November 20, 2014

Dear Friends,

As 2014 draws to a close, we want to share an update of all that the Carriage Museum of America has accomplished this year, and give you a peak at what’s ahead for 2015.

Throughout 2014, the CMA took steps to increase our services and contributions to carriage enthusiasts. We were especially involved in events hosted by our partner organization, the Carriage Association of America. Drawing from the vast resources in our library and archive, we presented displays at the International Carriage Symposium in Colonial Williamsburg in February and the Carriage Festival in Lexington, KY in June. We also spoke at the CAA Convention in Kingsport, TN. We hope that our efforts enhanced these CAA events, and we look forward to supporting them further throughout the coming year.

This summer also saw the rebirth of our annual educational newsletter, focusing on monograms and our carriage collection in Augusta, GA. If you have a topic you’d like to see addressed in a future mailing, please let us know! Other printed projects included a second printing of our book *Horse-Drawn Funeral Vehicles*, a unique resource on this subject that had long been out of print. We also designed and published a calendar with historic carriage photographs, and we are working with the CAA to revise and update a Conservation and Restoration booklet. And of course we continue to contribute photographs and information to *The Carriage Journal*.

Our online presence is continually growing, with new carriage manufacturer biographies, exhibits about carriage topics, and links to other resources found throughout our new website. This year we joined social media with an active Facebook presence, and librarian Mindy Groff guest blogs on the CAA’s blog “The Slower Road,” highlighting items from our collection. By using these many different mediums, we are serving an increasingly broad and diverse audience.

Did you know that the CMA receives and answers hundreds of research questions each year? With the guidance of our volunteer Trustees, Mindy uses the resources in our library to provide authoritative information to individuals and other museums and non-profits. This is a vital part of fulfilling our mission.

The next chapter of the CMA story begins in January, when we relocate to the CAA’s newly acquired building at the Kentucky Horse Park. There, the CMA will be responsible for the care, protection and management of both the CMA’s and CAA’s separate collections, necessitating the purchase of new shelving, furniture, filing cabinets and storage boxes for the library and archival material. We will also require desks and equipment for workspaces in a dedicated reading room so visitors to the library can work comfortably. This is a large expense, and we need your support. We look forward to continuing our momentum as we prepare for these and other exciting changes in 2015. As you prepare your end of year gifts, we ask that you consider including the CMA.

Best Regards and Happy Holidays,

John Sowles, President and Mindy Groff, Librarian