

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 3, Folder 2

Spring 2022

Letter from the State Archivist

There are few events as exciting for a curator than the unveiling of a new work of art. This month, Archives staff had the thrill of unveiling two works together when the official portraits of Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan were revealed in a ceremony at Government House on May 12. The moment of unveiling is the culmination of months, and sometimes years, of work by staff coordinating details of a commission; collaborating with artists on size and framing; and ensuring the safe delivery, storage and installation with art handlers. After all this, it is a real joy to watch the veil drop on a new addition to the state's collection!

This celebratory event capped off a busy few months in Annapolis revolving around the 444th Legislative Session of January 12 - April 11. Archives staff support the General Assembly in myriad ways, including closely monitoring draft legislation for potential impact to the agency's operations, and responding to requests for fiscal notes, as well as providing historical context for remarks commemorating events, anniversaries, and retirements. We also support annual awards presented by the Senate and the House of Delegates. For the Senate's *First Citizen Awards*, Archives staff compile biographical research, prepare the awards (certificates and medallions), and I have the honor to present them with Senate President Ferguson. Speaker Jones gives out the Speaker's Society medallion and the Thomas Kennedy Award, in close collaboration with our staff to create the individual honors. These annual ceremonies, honoring public service and achievement, keep the Archives connected to the contemporary workings of Maryland government, and remind the members themselves of their place in Maryland's continuing story.



Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist

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Semiquincentennial - A definition

At noon on March 28, 1772, Governor Robert Eden laid the cornerstone of the building which would replace the much smaller state house that had been built in 1707. That act makes 2022 the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary, of our historic Maryland State House and staff has been involved in marking this important date as highlighted below. In addition to celebrating the State House, there are many important commemorations to observe in the coming months and years. 2022 is also the bicentennial, or 200th anniversary, of the birth of Marylander Harriet Tubman. 2026 is the United States' semiquincentennial marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies in 1776. Maryland will celebrate its quadricentennial, or 400th anniversary, in 2034. Keep an eye out for many special events planned to mark these historic dates.

Staff Updates

The annual Staff Appreciation Day was celebrated at the Archives on May 9. The State Archivist distributed service pins to staff, including a remarkable 50 Year pin to Diane Evartt, who has devoted the majority of that time to the *Maryland Manual* and *Maryland Manual On-Line*. We congratulate the following staff and appreciate the dedication of each to fulfilling the mission of the Maryland State Archives:

Five Years

Matthew Andrews
Nicole Saini
Tim Brooks
Catherine Arthur
Nikki Schultz

Ten Years

Eli Baybick
Dante Morrison
Liz Coelho

Fifteen Years

Alex Jackson
Dale King
Sarah Hanks
V. Joyce Phelps II
Kathryn Baringer

Twenty Years

Mike James
Brenda McKnight

Twenty Five Years

Emily Oland Squires

Thirty Years

Eddie Creek

Thirty Five Years

Wilder Stewart
Kim Saville

Fifty Years

Diane Evartt

New Public Scanner in the MSA Search Room



You asked, we listened! We are excited to announce the debut of a brand new public-use scanner in our Search Room to digitize images of MSA's collections during your visit. You may use this equipment for free. Please bring your own thumb drive and take the scanned images home with you. Just stop at the circulation desk to sign up for a time slot. Our new BookEye 5 is great for photographs, small volumes, case files, and loose papers. Please note, images of oversized or heavy records, as well as ones that need special handling or conservation treatment, should still be ordered through our scanning department.

The addition of this public scanner also allows us the opportunity to improve access to historical records through crowdsourcing. We are pleased to launch a crowdsourcing effort to digitize collections using the new Bookeye scanner and volunteer assistance. The goal of the project is to increase online access to the Maryland State Archives records. Volunteers have made major contributions to other crowdsourcing efforts such as transcriptions and we are hoping to build on that successful precedent.

Joining the public's interest with our digitization capabilities, MSA is looking to further populate our online catalog. How can you contribute? Volunteers will be required to take a records handling class given by our Conservation department and take digitization training on basic capture methods. Both of these trainings will give volunteers the skills they need to contribute to Archival digitization. Once completed volunteers can sign up to work on collections that are selected from our 2021-2023 Digitization Priorities list. This list includes collections such as birth records from 1884 to marriage records from 1914.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up as a volunteer, please contact Corey Lewis (corey.lewis@maryland.gov). We look forward to the continued partnership and support of our patrons. Thank you in advance.

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Update

On June 4, the Maryland Truth and Reconciliation Commission will hold its second public hearing. This hearing will take place in Baltimore County at the Old Court House at 9:00am and will recognize the lynching of [Howard Cooper](#) on July 12, 1885 in Towson. Members of the public can choose to attend this hearing either online or in person. Please see the [Commission's website](#) for more information and details about live streaming or registering to participate.

This fall the Commission is planning to hold the third hearing taking place in Anne Arundel County. Details are still taking shape for this event and will be published on the Commission's website as soon as possible.

In addition to hearings on March 26, Commissioners participated in in the soil collection ceremony held by the Harford County Committee of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project. This ceremony was planned in conjunction with the Equal Justice Initiative and invited the public to help collect soil in remembrance of three victims of lynching from Baltimore County. The soil will be preserved and displayed by the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama which documents the victims of racial terror lynchings across the country. The three men remembered at this ceremony were [Lewis Harris](#), [Jim Quinn](#), and [Isaac Moore](#). On May 14, the James Taylor Justice Coalition of Kent County also held a soil collection and commemoration ceremony to share the story of [James Taylor](#). These counties will also be holding public hearings later in the year.

In 2021, the Commission was awarded an Emmett Till grant from the US Department of Justice to help support this important work. With these funds, the research company Heritage Associates has been engaged to conduct genealogical research and to identify community members who may have knowledge of or information about these lynchings. The group is also seeking descendants of victims and anyone who would like to participate in the telling of these stories. If you have information to share, or would like to participate, please contact [Heritage Associates](#) directly.

Collections Highlights

The role of the Maryland State Archives' Artistic Property Commission and its staff is to care for, administer, and interpret the collection. This extends to growing and guiding the collection in meaningful ways. Sometimes this happens through donated historical objects, but in this case, through the commission of current artists, to create new works of art.

Portraits of the leadership of the state are the core of the state-owned art collection, displayed throughout the Annapolis complex. They chronicle not only the history of important leaders but also the rich tapestry and tradition of Maryland portrait artists.

The artist selected to paint Speaker Michael E. Busch's posthumous portrait could not have been more perfectly suited to the task. Rick Casali, an Annapolis native, attended St. Mary's high school, as did Speaker Busch, who was also a teacher and coach there. Rick attended



Michael E. Busch
Rick Casali, 2022
Oil on canvas, MSA SC 1545-3527

Maryland Institute College of Art before apprenticing first to Annapolis artists John Ebersburger, and then Cedric and Jonette Egeli. He lives in Galesville so was one of Busch’s constituents.

Rick has studied and taught at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. In 2020, in honor of Speaker Busch’s dedication to the arts and decades of support of Maryland Hall, it was renamed in his honor as the Michael E. Busch Center for the Arts at Maryland Hall. Since Busch never “sat” for a portrait during his lifetime, the Archives and friends of Speaker Busch provided photographs of the subject that captured his essence. On April 11th (Sine Die), this beautiful and evocative portrait was unveiled in the House of Delegates Chamber.



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Cedric Egeli, 2022
Oil on canvas, MSA SC 1545-3526



Yumi K. Hogan
Jinchul Kim, 2020
Oil on canvas, MSA SC 1545-3525

The official portraits of Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan were unveiled at Government House on May 12. Governor Hogan’s portrait was painted by Cedric Egeli, a Maryland artist whose work is well represented in the state’s collection. Governor Hogan is depicted in the Empire Room of Government House with a view through the Palladian window of the State House dome—the first governor’s portrait to feature the capitol in the background.

The First Lady’s portrait is also by a Maryland artist, Jimchul Kim, a professor of art at Salisbury University. In the portrait, the First Lady wears the traditional Korean hanbok in honor of her native country, and is depicted in the Federal Reception Room of Government House.

The portraits were privately funded by The Foundation for the Preservation of Government House of Maryland, Inc.

All three of these portraits are now on the inventory of the Commission on Artistic Property.

Maryland State House Celebrates 250 Years

With Monday, March 28th, 2022 marking the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone, it is fitting that the Department of General Services has just embarked on a major restoration of the State House Dome in its efforts to preserve the State House for the next 250 years. With extensive scaffolding in place, it makes one wish they could time travel and see what the site looked like as construction began. Two prior State Houses had previously occupied the most prominent spot in town. Scaffolding would have been built of wood, and it is likely that it was constantly being added to and expanded as the brick walls rose from the foundation. As busy and fascinating as the State House construction site must have been, there is such a scarcity of information about its progress or even those who worked on the building. Archives' staff in Artistic Property and Research, are actively searching for any previously unknown accounts and evidence.

The cornerstone, laid by then Governor Robert Eden, has never been found. As ground penetrating radar and x-ray technology is constantly improving and becoming more accessible, we hope at some point to thoroughly investigate suspected locations - behind the interior walls of the lower level men's room. Since the building wasn't completed till 1779, we look forward to celebrating the State House with updated exhibits and programs over the next seven years.



Scaffolding erected around State House dome, in progress May 2022.



The 250th Anniversary was marked by a joint resolution of the presiding officers of the Maryland General Assembly presented to Elaine Rice Bachmann, Maryland State Archivist; Ellington Churchill, Secretary of the Department of General Services, and Collin Ingraham, Chief of the Office of Preservation Services, Maryland Historical Trust. This contingent of leaders in the preservation of the State House, was pleased to be recognized in the Senate and House of Delegates. Each legislator was presented

with a copy of the award-winning *The Maryland State House: 250 Years of History*, written by Mimi Calver, Executive Director of the Friends of the Maryland State Archives. We want everyone who works in the State House to know and appreciate its rich history.

In Memoriam

The State Archives mourns the loss of long-time staff member Paul Goddard, who passed away on April 15, 2022. In August 2021 our staff was able to celebrate with Paul, commemorating the 30 years of service he had given to the State Archives. His hard work and dedication to the Archives will be remembered and he will be missed.



It is through generous donors that the Archives has been able to acquire and preserve many treasures of Maryland's history. Donations support our mission to preserve and make accessible the historic records of Maryland, as well as supporting the professional development of our staff. To donate to the Friends [click here](#).

The Friends of the Maryland State Archives is a 501(c)3 organization and donations to it are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



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