



Collections

Gram

~ What's Happening in the Collections Department

Changes at the NMB: The Lunar Orbiter will be lowered next Tuesday evening. Along with Clementine, it will be moved to the Restoration Hangar to be prepared for Transformation.

Several small objects will be rotated in the "Artist Soldiers" gallery next week

Changes at the UHC: An exquisite model of the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier, the USS Langley, has been installed near the Thomas Morse Scout in the "Early Flight" area. Donor and builder Bill Emerson said that the model depicts the ship, converted from the coal collier USS Jupiter, on its way to sea for flight operations. The model is built primarily of wood with a few plastic details, and was delivered with the assistance of Chuck Baylis of the Military History Society of Rochester. Interesting features of the ship include:

- Hydraulically retractable masts
- Elevator in the center of the flight deck
- Smokestacks that rotate out of the way
- Palisades that drop down
- Removable flagpoles

Emerson, Baylis, Jennifer Stringfellow (CPU), Chris Moore (curator) and Glenn Rankin (Exhibits Production) are shown with the model in the photo (below).



In the Restoration Hangar: Transformation projects include:

- Every part of the Sonic Wind 1 rocket sled will be sent out for abrasive blasting next week.
- The grimy Mark 4 re-entry vehicle is looking much better with a thorough polishing. A decision is forthcoming on the extent to which repainting will be required.
- The Lincoln-Standard team is pre-bending aileron tip bows and scarfing joints for cap strip repairs.
- Teams of restoration specialists and conservators are giving several objects an initial assessment, including:
 - The supersonic wind tunnel section
 - The Douglas O-38B fuselage section
 - A World War I high-explosive bomb
 - The Cray 1 supercomputer

And in addition:

- Stands were installed under five aircraft on display at UHC

- The specialized French-fell sewing machine is being put back in service for the Lincoln-Standard project

Improving Conditions at Garber: Building 22 is ready for HVAC installation and fire system upgrades. All but 8 large artifacts have been moved from this very crowded building to provide access.

And finally: Yikes! Conservation fellow Arianna Carini recently attended a seminar on “Safety and Cultural Heritage.” Case studies covered hazards presented by artifacts, such as artifacts contaminated by pesticides (moth balls), and means of conserving an art work that contained corroding liquid mercury.