Our former print newsletter, *The Glessner Journal*, is no longer being produced. In place of that publication, we started issuing an e-newsletter in April 2020. Since we do not have an email address for you (or you indicated your preference for a print copy), we are summarizing some of the highlights of the issues published from mid-May through early August. We hope you enjoy reading through the articles and will go online to read our blog articles and other web content and look at our YouTube videos. The e-newsletter is currently being issued via email on the first and third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to start receiving our e-newsletter, please send your email address to William Tyre at wtyre@glessnerhouse.org.

**ONLINE:**
**Photography Before the Kodak**
*Thursday, September 30 at 7:00pm CDT*

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of George Glessner (born October 2, 1871). In honor of our favorite photographer, we present a fascinating look at the development of photography in the 19th century.

The talk will describe the various historical processes used during the 19th century including the Daguerreotype, wet plate, gelatin dry plate, and the early roll film processes, along with the cameras typically used for each process.

The presentation will be given by Todd Gustavson, Curator of Technology at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York.

$12 per person / $10 for members
Purchase tickets online at glessnerhouse.org

**HALLOWEEN EVENTS**

**Edgar Allan Poe Readings**
*Saturday, October 30*

Squirm in your seats as actors from Lifeline Theatre present readings of Poe’s terrifying stories and poetry. Hear classics like The Raven and The Tell-Tale Heart, as well as some of Poe’s lesser known works. Two readings are offered: 5:00-6:15pm and 8:00-9:15pm. Tickets are $30 per person ($24 for members).

**Shadows on the Street:**
**Haunted Tours of Prairie Avenue**
*Friday - Saturday, October 29-30*

Tales of strange sounds, unexplained sightings, and untimely endings await as you explore Prairie Avenue after dark! During this 60 minute walking tour through the Prairie Avenue Historic District, learn about the mystery surrounding the death of Marshall Field Jr., the tragic events that plagued the Philander Hanford house and more - if you dare! Tickets are $18 per person ($15 for members).

Purchase tickets online at glessnerhouse.org
Online Auction ends September 12

Our online auction is now live, and bids can be placed through Sunday, September 12 at 6:00pm CDT. The auction features a great variety of experiences and merchandise including these highlights:

- Chicago Fire Department “Fireman for a Day”
- Tuscany trip
- Michigan weekend getaway
- Chicago Bears package
- PRP Wine International wine tasting
- Reproduction of Louis Sullivan baluster from Carson Pirie Scott building
- Farnsworth House package

To view items, and place your bid, visit: glessnerhouse.org/online-auction

Docent Training

*Saturday mornings, October 23 - November 20*

Have you ever thought about sharing your passion for architecture, history, and design with others? If so, docent training is just for you! Over the course of five Saturdays, we will explore all aspects of Glessner House - from H. H. Richardson and the architecture to the Arts & Crafts movement, the decorative arts collection, and the Glessners’ impact on Chicago. You will also learn useful techniques for giving a great tour and will be paired with a docent mentor to help you put together your tour.

Contact Gwen Carrion at gcarrion@glessnerhouse.org or 312-326-1480 to learn more and to register!

Roof Project Update

Wiss Janney Elstner completed their comprehensive assessment of the Glessner House roof in late May. Plans call for Phase I repairs in the fall and the remaining repairs in spring of 2022, if funding is secured.

The Estate of Mary Alice Molloy has offered a $50,000 matching challenge grant toward the project. Matching gifts are needed as soon as possible to release this grant and allow Phase I to proceed as planned this fall.

If you would like to make a donation to the Roof Fund, large or small, please mail a check made payable to “Glessner House” and noting its purpose for the roof.

Donations may also be made online using a credit card at: glessnerhouse.org/roof-fund
Secrets of Glessner House
Part 18: Framing the House
During the investigation on the roof in the spring, we discovered stenciled lettering on one of the joists in the attic. This led to the discovery of the company which provided the structural lumber for the house. In this installment, learn more about that company and the basics behind the structural frame of the house.

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 19: The Coachman
Charles Nelson, an immigrant from Sweden, was one of the longest serving members of the Glessner staff, filling the all important role of coachman from 1878 until 1902. Learn more about the Nelson family, the responsibilities of the coachman, and how the servant quarters over the coach house were specifically designed to accommodate Nelson and his large family.

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 20: The Cork Alcove
Visitors often ask what the unusual space is over the main entrance into the house, and no one ever guesses correctly! The unique space was designed to allow for the easy display of prints and engravings and was modeled after a similar space the Glessners saw in the home of house architect H. H. Richardson. Learn all about the cork alcove in this installment of Secrets.
NEW ARTICLES ON THE GLESSNER HOUSE BLOG
Visit glessnerhouse.blogspot.com to read all our articles!

Glessner House Docents Celebrate 50 Years!

On June 12, 1971, 33 docents graduated on the north steps of the Chicago Public Library, following an intensive six-week training course that immersed them in the architecture of Chicago and Glessner House, and thus was born our docent program. Since that time, docents have welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to the house, serving as our "front line workers." On June 12, 2021, docents past and present gathered at Glessner House to celebrate this milestone anniversary and to honor Bob Irving, the last graduate of the 1971 class still giving Glessner House tours.

A landmarked White Castle and the development of E. Cermak Road

The neighborhood around Glessner House possesses many landmark buildings, ranging from Gilded Age mansions to large manufacturing plants. Perhaps the most unusual, and definitely the smallest, is White Castle #16 at 43 E. Cermak Road, designated a Chicago landmark in 2011. In this article, we will look at the development of East Cermak Road (originally Twenty-second Street); the founding of White Castle, which is celebrating its centennial in 2021; and the history of White Castle #16, constructed in 1930.
On July 1, 2021, we were pleased to install the newest piece of furniture in the house - the large standing screen for the dining room shown above (with Bob Irving). Crafted by Schoenecker Woodworking for Sawbridge Studios, the piece exactly replicates the original screen, made about 1890 by A. H. Davenport & Co. The original was presumably dismantled and discarded when the house was emptied following the death of John Glessner in 1936.

Located in the northeast corner of the dining room, the function of the stationary screen was two-fold: to block the view of the doorway into the servants' hallway (through which food was delivered and removed from the room), and to shield diners from the cooler air in the north-facing hallway. The screen was not part of the original set of furniture designed for the room by Davenport but was apparently conceived by the Glessners after hosting dinner parties and noting the issues with the open door in this corner of the room. The original fabric, of unknown design, was a Spanish embroidery purchased by the Glessners in France in 1890, leading to the assumption that the screen was created at that time.

A single historic photograph from 1923 shows about 20% of the screen - this was the only visual evidence available to recreate the new screen, which measures 49 inches wide and 105 inches tall. A reproduction Morris & Co. embroidered fabric, "Mary Isobel," (first produced in 1890) was selected as a substitute for the undocumented original fabric.

The project was funded by more than 80 gifts received from friends of Bob Irving, our longest serving volunteer, who celebrated his 50th anniversary as a docent on June 12. A separate anonymous gift in the amount of $50,000 has been received to aid in the recreation of the original 16-foot dining room table and sideboard, both of which were left in the house when it was donated to the Armour Institute in 1938 and later sold off. Work will proceed when sufficient funding is in hand to undertake these elaborate pieces, based on excellent documentation and detailed photographs.
Glass Plate Negatives

"The Ledge Hawk" at The Rocks, undated negative and photograph

The House is fortunate to possess several hundred glass plate negatives taken by George Glessner starting in the mid-1880s. His negatives measure 4" x 5" and 8" x 10", indicating he either had two different cameras, or one that could be adjusted to hold negatives of different sizes. The large size of the negatives results in exceptional detail being captured, providing clarity even when the negatives are used to print photographs several times larger than the negative itself.

The use of glass plate negatives originated in 1851, when Frederick Scott Archer invented what were known as wet plate negatives. These were difficult to work with, as the exposure and processing of the negatives had to take place before the collodion emulsion, applied by the photographer, had dried.

Dr. Richard L. Maddox invented dry plate negatives, which were coated with silver gelatin and were usable when dry. These were first made available in 1873 and, in addition to being easier to handle, required less exposure to light. George Glessner used dry plate negatives and was known to do some of his own developing as well.

Although George's glass plate negatives are archivally stored today, the original boxes in which they were stored can still be seen lining the shelves in the schoolroom, just as they did when he lived here. George was meticulous about numbering his negatives with small, pre-printed labels and storing them in numerical order. For example, box #31 would contain negatives numbered 310 through 319. When he would make a print, he would record the negative number on the back side.
Silver vegetable dish presented to Frederick and Elizabeth Stock

This object never belonged to the Glessners nor was it ever displayed in their home. Instead, it was purchased by the Glessners and presented to their good friends, Frederick and Elizabeth Stock, on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary on May 25, 1921, exactly 100 years ago. It was recently donated to Glessner House by the Stocks' great-granddaughter.

Frederick Stock was born in Jülich, Germany in 1872 and received his early musical education from his father, a bandmaster. He attended the Cologne Conservatory, where his teachers included Engelbert Humperdinck, and then started his musical career with a position in the Municipal Orchestra of Cologne. In 1895, Theodore Thomas was in Germany recruiting musicians for his Chicago Orchestra. He auditioned Stock and hired him as a violist. Stock was promoted to assistant conductor in 1899 and assumed the position of conductor following Thomas's death in 1905, a position Stock held until his own death in 1942.

Stock traveled from Germany to the U.S. in 1895, accompanied by his future wife, Elisabeth Muskulus, who was six years his senior. On May 25, 1896, they were married quietly in a ceremony in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, officiated by Rev. Fred Moeckli of the Immanuel Evangelical Church, the service no doubt conducted in German.

The friendship between the Glessners and Stock blossomed after he took over as music director in 1905. When Stock premiered his Symphony No. 1 on December 31, 1909 (the evening before Frances Glessner's birthday), the dedication read “To my best friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Glessner, this Symphony is most affectionately dedicated.” That dedication only appeared on the published copy of the music. In the printed program seen by the audience, the Glessners are not mentioned by name, but their friends would have recognized them from Stock's words which read, in part: “This symphony was written in honor of two well-beloved people, man and woman, who have won for themselves the highest esteem and loyal friendship of many of the most worthy dwellers in the land . . . To these two people, whom the composer is privileged to number among his best and dearest friends, his symphony is most affectionately dedicated.”

The Stock's silver anniversary was not the first time Frances Glessner selected a silver gift for them. In honor of Stock's tenth anniversary as conductor of what was, by then, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she gathered funds from 93 women to purchase a silver punch bowl, tray, and ladle. The gift was acknowledged with a reception hosted by the Stocks for the donors in the foyer of Orchestra Hall after the concert on December 20, 1914.

The sterling silver vegetable dish the Stocks received for their 25th wedding anniversary in 1921 was made by the International Silver Company of Meriden, Connecticut, formed in 1898 when several independent New England silversmiths joined together to become the world's largest manufacturer of silverware. Today, the dish occupies a place of honor in the Glessners' silver closet, an appropriate setting adjacent to the dining room in which the Stocks enjoyed the Glessners' hospitality over a period of more than 30 years.
Ongoing ways to support and engage with Glessner House

Face masks will be a part of our daily lives for a while longer. For a donation of $25 or more to the Glessner House COVID-19 Relief Fund, you will receive your own **Morris face mask**, which combines safety and style into one. To make your donation and receive your face mask (we will select the pattern for you), simply mail a check made payable to “Glessner House” or make your donation online. Your mask will ship within 24 hours of the receipt of your donation. Masks are also available in our shop, open during regular public tours.

Take a virtual tour of the house online! The link is permanently posted at the top of our home page.

Make a gift to our annual fund to provide ongoing operating support. Or become a member or renew your membership to receive valuable benefits and show your support for Glessner House.

Our online store offers a variety of publications that provide perfect reading material to learn more about Glessner House. Browse our shop online today.

Select Glessner House as your charity of choice while shopping on Amazon. Select Glessner House on the AmazonSmile page, and then continue shopping as you normally would.

Our best wishes to you for continued good health. We look forward to resuming more in-person events and hope to see you soon!

Bill Tyre, Executive Director & Curator