

Museum's 'tinkle cone dress' IS A RARITY

Indian artifact recently featured in magazine

By Tara Bitzan
tbitzan@echopress.com

The Runestone Museum in Alexandria has been receiving national attention lately, and this time it has nothing to do with the famed Kensington Runestone.

The attention focuses on another exhibit – a native American “tinkle cone” dress.

According to Julie Blank, Runestone Museum director, the dress was part of the Dr. Clifford Irwin Oliver collection, which was donated to the museum shortly after it opened in 1958 by Oliver’s daughter.

The dress caught the attention of Dr. Cory Willmott, an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, during a visit to the museum in July 2004. With permission from the museum staff, Willmott took detailed photos of all of the Anishnaabe artifacts in Dr. Oliver’s collection.

“Besides the tinkle cone dress, there are also many other valuable items, some of which I might publish in the future,” Willmott noted of the collection. “I have studied Anishinaabe artifacts in dozens of museums around the world, so I was very excited about this collection in general, as it is not known to scholars in my field.”

Willmott authored an article titled “Anishinaabe Regalia of the Reservation Era, 1870s-1930s” that was published in the Summer 2012 Great Lakes issue of *American Indian Art Magazine*. The article discusses the importance clothing and regalia played in the lives of Anishinaabe Indians during the reservation era – a time when contemporary ceremonial and powwow dress originated.

Willmott noted that the dress originated around 1930 and is what is known as a “tinkle cone dress.” In the late 1920s or early 1930s, a young woman would have worn this dress for performance purposes, along with accessories such as a loom-woven headband, small beaded purse and long strands of beads or multiple loom-woven beaded necklaces.

They might have performed the “Jingle Dress Dance” – a sacred healing dance that has since become a popular competition dance at powwows all over North America.

Willmott noted that the dress is in exceptional condition and she knows of only three others in the following collections – Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, and National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

She noted that none of those dresses are actually on display, but are rather in storage for preservation purposes.

“I was well aware of the rarity of that dress when I first saw it in 2004,” she noted. “Even though it is faded [the dress was originally bright red], one can still see the skill and artistry that went into making it. The cones are so tightly and evenly wrapped and placed. The materials are all high quality. The lines of the dress are beautifully arranged and the composition of the decorations is very creative.”

A photo of the unique dress will also be featured in the American Indian Art 2013 calendar due out this summer.

BACK TO THE RUNESTONE...

Never fear – the runestone also continues to make headlines. The stone and Alexandria’s 28-foot tall Viking – Big Ole – were featured in the Spring 2012 issue of *Minnesota History*, a quarterly magazine produced by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The nine-page spread, complete with historic photos, was written by Adam Hjorthen. Hjorthen, a Ph.D. history student at Stockholm University in Sweden, wrote about the runestone for his master’s thesis and is currently writing his dissertation on 20th century Swedish American commemorations.

The magazine article, titled “A Viking in New York: The Kensington Runestone at the 1964-1965 World’s Fair,” tells the story of the stone’s trek to the World’s Fair nearly 50 years ago, under the watchful eyes of Big Ole.

MUSEUM ACCOLADES

The Runestone Museum in Alexandria also received accolades of another type recently. It was selected as one of the “uncommon travel gems” profiled in the AAA Travel Treasures section of the March/April 2012 issue of AAA’s *Home and Away* magazine.

“We’re thrilled to be getting all this attention,” said Blank. “We’ve got a lot of great things here and it’s fun to be recognized on such a wide scale.”



Photo contributed by Mark Proudfoot

ABOUT THE DRESS

Pictured is the back of the Anishinaabe Indian dress on display at the Runestone Museum in Alexandria and recently featured in *American Indian Art Magazine*. The dress, circa 1930, is of faded red cotton sateen, adorned with dentalium shells, glass beads, metal conches and hand-rolled tin can cones with red printed labeling still visible on the inside. The dress has a mock collar and scalloped peplum with three tiers on the skirt.



Mary Krueger
DOUGLAS COUNTY
SENIOR
COORDINATOR

How does affordable care act affect seniors?

I get a lot of questions about the Affordable Care Act and I will try to explain at least five key areas about it and hope this helps you to understand it better.

1 The law protects basic Medicare benefits and improves some benefits.

- More help with prescription drug costs. In 2012, if you enter the “doughnut hole,” you’ll pay only half of what your plan charges for a brand name drug. You will also get a 14 percent discount on any generic drugs while in this coverage gap. By 2020: The gap will be phased out and completely eliminated.

- Receive a free annual wellness visit and prevention plan that allows you and your doctor to develop a plan to keep you healthy and ensure you get screening and prevention services you qualify for.
- Better care when sick.

The law invests in testing new models of providing care to people with one or more chronic medical conditions.

2 The law reduces Medicare spending growth, extends Medicare solvency and is projected to reduce the budget deficit.

Medicare spending is growing and will continue to. The law slows payment increases to Medicare providers including hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies. The law does not reduce payments to doctors.

- The law reduces overpayments to Medicare Advantage Plans. You have the same right you’ve always had to switch to another plan or to original Medicare.

- The law requires singles with incomes above \$85,000 and couples with incomes above \$170,000 to pay higher Medicare premiums.

3 The law makes it easier to receive and pay for long term care at home.

The Act provides extra funds to states that provide in-home services through Medicaid. Starting in 2014 through 2019 the law increases protections for spouses of people who receive Medicaid home services.

4 The law improves care for older adults in other ways: Medicare pays bonuses of 10 percent to doctors who provide a lot of primary care. Some nursing home quality standards are improved. There will be enhanced training for workers who care for seniors. There are also new protections against elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

5 The law improves health insurance access and coverage for most younger Americans who don’t have Medicare. Small businesses can receive tax credits of up to 35 percent of premiums to make employee coverage more affordable. Insurance companies cannot deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. Insurance companies must allow people up to age 26 to remain on their parents’ policy. In general, insurance companies can no longer drop people when they get sick.

Starting in 2014 the law will provide health coverage for an estimated 32 million Americans who currently do not have health insurance.

Information taken from the National Council on Aging – Straight Talk for Seniors
www.ncoa.org/straighttalk.

Judging a book by its cover



ABOUT THE BOOK: *Mary: A Study in Luke 1 and 2* is the second book published by Alexandria author Gretchen Nelson. It paints a vivid picture of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and brings her timeless story to life. Nelson’s first book, *The Camels are Coming*, is a study of the Genesis 24 and was published in 2009.

Young artist designs book cover for local author

By Leah Stinson
lstinson@echopress.com

Contrary to the old adage, Jessica Larum judges books by the cover – especially when they show her own work.

When Alexandria author Gretchen Nelson asked Larum, an incoming senior at Jefferson High School (JHS) in Alexandria, to design the cover of her latest book, *Mary: A Study in Luke 1 and 2*, Larum felt “very honored.”

Nelson and Larum became acquainted at JHS, where Nelson has been a substitute teacher for some of Larum’s classes.

Although Nelson had witnessed Larum’s talents in art classes, it was an English class that scintillated the idea. While Nelson was substituting, Larum did a presentation on Edgar Allan Poe, in which she interpreted his poetry and transformed it into artwork. Nelson was impressed by Larum’s talent, and thus, the relationship began.

Contriving ideas for the artwork for *Mary* wasn’t too difficult, noted Larum.

“She basically told me what she wanted... Simple, primitive and bold,” Larum said of Nelson. Larum also created



Jessica Larum
ARTIST

WHAT

Book signing with author
Gretchen Nelson

WHEN

Saturday, June 30, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE

Book World, Viking Plaza Mall, Alexandria

the artwork on the back cover.

The artwork is done in marker, and portrays the Virgin Mary holding Jesus, with the star of Bethlehem shining down on them.

Larum has always entertained an inclination for art, but exploitation of her talents has only picked up recently.

“I started more seriously in 8th grade,” she said. “I started selling my work my sophomore year.

“Junior year, it got a little crazy,” she added with a smile.

Larum’s other passions include playing soccer, hanging out with friends, designing tattoos, and doing portrait work and photography. Another notable accomplishment is a design she created for the Alexandria Area Soccer Association.

In the future, Larum plans to pursue either art or psychology.

“I am very passionate about both,” she said.

Whether hobby or career, Larum knows her life story will be interwoven with art.



\$11 FAMILY SIZE
LITERS



COST CUTTERS®
FAMILY HAIR SALON

320-762-1101

2715 Hwy 29 S.
Alexandria, MN 56308

CC Professional
Excludes Green Tea with Vitamin C.

