**MUSEUM OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SDSHS Board of Trustees Report

May 7, 2025

David Grabitske, Assistant Director and Museum Director

**Education**

The number of kits used in 2024 was 95, and through March of this year, kits have been used 24 times.

Beyond maintaining regular services, the Curator of Education has been of invaluable assistance to both the exhibits and collections initiatives.

**Exhibition**

The Museum assisted in the 100th Legislative Session celebration by creating an exhibit at the State Capitol, 20 January – 14 April 2025.

Staff prepared for the next round of Lakota advisement regarding the revised but far from final text of the exhibit.

Although the 360ᵒ tours of the old gallery are finalized, staff is working with BIT to address technology needs of the Society’s website.

**Collections**

Work continues on updating to Collector Systems from the legacy collection management system, PastPerfect.

High-density shelving assembly began 25 March and was completed on 17 April.

Returning the collection to the Cultural Heritage Center is anticipated to begin 22 April with archival collections followed shortly by museum collections.

Curator of Collections Katy Schmidt was accepted and participated in Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART) at the Smithsonian 7-11 April 2025.

The following is a list of recent actions by the Collections Management Committee and offered collections were evaluated using the board-authorized collection rubric.

1. Is the object authentic?

2. Is the object relevant to the museum’s mission?

3. Can the museum acquire clear title?

4. Does the object have good provenance?

5. Would the object be redundant?

6. What is the condition of the object?

* Collected by staff, South Dakota centennial coins, 1989.

The Museum has 5 copies of these coins already along with die cuts.

**Action**: Reject for Permanent Collections.

* + Jon Heitland, George A. Custer campsite collection (acquisition through purchase), 1874.

**Action**: Accept for the Permanent Collection.

* + Alscessa Elsey, female hoop dancer regalia collection (dress, leggings, moccasins, hoops), 2010s.

**Action**: Accept for Permanent Collection.

* Sara Swanberg, grandmother’s seal skin coat, trousseau and clothing, and children’s Clothing, late 19th to early 20th century
 The Museum has 194 items of historic underwear and a better seal skin coat in its collection.
**Action**: Decline for Permanent Collection.
	+ Richard Mohr, 44 postcards, scenes centered around Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park, early to mid 20th century

The items were purchased in an antique store by the donor and the Museum has 1,260 postcards in its collection.
**Action:** Declined for Permanent Collection.

* + BJ Olson, Unity Rd dispensary collection (product packaging, merchandise, scale, pipe, bong, displays), 2020s

**Action:** Accept for the Permanent Collection.

* + David Hartley, (magic lantern and slides, sled, walkers, model train, Transformer toy, Lego sets, magazines, Hummel figurines), mid-twentieth century.

**Action:** Partially accept for the Permanent.

* + - Items found in foundation storage, (sauerkraut crock and cabbage cutter, print, curry brush, book, globe, glass plate), late nineteenth to mid twentieth centuries.

**Action:** Accept for Education Collection the Red Wing Crock and sauerkraut cutter and light-faded print, andDeclined the rest for Permanent Collection.

* Collected by staff, button “Save Our Sculptures,” formerly owned by Jim Pollock, 2000s
 **Action**: Accept for Permanent Collection.
	+ Collected by staff, print of farm scene owned by Jim Pollock, 2000s

**Action:** Accepted for Permanent Collection.

* + Bernice Halling, large shaft-straightening stone, Clark County, pre-historic
	 **Action:** Accept for the Permanent Collection.
	+ David B. Hartley, study on linen and framed, created by Jim O’Donnell (Curator, 1974-1978) for a Lakota exhibit in the Soldiers and Sailors Building about 1977

**Action:** Accept for use as public art in the building.

* + David B. Hartley, original study oil painting, Norman “Neal” Deaton (b. 1929, master exhibit fabricator), used as the guiding document for staff to paint the Cultural Heritage Center gallery in 1994-2005.

**Action:** Accept for Permanent Collection.

* Jim Corson, souvenir glass of Canova SD, unknown date
 The Museum has thousands of souvenir itmes. 6. What is the condition of the object? Good.
 **Action**: Reject for Permanent Collection.
	+ Don Bedford, black wedding dress, Polo SD, 1879

**Action:** Accept for Permanent Collection and deaccession one or more dresses with insufficient provenance.

* + Collected by staff, Button, Larry Rhoden Inauguration, Pierre SD, 2025

**Action:** Accept for the Permanent Collection.

* Frank Kloucek, campaign items (ballcap, 2 brochures, ruler), City of Scotland, 1993-2003.
 **Action**: Accept for the Permanent Collection.
	+ Collected by staff, bridge fragment samples (bridge deck, girder, steel sill plate, rebar), Pierre, 2025.

**Action:** Accept all but the rebar for Permanent Collection.

* + Found by staff, 6 miscellaneous posters, Pierre, 1990s.

**Action:** Reject for the Permanent Collection.

* + Jeff Erickson, legislative desk, originally from Pierre but now in Yankton, ca. 1909

The Museum has two legislative desks. 6. What is the condition of the object? Good.
 **Action:** Reject for the Permanent Collection.

* Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, recently deaccessioned Lee Family textiles, DeSmet, 1910s-1970s.

**Action:** Accept relevant items for the Permanent Collection.

Submitted by

David M. Grabitske, DBA, MPNA, CIG

Assistant Director and Museum Director