



The restoration of P.T. Barnum's library and drawing room
A Presentation by David Scott Parker, Architect and Restoration Artist

(Bridgeport, CT) — On Saturday, October 14 at 1:00 p.m., architect, preservationist and decorative arts authority David Scott Parker will present an informative lecture on the challenges in researching and recreating the Barnum Museum's two period rooms: P.T. Barnum's Iranistran Library (1848) and the Nathaniel Wheeler Drawing Room (1868). The recreation work was done in the mid 1980s.

In-depth analysis was done on surviving artifacts and period documents to ensure that the reconstruction of these distinguished places was faithful to the original spaces. Included in the discussion will be acknowledgement of the significance of the original New York cabinet-making firms and how 19th Century American decorative arts have become a vibrant field of study in many museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Art in Boston and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

Mr. Parker heads a twenty member architectural firm based in Southport, CT and has worked on numerous significant projects ranging from homes of distinguished individuals to many well-known National Historic Landmarks, including the U.S. Treasury in Washington, D.C. In addition, Mr. Parker is a partner in Associated Artists, LLC, a gallery well known in the field of American furniture, decorative and fine arts.

Mr. Parker holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and a Master in Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard, where he serves on various advisory boards.

The Barnum Museum has three floors of absolutely fascinating exhibits that illustrate the extraordinary life of Phineas Taylor Barnum. P. T. Barnum, one-term mayor of Bridgeport and four-term member of the Connecticut General Assembly, was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport, is listed in the national Register of Historic Places and is totally handicapped accessible.

What: ***Recreation of P.T. Barnum's Iranistran Library and the Nathaniel Wheeler Drawing Room: a presentation by David Scott Parker***

Where: **The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604**

When: **Saturday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.**

Cost: **Free to Barnum Museum Members. General admission applies for others.** Adults \$5, seniors and college students \$4, Children 4 to 17 \$3 and children under 4 are free.
Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Sunday – Noon to 4:30 p.m.

For more information call 203-331-1104 or visit www.barnum-museum.org

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