

Redwood Library Treasures Secured for Future

NEWPORT, R.I.—America’s oldest continuously operating lending library, the Redwood Library and Athenæum, re-opened in early 2006 following a \$6.8 million expansion and restoration. Making books widely available was virtually unheard of in 1747 when Abraham Redwood and his associates chartered the organization. Completed in 1750, the building’s Palladian-style architecture was an eye-opener.

Although only members can borrow books, anyone may use the library’s holdings within

the building, including volumes from the original collection—some dating as far back as the late 1400s. Tours and exhibitions of the collection are planned through 2006. “Until the full-scale renovation project, this historic national treasure was a jewel—exquisite, but tired,” says director Cheryl Helms. “Now, it’s breathtaking.” A year-long celebration of events and programs is under way. For more information, call 401.847.0292 or visit www.redwoodlibrary.org. —*Gayle Hargreaves*



MUSEUM SUITS COLLECTORS TO A “TEA”

SPARTA, N.C.—For those who have never thought of teapots as art, California collectors Sonny and Gloria Kamm (left, with Michael Lucero’s “Female Roman Statue,” 1996, ceramic and plaster) are ready to offer 6,000 or 7,000 reasons to reconsider. Named among the nation’s 100 Top Collectors by *Art & Antiques*, the Kamms have loaned their entire teapot collection to the Sparta Teapot Museum in perpetuity. This institution, now home to the largest teapot collection in the world, is expected to open in summer 2008. “People will leave this museum with a big smile on their faces,” museum executive director Patrick Woodie says. The museum is expected to draw more than 60,000 visitors annually.

The Kamms’ holdings include artist-made, non-functional pieces with wild, fanciful designs; antique teapots from China, England and elsewhere; production teapots in an array of shapes and materials; and items that depict teapots. “The Artful Teapot,” an exhibition featuring part of the collection, has toured Chicago, Toronto, Long Beach, California, and Charlotte, North Carolina, and other cities. For more, visit www.spartateapotmuseum.org. —*Andrea Cooper*

Winning Olympic Bronze

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—Sculptor Shray reaches out to collectors through her fluid bronze renditions of human emotion. This summer, that reach extends beyond these borders when her sculpture, “Raising Tomorrow’s Olympic Champions” (right), embarks on a worldwide tour beginning in Beijing to represent the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Invited to submit a sculpture for the games’ 2008 Olympic Landscape Sculpture Design Contest, Shray was one of eight Americans extended this honor, and just one of two given the “excellent

works” distinction—the competition’s highest rating. (Other honored artists include Asherah Cinnamon and Scott Fuller, Edward Eyth, Mark and Diane Weisbeck, Carole Turner and Ralf Gschwend.) “My piece honors parents worldwide who nurture the Olympic dream,” she explains. “I’m so grateful the committee reached across the ocean to invite American artists to participate in such an auspicious event, especially since art knows no borders or boundaries.” For more information, visit www.shraybronze.com. —*Tara N. Wilfong*

