

January 27, 1999

TO: Mike Sedore, Information Technology  
FR: Cathy Tedford, Gallery Director  
RE: North Country/Regional Digital Library  
Mellon Technology for Teaching Project (TTP) Status Report and Request for Funding

### Status Report

In the fall of 1998, approximately 400+ objects from the Permanent Collection were identified for possible inclusion in a North Country/Regional Digital Library. Original one-of-a-kind objects were given first priority for scanning over multiples (prints and photographs) since multiples are often represented elsewhere (Library of Congress or other institutional libraries). From the University's Permanent Collection, the following will be scanned first:

- 15 Remington prints, drawings, and paintings
- 11 Henry Devalcourt Kip drawings and paintings
- 20 Charles Ehricke watercolors and sketchbooks
- 1 Ducey drawing
- 1 Benjamin Miller Kip pastel
- 10 Lyman Langdon watercolors and paintings
- 8 Annie Lenney paintings
- 4 Elizabeth Campbell Miner paintings and tapestries
- 3 Bill Newman pastels and paintings
- 3 Robert Plumb watercolors
- 14 Harold Weston paintings
- 2 Ray Whalen watercolors
- 1 Currier & Ives lithograph (after Maurer)
- 6 Harper's woodcuts (after Homer and others)
- 1 Verplanck Colvin lithograph/map
- 1 Sandy Hildreth watercolor

This list represents a total of 101 objects to be scanned in the spring of 1999. (We also need to figure out whether or not to scan the Nathan Farb photographs in the Permanent Collection and/or link to his Web site.) The particular works were chosen for their significance and rarity as art objects and for their potential relevance in terms of teaching, primarily regarding subject matter. The first group of users will be students and faculty in the Outdoor Studies core course, offered for the first time this spring semester. I will be giving a lecture/ presentation to the class on April 27 using art objects from the Permanent Collection as well as materials from ODY Special Collections. Students will be able to access the images before and after the lecture via the Gallery's Web site.

### Request for Funding

In order to digitally capture the 101 images, most objects will be retrieved from storage, although roughly 15% are on campus display. These will require removing objects from various sites on campus, unframing and reframing them for scanning purposes.

For the next phase of the Mellon Project, I am requesting \$2500 to hire staff and students to:

- retrieve 101 art objects from storage or campus display sites;
- capture digitally and format these images as thumbnails and in larger full-screen versions;
- confirm credit information (artist, title, date, etc.);
- format and link the Web pages for this site.

#### Additional Comments

The Mellon Project is a logical progression from the TOTI Project that the Gallery participated in last year. Unlike TOTI, however, which I had originally conceived of as a one-time project, the Mellon Project has helped me begin to define a long-range plan for the Gallery in terms of technology. One of the most productive results of my exploratory work last fall has been outlining the first steps of this long-range plan. Based on what I learned from attending the School for Scanning Conference and from conversations with Library staff, I am considering how to migrate the data in the Gallery's SNAP program into ODYSseus. This way students, faculty, and the broader community can access information about art objects in the Permanent Collection, which represents a significant step for the Gallery and the University, making important resources available to the public for the first time.

Note: I was not able to schedule trips to other institutions in the region to research other existing models, as I had outlined in my Fall 1998 proposal. I plan to do this in the spring of 1999, traveling to Cornell in March and two others sites to be confirmed.