Welcome to Cleveland: Museums and Sights Worth Seeing

By Molly W. Berger and Virginia P. Dawson

In early November 2011, the Society for the History of Technology, the History of Science Society, and the Society for the Social Studies of Science will co-locate their annual meetings in Cleveland, Ohio. The programs will offer an overwhelming intellectual feast, but Cleveland’s many prominent museums will provide yet another set of tempting attractions. The meetings will be located downtown where the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the Great Lakes Science Center, and many architectural gems are just a short walk away. University Circle, where your host institution Case Western Reserve University resides, is four miles and about a twenty-five-minute bus ride from downtown and is one of the greatest concentrations of cultural institutions in the nation. There you will find the world-renowned Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and the Dittrick Medical History Center. We hope these short descriptions will entice you to explore some of Cleveland’s many cultural treasures.

Downtown Cleveland

A tour of Cleveland might start at the bottom of E. 9th Street on the lakefront, where the 1925 618-foot steam-powered ore boat, the William G. Mather, is moored. Built
at a time when four Cleveland iron companies had Great Lakes fleets, it is among the last vestiges of an era when Cleveland was a prosperous iron and steel town. The Mather was the flagship for the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company and was named for its then president. The Mather plied the Great Lakes until 1980. Although early November may be too late in the season to be toured, the Mather is part of the Great Lakes Science Center, also located on the lakefront. The Science Center is an interactive learning center with hundreds of hands-on exhibits. In addition, the Science Center features an Omnimax Theater and houses the NASA-Glenn Visitors Center that features the 1973 Skylab 3 Command Module that carried three astronauts to the Skylab Space Station. The Great Lakes Science Center will be open in its entirety to SHOT members attending our joint opening reception there, Thursday evening November 3, 2011. For more information, visit www.greatscience.com.

Next to the Science Center you will find the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, designed by I. M. Pei. It is organized around artifacts, such as costumes, cars, guitars, and record labels, of various rock stars and bands. Featured exhibits include Metallica, the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Rolling Stones, Fats Domino, Jimi Hendrix and The Who. Permanent exhibits trace the history of rock and roll and study the promoters, the performers, the music, and the technology. “Listen to the Music; The Evolution of Audio Technology” examines technological developments and their impact on the evolution of rock and roll and on the experience of listening to rock music. This state-of-the-art museum is interactive. Visitors can select the
songs of favorite artists and listen to them using the headphones provided. The museum features seven floors of exhibits including five theaters for viewing films. The tour culminates on the top floors with commemorations of the inductees to the Hall of Fame. The Rock Hall is open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays until 9:00 p.m. There is a gift shop where CDs and other memorabilia can be purchased. Admission is $22 with discounts for seniors, children, and Cleveland residents. For more information, visit rockhall.com.

Cleveland’s history is reflected in some of its downtown buildings. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument, located on the southeast quadrant of Public Square, honors those who served in the Civil War. It was designed by Levi T. Scofield and dedicated in 1894. The base of the monument has four bronze sculptures depicting four battles fought by the Navy, Artillery, Infantry, and Calvary. At its center, a 125-foot column of Quincy stone is capped by a 15-foot Goddess of Freedom holding a Shield of Liberty. The striking interior “Memorial Room” with its stained glass windows and bronze reliefs lists residents of Cuyahoga County who served in thirty battles of the war. It has recently been restored and can be visited Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Not to be missed is the Arcade, an internationally renowned structure located between Euclid and Superior avenues near Public Square at East 4th Street. It was built in 1890 by a group of wealthy private investors who included Charles Brush, John D. Rockefeller, and John Severance, and was one of the first indoor shopping
centers in the country. Its gleaming interior has five levels of balconies that surround a light-filled atrium. Known as Cleveland’s Crystal Palace, in 1975 it was the first Cleveland building to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the time it was built, its architecture was considered extremely innovative. The Arcade’s interior commercial and office space is covered by a glass roof with roof trusses, hinged at the base and apex. The structure is supported by a skeleton of iron columns and oak, wrought iron, and steel beams. The Arcade has been restored and houses a Hyatt-Regency Hotel, shops, and food court. The Arcade’s Euclid Avenue entrance is across from East 4th Street, a pedestrian block that features many popular restaurants.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Tom Johnson, Cleveland’s progressive mayor, was determined to make Cleveland an example of the City Beautiful Movement. He established a commission headed by the well-known Chicago architect, Daniel Burnham. The Group Plan of 1903 featured a series of monumental public buildings arranged around a mall. The Cuyahoga County Courthouse (1911), the Cleveland City Hall (1916), Public Auditorium (1922), on Lakeside Avenue and the main Public Library (1925) on Superior Avenue were built according to the plan. Although not part of the original plan, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, completed in 1923, is built in the same Beaux-arts classical style. It has an impressive atrium with a mural that shows the making of open hearth steel. The bank has a “Learning Center and Money Museum” geared to schoolchildren. It is open Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission is free.
Two eccentric real estate and railroad promoters, the Van Sweringen brothers, built
the Terminal Complex on Public Square. The complex, designed by Chicago
architects Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, anticipated features of Rockefeller
Center. The 708-foot tower, completed in 1927, was the tallest structure in the
Midwest before the Sears Tower in Chicago earned that distinction. If you arrive
from the airport via rapid transit, you will disembark at Terminal Tower. Be sure to
notice the Art Deco atrium. The defunct Cleveland Union Terminal railway station
over which the office tower sat, underwent redevelopment in the late 1980s, and
now hosts retail shops, an eleven-screen cinema, and food court and links by
walkway to Quicken Loans Arena, home of the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Progressive
Field, the Cleveland Indians’ ballpark.

The Terminal Complex hovers over the Cuyahoga River, or Crooked River, named by
the Erie tribe. Before the mid-nineteenth century, the city’s wealth came from its
favored position at the terminus of the Ohio Canal—a time when the flats along the
river teemed with commercial activity. If you walk west along Superior Avenue, you
will descend a steep hill into the Flats with its extraordinary variety of nineteenth-
century bridges. Further east near the present Progressive Field, the Hope
Memorial Bridge (1932) spans the Cuyahoga. Originally named the Lorain-Carnegie
Bridge, it was designed by Wilbur J. Watson & Associates and has four major pylons
with quasi-Art Deco carvings, the “Guardians of Traffic,” that celebrate the city’s
industrial and transportation history. On the National Register of Historic Places
since 1976, the bridge was renamed to honor William Henry Hope, entertainer Bob Hope’s father, a stonemason who worked on the bridge’s statues. The bridge leads directly to the West Side Market, a publicly owned market started in 1840. The present market house, designed by the Cleveland firm of Hubbell and Benes who also designed the Cleveland Museum of Art, was dedicated in 1912. The neoclassical Byzantine building is a Cleveland landmark with its 137-foot clock tower. About one hundred stalls in the interior and eighty-five in the adjoining courtyard feature an astounding variety food reflecting the city’s rich ethnic heritage. The market is open Monday and Wednesdays, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Finally, the Playhouse Square district, located around Euclid Avenue and East 14th Street features five theaters and movie houses, all built in a nineteen-month period during 1921-1922, that have been restored to their former breathtaking grandeur. Playhouse Square is the world’s largest theater restoration project and the largest performing arts center outside of New York City featuring nine performing venues. On November 5, 2011, Playhouse Square will offer tours of the lobbies, theatre auditoriums and backstage areas. Tours depart every fifteen minutes from the State Theatre Lobby from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and last approximately 1-1/2 hours including a 12-minute video presentation before the tour. For more information about events and tours, visit www.playhousesquare.org.

University Circle
You can take the Healthline (see www.rtahealthline.com) to University Circle. The Healthline is a recently redesigned bus route that runs down Cleveland’s historic Euclid Avenue from Public Square to East Cleveland and passes through the downtown, the theater district, commercial areas, and the vast Cleveland Clinic area. As the bus crosses 107th Street and enters the Case Western Reserve University campus, disembark at the corner of Adelbert Road and Euclid Avenue. You will find yourself directly across the street from Severance Hall, the 1931 Walker & Weeks designed home of the Cleveland Orchestra and in front of the neo-classical Allen Memorial Library, another Walker & Weeks design, which houses the Dittrick Medical History Center. Severance Hall, named after its benefactor John Long Severance, an industrialist whose father served as treasurer of John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company, boasts one of the nation’s greatest Art Deco interiors. Severance Hall underwent a prize-winning two-year restoration and expansion and reopened to an appreciative city in January 2000. While the concert hall itself is generally closed during the day, visitors can enter through the main doors and take a moment to drink in the spectacular Egyptian Revival Grand Foyer. Pre-restoration, Severance Hall stood in as the presidential palace of Kazakhstan during the two-minute opening scene of 1997’s Air Force One, starring Harrison Ford. During the filming, CWRU students found themselves locked in the next-door library while a veritable war complete with paratroopers, helicopters, and machine guns raged overhead.
This is the heart of Cleveland’s University Circle, a 488-acre complex that includes many of Cleveland’s major cultural, educational, religious, and social-service institutions in a park-like setting. It is the only cluster of its kind in the world. The area gets its name from a streetcar stop on a line that extended along Euclid Avenue to a turnaround at 107th Street and Euclid, known initially as Doan’s Corners, but by the end of the nineteenth century, as University Circle. In the 1880s, the area began to attract the city’s educational and cultural institutions. Western Reserve University moved its campus from Hudson, Ohio, to Euclid Avenue in 1883. Case School of Applied Science moved from downtown Cleveland to a site next to Western Reserve University in 1885. These two institutions – arch rivals whose football games against each other consistently filled the former downtown 78,189-seat Cleveland Municipal Stadium – federated in 1967 to form Case Western Reserve University. Other important educational institutions include the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Art. Jeptha Wade, one of the founders of the Western Union Telegraph Company, donated over seventy-five acres of land from his estate to the city of Cleveland to form Wade Park, land that forms the core of University Circle. Between 1900 and 1918 the Wade family developed their remaining land into a residential area. Many of the people who moved to the area were trustees of University Circle institutions and generous benefactors. They led a move eastward by city notables who had formerly lived in mansions along Euclid Avenue, known then as Millionaire’s Row. A number of the mansions built in the Wade allotment still stand, most serving as homes to University Circle
associations or as campus buildings, coffee shops, and restaurants. We will see two of them when we visit the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Meanwhile, we have left you standing at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Adelbert Road, so it is time to enter the Allen Memorial Library building to visit the Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum. The Dittrick traces its origins to 1898, when the Cleveland Medical Library Association (est. 1894) created a “historical committee” headed by Dr. Dudley Peter Allen, a nationally prominent surgeon. Allen was married to Elisabeth Severance Allen, who, after her husband's untimely death, donated funds to build the Allen Memorial Medical Library building. Located on the third floor, the Dittrick museum features a comprehensive collection of diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical instruments, representing virtually every medical specialty. For example, the museum has over 250 microscopes ranging from the 1700s to a 1960s electron microscope, and collections of early surgical instruments and endoscopes. In addition, the museum's holdings include a rare book collection with strengths in anatomy, science and technology, surgery, and herbals. Of particular interest is the Darwiniana collection and a treasure trove of rare science books dating to the sixteenth century as well as incunabula. Currently, the Dittrick features the permanent exhibit, “Virtue, Vice, and Contraband, A History Of Contraception in America,” that explores the ages-old history of contraception and the controversies that shape it. The exhibit includes a staggering display of artifacts such as cervical caps, pessaries, condoms of varying materials, sponges, diaphragms, IUDs, douches, spermicides, powders, jellies, fitting implements, as well as
sterilization devices. Historians of technology will be interested as well to see artifacts that highlight the engineering, manufacturing, materials, packaging, and patents for contraceptive devices. The museum is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed Saturday and Sunday. More information about the Dittrick Medical History Center can be found at www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/museum.

The other University Circle museums are arranged around Wade Oval, a large grassy tract in the center of the museum district. From Severance Hall, cross East Boulevard, where you can descend into the beautiful Fine Arts Garden, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, that is the sumptuously landscaped “front yard” of the Cleveland Museum of Art. If a November chill causes you to quicken your pace, walk instead north on East Boulevard to the corner of Wade Oval and East Boulevard. You will see the dramatic glass houses of the Botanical Garden directly in front of you.

The Cleveland Botanical Garden’s current building opened in July 2003 and features two magnificent glass houses that replicate the environmental conditions of the hot and dry spiny desert of Madagascar and the cool and wet cloud forest of Costa Rica. Cleveland’s Botanical Garden is the nation’s oldest urban botanical garden and sits on a ten-acre tract in Wade Oval that includes nearly eight acres of outdoor gardens, which in early November should still showcase the colors of Cleveland’s spectacular Fall foliage. Founded in 1930 as the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, the garden’s current location is that of the first Cleveland Zoo and remnants of the bear
pit remain in the Woodland Garden, one of thirteen collection gardens that include herbs, topiaries, lily ponds, roses, waterfalls, and multisensory spaces that restore the spirit and offer places for contemplative retreat. The soaring glass houses were built with 738,123 pounds of structural steel that frame 4,300 pieces of glass and comprise the only crystalline conservatory of its kind. The Madagascar biome houses over one hundred species of plants, while the Costa Rican biome has over three hundred species, including 20 species of butterflies.

Most of the plants for both the glass houses were shipped completely free of soil and insects and remained in quarantine for two years, during which time they grew exponentially. Other plants were rescued from sites that were scheduled for destruction. In addition to the plants, both glass houses are homes to animals and insects, including lizards and frogs that consume over three hundred crickets per week. Native birds abound. The world’s largest chameleon, nearly three feet long from the tip of its tail to the tip of its nose, lives in the Madagascar biome, but just try finding it. Leaf-cutter ants are the stars of the Costa Rican biome as they march across a vine to an island where their dinner waits. These fussy ones will not eat the same leaves two days in a row. Visitors can watch them traverse their controlled passage as they carry their dinner to the log they call home. Visitors will find many treasures in the gardens, including many varieties of orchids, one of which really does smell like chocolate, and the beautiful and bountiful butterflies will certainly be one the most rewarding sights, especially in November.
The Garden’s Eleanor Squire Library is one of the largest lending horticultural libraries with over 18,000 volumes and is open to the public. Special arrangements can be made to visit the Rare Book Room with materials dating to 1491. The Botanical Garden also maintains six off-site summer food gardens that are worked by as many as ninety student interns. These students receive training in plant science, horticulture, and entrepreneurship and sell their very tasty salsa at the local farmer’s markets. For more information, visit www.cbgarden.org. The Cleveland Botanical Garden is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00-5:00 p.m. Admission is $8.50 for adults, $3 for children ages 3-12.

The next stop is the Cleveland Museum of Art, whose main entrance on Wade Oval is across the street and a few steps from the Botanical Garden. The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of the world’s most distinguished comprehensive art museums and one of northeastern Ohio’s principal civic and cultural institutions. The original 1916 neoclassical building of white Georgian marble was designed by the Cleveland architectural firm Hubbell & Benes. Reopened in 2008 after being closed for three years for the first phase of the museum’s current renovation and expansion, the 1916 building remains the centerpiece of architect Rafael Viñoly’s master plan that includes the demolition of two intermediate additions, renovation of the Brutalist Marcel Breuer’s 1971 addition, and the addition of flanking east and west wings. The new east wing’s opening in June 2010 marked the half-way point through the eight-year, $350 million project that is expected to be finished in 2013. One highlight of the east wing’s architecture includes a jewel-box-like glass Auguste
Rodin corner gallery that affords views of the surrounding campus and the full range of twentieth-century architecture from the 1916 façade to the modernist Cleveland Institute of Art to Frank Gehry’s Weatherhead School of Management building. Another highlight is the long north-south axis that allows a visitor to the modern art collection to stand near a Rodin sculpture and gaze through both time and space towards the splash of Lee Krasner’s 1960 “Celebration” at the far end, hundreds of feet away. A soaring atrium, due to be completed in 2012, will tie the buildings together and create a grand nineteenth-century arcade-like social space. Visitors can study a scale model of the building project on the lower level.

In addition to enjoying the renowned collection more generally, a number of artifacts and paintings will be of special interest to historians of technology. The Arms and Armor Court, off the central rotunda of the 1916 building, has always been a favorite destination for Cleveland’s school children and continues to fascinate visitors. During Cleveland’s heyday as an industrial manufacturing center for automobiles and airplanes, John L. Severance and Frederic Allen Whiting, the museum’s first director, assembled a collection of medieval arms and armor to inspire the city’s steel and automobile workers with beautifully crafted suits of mail and weaponry. For example, the c. 1553-1572 Cranequin with Arms of Elector Augustus I of Saxony is an elaborately etched and gilded crossbow with a winder (cranequin) whose cranking handle is also minutely decorated. Much of the original armor collection was later culled because pieces were found to be reproductions, but the artifacts on display are extraordinary examples of medieval decorative art
and metal crafting. A more contemporary example of metalworking is the extraordinary wrought iron, brass, silver, and gold Art Deco fire screen, “Muse with Violin,” produced by Cleveland’s Rose Iron Works (Gallery 227). Founded in 1904 by Hungarian émigré Martin Rose, the Rose Iron Works continues to be one of the nation’s leading designers and creators of ornamental and functional works in metals and glass.

Several paintings exhibit themes explored by historians of technology. The museum’s considerable depth in Hudson River School paintings (Gallery 206) includes Sanford R. Gifford’s 1866 painting, “A Home in the Wilderness.” Namesake to Gifford Pinchot, Gifford depicts a log cabin amid a recently cleared patch of New Hampshire wilderness still dotted with tree stumps. Figures in the cabin’s doorway greet a man who has arrived with a canoe of supplies. Henri Matisse’s 1917 “The Windshield, On the Road to Villacoubly” (Gallery 223), painted from inside the car while his son chauffeured him on the outskirts of Paris, creates a modern view of life in the automobile age. Charles Sheeler’s 1930 painting, “Church Street El” (Gallery 227), provides a bird’s eye view of Manhattan’s Broadway and Wall streets, based on an image from the 1920 avant-garde film, *Manhatta*, which Sheeler produced with photographer Paul Strand. The “El” is barely discernable amidst the strong linear representations of the New York buildings. Anselm Kiefer’s arresting 1989 “Lot’s Wife” (Gallery 225d) contemplates human tragedy through his depiction of an abandoned industrial landscape based on Kiefer’s photos of train tracks in France in the aftermath of World War II. Through his use of materials, including salt applied to
the top half of the wall-sized painting, Kiefer connects the Holocaust to the biblical narrative of Lot's escape from Sodom and Gomorrah.

These are, of course, only a very few highlights from the museum's broad collection of masterpieces. In November 2011, the museum will be featuring a special exhibit, “The Art of Daily Life: Portable Objects from Southeast Africa,” in the East Wing Design Gallery, a selection of about seventy-five personal and household objects from Southeast Africa. The Art of Daily Life is the first loan exhibition dedicated to the art of Southeast Africa to be presented at a major art museum in the United States. In concert with its founding mission, admission to the Cleveland Museum of Art is always free, although major special exhibits most usually command an entrance fee. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The Ingalls Library of the Cleveland Museum of Art is open to researchers during museum hours. More information can be found at www.clevelandart.org.

From the entrance of the Cleveland Museum of Art, visitors can find their way to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History by looking across the oval to locate "Steggie," the life-size sculpture of a Stegosaurus that sits outside the museum’s main entrance. Steggie welcomes visitors to the museum, which is one of the finest natural history museums in North America with an emphasis on scientific research, conservation and education. The museum is also home to the Nathan and Fannye Shafran Planetarium whose chamfered roof can be used to locate Polaris, the North Star, as
its titanium-coated outer shell sparkles in the night sky from embedded fiber optic lighting. Visitors of all ages will find plenty of interest in the permanent exhibits that explore the natural world from the beginning of time to the present. These include the earth and planetary sciences, the gem and mineral collection, the full evolutionary sequence starting from the Paleozoic era, human evolution, Ohio's pre-history, and the outdoor wildlife center and garden.

No visit to the Museum of Natural History is complete without a visit to the dinosaur hall. The museum is home to several important pre-historic discoveries. “Happy,” the seventy-two-foot long, fourteen-foot tall *Haplocanthosaurus delfsi*, an immense sauropod from the Jurassic period, is the only adult dinosaur of its kind ever found and was established as a new species in 1988, thirty-four years after its discovery by museum researchers in 1954. Happy reigns over the Kirtland Hall of Prehistoric Life, sharing honors with the museum’s world-class collection of Devonian Age fossil fish that includes the *Dunkleosteus terrilli*, an armored fish of the Ohio shale, an immense Devonian sea that stretched across Ohio. Another significant fossil is the skull of *Nanotyrannus lancensis*, a small *tyrannosaurus rex*-like creature that is the subject of intense debate among researchers as to whether the skull is that of a juvenile *T. rex* or a genus of its own, the *nanotyrannus*. Other fossils on display include the Johnstown Mastodon, common in Ohio at the end of the ice age, the *Triceratops horridus* faced off against its mortal enemy, the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and the skeleton of the fearsome saber-toothed cat, *Smilodon fatalis*. Kirtland Hall is also home to “Lucy,” *Australopithicus afarensis*, a cast of the partial skeleton of a 3.2
million-year-old hominid discovered in 1974 in Ethiopia by Donald Johanson, then of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Lucy, named after the Beatles's song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," proved to be a key link in evolutionary studies, showing that these hominids had walked erect.

The museum is also home to Balto, the famous sled dog who brought a life-saving shipment of anti-diphtheria serum into Nome, Alaska, on the last leg of a 674-mile relay through blinding snow, 50-below temperatures, and hurricane-force winds, natural elements that defeated all of the advanced transportation systems of the time. The “Great Race of Mercy” to save the sick children of Nome captured the attention of the entire United States. Despite their heroism, the dogs eventually fell prey to promoters and became vaudeville sideshow acts. A Cleveland businessman, George Kimble, discovered Balto and six others of the famous dogs ill and mistreated in a “dime” museum in Los Angeles. He organized a nationwide campaign to raise money to save the dogs. Many Clevelanders still remember donating pennies as children to the Balto Fund. Balto and his friends returned to Cleveland to a heroes’ parade through the Public Square and lived out the remainder of their lives at the Cleveland Zoo. Balto died in 1933 and is mounted and on display at the museum.

In conjunction with a new exhibit, “Climate Change,” visitors in November 2011 will be able to tour SmartHome Cleveland, due to be constructed on the museum grounds and on display through December 31, 2011. Designed using “passive
house” methodology, the house will be 90 percent more energy efficient than a traditional house and will not have a furnace, which is a little scary considering the typical Cleveland winter. "Passive house" structures have high levels of insulation, with walls up to 18 inches thick, a sealed skin that combines minimal air leakage with efficient heat-recovery ventilation, and ultra high-performance triple-paned windows. The 2,500 square foot house will have three bedrooms and two and a half baths and will eventually be moved to an adjacent neighborhood and sold. The “Climate Change” exhibit is touring internationally and is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and a number of other domestic and international museums. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is $10 for adults. The Planetarium shows cost $4 in addition to the museum entrance fee. For more information, visit www.cmnh.org.

Leaving Steggie, Happy, and Balto behind, follow around the circle a short distance north until you reach the Western Reserve Historical Society, the institution’s University Circle complex that includes the Bingham-Hanna and Hay-McKinney mansions, the Crawford Auto Aviation Museum, and the Library/Archives and Genealogy Center. Founded in 1867, the WRHS is the oldest cultural institution in Northeast Ohio whose mission is to “preserve and present the history of all people” of the Western Reserve. In 1786, the state of Connecticut relinquished its claims to its western lands of the United States except for a portion of northeastern Ohio,
roughly the size of Connecticut known as the Connecticut Western Reserve. This area was eventually surveyed and settled by the Connecticut Land Company and has since been known as the Western Reserve.

Stepping into the entrance lobby of the Western Reserve Historical Society, a visitor is immediately surrounded by evidence of Cleveland’s industrial past. Chief Wahoo, the Cleveland Indians’ mascot, shines from one wall as it used to from above Gate D at the old Municipal Stadium, a product of the Brilliant Sign Company. Filling the wall opposite the entrance is a mural produced by the Ferro Enamel Company that made enamel coverings for refrigerators. With its dynamo center stage, the mural was displayed in the Home Furnishings Building of the 1939 World’s Fair and is the world’s largest porcelain enamel mural. In the window, a 1932 Peerless car, the last one completely built in Cleveland by the Peerless Car Company, reminds visitors that Cleveland was once a hub of automobile manufacturing. And a 1929 orange and cream colored Great Lakes Sports Trainer bi-plane, built in Cleveland by the Great Lakes Aircraft Corporation, not only recalls the city’s history in aircraft manufacturing but also serves as inspiration for the scale wood and paper model built from a commercial kit produced by the Cleveland Model Company displayed in the trainer’s shadow.

The history museum makes use of two adjoining three-story Italian Renaissance mansions built in the early twentieth century of masonry construction and connected by a central addition. The Hay-McKinney Mansion was built by Mrs. John
Hay, the widow of John Hay, one of President Lincoln’s private secretaries, and later Secretary of State. Mrs. Hay, a daughter of railroad magnate Amasa Stone, never lived in the house and it was sold after her death to Price McKinney, whose steel company was later absorbed into Republic Steel. The Bingham-Hanna mansion was originally built by Harry Bingham and his wife, Harriette, but they, too, never lived in the house. Instead it was sold to the widow of Leonard C. Hanna, whose family founded the M. A. Hanna and Company, one of Cleveland’s major iron-ore companies. The houses feature period rooms filled with the Society’s extraordinary collection of decorative arts as well as rotating exhibits that draw on the deep collections of the society.

Historians of technology will of course be drawn to the Crawford Auto Aviation Museum, a fabulous collection that includes the full range of machines that have propelled people and things including bicycles, automobiles, motorcycles, and aircraft. The collection stretches from the 1895 Panhard Levassor, the oldest enclosed car in the world, to Dexter, CWRU’s robotic vehicle that reached the semifinals of DARPA’s 2007 Urban Challenge. In between, you will find examples of cars produced from Cleveland firms, such as Jordan, Winton, Peerless, Stearns, Hoffman, and Chandler, the first Delorean off the production line, a magnificent 1929 Minerva with a 180-inch wheelbase, and a stainless steel-clad 1959 Thunderbird. The collection also includes a dozen airplanes, and features some that flew in the Cleveland National Air Races held between 1929 and 1949. There are too many vehicles—over 150—to describe adequately (although my favorites include
1938 Hayes Travel Trailer and the 1920 White-built Dan-Dee Potato Chip delivery truck, but rest assured that a visit here will be well-rewarded.

The Society’s Library and Archives/Genealogy Center is the principal repository for histories, records, and papers relating to the growth and development of Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio. Researchers can consult the online catalog to search for relevant collections. The museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The library is open the same hours Thursday through Saturday.

Admission to the history and auto museum is $8.50 for adults. For more information visit www.wrhs.org.

As you can see from this description, Forbes Magazine has it all wrong. Cleveland is a great place to live and visit. However, after a long day seeing the sights, you will need to get back on the bus. You can find the stop in front of the CWRU Thwing Student Center, just east of Severance Hall on Euclid Avenue. Cleveland’s industrial and cultural heritage makes our city a great place for a SHOT meeting and we hope you will take some time to discover this for yourself. The Department of History at Case Western Reserve University looks forward to welcoming all of you to Cleveland.
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