

SPEAKERS SELECTED FOR THE 2020 ARTS AND CRAFTS CONFERENCE AT THE GROVE PARK INN

“The most important weekend of the year for Arts & Crafts collectors.”

- The New York Times

The 33rd National Arts & Crafts Conference comes to the historic Grove Park Inn February 21st - 23rd with unforgettable and inspiring presentations in our National Arts and Crafts Conference seminars. This year's seminars run an exciting range from powerful portrayals to presentations on both the iconic and the forgotten.

On Friday evening, February 21st, historical portrayal actor Annette Baldwin will present her rendition in character and period dress of Jane Addams, the social justice icon and co-founder of Chicago's Hull House. Baldwin's performance will illuminate and bring to life the humanitarian and peace advocate's warmth and strength of character, while depicting Addams' journey to find meaning in her own life while striving to effect social change during the Arts and Crafts era in "An Evening with Jane Addams."

On Saturday morning, the life and times of George Ohr will return to the heritage ballroom in a presentation given by art history professor Ellen Lippert. An experienced presenter on Ohr, Lippert will "George Ohr: Sophisticate or Rube?" a comprehensive study of the Mad Potter of Biloxi covering his personal life, his professional works, and his under-appreciated tokens and oddities.

Most collectors know of Elbert Hubbard, but what about the trials and tribulations of an important Hubbard family member? Historian Robert Rust will present "Bert Hubbard: The Forgotten Son Who Saved Roycroft" and will reveal how Bert saved the Roycroft Campus after his father's death in 1915 aboard the *Lusitania*.

Saturday evening brings the highly-anticipated red carpet premiere of the documentary "Gustav Stickley: American Craftsman" to the Grove Park Inn's Heritage Ballroom. The feature film will examine the life and work of Arts and Crafts movement pioneer Gustav Stickley. Work on the project began in 2015 and has included filming in five different states and in over nine cities and numerous locations, including such iconic locales as Craftsman Farms and his Columbus Avenue home in Syracuse. The team behind the film has also interviewed numerous individuals related to the Stickley story including family members, historians, and collectors, as well as filming objects from the history of the Stickley legacy. Director Herb Stratford will introduce the film, revealing the behind-the-scenes process of making the film. This will be a premiere you won't want to miss!

The conference seminars continue on Sunday with “Beating Swords into Ploughshares: World War I and the Arts & Crafts Movement.” Historian and curator Ryan Berley will present his research on the little-known subject of handcrafted items made by soldiers in the wartime trenches and how VA hospitals and sanitariums trained wounded and gassed soldiers to make items in the Arts & Crafts style – such as Asheville silversmith William Waldo Dodge, who was first trained in silversmithing at the Asheville VA hospital. The positive and therapeutic effects of crafting during the turbulence of wartime will be covered in Berley’s talk.

Photographer Douglas Keister will then illustrate the storybook style of the Craftsman Bungalow in Hollywood through gorgeous photography. The brilliance of Gustav Stickley and his bungalows – symbols of the Arts & Crafts Movement – are revealed in a fun and visual journey: “The Bungalow Goes to Hollywood.”

The seminars are included for Conference Events Pass holders and those who purchased Grove Park Inn Arts & Crafts Weekend Packages. However, the exhibitor shows are open to the general public as well as conference attendees. The exhibitor shows will be held on Friday, February 21st from 1:00pm until 6:00pm; on Saturday, February 22nd from noon until 6:00pm; and on Sunday, February 23rd from 11:00am until 4:00pm. Adult admission for all three days is \$10; student admission is \$5. There is no charge for children under the age of 14. Outdoor parking at the Grove Park Inn will be free, as will be the first three hours of indoor garage parking.

“In just three days,” explained conference director Bruce Johnson, who has written several books on the Arts and Crafts era, “you will see more, do more, and learn more about the Arts and Crafts movement than you could anywhere else in an entire year.”

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