

FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

From Manila to Peking: Treasures from the MacArthur Memorial

I would like to do a paper on the artifacts that were displayed in the MacArthur Memorial's special exhibit *From Manila to Peking: Treasures from the MacArthur Memorial*. This exhibit was temporarily on display from March 2004 – February 2005. The artifacts were then put back in the collections room. The artifacts will once again be on display at the Courthouse Galleries in Portsmouth this February for approximately two months. My desire to do this paper is to go one step further and compile the artifacts into one book or pamphlet as I have seen done many times before with exhibits. The pamphlet would include an introduction of General MacArthur, his wife Jean MacArthur, and the importance of their legacy; a description and image of the artifact, and its importance as an art piece as well as its importance in history.

I believe a paper like this would help further the research on U.S. history, the MacArthurs and their relationship with the Asian community as well as gain a better appreciation and understanding of Asian art.

I believe several classes that I have taken will help me to successfully complete this project. *Growing Audiences* sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts explained that a museum needs to diversify and reach out to new audiences. Highlighting the art collection at the MacArthur Memorial would help to bring in new audiences that might not realize there is more to the MacArthur collection than just military artifacts. *Hands-on Exhibit Design* and *Using Podcasts* both sponsored by VAM taught that when doing exhibits there needs to be a cohesive storyline or interpretation as well as other tools to enhance special and permanent exhibits. A pamphlet about the art collection can be used as an exhibit guide that will complement the special exhibit and give a more complete history of the artifacts. *Volunteer Management* and *Mastering the SOLs* also sponsored by VAM showed the necessity of exhibits being based on the Virginia SOLs, and that volunteers need to be educated in the museum's exhibits. With this in mind, a pamphlet on the art collection will help in adding art SOLs to the MacArthur Memorial's educational curriculum. In addition it can be used to supplement volunteer/docent material.

Keep some of audience foremost - who will you be serving?