booklet, stereopticon and stereopticon card

1892-1893

Hyde Park Historical Society. Collection

General Archival Files

Artifact Collection

The inaugural events of the World's Columbian Exposition were filled with spectacle and entertainment. Guests dined at a banquet given in honor of living descendants of Christopher Columbus. They danced the waltz and polka at the inaugural reception, and they filled Washington, Lincoln, and Garfield Parks to watch an enormous fireworks display. While a souvenir menu, dance card, and program can only hint at the grandeur of these events, other mementos, such as a souvenir booklet containing color drawings of the fair's buildings and a stereopticon photograph, can still bring the "Magic City" to life in modern day.

Amuse Yourself 1893

A myriad of tickets were produced for the Exposition, many of which transcended their ephemeral purpose to become treasured keepsakes. These articles admitted visitors into the fairgrounds, into elite clubs, to special events, and into restaurants. Two passes and a badge on display here conveyed the bearer to places of employment at the Exposition, including Miss Ella Pepper, a silk worker in the Women's Building.

Notebook, World's Fair

1893

Frederick Starr. Papers

Professor of Anthropology Frederick Starr compiled field notes throughout Africa, Asia and the Americas. In 1893, he recorded observations of the exhibits at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Reproduction from glass plate negative

1893

Archival Photographic Files

View of the Walker Museum on the University of Chicago campus, and the World's Columbian Exposition Ferris Wheel.

Reproduction from glass plate negative

1893

University of Chicago. Yerkes Observatory. Records

Yerkes Observatory 40-inch refractor telescope on display at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Reproduction from lantern slide, undated

University of Chicago. Yerkes Observatory. Records

Yerkes telescope that focused light from the star Arcturus.

Photograph, March 28, 1933

University of Chicago. Yerkes Observatory. Records

Observatory director Edwin B. Frost (left), and astronomers Christian T. Elvey (center), and Otto Struve (right) examine equipment that will help activate the lights of the "Century of Progress," thus opening the Chicago world fair of 1933. The process involves the Yerkes Observatory 40-inch refractor telescope which will capture light from the star Arcturus and direct it into a photocell of a photo-electric photometer. The resultant current will be transmitted over phone lines to Chicago.

Extra! Extra!: Newly Acquired and Recently Discovered

Antoni Zygmund (1900-1992), a professor of mathematics at the University of Chicago for 45 years, was best known for his work in harmonic analysis, a method for analyzing periodic functions. He was the author of *Trigonometric Series*, a textbook that first appeared in 1935 and remains in use worldwide.

The piece on display, signed by Zygmund, was donated by mathematician and former Dean of the Physical Sciences Division, Robert Fefferman. In the 2002 reprinting of *Trigonometric Series*, Fefferman contributed the introduction stating Zygmund's book "continues to be, one of the most influential books in the history of mathematical analysis...Its tremendous longevity is a testimony to its depth and clarity."

Trigonometrical Series, Zygmund, Antoni

Warszawa, Lwów, Z subwencji Funduszu kultury narodowej, 1935

Pocket Diary and Ephemera, circa 1861-1869

Henry Kendall Carter. Papers

We recently processed the papers of Henry Kendall Carter, a Civil War-era cotton trader from New Orleans, and were fascinated by the contents of Henry's leather-bound pocket diaries that document his personal and household expenses, letters written, laundry sent out, and travel. As we still do today with our own wallets and planners, Henry tucked a variety of ephemeral papers into the handy pocket of each book, such as newspaper clippings, recipes, and receipts. Shown here alongside his

pocket diary are a Confederate bond (1861), a Civil war travel pass from Union Provost Marshall (1862) and a recipe for brandy bitters.

Alfred Willis Collection of African-American Romance Novels

These titles represent just a sampling of the gift by Alfred Willis, University of Chicago, Graduate Library School alumnus, of more than 1200 titles in this genre. *Entwined Destinies* is believed to be the first mass-market paperback in the romance genre to feature African-diasporan characters.

Letter, Isaac Asimov to Zena Bailey Sutherland, November 12, 1970
Zena Bailey Sutherland. Papers

Zena Bailey Sutherland was among the world's most influential and prolific scholars and critics of children's literature. She was associated with the University of Chicago Graduate Library School throughout her career, and served as a faculty member from 1972 to 1986. This letter from Isaac Asimov is probably a response to a solicitation made of behalf of the *Saturday Review*, for which she served as children's books reviewer from 1966 to 1972.

Letter, Emma Goldman to Charles Henry Mitchell, December 21, 1937
Briggs, Lloyd Vernon. Sanity Hearings and Criminal Cases of Clarence V.T. Richeson, Leon F. Czolgosz, and Bertram C. Spencer, Crerar Manuscript 80

Anarchist Emma Goldman was arrested, but never charged, as an accessory to the assassination of President William McKinley by Leon F. Czolgosz in 1901. She declared her innocence, but protested Czolgosz' treatment and refused to condemn his actions. Charles Henry Mitchell corresponded with Goldman in 1937-1938 while researching a never-published book about Czolgosz.

Samples of medications, ca. 1960-1972
Poulos-Creticos Alumni Collection

These trial size medicine samples were donated by alumni Dr. Harry Poulos (BA 1976, MD 1980) and his wife, Dr. Catherine Creticos (BA 1977, MD 1981), in September 2012 as part of their Alumni Collection. Other items in their collection commemorate their time as students in The College, including t-shirts, posters, and course syllabi, but these pharmaceutical samples are evidence of the two doctors' studies at the Pritzker School of Medicine and their careers beyond the University. The sample medications displayed here date from the early 1960s to 1972, and were used to treat a variety of ailments including auto-immune disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, and "anxiety and tension associated with menopause."