

**FRIENDS OF THE CRÈCHE 2011
CONVENTION**

“A NORTHERN NATIVITY”

TORONTO NOVEMBER 10 – 12, 2011

Principal Events and Presenters

Biographies of Speakers

Thursday Evening, November 10

Ecumenical Service

A Planning Committee of clergy from the Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian, the United, the Coptic, the Slovakian Byzantine Rite and the Anglican (Episcopal) Churches are arranging an Ecumenical Service to open the Convention.

Friday, November 11 - Morning Program

***Introductory Presentation: O Holy Night:
Representations of the Nativity in the Art
History of Western Europe up to the
Renaissance***

Sarah McKinnon



Dr. Sarah McKinnon will present the convention's opening address. This illustrated lecture will focus on the representation of the Nativity in the art history of Western Europe during the

Middle Ages and Renaissance periods. Dr. McKinnon, since 2001 Vice-President, Academic, OCAD University, received her B.A. in History and Art History at Rice University in Houston, Texas and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Medieval Studies (architectural history) from the University of Toronto. For 25 years, she was appointed at the University of Winnipeg, serving as faculty member, University Art Curator, Chair of the History Department, Associate Dean and Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science. She has published and lectured in late medieval art and architecture and has curated exhibitions of European and Canadian art. She currently serves on the board of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Foundation in Winnipeg, a charitable trust that promotes the heritage of composer S.C. Eckhardt-Gramatté and her first husband, German Expressionist artist, Walter Gramatté. Dr. McKinnon continues to research the life and art of Mary Riter Hamilton, and is writing a biography of this little-known Canadian artist.

The Crèche in Time of War

Catherine Woltz



Catherine Woltz attended the University of Windsor and graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in history with a minor in Women's Studies in 2007. She has spent two years working in heritage sites and churches in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In the summer of

2010 she completed an internship at Shakespeare's Church, Stratford-upon-Avon designing exhibitions exploring the intersections of literature, history and religion. She hopes to work in interpretive planning and exhibition design after obtaining her MMST Degree from the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto in 2011.

Ms. Woltz's presentation will be on The Crèche in Wartime. Many families can look back on their childhood Christmases and envision a nativity scene set in front of the fire, or perhaps under the Christmas tree – but what makes these scenes meaningful for families, particularly when families are torn apart? The presentation will consider the ways in which Canadian families, soldiers and Christian communities connected to one another through the use of crèche scenes during times of war. It will explore the many ways in which crèche scenes were created, both in Canada and in other nations, and consider what significance they held for those who shaped them. An accompanying exhibition will interpret a number of crèche scenes that hold cultural and religious significance throughout both Canada and the wider world.

**Friday, November 11 - Afternoon
Program**

***Panel Discussion: Dawn of the Global
Age: The Crèche in Early Canada***

Janet Ritch



Dr. K Janet Ritch's presentation "Visions of the New World from a European Renaissance Perspective" will highlight Samuel de Champlain's distinct approach to our New World aboriginals against a background of European misconceptions.

Dr. Ritch is a social historian whose research path has taken her from the European Middle Ages and Renaissance to early Canada. She received her doctorate in 1995 from the Centre for Medieval Studies in the University of Toronto for preparing an edition of a Resurrection play written by a Norman professor in Middle French, c.1535. She taught for several years at the Université Paris IV- La Sorbonne in France before returning to teach History at York University and French for the Advanced Degree Program at the Toronto School of Theology (TST) in the University of Toronto. At the same time, she has had the honour of collaborating in research projects with such top scholars in Canada as Alexandra Johnston, Eva Kushner, Conrad Heidenreich and Germaine Warkentin. In 2003, the Champlain Society invited her to work with Conrad Heidenreich on the book which is now in press at McGill-Queen's: *Samuel de Champlain: Des Sauvages and Other Documents Related to the Period before 1604*. With the completion of this 600-page volume in sight, she is now translating into English the two French journals of Pierre-Esprit Radisson, a moving force in the early Hudson's Bay Company.

Bishop Mark MacDonald



The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald was appointed the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop of Canada ("NIAB") on January 4th, 2007. His Installation took place at General Synod in Winnipeg, June 24, 2007. He was selected by the Anglican

Council of Indigenous Peoples and appointed by the Primate. He had been consecrated Alaska's VII Bishop on September 13, 1997 in Fairbanks, Alaska. In July 2006, he was appointed the pastoral bishop of the Episcopal Church of Navajoland, a position he continues to cover as the NIAB.

Born in 1954, his formal education includes a B.A. degree in Religious Studies and Psychology from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, an M.A. of Divinity Degree from Wycliffe College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; post-graduate work at Luther-Northwestern Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, MN, Navajo Community College, Tsaile, Navajo Nation, and he is presently engaged in a Doctor of Ministry programme at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California.

Bishop MacDonald has had a long and varied ministry, holding positions in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; Duluth, MN; Tomah, WI and Mauston, WI; Portland, OR; and the Southeast Regional mission of the diocese of Navajoland. Immediately prior to his ordination to the episcopate, Bishop MacDonald was Canon Missioner for Training in the Diocese of MN and vicar of St. Antipas' Church, Redby, and St. John-in-the-Wilderness Church, Red Lake, Red Lake Nation.

At present the bishop is the Board Chair for Church Innovations, Inc., He is also a Third Order Franciscan.

Among his published works are "Native American Youth Ministries," co-authored with Dr. Carol Hampton and "It's in the Font: Sacramental Connections between faith and environment".

Alan Hayes



The Rev'd Dr. Canon Alan Hayes is Bishops Heber and Frederick Wilkinson Professor of Church History at Wycliffe College in Toronto where he has taught for thirty-one years. He is also Director of the Toronto School of Theology. He is a distinguished

church historian and the author of several books and articles of English, American and Canadian church history as well as being editor of a professional historical journal.

***Panel Discussion: Canada's Diversity and
the Crèche***

Ross Fair



Dr. Ross Fair is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at Ryerson University in Toronto. His academic interests focus on pre-Confederation Canada, particularly Upper

Canada. He is also interested in exploring the role of local history, both myth and memory, in the construction of the Canadian identity. His article on the immigrant narrative of the Pennsylvania Germans of Ontario won the Ontario Historical Society's 2008 Riddell Award. His work has appeared in the *Canadian Historical Review*, *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, *Ontario History* and elsewhere. At present he is working on a monograph that explores the ideology of improvement and the formation of the Upper Canadian state, 1792-1852. Dr. Fair has worked as a research consultant for various organizations, including Heritage Toronto and the Ontario Heritage Trust. Dr. Fair's session, **Canada's Diversity and the Crèche**, will provide a broad overview of the waves of immigration to North America in the eras before and after the birth of the Canadian nation in 1867. It will focus particularly on the religious identities of the major immigrant groups who populated the

nation. Doing so will help explain the limited presence of the crèche in many communities across Canada. Finally, to better understand the tradition of the crèche in Canadian society, the session will briefly consider why the crèche has gained a more prominent profile in recent decades. Selected personal immigrant memories of the crèche will conclude the session.

Margaret Dvorsky

Margaret A. Dvorsky, one of six children of immigrant parents, was born in Montreal. She was raised in a village north of Montreal in a multicultural and ecumenical environment but on weekends they returned to the city to reinforce and retain their Christian faith, language and cultural social life. She and her husband have brought their sons up in the Slovak Christian Cultural Heritage. Christmas events, including displaying Nativity Scenes, have been an important part of her Slovak traditions.

Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye



Yosola Adeoye was born in Nigeria (West Africa), and raised by Christian parents. She resided and studied in Nigeria until her late teen age when she relocated to England for further education in Human Resources & Office Administration. At different times, she lived and worked both in England and Nigeria well into her mid age 40s and then fully moved back to Nigeria where she briefly resided until 1998 when she migrated to Canada. She works in the Administration field with one of the big 5 banks and is actively involved in volunteering time at local charities in her community. She currently resides in Mississauga.

The Dramatized Crèche: The Medieval Tradition of Biblical Drama

Alexandra F. Johnston



Dr. Johnston will present a background introduction to medieval Biblical plays and, in particular, the plays of the English city, Chester; three of these plays relating to the Nativity will be performed in St.

James' Cathedral as part of the convention activities.

Alexandra F. Johnston was raised and educated in Brantford, Ontario. She received her BA from Victoria College, University of Toronto (English Language and Literature) in 1961 and her PhD from the University of Toronto (English) in 1964. She taught at Queen's University 1964-67 returning to the faculty of Victoria in 1967. She achieved the rank of full professor in the English Department, University of Toronto with cross appointments to the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama in 1978. From 1981-91, she served as principal of Victoria College (the first woman to hold the office of college principal on the main campus of the U of T) and in those years was very active in the affairs of the University of Toronto at large. In 1984, she received an LLD from Queen's and in 1991 a DD from the Presbyterian College, McGill. In 2002 she received the coveted Faculty Award for the most outstanding member of the U of T faculty. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, 1997.

Friday, November 11 - Evening Program

Three Episodes from the Medieval Biblical Plays from the English City of Chester (presented in St. James' Cathedral)

Poculi Ludique Societas

Poculi Ludique Societas ("PLS") sponsors productions of early plays from the beginning of medieval drama to the middle of the 17th Century. For more than 40 years, PLS has been associated with the University of Toronto's Centre for Medieval Studies, offering a regular schedule of plays each year. PLS has toured in Canada, The United States and Europe and has mounted major productions that have been part of large academic conferences.

Saturday, November 12 - Concurrent Morning Sessions

The Story of Rivière-Éternité

A team of presenters will tell the story of this tiny village in Quebec known for its crèches.

The Christmas Star - Astronomy, History and Legend

Ian McGregor

Ian McGregor is the Senior Science Teacher in the Education Department of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. He began his career at the Museum as the Planetarium Educator for the Museum's McLaughlin Planetarium, at the time one of the largest and most modern planetariums in the world. For 27 years the McLaughlin Planetarium offered a highly praised show examining the pageantry and interpretations associated with the popular image of the star associated with the birth of Jesus.

Enrico Giuseppe Raffaelli



The topic of Professor Raffaelli's presentation will be the legend of the Magi visiting Jesus the child, between history and myth. Enrico G. Raffaelli is a professor at the University of Toronto in Mississauga. He was born in Rome, Italy in 1975. During his undergraduate studies at the University of Rome La Sapienza, he specialised in Iranian studies, with a focus on Zoroastrianism and on the languages of pre-Islamic Iran. After graduating in 1998, with a dissertation on Zoroastrian texts dealing with astrology, from 1999 to 2004 he was a PhD student in Iranian Studies at the University of Naples. After his PhD he spent one year in St. Petersburg, Russia, conducting research at the Institute of Iranian Studies at the Academy of Sciences. He has published a book, "The Horoscope of the World" dealing with Zoroastrianism as well as essays in scientific journals.

His present research includes a project on the Middle Persian Dictionary, the study of some astrological Zoroastrian texts, and a comparative study of Zoroastrian, Mesopotamian, Hebrew and Islamic Wisdom texts.

Displaying, Animating and Caring for your Crèche

Melanie Egan



Melanie Egan has been actively involved with the field of contemporary craft for over 25 years. She is the Head of the Craft Department at Harbourfront Centre. She develops and

presents programmes and symposia; curates and organizes exhibitions; lectures and writes; chairs and manages the only artist-in-residence programme of its kind in Canada (Glass, Metal, Ceramics and Textile). She recently co-edited the book ***Crafting New Traditions: Canadian Innovators and Influences*** - with Alan C. Elder and Jean Johnson

CM published by the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Melanie Egan received the George Brown College – Alumni Wall of Fame Award in 2010 and the John Mather Award for life-time achievement from the Ontario Crafts Council in 2007. She is on the Board of Trustees at the Textile Museum of Canada and chairs the Exhibitions and Donor Development Committee; currently sits on the Editorial Advisory Committee for the Ontario Crafts Council and formerly Editorial Advisory Group, for *Object Magazine* Sydney, Australia. She has sat on the Toronto Arts Council - Advisory Board for Visual/Media Arts; is on the Programme Advisory Committee for Craft + Design at Sheridan Institute; and is a PAC member for Jewellery and Metals Georgian College in Barrie, ON. She was a first director on the board of SKETCH - *Working Arts for Street-involved and Homeless Youth*. She was co-chair of the Shadow Box Fundraiser committee (4 Years) at the Textile Museum of Canada. She is a former member of the Board of Directors Glass Art Association of Canada, and former Executive Committee Member of the Metal Arts Guild. She was a member of the curatorial collective, OBJECToronto (2006-2009) and is actively involved with the curatorial partnership, McClure & Egan.

Carol Knowlton-Dority



Carol Knowlton-Dority aspires to be open to new and sometimes surprising thoughts which develop as she considers her part in the human experience. Creating visual art is a way of reviewing and reflecting upon these ideas. She has welcomed opportunities to engage in dialogue and explore ideas at Brock University and the University of Toronto. Part of her practice as a Visual Artist includes opportunity to be involved in educational and community experiences. As President of Mural Routes, Knowlton-Dority is part of a vital team whose purpose is to educate, engage and enhance communities through the creation of mural and public art. As well, she has developed projects for,

and in conjunction with, groups such as Fairlawn Community Centre, Youth Without Shelter and Delisle Youth Centre.

Carol Knowlton-Dority has enjoyed a variety of opportunities to bring children and visual arts together; as a classroom teacher in both public and private school settings, and as an art educator for the Toronto District School Board, The Bishop Strachan School, Branksome Hall and organizations such as City of Toronto Public Health, City of Toronto Special Events, DiscoverAbility and the RedEye Studio Gallery in the Distillery District. She created and implemented in two Ontario District School Boards, *Journey Into Peace: A Bullying Prevention Program Through Visual Arts*. She is also active in the arts community through Mural Routes, the University of Toronto, the Royal Conservatory of Music, and Visual Arts Ontario.

The Crèche in Icons

Corey Keeble



Corey Keeble majored in English and History and completed graduate studies in art history in England. On returning from England he joined the curatorial staff of the European Department of

the Royal Ontario Museum, where he is presently employed as one of its curators in the Department of World Cultures. He is a well known writer and speaker on a wide variety of subjects. He is a recognised authority on the history of Renaissance and Baroque bronze sculpture, European arms and armour, and toy soldiers. His interests include Medieval sculpture, Gothic and Gothic Revival architecture, Medieval and Modern stained glass, Judaica, Russian art, architecture and ships.

Alexei Mezentsev



Alexei Mezentsev is an artist, educator and iconographer. He was born in the Ukraine and studied at the Academy of Arts in Moscow. He furthered his studies at the Ontario College of Art & Design, George Brown College

and Sheridan College in Toronto.

Deeply interested in the ancients' techniques he has done research in monasteries and schools in Greece and Italy. For more than 30 years he has worked as an illustrator worldwide. During the past 20 years he has designed various projects for churches and cultural institutions in Canada and the United States involving mosaics, stained glass, murals and icons. For over 10 years he has taught courses in Byzantine-style iconography. In 2000, Alexei taught the iconography workshop in Arts Work Art School in Toronto. After that he established the St. Luke Icon Studio in Toronto where students learn old classical techniques.

Helene Moussa



Helene Moussa has taught sociology, social work and social development in universities in Egypt and in Ethiopia where she was Dean of the School of Social Work, Haile Selassie I University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1958-

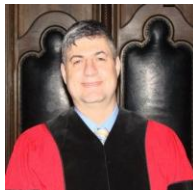
1967). In Canada she was on the teaching faculty at the U of T & York University and The Centre for Christian Studies (1971-1989). Helene has worked ecumenically for over 22 years. Her last position before retirement was at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland where she served as Executive Secretary for Uprooted People (refugees and internally displaced persons) in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Islands. She has published in various fields — the main focus of her publications since 1988 has been on refugees and internally displaced women and children. Since July

1999 she has served as the Volunteer Curator at St. Mark's Coptic Museum in Scarborough fulfilling a lifelong passion for art and the study of culture, identity and history. She has taught courses and lectured on the history of Coptic icons and published. Helene currently serves as the Secretary to the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies and is an amateur iconographer.

Saturday, November 12 - Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

The Crèche in Toronto's Stained Glass Windows

John Joseph Mastandrea



The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea will give a seminar exploring the theme and symbolism of the Crèche in the Stained Glass of Metropolitan United Church and the Toronto Community.

John Joseph became minister of spiritual growth and pastoral care development at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto in 2000. John Joseph cut his teeth in the Etobicoke area of Toronto and now resides in Toronto, his "connection with the urban landscape, with the internal and eternal song". He has Bachelor of Science, Master of Divinity, and Master of Religious Education degrees, all from the University of Toronto, and graduated from the Master of Ministry of Arts and Spirituality program at Regis College in 2004. John Joseph completed his Doctorate from Chicago Theological Seminary in May, 2010. His thesis focused on the Theology as Biography, the Symbolism and living narrative of Stained Glass Windows at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. Ordained in 1989, he is a certified Spiritual Director following in the footsteps of Ignatius Loyola and Teresa of Avila. He has served congregations from the Maritimes, Saskatchewan, northern Ontario and rural Quebec

to urban and suburban parts of the Greater Toronto area.

His volunteer work for the church and community includes membership in the Toronto Area Interfaith Council, Police Chaplain to 51 Division, membership in the Toronto Rotary and Chair of the World Aids Concert.

Mary - Story and Legends

Lorne Brown



A singer of old songs and a teller of old tales, Lorne Brown is a Toronto storyteller and ballad singer. A co-founder of Storytelling Toronto (formerly The Storytellers School of Toronto), Lorne is also artistic co-director of the Legless

Stocking, a company that produces shows combining storytelling with the arts.

One of Canada's most loved tellers, Lorne has told his stories and sung his ballads in every province and territory in Canada. He has recently been honoured by the national organization Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada who are recording his stories and songs for a 3-CD album to be released in 2011 in Yellowknife. He has written many articles and given countless workshops on the art of storytelling and the art of the ballad. He has performed on television and radio and in folk and storytelling festivals across Canada as well as appearing in two film documentaries. Lorne plays the 5-string banjo, the lap dulcimer, and the recorder. A former principal with the old Toronto Board of Education, Lorne was the founding principal of one of Canada's first community schools, the Kensington Community School in Toronto.

Journeys of the Nativity

Fr. Gustavo Campo



Fr. Gustavo Campo is a member of the Institute of the Incarnate Word (often referred to as “the IVE”) a Catholic men’s religious organization founded in Argentina. Born in Mendoza, Argentina, part of a religious

family he is dedicated to the evangelisation of the culture. As a missionary he has been sent to a mission in Italy (where he earned his Master in Moral Theology), to a mission in Peru and then to a mission in Guyana as a parish priest in the Amerindian Reservation. After a period as Associate Pastor at St. George Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, he took up his current post as Associate Pastor at St. Augustine of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church in Toronto.

Ramez Boutros



Ramez Boutros received a BA in Architecture from Helwan University in Cairo, a PhD in Sciences de l’Antiquite from the University of Marc Bloch in Strasbourg and worked for the French Institute of Oriental

Archaeology in Cairo as an Architect and Researcher from 1991 to 2005. He immigrated to Canada in 2007 and was accepted as visiting Fellow at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, and in 2008 as a Research Fellow. Areas of special interest include Coptic Architecture and Archaeology and the History of Archaeology of Pilgrimage Sites in the Medieval Period, cultural exchanges in the monastic and pilgrimage sites, and early women’s monasticism in the Near and Middle East. Special projects have included his being a member of the excavation team working in the monastic site of Bawit (40 km north of Assyut, Egypt) and preparing a publication on the cult of the Physician Saints Cyr and John as well as serving as Editor of the Acts of the 9th International Congress of Coptic Studies held in Cairo in 2008.

Dr. Boutros will be giving courses on an Introduction to Coptic Studies, Christianity in Africa, Coptic Art and Archaeology, and an Introduction to Coptic Christianity in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto during the coming academic year.

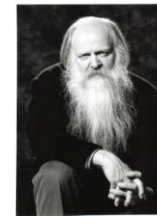
The Crèche Online - A Virtual Exhibit

Danielle Boily-Desovski



Danielle Boily is the Manager, Portals Development & Design, at the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). Her many responsibilities include the efficient presentation and access through the use of innovative technologies to engage heritage professionals, Canadians and worldwide audiences in Canada’s heritage. In collaboration with her team, she helps identify and broker national and international partnerships. She has also coordinated several virtual exhibitions and Features for the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC). She joined the staff at CHIN in 1982. Ms. Boily, an art historian, began her career with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Since joining CHIN in 1982, she has worked extensively in various areas involving the continually changing information technology tools used by Canadian museums to manage and disseminate information about their collections. Over the years, she has been responsible for computerized collections management systems operations and methods, working groups on documentation standards, customized courses on heritage information management techniques and, since 2004, she has managed the CHIN Portals Development & Design Division. Ms. Boily is a member of various national and international organizations and professional committees.

David Goa



David Goa is currently Curator of Folklife, Provincial Museum of Alberta and Adjunct Professor, Comparative Literature, Religion, Film/Media Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. He is also Research Fellow at the M. V. Dimic Institute of Cultural

Studies, University of Alberta. He won the Eugene Johnson Award from Christians In The Visual Arts, with Jenny Chugg, he received the AMPIA Award for the video, “Jesus In The Age Of Television” and he has been inducted into the City of Edmonton’s Cultural Hall of Fame. Other current and past positions include: Director, Muslim Research Foundation; Director, Association for research in religious Studies and Theology; Member, Religion Advisory Board, Alberta Human Rights Commission; Director, The Memanjic Institute for Serbo-Byzantine Studies.

Major areas of research undertaken include:

- Eastern Christian Symbolic Culture and Orthodox Theological Studies
- Myth, symbol, ritual, religious ethnology and ethnography
- Ethnicity and religion as factors in the history of North America

Among his many publications is the book, *God With Us, The Meaning of Christmas*”, editor with Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolf (Brewster MA: Paraclete Press 2007). For this devotional book on Advent and the Christmas Seasons, as well as editorial work, he wrote the section on the history and meaning of the feast days within the Advent-Christmas cycle. He has curated many exhibitions, largely in museums across the Province of Alberta, though some have circulated across Canada and even over to Sweden, and in 1997 he curated the electronic exhibition on Christmas Traditions in France and Canada with Danielle Boily-Desovski – a joint project with the Canadian Heritage Information Network, the Musée de la Civilization (Quebec) and the Musée National des Arts et Traditions Populaires, Paris.