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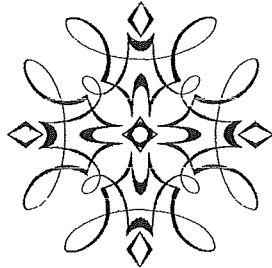
# Tudor Rozette

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From Glensheen's Volunteer Office

April 2001

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## Appreciation Event

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 24, for Glensheen's annual Volunteer Appreciation Day.

This event is part of the Minnesota and National Volunteer Recognition Week, from April 22 to 28. The theme for the year 2001 is "International Year of Volunteers: the Year that Changes the World".

This year Glensheen and Tweed Museum of Art staff are working together to plan a Tour of David Ericson Paintings throughout Duluth. Since many David Ericson paintings are seen at Glensheen and at Tweed, the Volunteer staff from both places will be invited to participate together.

We will start at 12:30 pm at Glensheen where our Volunteers will show the Tweed Volunteers the David Ericson paintings we have here. (Mr. and Mrs. Congdon's portraits in the Library, Bruges in the Blue Room, St. Marks in Venice outside the Red Room, Sailboats in the Master Bedroom, Tuscon Garden and New Orleans in the Gold Room)

Then we will car pool and drive to other locations in Duluth to see David Ericson original art works. Finally, we will end up at Tweed, where the Tweed Volunteers will show us the David Ericson paintings they have.

Coffee and dessert will be served at Tweed at the end of the tour. We will finish up at 4:00 pm.

If you are interested in going on the tour, please call Rachael at 726-8918 to sign up. If you can drive, please let us know that, too.

**WELCOME  
NEW MARCH  
VOLUNTEERS:**

*Joan Whiteside  
and  
Ernestine  
Ziebarth*

*Hope you can join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
annual Volunteer Appreciation Day  
tour!*

# Brain Teaser

Did you figure out the Brain Teaser in last month's *Tudor Rozette*?

This detailed art work is the cover of this year's Festival of Fine Art and Craft brochure, designed by Duluth artist, Leah Helgenset.

So, the answers to the question - in which rooms can you find these designs - is below:

1. Upholstery of settees and chairs in main hall
2. Tabriz carpet now in storage
3. Tudor Rose window on landing
4. (Center Square) Fireplace in Grey Room

## Seventh Annual GLENSHEEN



Festival of Fine Art and Craft

August 18, 2001

*Plan now to attend the  
Festival of Fine Art  
and Craft on Saturday,  
August 18.*

*We need Volunteers all  
day long!*

# EDUCATIONAL INSERT

## “A Closer Look”

Our new Lecture Series to accompany the Carpet Exhibit is called “A Closer Look at The Congdon Family Carpets”. We have four lectures planned, two in March and two in April.

The March 10 lecture was presented by Ian Grant from Minneapolis. Fourteen people attended and we all learned a lot about Oriental carpets.

Ian explained that handmade Oriental rugs date back to about 2,500 years ago. One was found frozen in ice in Outer Mongolia that scholars can study for technique. The pile is woven onto a foundation made up of warp and weft threads. Knots are tied onto the warp threads, then any number of rows of weft threads are added before another row of knots is tied onto another warp thread. Months later, a rug is produced.

Next, Ian talked about the Persia and Turkey area in the 900's to 1100's during the Ottoman Empire. Rug making was thriving there and European trade with the Middle East increased, so that Europe “discovered” rugs.

During the 1500's, court rugs were made as gifts to dignitaries in Europe, according to Ian. They were made with gold, silk, and metallic threads and were huge. This was the Golden Era of fine rug weaving.

In addition to these fine rugs, tribal and village rugs were being produced, Ian said, for practical home use. Some were made for floors, wall hangings, for tent bags or saddle bags.

By the mid 1800's a big event occurred in rug making, which Ian explained was the use of chemical dyes. The dyes were a less expensive way of making rugs and this brought about the development of workshop rugs. The culture moved from 1 or 2 looms in a building to 10 to 100 looms in workshops. Chemical dyes are one way to date rugs.

**LEARN THE  
VIP TOUR!**

*Training  
session -  
Wednesday,  
April 11*

*9-11 am,  
Recreation  
Room*

Next, Ian talked about the 1950's and 60's, when rug making spread to India. Workshops were set up in that area and the market for Oriental carpets was spreading.

During the 1990's, Ian said, the American and European market began seeking the old style rugs with vegetable dyes woven in village styles on home looms. Going back to the old style meant individually woven rugs which show the weaver's personality. This re-energized the market.

Today, Ian says, when rug merchants go to Atlanta, Georgia, to buy carpets they see real changes between even 1995 and 2000.

After Ian's 30 minute history of Oriental Carpets he answered questions about the Iranian carpet embargo which ended last year, discussed how knotting techniques had migrated from Turkey and Iran to India and China, explained that chemical dyes since the mid 90's now look like vegetable dyes, and gave his definition of a good rug - one with good wool quality and density together.

He also responded that knot count alone doesn't make the best carpets, but lots of knots make a busier design. Now days machines cut the pile, while in the past special scissors were used, he explained. Ian answered that in his opinion any carpet made before the 1920's is considered an old rug.

After our lecture Ian Grant and one of our guests Wally Niss, who is giving the April 7<sup>th</sup> lecture, commented on the carpets on exhibit as we walked from room to room. The Chinese carpet in the Reception Room has suffered oxidation. The Bijar carpets in the Living Room and Library were woven by Kurds. The two red rugs in the Master Bedroom were tent bags; you can see one end is longer for the bottom of the bag and ties at the top. The hearth rug in the Red Room is from the 1930's or even more recent and is not a saddle bag as our records show.

It was hard to finish up by 11:00 am since we were learning so much from Ian Grant's presentation.

Join us for another informative "A Closer Look" lecture in April! Volunteers are welcome to attend free of charge. Just call to sign up - 726-8918.

**NEXT  
LECTURE**

*"A Closer Look  
at Congdon  
Family  
Carpets"*

*Wally Niss,  
guest speaker*

*Saturday, April  
7, 9-11 am,  
Recreation  
Room*

# Accessioning Books

BY SAM SMITH

The Congdon Office at the Lonsdale Building in downtown Duluth graciously donated 138 books to Glensheen last September. These books contain financial records, ledgers and accounts of Mr. Congdon's many and varied endeavors and businesses as well as several of Mrs. Congdon's personal financial record books. This is a true treasure to add to the history of Glensheen and we are most grateful for this informative and important contribution.

When a museum gets historic pieces they go through a process called accessioning. When an object is accessioned, it is given a reference number and all sorts of other information about it is recorded, including condition, provenance and what it is made from.

Dona Holloway and I decided to tackle this project and spent about 30 hours getting all the information catalogued. Dan McClelland and Rachael Martin got us all set up by doing lots of preliminary work.

At first, Dona and I were in awe, carefully perusing each tome with our gloved hands. Fortunately, the thrill wore off and we got after it - or the project would never have gotten done.

The books include Mr. Congdon's personal financial journals from as far back as 1883, Congdon Office Tax Records, and Mr. Congdon's bee and honey business records from Yakima. One humorous entry about Mr. Congdon's mother, Laura Congdon, reads:

"Mother's seal (sack ? jacket ?) \$235.00  
Muff \$20.00

The sack is a present, the muff she buys herself."

He also noted he got 10% off. Both Mr. and Mrs. Congdon were meticulous record keepers and these books are a research paper (or 50) waiting to happen.

It was so neat to see the actual record books from companies we've been reading about in Lake Superior Lawyer during Glensheen's Book Club.

**FIRST 2001  
DOCENTS TO  
TEST OUT:**

*Myrna Breivik*  
(3-2-01)

*Shayna  
Stephenson*  
(3-2-01)

*Gary Hagen*  
(3-16-01)

**CONGRAT-  
ULATIONS!!**

Dona and I really enjoyed getting to know each other better and learning how to accession. There were bumps though. One afternoon we were needed to help with the carpet exhibition and another day the weather grew so horrible we left early.

This show isn't over yet! We need Volunteers to help clean dust from the books and help put in the shelves that will house them.

## Book Club Hiatus

We finally finished reading Roy Hoover's book, Lake Superior Lawyer: A Biography of Chester Adgate Congdon!

At our last Book Club meeting, volunteer Kay Coventry joined us for the discussion.

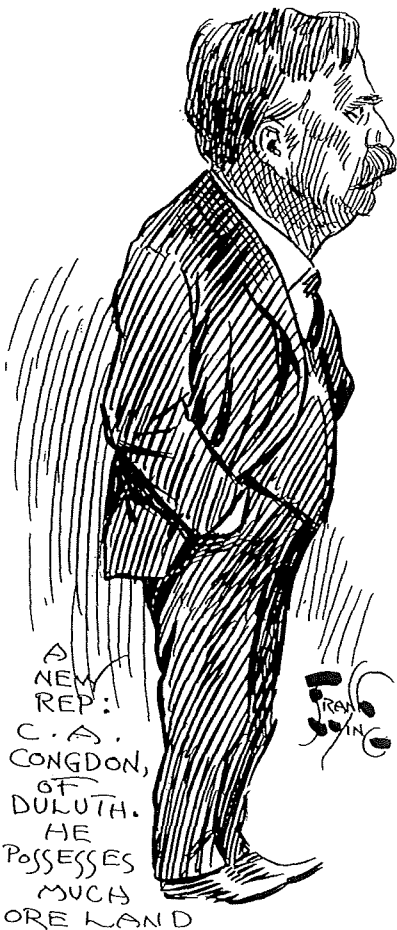
We were fascinated with the chapter on the Pacific Panorama, Mr. Congdon's journey through New Zealand, Australia, China and Japan. You would not believe the amount of souvenirs he sent home. Hopefully, we can include some of them in our next exhibit this summer, "The Congdons on Vacation". Did you know that damascening is a Japanese art? Mr. Congdon knew that. He read it in one of his guide books and visited two shops, making many purchases.

As we approached the end of the book, we all knew it would end with Mr. Congdon's death. Yet, we were saddened, and some of us unprepared, for this final chapter. We all agreed that his eulogy was very fitting, and perhaps we as Docents should incorporate this quote in our tours:

*"Not because he was a rich man, but because he was a good man...will his death be a blow to the community, the state and the nation."*

Visitors are always so focused on the family's wealth, and we as Docents should make visitors aware of the good things that Mr. Congdon did.

All 12 members of the Book Group agreed to take a hiatus for the summer, then start up again with Mr. Congdon's book, Pacific Panorama. Anyone want to join us? All volunteers and staff are welcome.



Caricature of Chester Congdon by Frank Wing, 1909

# Monthly Meeting

Our second Monthly Meeting for Volunteers, hosted by the Docent Volunteer Council, was the "Bedroom Slipper Tour" held Tuesday evening, March 13. Thirteen volunteers attended.

The hostesses for the meeting were Maripat Higgins, President of the Docent Volunteer Council, Pearl E. Johnson, Pearl M. Johnson, and Delores Vogel, all members of the Council. Their cookies, bars and desserts were wonderful!

After sampling the desserts, everyone donned their bedroom slippers and headed upstairs for the tour. Rachael led the way, wearing white gloves. Delores Vogel, Stan Burns, and Rosemary Guttormson were the flashlight crew who illuminated certain details. Pearl E. Johnson was the Rear Admiral, who followed behind the group, turning out the lights with her white gloves.

We saw all kinds of behind the scenes things, not normally seen on tour. We finished our tour by 8:00 pm in time for more cookies and conversation.

Next month, by popular request of the Book Club, our Monthly Meeting will feature guest speaker, Roy Hoover, author of Lake Superior Lawyer: the Biography of Chester A. Congdon.

**INCREDIBLE  
EXCHANGE  
STUDENTS  
EARN 50  
HOURS:**

*Garrett Omvig -  
DAY CAPTAIN*

*Shayna  
Stephenson -  
DOCENT*

## Curtains in Den

Have you noticed the new curtains Maripat Higgins sewed for the Den? The old ones, which were in shreds as you may recall, were not the originals. The archival photos showed the original curtains were a set of two panels at each of the three windows.

Maripat and I found the original curtain rods still in place in each of the three windows. After Maripat finished sewing the new silk replicas, we took down the shredded old curtains. Steve Strand from Housekeeping took down the curtain rod and brackets that the shredded curtains were on, and Maripat and I put up the new curtains on the original curtain rods.

What an improvement! Thanks Maripat & Steve.

# Furhoff Report

OGDEN NASH  
POETRY:

*Descent docents  
dassant doze,*

*They teach  
standing on their  
toes.*

*The student  
dassant doze and  
does,*

*But teaching  
docents never  
does.*

*The sound of  
canaries  
Never varies.  
But when they're  
molting,  
They're pretty  
revolting.*

*Shake and shake  
The ketchup  
bottle.  
None'll come,  
And then alot'll.*

In 1988, Robert Furhoff, a restoration expert from Chicago, came to Glensheen to examine the wall and ceiling surfaces to determine their condition and what was there originally.

Here are some of his findings:

## BASEMENT

Halls - Frieze is multi-colored stippled glaze finish. At time house was built it was called "Tiffany Glazing."

Playroom - "Tiffany Glazing" painted over.

Billiards Room - Frieze is Japanned leather, looked metallic when new. Walls are Japanned leather, was lustrous dark brown when new. Finish on both papers consists of aluminum foil ground with transparent yellow glaze.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR

Reception - Ceiling is canvas with gold leaf.

Den - Walls were dull metal effect paper.

Living Room - Ceiling is paper with burlap texture. Aluminum ground with transparent yellow glaze to make "gold Japanned leather". Walls are goat's hair damask.

Library - Walls are tapestry.

Sun Room - Ceiling canvas is not original. Original was Japanned leather.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

Halls - Walls above wainscot are "Tiffany Glazing".

Blue Colonial Room - Original wall covering was linen taffeta in floral pattern.

Mrs. Congdon's Room - Ceiling and cornice were pale pinkish white. Frieze was over painted 5 times.

Red Room - Paper is not original.

Gold Room - Walls were soft yellow Japanese grass cloth with painted borders, which can be seen through over painting, light yellow green and ivory.

Pink Room - Walls were striped paper in Adams design.

Grey Room - Ceiling and cornice were ivory.



# Aquarium High 5!

During National Volunteer Recognition Week April 22-28, volunteers throughout the region will be given a "high five" at the Great Lakes Aquarium - a special \$5 admission price to any volunteer who wishes to visit during that week, as well as free parking.

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Great Lakes Aquarium (GLA) partnered to offer this perk to volunteers who want to see the otters, visit Baptism River - and other exciting exhibits around Lake Superior - where it's always 73 degrees and sunny.

To take advantage of the special offer, volunteers only need to show their volunteer name badge.

*This newsletter is made possible by the support of the Minnesota Humanities Commission in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota State Legislature.*

*Written and edited by Rachael Martin*

## Did You Know?

Marjorie Condgon's son was the head of Dana Hall school for girls in Wellesley, Massachusetts at one time? I found this article in at the Duluth Public Library:

"Ex-Duluth Man Heads School Unit -

"A native Duluthian was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of Dana Hall, Wellesley, Mass., Wednesday. James C. Dudley, New York Financial consultant, is the son of Mrs. Harry C. Dudley, 3600 London Road, and the late Mr. Dudley. Dudley attended Milton Academy in Milton, Mass., and graduated from Harvard University in 1943 with a degree in geology. He served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force from 1943-1945, then worked as a mining geologist in Canada. He is now a general partner of Cyrus J. Lawrence & Sons, a member firm of the New York Stock Exchange.

"Dudley lives with his wife, the former Elisabeth Claypool of Duluth, and their four children in Lloyd Harbor, Huntington, N. Y.

"Two of his children now attend Dana Hall."

Dana Hall, you remember, is the school that Marjorie, Helen and Elisabeth Congdon all attended. James Dudley died in 1998.

# Calendar of Events

**Mon, April 2 - Open for tours every day, 11 am - 2 pm, please help!!!**

**Wed, April 4 - New Docent Training, Recreation Room, 9-11 am - current volunteers welcome.**

**Thu, April 5 - Docent Volunteer Council, Recreation Room, 6:30 pm.**

**Sat, April 7 - "A Closer Look at Congdon Family Carpets", Wally Niss, Antiques Restoration and Oriental carpet collector, Recreation Room, 9-11 am - Volunteers free.**

**Wed, April 11 - Learn VIP Tour, Recreation Room, 9-11 am - Current Docents only.**

**Sun, April 15 - Easter, Glensheen closed.**

**Sat, April 21 - "A Closer Look at Congdon Family Carpets", 9-11 am, sign up.**

**Mon, April 23 - Volunteer Monthly Meeting, Roy Hoover, author of Chester Congdon biography, Recreation Room, 6:30 -8:00 pm.**

**Tue, April 24 - Volunteer Appreciation Event, David Ericson Tour with Tweed Volunteers, 12:30 - 4 pm, start at Glensheen.**

**Volunteer Office  
Glensheen  
3300 London Road  
Duluth, MN 55804**