

Montana's Charlie Russell

21st Century Perspectives on the Cowboy Artist

Helena, Montana, June 18-20, 2015

Presented by the Montana Historical Society

Montana's Charlie Russell

21st Century Perspectives on the Cowboy Artist

Host Hotel: Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Boulevard, Helena, MT 59601, (406)457-5500, www.bestwesternmontana.com. A block of rooms is being held until May 21. Be sure to ask for the "Russell Symposium" to receive the special rate.



Charles M. Russell and His Friends, oil on canvas, 1922, MHS Mackay Collection, X1952.01.10

Symposium venues:

Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts Street

Montana State Capitol, across the street from the Montana Historical Society

Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Boulevard

Myrna Loy Center, 15 North Ewing Street



Don't miss out on Charlie Russell's Montana!



Please join the Montana Historical Society in celebrating the life, artistry, humor, and legend of Charles Marion Russell (1864–1926). We began our festivities on March 19, 2014—the 150th anniversary of the birth of America's great Cowboy Artist—and will continue celebrating throughout 2015, the sesquicentennial of the Society's founding. With this symposium, we will bring together the foremost Russell scholars to discuss Charlie and his art in honor of MHS' milestone anniversary.

The Montana Historical Society possesses a premier collection of Russell works, including the painting widely considered the artist's masterpiece, *When the Land Belonged to God*. The entire collection is presented in the recent publication of the Montana Historical Society Press, *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*.

To those who are offering their expertise in this symposium, to those sponsors who are helping to make such an event possible, and to all of you who are coming to listen, learn, and enjoy the stories and the art, we say, "Thank you!"

In addition to a variety of informative and entertaining presentations, attendees will visit the Society's Mackay Gallery of C. M. Russell Art, where they will be able to enjoy many of Charlie's great works and stand in awe before *When the Land Belonged to God*. Attendees will also visit the House of Representatives in the Montana State Capitol for an in-person examination of Charlie's largest work, *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole*.

There will be much more to see and learn and some great folks to share it all with. Come and enjoy "Montana's Charlie Russell, 21st Century Perspectives on the Cowboy Artist."

Sincerely,
Bruce Whittenberg
Director



*When the Land
Belonged to God*,
oil on canvas, 1914,
MHS, X1977.01.01

New from the Montana Historical Society Press

Montana's Charlie Russell

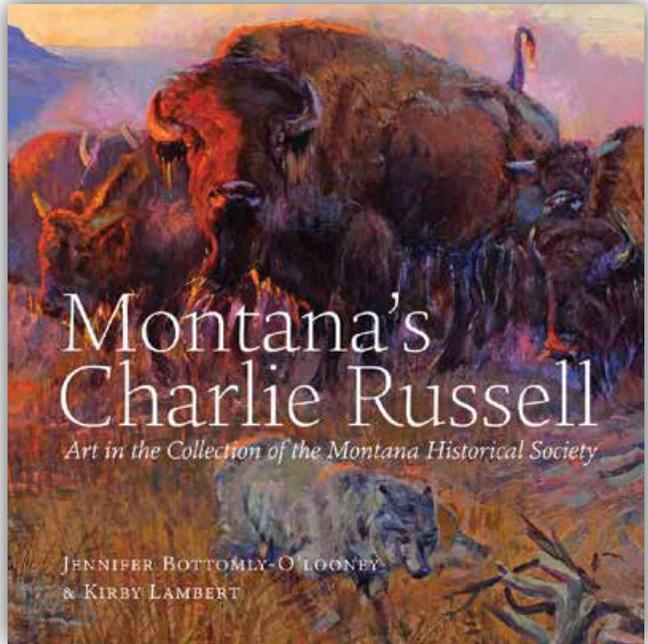
Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society

JENNIFER BOTTOMLY-O'LOONEY & KIRBY LAMBERT

Montana's Charlie Russell brings to life the Montana Historical Society's world-class collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures, bronzes, and illustrated letters by the Treasure State's famed "Cowboy Artist." Using advanced digital technology, each of the 230 pieces in the Society's permanent collection has been meticulously photographed to bring to life, in vivid color, Russell's artistic mastery. Carefully researched scholarship illuminates the stories behind each artwork. The result is a catalog of Russell's art as you've never seen it before—the Montana Historical Society's world-class collection in the pages of *Montana's Charlie Russell*.

432 pages, 11½" x 11½",
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Schedule at a Glance *(Note: Schedule is subject to change)*

Thursday, June 18 **Montana Historical Society (MHS) and Montana State Capitol**

- 10:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Teaching *Montana's Charlie Russell*, for K-12 Educators, MHS
4:30–5:30 P.M. *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole*, State Capitol
5:30–8:00 P.M. Opening Reception and Mackay Gallery Viewing, MHS

Friday, June 19 **Great Northern Hotel**

- 8:30–8:45 A.M. Director Bruce Whittenberg, Opening Remarks
8:45–9:45 A.M. Joan Carpenter Troccoli, George Catlin and the Native American West of Charles M. Russell
9:45–10:45 P.M. Peter Hassrick, Charles Russell: Painter
10:45–11:00 A.M. Break
11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Jodie Utter, The Unconventional Genius of Charles M. Russell: His Watercolor Materials and Techniques on the Montana Frontier
12:15–1:30 P.M. Luncheon, Mary Jane Bradbury, Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of Nancy Cooper Russell
1:45–2:45 P.M. B. Byron Price, On the Frontier of Fantasy: Charles M. Russell and Hollywood
2:45–3:00 P.M. Break
3:00–4:30 P.M. Price, Kramer, Lambert, and Dippie, Word Painters: Russell Documented
5:30–6:30 P.M. Social hour with no-host bar
6:30–9:00 P.M. Banquet, Brian Dippie, Charles M. Russell One Century Ago

Saturday, June 20 **Myrna Loy Center**

- 8:30–9:30 A.M. Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society
9:30–10:30 A.M. Larry Len Peterson, Charles M. Russell: Photographing the Legend
10:30–10:45 A.M. Break
10:45 A.M.–12:15 P.M. Panel Discussion, An Enduring Legacy: Why Russell Still Matters
12:15–2:00 P.M. Lunch (on your own)
2:00–4:00 P.M. Jack Gladstone, C. M. Russell: Heritage and Legacy, and MontanaPBS, with producers Gus Chambers and Paul Zalis, *C. M. Russell and the American West*

Teaching *Montana's Charlie Russell*: An Educator's Workshop

🕒 Thursday, 10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M., Montana Historical Society Auditorium

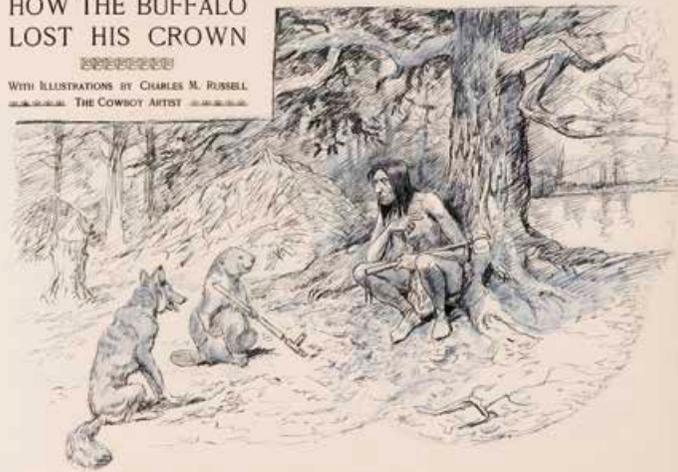
Join art educator Sondra Hines, Russell scholar Kirby Lambert, and MHS program specialist Deb Mitchell in an exploration of the Montana Historical Society's new Russell lesson plans and accompanying resources. The morning will be spent on Visual Thinking Strategies, a technique that uses teacher-facilitated discussions of art images to train students in “key behaviors sought by Common Core Standards: thinking skills that become habitual and transfer from lesson to lesson, oral and written language literacy, visual literacy, and collaborative interactions among peers.” (VTShome.org) Attendees will learn about the technique and then practice it in the Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art.

In the afternoon, participants will be introduced to Russell's rich biography, explore his art by creating their own, and have the opportunity to try Russell-related lesson plans that align to the Common Core. Attendees will leave with a Russell packet that includes fifteen prints, PowerPoints, and grade-specific art-, ELA-, and social studies-themed lesson plans. These lessons include three easy-to-implement art lessons targeted to elementary, middle, and high school students; two ELA-aligned lessons that ask elementary students to practice “close reading” on Russell's paintings before using them as inspiration to create their own literary work (a poem or short story); a lesson that explores our own, our ancestors,' (and Russell's) relationship to animals; and two lessons targeted to 7th–12th grades, which ask students to critically examine Russell's depiction of Montana Indians and Montana history.

The workshop is free and lunch is included. Workshop attendees will receive five OPI renewal units; those attending the entire symposium will receive up to 18 renewal units.

HOW THE BUFFALO LOST HIS CROWN

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLES M. RUSSELL
THE COWBOY ARTIST



Untitled, ink and
white lead, ca. 1894,
MHS, Gift of Mark
Brown, 1980.60.01b

Come-and-go viewing of *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole*

🕒 Thursday, 4:30–5:30 P.M., House of Representatives, State Capitol



Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole, detail, oil on canvas, 1912, MHS, X1912.06.01

As soon as Helena—the self-proclaimed “Queen City of the Rockies”—was selected as Montana’s permanent capital in 1894, efforts were begun to erect a statehouse worthy of the Treasure State and her citizens. Eight years later, on July 4, 1902, proud Montanans gathered to dedicate the resulting neoclassic edifice, hailed by the *Helena Daily Record* as “A Triumph of Architect and Decorator.” Locally renowned Great Falls artist Charlie Russell was asked to create artwork for the program outlining the day’s events. By 1909, Montana’s government had outgrown its stately new home, and Russell’s stature had grown to the point that he was one of three artists selected to complete murals for wings which were then being added to expand the building. Missoula artist E. S. Paxson was chosen to complete six murals for the House of Representatives lobby, and Helena landscape painter R. E. DeCamp was selected to paint six of Montana’s most picturesque scenes to adorn the new Law Library. Russell’s contribution would be a single mural for the House Chambers, and the result was, in the words of art historian Patricia Burnham, “grandeur than could ever have been anticipated.”

Measuring twelve feet high by twenty-four feet wide, *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole* is Russell’s largest, and many believe best, work. Depicting a critical encounter between Thomas Jefferson’s Corps of Discovery and the Salish Indians, the colossal masterpiece required that Russell raise the roof on his log cabin studio, but took him less than three months to complete. View this masterwork up close and learn more about the painting’s history from Montana Historical Society staff.

If you would like to see the rest of Montana’s crown jewel of architecture, guided tours start on the hour from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Monday through Saturday. Self-guiding brochures are also available at the tour information desk on the ground floor.

Opening Reception

🕒 Thursday, 5:30–8:00, Montana Historical Society, Ticket required



MHS Mackay Gallery, 2014

In 1915 Nancy Russell wrote Malcolm Mackay, “Do you know that you have as good a collection of pictures, or if anything, better, than we have? And a lot finer than any other person.” By 1921 the Mackays’ collection had grown to the point that they converted a large room in their home into a log-lined “Russell Room” decorated with their growing assemblage of paintings and bronzes, Indian artifacts, buffalo skulls, and big game mounts. Due to the generosity of the Mackay family, the Historical Society acquired their incomparable collection of Russell works in 1952, and today it continues to serve as the heart and soul of MHS’s world-class collection.

Join fellow attendees in a visit to the Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art, enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres and a no-host bar, shop in the Museum Store, and take in the Society’s other exhibits including our permanent galleries—*Montana Homeland* and *Neither Empty nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark*—and our most recent temporary exhibits, *Our Forgotten Pioneers: The Chinese in Montana* and *Eloquence in Wood: The Art of John L. Clarke*.

Malcolm Mackay’s “Russell Room,” ca. 1922, MHS Museum



A Few Words of Welcome *Bruce Whittenberg*

🕒 Friday, 8:30 A.M., Great Northern Hotel

George Catlin and the Native American West of Charles M. Russell *Joan Carpenter Troccoli*

🕒 Friday, 8:45–9:45 A.M., Great Northern Hotel

Few painters had greater impact on Charles M. Russell's art and interpretive vision than George Catlin (1796–1872). Catlin, who documented Northern Plains Indians in the 1830s, was the first eyewitness chronicler of the Northern Plains peoples central to Russell's "West That Has Passed." Russell drew on Catlin's words and images throughout his career, absorbing the earlier artist's formal and philosophical influence through multiple channels. Though separated by more than three generations, Catlin, who inaugurated the golden age of American western art, and Russell, who was its last iconic figure, were spiritual soulmates. Their love of nature and outdoor life led Catlin and Russell to glorify and envy the equestrian hunters of the Northern Plains. Russell echoed Catlin's dismay at native territorial dispossession, and both protested the destruction of indigenous communities during an era when Indians had few advocates.



George Catlin, *Buffalo Hunt, Surround, MHS*, Gift of Donald Becklin, 1993.82.15

About the speaker: **Dr. Joan Carpenter Troccoli** retired as Senior Scholar of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art of the Denver Art Museum in June 2012. She is the Founding Director of the Petrie Institute and also served as Deputy Director of the Denver Art Museum and Director of the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She holds a B.A. from Middlebury College and master's and doctoral degrees from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Her recent curatorial and publishing projects include her second major book on The Anschutz Collection in Denver, *Painters and the American West II*; and, with Dr. Stephanie Pratt of the University of Plymouth, U.K., guest curatorship of *George Catlin: American Indian Portraits* for the National Portrait Gallery, London. She is currently working on a book about the George Catlin Collection of the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, to be published by the University of Oklahoma Press.



JOHANBRAMSON photography

Charles Russell: Painter *Peter Hassrick*

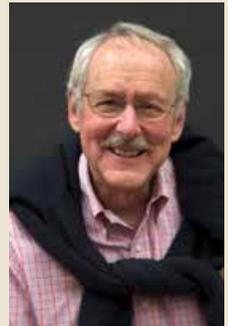
🕒 Friday, 9:45–10:45 A.M., Great Northern Hotel

Russell has long been cherished as a pictorial recorder of the Old West. Much has been written about the fidelity of his interpretation of themes and subjects related to that saga. Little attention, however, has been given to Russell as an actual painter. This talk focuses on his artistic evolution, the value of his work across his lengthy, nearly forty-year artistic career, and how, when, and why he changed technically and stylistically as a painter over that period of time.



The Roundup, detail, oil on canvas, 1913, MHS Mackay Collection, X1952.01.07

About the speaker: **Peter H. Hassrick** is a writer and independent American art scholar who focuses on the West. He is Director Emeritus and Senior Scholar at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, where he served as Executive Director from 1976 to 1996. He is also Director Emeritus of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum, where he was a curator of western art from 2005 to 2009. And he holds the title of Founding Director Emeritus of the Charles M. Russell Center at the University of Oklahoma, where he was an endowed professor of art history and director from 1998 to 2001. He was also the founding director of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe following twenty years at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. From 1969 to 1976, he held the post of Curator of Collections at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth. His devotion to the history and art of the American West has inspired numerous exhibitions, lectures, and publications, including *Charles Russell*, *Frederic Remington: A Catalogue Raisonné*, *Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America’s First National Park*, and *The American West in Bronze*.



The Unconventional Genius of Charles M. Russell: His Watercolor Materials and Techniques on the Montana Frontier

Jodie Utter

🕒 Friday, 11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M., Great Northern Hotel

Largely self-taught, Charles M. Russell was a prolific artist, as indicated by the 1,100 watercolors he produced. While Russell combined both traditional and unconventional painting techniques, he remained dedicated to using artist-quality materials, even as a working cowboy before he became a full-time professional artist. Jodie Utter, Conservator of Works on Paper, will share her findings from an in-depth study of Russell's watercolor materials and techniques. Her analysis using a variety of scientific instrumentation revealed Russell's pigment preferences both in color and brands, his paper preferences, and the shifts in his technique over the course of his career.

About the speaker: **Jodie Utter**, M.S., is the Conservator of Works on Paper for the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas. She has worked in paper conservation as a technician, contract conservator, sole proprietor, and staff conservator in private practice and in institutions for the past twenty-four years. She holds a graduate degree from the Art Conservation Program at Winterthur/University of Delaware. She has worked for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Harvard University, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. In addition, she has taught numerous classes and workshops and given lectures on conservation, preservation, the forensics of conservation, and historic artists' materials. Utter has conducted extensive research on the watercolor materials and techniques of Charles M. Russell, and has presented her findings in numerous lectures, articles, and a technical study to be published in a book on Russell's watercolors scheduled for release in winter 2015.



Waiting for a Chinook, watercolor, 1887, Courtesy of the Montana Stockgrowers Association

Luncheon

Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of Nancy Cooper Russell

Mary Jane Bradbury

🕒 Friday, 12:15–1:30 P.M., Great Northern Hotel, Ticket required

Viewed against the backdrop of the early decades of the twentieth century, Nancy Cooper Russell was a woman ahead of her time. A self-taught businesswoman with an innate ability to take charge, she helped turn a rambunctious cowboy into one of America's most highly acclaimed western artists. Today, scholars consistently identify Nancy as the entrepreneurial force behind the extraordinary number of Russell paintings and sculptures that now grace public galleries and private collections. In a performance that brings Nancy to life, Bradbury will share the story of how the couple met, describe the world of art into which Nancy propelled them, and tell tales about the artists and celebrities the Russells befriended as they traveled from Montana to New York City, and eventually to a growing California suburb called Hollywood.

About the speaker: Storyteller **Mary Jane Bradbury** is a Chautauqua speaker for Humanities Montana and the Colorado Humanities and has over 25 years of experience as an educator and actor. She performs a variety of historic character portrayals, and was an interpretive enactor for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for both temporary and permanent exhibits, helping to design the museum's current enactment program. Ms. Bradbury, who has developed interpretive programs and events for museums throughout the Rocky Mountain West, is an artist-in-residence for the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls.



Nancy Russell in Charlie's Studio, 1908. Gilcrease Museum Archives, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK, TU 2009.39.7654.21.

On the Frontier of Fantasy: Charles M. Russell and Hollywood

B. Byron Price

🕒 Friday, 1:45–2:45 P.M., Great Northern Hotel

During the early 1920s Charles M. Russell's life and art shared a symbiotic relationship with Western cinema. After he and Nancy started wintering in Southern California in 1920, visits to movie sets and meetings with Western stars were one of the few aspects of California life that Charlie truly enjoyed. As he noted in a 1920 letter to his protégé Joe De Yong, "Thars lots of moovie cow folks here, both male and female. More he ones than thair is cows."

"Saw Tom Mix and Bill Hart work. Both treated me fine. . . . Have seen Bill [Will] Rogers work several times. Am going into the mountians [sic]

with him Sunday to see them make some real out door pictures." Russell's relationship to Hollywood began much earlier than did his trips to California, however, and Westerns continually stirred his imagination. B. Byron Price will discuss Russell's relationship with Western film and its impact on the artist's work, patronage, and celebrity.



Will Rogers, bronze, modeled 1926, cast 1963, MHS, Gift of Norman J. "Jeff" Holter, 1980.65.09.



About the speaker: **B. Byron Price** currently holds the Charles Marion Russell Memorial Chair in Art History at the University of Oklahoma and is Director of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West and the University of Oklahoma Press. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and earned an M.A. in Museum Science at Texas Tech University. Before taking his current position, Price spent nearly twenty-five years in the museum profession, serving as Executive Director of the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas; the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in

Oklahoma City; and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. He is the author of numerous books and articles on western American art and history, including *Fine Art of the West*, *The Chuck Wagon Cook Book*, *Erwin E. Smith: Cowboy Photographer*, and *Cowboys of the American West*, as well as editor of *Charles M. Russell: A Catalogue Raisonné*.

Word Painters: Russell Documented

Kathryn Kramer, Kirby Lambert, B. Byron Price, and Brian Dippie

🕒 Friday, 3:00–4:30 P.M., Great Northern Hotel

Writing was an extremely painful chore for the Cowboy Artist. As a result—with the exception of his illustrated letters—he left little in the way of a written record documenting his experiences. Others, however, had plenty to say about Russell. Panelists will detail four of the most significant archival collections that chronicle Charlie's ever-fascinating life and career:

Charles M. Russell Museum, Great Falls The Frederic G. and Ginger K. Renner Special Collection consists of the research files and related correspondence of Fred and Ginger Renner, both of whom were leading experts on Charlie's art. Fred documented and cataloged more than 4,000 works created by Russell, and, following his death in 1987, Fred's effort was continued by his wife, Ginger. *About the speaker:* **Kathryn Kramer** is the C.M. Russell Museum's first and only archivist. A Colorado native and a former employee of the Montana Historical Society, she moved to Great Falls to begin work on the Renner Special Collection in 2013.



Montana Historical Society, Helena The James Brownlee Rankin Collection is comprised of correspondence concerning Russell's life and work as remembered by his close friends, acquaintances, and owners of his art. Rankin amassed the collection in the 1930s; historian J. Frank Dobie lauded the collector's efforts, noting that "nobody else pursuing a Western theme has ever garnered such a variegated mass of letters on any subject as James Brownlee Rankin has on Russell." *About the speaker:* A native of Texas, **Kirby Lambert** is a thirty-year veteran of the Montana Historical Society who recently co-authored the award-winning opus, *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*.

Charles M. Russell Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman In partnership with the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, the Russell Center has compiled a catalogue raisonné on artist Charles M. Russell. This project, which continues to be updated on a regular basis, includes information on all of the artist's known oil and watercolor paintings, illustrated letters, pen-and-ink drawings, and original models. *About the speaker:* For information on **B. Byron Price** see page 13.

Gilcrease Museum and University of Tulsa, Oklahoma The Charles M. Russell Research Collection contains more than 13,000 objects assembled by Russell biographer Homer Britzman with the assistance of Nancy Russell, the artist's widow. It consists of letters to and from Nancy in her capacity as Russell's business manager, newspaper clippings, printed ephemera, and a variety of personal effects, including paints, brushes, palettes, hand-molded sculptures, western dress and Indian artifacts. *About the speaker:* For information on **Brian Dippie** see page 15.

Charles M. Russell One Century Ago *Brian Dippie*

🕒 Friday, Social hour 5:30–6:30 P.M., Banquet 6:30–9:00 P.M., Great Northern Hotel, Ticket required

Dr. Brian W. Dippie will focus on one year in the life of Charles M. Russell, 1915, when Montana's favorite son was in his prime as both man and artist. In that year he was an international figure who made his home in Great Falls, Montana, where his roots ran deep and old friendships and vivid memories of his youthful days on the range nurtured an artistic vision of "the West That Has Passed"—a vision that still appeals to a legion of admirers today.

About the speaker: **Brian W. Dippie**, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Victoria, BC, is a native of Edmonton, Alberta. Family vacations in Montana beginning in 1949 exposed him at an impressionable age to the work of Charles M. Russell, and he remains happily addicted sixty-six years later. A specialist in the history of western American art, Dippie has published extensively on Russell, Frederic Remington, and George Catlin. Dippie served on the Editorial Board of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* for more than twenty years, and his many publications on Russell include *Charlie Russell and the First Calgary Stampede*, *Charles M. Russell, Word Painter: Letters 1897–1926*, *Looking at Russell*, *Charlie Russell Roundup: Essays on America's Favorite Cowboy Artist*, and *Remington and Russell: The Sid Richardson Collection*, as well as numerous magazine and catalog articles.



When Horses Talk War there's Slim Chance for Truce, oil on canvas, 1915, MHS Mackay Collection, X1952.01.08

Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society

Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney

🕒 Saturday, 8:30–9:30 A.M., Myrna Loy Center

In 2014—in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Charlie Russell's birth—the Montana Historical Society published a long-anticipated, comprehensive catalog of its incomparable assemblage of masterpieces by Montana's famed Cowboy Artist. *Montana's Charlie Russell* is comprised of an introductory article that situates Russell within the larger picture of Treasure State history, followed by individual essays chronicling the stories behind the 230 artworks in the Society's collection. In her talk, Bottomly-O'looney will share highlights from this new catalog, including highly touted works like Russell's majestic ode to nature, *When the Land Belonged to God*; the watercolor *York*, which the artist himself gave to the Society in 1909; selections from the world-class Malcolm Mackay Collection; and other lesser-known but no-less-delightful paintings, drawings, and sculptures by Montana's favorite son.



About the speaker: **Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney** is co-author of *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*. As Senior Curator at the Montana Historical Society, she currently cares for the museum's Russell collection. As a third-generation Montanan, she spent much of her youth at the family's cabin on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, where her grandmother frequently reminisced about Charlie Russell's visits from his nearby Bull Head Lodge. Bottomly-O'looney received her B.A. from Montana State University, Bozeman, and her M.A. from the Royal College of Art, London. She came to Helena after graduate school as an artist-in-residence at the Archie Bray Foundation but was lured by her love of history to the Montana Historical Society.

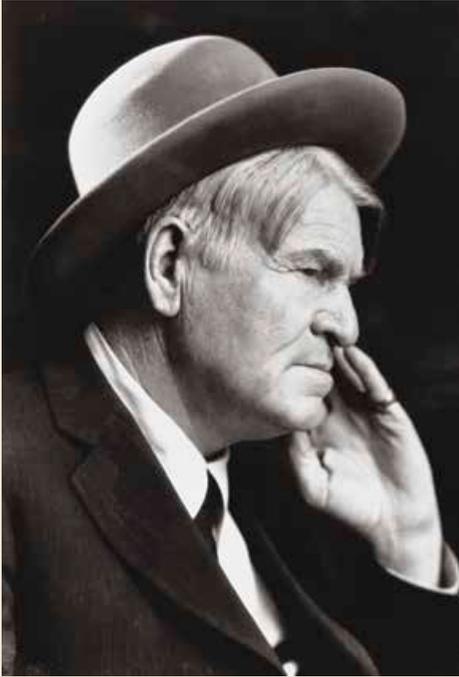


York, watercolor, 1908,
MHS Gift of the Artist,
X1909.01.01

Charles M. Russell: Photographing the Legend

Larry Len Peterson

🕒 Saturday, 9:30–10:30 A.M., Myrna Loy Center



1926 portrait by H. C. Ecklund, MHS 944-718

Whether standing alone or with a group of friends, or mounted on one of his favorite horses—but almost always wearing his signature Assumption sash knotted around his waist—Charlie Russell is the one and only “Cowboy Artist.” His portrait is almost as familiar as the iconic images of the American West he painted and sculpted. What is not so well known, however, is the story that unfolds through a comprehensive study of the myriad photographs of Russell, pictures that document a remarkable life while also reflecting the evolution of photography and the portrayal of the American West at the turn of the twentieth century. This careful analysis of Russell’s photographic legacy will explore the role that photography, carefully controlled by Nancy, his wife and business manager, played in shaping the artist’s public image.

About the speaker: **Dr. Larry Len Peterson**, a native of Plentywood, Montana, is past chairman of the National Advisory Board to the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. He graduated from the Oregon Health and Sciences University School of Medicine; completed an NIH research fellowship and a residency in the visual field of dermatology; and published in numerous periodicals including the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*. He is the author of *Charles M. Russell: Legacy*, *Charles M. Russell: Photographing the Legend*, *John Fery: Artist of Glacier National Park* & *The American West*, *Philip R. Goodwin: America’s Sporting and Wildlife Artist*, *L. A. Huffman: Photographer of the American West*, and *The Call of the Mountains: The Artists of Glacier National Park*, among other books.



An Enduring Legacy: Why Russell Still Matters

A roundtable discussion with symposium scholars

🕒 Saturday, 10:45 A.M.–12:15 P.M.,
Myrna Loy Center

Toward the end of his life, the always self-effacing artist penned a brief biography, which he titled “A Few Words About Myself.” In it, Charlie noted, “I have always been what is called a good mixer—I had friends when I had nothing else. . . . I am old-fashioned and peculiar in my dress. I am eccentric (that is a polite way of saying your crazy). I believe in luck and have had lots of it. To have talent is not credit to its owner; what man can’t help he should get neither credit nor blame for—it’s not his fault. I am an illustrator. There are lots better ones, but some worse. Any man that can make a living doing what he likes is lucky, and I am that. Any time I cash in now, I win.” It has now been almost a century since Russell “cashed in,” but his friends remain legion. Join symposium speakers in a roundtable conversation at which they will analyze why Russell—the man and his work—remains so popular and what role his legacy plays in the twenty-first century.



I Rode Him, watercolor and ink, 1908, MHS Great Falls Elks Club Collection, 1986.06.06

🕒 12:15–2:00 P.M. **Lunch** (on your own)



Judith Basin roundup crew at breakfast, Russell third from left of those seated on the ground, ca. 1885, MHS 946–387

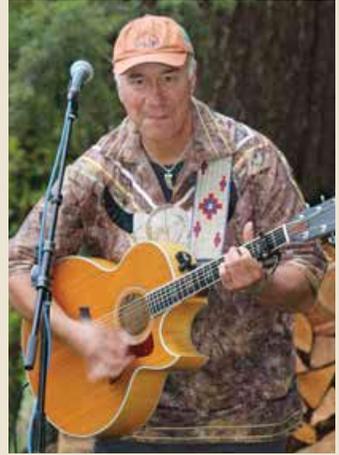
C. M. Russell: Heritage and Legacy *Jack Gladstone*

C. M. Russell and the American West *MontanaPBS,*
with producers *Gus Chambers and Paul Zalis*

🕒 Saturday, 2:00–4:00 P.M., Myrna Loy Center

“Montana’s Troubadour,” Jack Gladstone, will kick off the afternoon with a presentation of his newest program, *C. M. Russell: Heritage and Legacy*. This work, which combines original music with interpretive narration, explores the role that Russell played in the portrayal of western America during the early twentieth century. Additionally, *Heritage and Legacy* embraces the shared identity and contemporary struggles of today’s “Indians and Cowboys.”

About the presenter: **Jack Gladstone** is “Montana’s Troubadour.” An enrolled citizen of the Blackfeet Nation, Gladstone interprets American Indian culture through a mosaic of music, lyric poetry, and spoken word narrative. A former college instructor, Gladstone cofounded Glacier National Park’s renowned lecture series, Native America Speaks, the longest continuously running indigenous speaker series in Park Service history. Gladstone has released fifteen critically acclaimed CDs, the



Nature’s Soldiers, watercolor, 1903, Gift of Frank Schrader in memory of Mary Toohill Schrader, X1957.01.01

latest of which, *Native Anthropology*, garnered the prestigious “Best Historical Recording” award from the Native American Music Association. In the spring of 2013, Gladstone became the first Montanan to receive the C.M. Russell Heritage Award from the Russell Museum in Great Falls. That same year, he was inducted into the University of Washington Alumni Hall of Fame in the field of Speech Communications and, in 2015, he was honored by the State of Montana with a Governor’s Humanities Award.

The three-hour MontanaPBS documentary *C.M. Russell and the American West* is slated for broadcast in 2016. Co-producers Gus Chambers and Paul Zalis will discuss the production of the film and the “Cowboy Artist’s” legacy. They’ll share exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, including Russell scholars Brian Dippie and Rick Stewart’s walkabout in Fort Worth’s Sid Richardson Museum, with a close look at Russell’s first commissioned work, *The Shelton Saloon Painting*, along with an exclusive first-look at Rick Stewart uncrating Russell’s last great commission, the rarely seen *History of the West*. The producers also filmed the location of Russell’s masterpiece *When the Land Belonged to God*. Chambers and Zalis will report on their extensive research and filming, during which they have shot more than 100 hours of footage and logged dozens of interviews. Finally, the producers will share insights into Russell’s influential role in the making of Hollywood Westerns and his iconic role in the mythos of the American West.

About the speakers: As a team, **Gus Chambers** and **Paul Zalis** have produced two major documentaries for MontanaPBS: *For This and Future Generations*, about the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention (Emmy Award: Best Historical Documentary 2003), and *Glacier Park’s Night of the Grizzlies*, a documentary on the 1967 bear-mauling deaths in Glacier Park. The ninety-minute program scored the highest ratings to date of any MontanaPBS documentary. Chambers also produced *The Bicycle Corps: America’s Black Army on Wheels*, *Hidden Fire: The Great Butte Explosion*, and *4H: Six Montana Stories*, and has been a producer for *Backroads of Montana* since 1991. Zalis, a journalist, teacher, and independent television and radio producer, created the national radio series *Storylines America*.



In Memoriam



When planning for this symposium began, one of the first speakers invited was the C.M. Russell Museum's Chan and Clara Ferguson Chief Curator **Sarah L. Burt**. She readily agreed to share her delightful observations on “*The Birthplace of Bunko and Bungiloo*”: *Charles M. Russell in California*. Sadly, Burt passed away in April 2015. As noted by museum director Michael Duchemin, “Over the last five years, Sarah was an instrumental member of the staff, securing major exhibitions such as *Romance Maker: The Watercolors of Charles M. Russell*, George Catlin’s *American Buffalo*, and *Harmless Hunter: The Wildlife Work of Charles M. Russell*. During the brief time that Sarah and I worked together, I got to know her extraordinary

talents as a curator, her ability to inspire people who didn't even know they were interested in Charles Marion Russell, and her passion for art and the American West. I admired her greatly.” Burt will be deeply missed by all of her friends, her colleagues in Montana's museum community, and those who appreciated her fine scholarship on Charlie Russell and western art.

HARMLESSHUNTER

— THE WILDLIFE WORK OF —

CHARLES M. RUSSELL

Charles M. Russell (United States, 1864 – 1926), *To the View: Being the Spools*, 1901. Oil on Canvas, 31 1/2 x 44 1/2 inches. JKM Collection, National Museum of Wildlife Art.



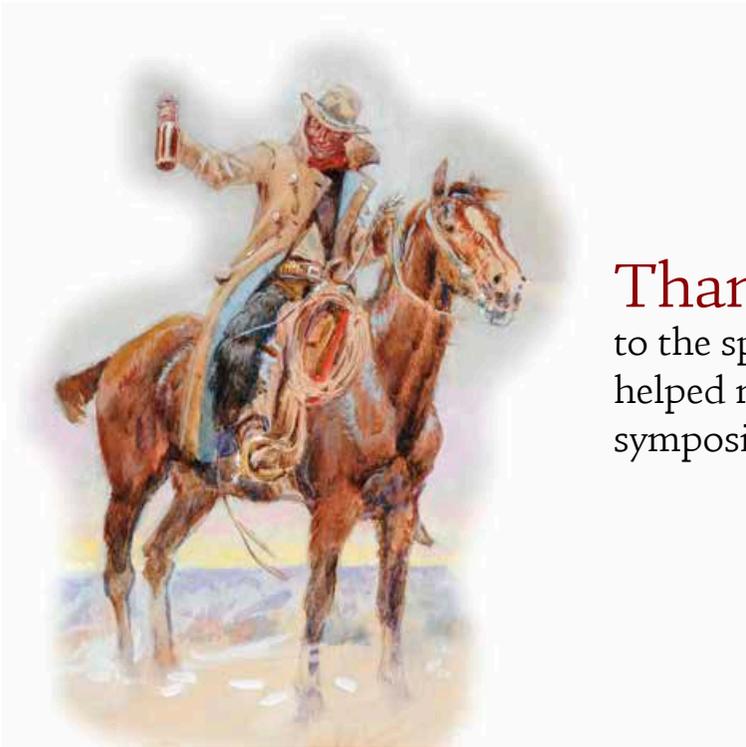
See the summer exhibition at the
C.M. Russell Museum
Great Falls, Montana

May 16–September 13, 2015

Harmless Hunter: The Wildlife Work of Charles M. Russell is organized by the National Museum of Wildlife Art in collaboration with the Charles M. Russell Center, University of Oklahoma, and is guest curated by B. Byron Price, Director of the Charles M. Russell Center and University of Oklahoma Press.



C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM
400 13th Street North Great Falls, Montana 59401
(406) 727-8787 www.cmrusell.org



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**Rocky
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Montana's Charlie Russell: 21st Century Perceptions on the Cowboy Artist Registration Form

Note: Seating is limited so pre-registration for *Montana's Charlie Russell* is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration closes Friday, June 12. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday June 18, **if space allows.** Thursday's reception and Friday's meals require the purchase of a ticket as indicated below. Other sessions are free (but pre-registration is still recommended).

Complete this form and return it to the address below or register online at <http://svcalt.mt.gov/education/CharlieRussellSymposium.asp>.

Name

Organization (if applicable)

Street/box No. City/town

State/prov. Zip/postal code

Phone Email

Please list any dietary restrictions (i. e. vegetarian, kosher, etc.)

Enter the number of tickets you desire for each separate event, even if it is free. For ticketed events, multiply the ticket amount by the number of tickets and enter that amount in the appropriate blank.

	Cost	No. of tickets	Total price
Full Event			
Includes the Thursday reception, Friday sessions and meals, and Saturday sessions. <i>Does not include the Educator's Workshop</i> ; please register for that separately, below.	\$95	_____	_____

Complete the information below to register for individual sessions

Thursday, June 18th

Educator's workshop	free	_____	_____
Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole	free	_____	_____
Reception	\$20	_____	_____

Friday, June 19

Troccoli: George Catlin and the Native American West	free	_____	_____
Hassrick: Charles Russell, Painter	free	_____	_____
Utter: The Unconventional Genius of Charles M. Russell	free	_____	_____
Bradbury: Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles	\$30	_____	_____
Price: On the Frontier of Fantasy	free	_____	_____
Panel discussion, Word Painters	free	_____	_____
Dippie, Banquet	\$45	_____	_____

Saturday, June 20

Bottomly-O'looney: Montana's Charlie Russell	free	_____	_____
Peterson: Photographing the Legend	free	_____	_____
Panel discussion: Why Russell Still Matters	free	_____	_____
Gladstone: Heritage and MontanaPBS: Russell and the American West	free	_____	_____

Total amount due _____

Method of payment

- Check enclosed I will pay at the door
 Charge my credit card: ___ MasterCard ___ Visa ___ Discover ___ American Express

Card # Exp. date

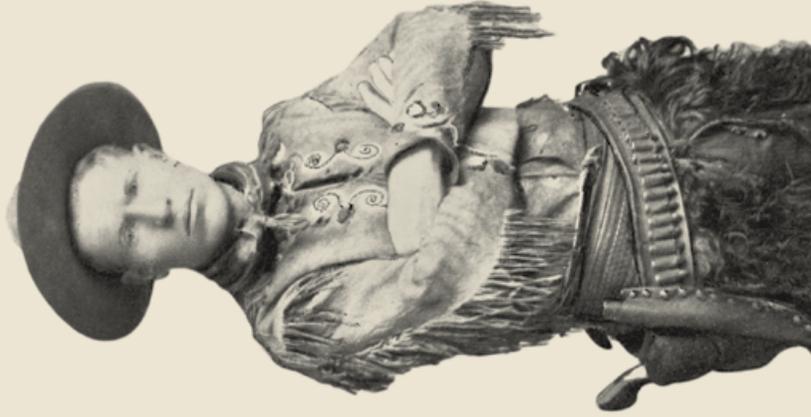
Signature Sec. code

Mail registration form and payment to:
 Russell Symposium, Montana Historical Society
 PO Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201

For conference questions, call (406) 444-4741 or email klambert@mt.gov.



225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201



Charles M. "Kid" Russell,
circa 1883

Detail, MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, 944-687