

Exhibition Checklist (expanded)

Pocket Guide to Hell (Paul Durica, Michelle Faust, Kenneth Morrison, Sayward Schoonmaker, and Nat Ward)

Steele MacKaye (1842-1894)

Spectatorium sliding stage section, 1893/2012

Historical reproduction

“A Spectatorium is an entirely new species of building, invented and devised for the production of a new order of entertainment entitled a spectatorio... A spectatorio combines grand spectacle with grand oratorio, utilizing the most advanced artistic realism for the purpose of emphasizing the most inspiring idealism. It seeks to present the facts of history with graphic force while suggesting, by music and poetic symbolism, the true philosophy of history.”

—Steele MacKaye, *Chicago Times*, August 1892

Steele MacKaye (1842-1894)

Apparatus for Producing Scenic Effects, or Wave Machine Maquette, 1893/2012

Historical reproduction

“By this means, when it is desired to give the effect of waves upon the surface of water contained in the reservoir upon the foundation floor of the scenic department (which overspreads said department to a depth sufficient to conceal the tracks and water channels supported thereon) the wave maker may be set in motion by the operator or prompter by simply touching the proper key upon the switch board [sic] so as to set the motor P in motion and thereupon waves will be built up as indicated in Fig. 10.”

—Steele MacKaye, United States Patent No. 490, 490, January 1893

Steele MacKaye (1842-1894)

Cloud Creator, or Nebulator Maquette, 1893/2012

Gift from the Estate of T.F. Bittner

Historical reproduction

“My invention relates to [the] apparatus for producing scenic effects, and the object of the invention is to provide improved means for creating clouds or cloud shadows so as to produce the effect of cloud[s] or cloud shadows moving upon or over a landscape or sky foundation or other scenic arrangement, for the improvement of realism in land and water scenic effects.”

—Steele MacKaye, United States Patent No. 490, 481, January 1893

Isabella I, Queen of Castile and León, costume from The Great Discovery, 1893/2012

Gift from the Estate of T.F. Bittner

Historical reproduction

“The [receiver’s] report shows that the costumes cost \$8,706 and sold for \$500 and that about \$4,000 was received altogether for MacKaye’s Spectatorium. The structure, as far as completed, still stands. It was sold for \$2,250.”

—*Chicago Tribune*, March 1894

Sailor from the Santa Maria, costume from The Great Discovery, 1893/2012

Gift from the Estate of T.F. Bittner

Historical reproduction

“Musicians and dramatists are busy talking about a scheme of Steele MacKaye’s, which will be one of the largest of its kind ever put before the American public. His idea is to have a musical spectacular pantomime at the World’s Fair on a scale of magnificence never seen in this country. The pantomime will tell the story of Columbus, his life, his hopes, his dreams, his disappointments, and his end.”

—*New York Times*, December 1892

Percy MacKaye (1875-1956)

The Spectatorium portfolio, 1893–94/2012

On loan from the MacKaye Family Papers, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

Historical reproduction

“Here, in the shadow of those cloud-capt [sic] palaces, I have followed in glitter and gloom, under portentous stars of a thousand-and-one nights, the mystic pilgrimage of a genius ‘prince’ along the torrent of a biologic stream. Though the stream has been vaguely charted in time and place, yet its fecund source and goal are mystery.”

—Percy MacKaye, *Epoch: The Life of Steele MacKaye, Genius of the Theatre*, 1927

Steele MacKaye (1842-1894)

The Spectatorium patents, 1893/2012

United States Patents Nos. 490: 068, 481, 490

Historical reproduction

“For the proper presentation of a spectatorio a large number of inventions have been made by myself, which are the result of twenty-five years of study and experience in my profession, as playwright and stage director. These inventions have been allowed by the United States patent office, and we are now taking measures to secure foreign patents.”

—Steele MacKaye, *Chicago Times*, August 1892