

Carriage Museum of America

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2013 Annual Directors' Report

December 16, 2013

It was an exciting year at the Carriage Museum of America. We achieved much throughout 2013 to fulfill our primary mission - to serve as an authoritative resource for information, education and research about animal-drawn vehicles and related subjects.

PROVIDING RESEARCH



This year we made strides to promote our services to the public, in order to more fully utilize our research resources. In 2013, the CMA answered approximately 150 research requests. These requests came in by phone and e-mail, from members of the Carriage Association of America, interested public and institutions. We provide research services at no charge to non-profits and museums. This year, the institutions that we worked with included the National Museum of Australian, Kensington-Metro Park, Chippokes Plantation Museum, Fort Mitchell Museum, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Bowers Museum, Stonewall Jackson House, Rancho Camulos Museum, and the Folkenborg Museum, among others.

SUPPORTING THE CAA

Together with our sister organization, the Carriage Association of America, CMA worked harder than ever to provide the best and most efficient service to its patrons and members. Whether it was sharing a booth at Martin's Auction, contributing images and articles for each issue of the CAA's magnificent publication, *The Carriage Journal*, or assisting CAA members with their research requests, the CMA continued to commit its resources in full support of the CAA.

IMPROVING AND RELOCATING THE LIBRARY

As the CAA prepares to relocate to a new building in the coming years, we are committed to moving with them. In 2013, we began preparing for this move by culling duplicate books from our collection and updating our catalog. We have an unprecedented opportunity to establish a

library facility to better serve researchers and encourage visitors. We are committed to continually acquiring new resources and offering expanded services, as we focus on the preservation and maintenance of the rare and invaluable materials already entrusted to our care.

A NEW WEBSITE!

An especially exciting project for CMA in 2013 was the creation of a new website. This site will serve as a virtual museum and make many of CMA’s library resources available online. The new site has passed its testing phase and the first iteration of the website will launch in early January. After the initial launch, we will continue to grow the website with manufacturer biographies, featured vehicles, and themed exhibits. The new site is yet another step forward in our long range plan to improve service delivery to the carriage world. The website is also a tool used to drive book sales and introduce the public to who we are and what we do.



MOVING FORWARD

As we prepare for 2014, we are setting goals that will better serve our constituency and increase office efficiency. Primary among those goals are refining our research capacity and further enhancing our website. We plan to visit our vehicle collection that is housed in Augusta, GA, at which time we will clean and photograph the carriages for website presentation and make sure the collection will remain in stable condition. As an institution, the CMA has maintained its financial stability. We continue to live within the proceeds of our endowment, but our ambition is also constrained by it. To address that constraint, we will be cultivating the “Friends of the CMA” group to provide the support needed to achieve our goals. We feel confident that the planning, organizational change and work we have done in 2013 will continue to propel us forward, and will enable the CMA to accomplish even more in 2014.

CMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2013

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