

Some events for 2009 EAIA Annual Meeting in Kansas City

Begin your preparations now to come to Kansas City next May 27 – 30. This will be a GREAT meeting.

BILL ROBERTSON, EAIA member and our principal coordinator in Kansas City, reports the following:

Main events

The Steamboat ARABIA

In the fall of 1856 the steamboat ARABIA sank in the Missouri river, it she was carrying a cargo to stock the general stores for the westward expansion of the United States. This is a similar scenario to what happened to hundreds of river boats but this story is different..... the river changed course and the ARABIA ended up under a corn field where it sat undisturbed until the late 1980's when a group of individuals found it and decided to dig it up..... what they found was 200 tons of cargo!!! This is the largest collection of datable 19th century objects in the world. There is everything of interest to the members of EAIA..... from tin ware, clothing, shoes, trade goods, building hardware and **tools**. Some of these items are in a condition almost never seen before, we have all read in the old catalogs about goods being sold by the 1/2 or full dozen. There are barrels full of tools and other things packed for shipment just as they left the factory. Our guide will be one of the men that found this and helped dig it up.... this is a story not to be missed.

The Linda Hall Library

This library is one of the finest technical libraries in the world ranking right up there with some of the centuries old ones in Europe. They will have an exhibit of early books showing tools out for us to look at and the exhibition of simple microscopes, "Singular Beauty" by our own member Ray Giordano. This collection has only been shown one time and that was at MIT. The showing at Linda Hall will be expanded to include the books that introduced these wonderful instruments to the world.

The Toy & Miniature Museum

This may sound like an odd stop for EAIA but I can assure you it will be fascinating. This museum of about 30,000 square feet contains tens of thousands of items from antique dolls houses and toys to fine scale models of all forms of the decorative arts. You will see some of the finest craftsmanship you can imagine, marquetry and carving that is beyond belief. Also as an added attractions the museum summer exhibition will be "Laborer, Craftsman, Artist; Fine Tools of the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries." This will be a tool exhibition covering drawing instruments, machinist tools, woodworking tools, jewelers tools including a rose engine and early hand power tools.

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