

Mandeville Gallery to show toys from the Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Collection

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MANDEVILLE GALLERY TO SHOW TOYS FROM THE LAWRENCE SCRIPPS WILKINSON COLLECTION

"The Toy Show from The Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Collection of Toys" will exhibit playthings from the early 1800s to 1960 at the Mandeville Gallery of the University of California, San Diego from Nov. 7 through Dec. 13.

A public reception will be held at the gallery from 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 6. Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson, a member of the family which founded the Scripps newspaper chain and which participated in the founding of UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, will be the guest of honor.

The exhibition will be made up of 137 toys from a broad range of categories: antique dolls with satin dresses and human hair, to metal mechanized banks, to a formal tea set with china and wine goblets packed in a picnic basket. A section of mechanized toys reflects the evolution of American life from horse and carriage days through the development of the railroad and automobile, and on into the era of air travel.

Wilkinson assembled the 5,000-piece toy collection over a span of 30 years. The categories of toys represent every manner of plaything manufactured from 1810 to the present: books, board games, drawings, building blocks, cars, trucks, cut-outs, pictures, trains, pull toys, teddy bears, puzzles, planes, blimps and fire engines, to name a few. The Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Collection of Toys is an affiliate of the Detroit Historical Museum.

Gerry McAllister, director of the Mandeville Gallery, traveled to the Detroit Museum in July to select the 137 items to be shown. The toys she picked are representative of several categories in the collection. Some of the toys have a particular connection with the San Diego area. For example, the blue "Lindy" is a replica of the Ryan-made Spirit of St. Louis, the plane Charles A. Lindberg flew from San Diego to Paris in 1927, on the first trans-Atlantic solo flight.

Wilkinson is the great-grandson of James E. Scripps, who was the founder of the Detroit News and the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the great grand-nephew of Edward Willis Scripps and Ellen Browning Scripps, who were among the founders of UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He is president of the Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Collection of Toys, and founder of the Detroit Antique Toy Museum. He maintains residences in Grosse Point, Michigan, and Bal Harbour, Florida.

The Mandeville Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Free parking is available on weekends. There is no admission charge. For additional information, call 534-2864.

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