



Arto Monaco Historical Society

arto's way

The newsletter of the Arto Monaco Historical Society
Volume 2, Issue 1, June 2006

Our Mission

To collect and preserve the artistic creations and collections of Arto Monaco, and make them available to the public.

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AMHS to Clean Up LOMB Castle Site

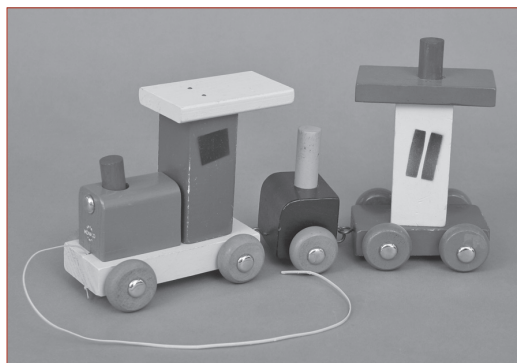
At its April meeting, the AMHS board voted to take the first steps toward preserving the castle that was once a major feature of the Land of Makebelieve. Old postcards reveal vibrant colors which gave the building a special exuberance. Today, the colors have faded and the clipped hedges that once led to the castle entrance are as big as trees, but the building survives. With the blessing of Arto's heirs and a legislative grant from Senator Betty Little, AMHS wants to begin to secure and preserve this magical place.

Work will begin with clean-up around the castle, which will enable us to get an accurate view of the structure to assess its condition. We expect to find some condition issues, including the need to repair or replace woodwork, for example.

Volunteers have already expressed interest in helping with this first stage of work, which we hope to begin in June. Would you like to help? Contact us at info@artomonaco.org and we'll contact you with dates and times. *

Arto-fact Days Come one, come all — and bring your Arto-facts

Arto Monaco left behind a body of work that reveals his many talents and interests. Many of Arto's creations were made for sale or given as gifts, and AMHS Board Member



A Monaco Toys factory pull-toy brought into Arto-fact Day in February to be photographed. Board Member Sandy Morhouse came up with the term Arto-fact, a word he uses for his own Arto memorabilia. ♦

Ellen Metcalf proposed creating a digital archive to record the toys and other items that came from Arto's workshop.

AMHS held its first Arto-fact Day in February. About thirty people brought toys, photographs, souvenirs, letters — anything they had associated with Arto — to help start the digital record, which will eventually be shown on the AMHS website.

Thanks go out to the following volunteers for their invaluable help: Sue Burdick-Young, Ellen Metcalf, Sylvia Norton, and Chris Straight. Our next Arto-fact Day is June 4 from 1 to 4 pm at the Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay. Refreshments will be served. *

What's a crooked clock worth, anyway?



The crooked clock made by Arto. This one-of-a-kind piece was appraised at \$1,000.

Arto Monaco spent a lifetime transforming ideas into things that could be touched and enjoyed. Many are unique and hard to categorize. Arto's crooked clock is an example: a child's-size grandfather clock, painted baby blue, with hardly a straight line anywhere. This singular piece, made in the 1950s, is one of about 8,000 items Arto left behind that needed to be looked at, listed, and evaluated after he passed away in November 2003.

At the request of Arto's heirs, licensed appraiser Ted Comstock of Saranac Lake took on the job. Comstock is a long-time Adirondack antiques dealer knowledgeable about toys, games, ephemera, souvenirs, books, and artwork. Ted was also familiar with and intrigued by Arto's work, and his role as theme park designer and entrepreneur. Doing the appraisal involved locating items comparable to those Arto saved, and establishing values through research in books and auction records on the fields of collectible toys, games, dolls, folk art, souvenirs, and other areas.

Comstock finished the work in March 2004. His report on the value of Arto Monaco's creations and collections is a valuable benchmark and will help AMHS and Arto's estate to work together so AMHS can reach its goal of preserving and sharing Arto's work with future generations. *

Meet the new AMHS planning director

Jane Mackintosh of Queensbury, N.Y., has been hired as the Society's part-time planning director. Jane is a collections consultant, writer, designer, and former Adirondack Museum curator. She met Arto in the late 1990s and spent many hours talking with him about his work. She became more familiar with Arto's collections when she assisted appraiser Ted Comstock in the 2004 inventory. That year she also produced an Adirondack chair honoring Arto as part of the Lake Placid Center for the Arts *Adirondack Art Chairs 2004* exhibition and auction. Look for Jane at AMHS events this summer. *

News Around Town ...

- * Copies of the *Tom Tyler Tales, Too* comic book by Calvin Castine, featuring a tribute to Arto Monaco, are available at the Wells Memorial Library.
- * Stop by Paul Johnson's bakery on Route 9N to see his mural of the Land of Makebelieve.
- * Look for Chris Straight's signs that say "Welcome to Upper Jay, Home to Toy Maker Arto Monaco." These should be up at both ends of the village in June.

Fund-raising to preserve a legacy

Beginning this fall, AMHS will launch a capital campaign to raise funds for the acquisition and care of the Arto Monaco collections. Work is underway to set campaign goals and lay groundwork. Over \$30,000 has already been pledged to help launch fund-raising efforts in October.

Capital campaign funds will help acquire the Arto Monaco collections, part of the former Land of Makebelieve property, and buildings; help start caring for collections and property; and support other plans to preserve Arto's legacy. *



Not a member yet? Join us and become a Makebeliever!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

e-mail _____

My signed check for _____ is enclosed.

\$15 Student or Senior membership

\$25 Individual membership

\$35 Family membership

\$100 Sustaining member

I can help kick off the Capital Campaign with a gift on top of membership.

Please clip and mail to:

Arto Monaco Historical Society • P. O. Box 102 • Upper Jay, NY 12987