

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé
150 South Royal Street



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--Date here--

**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE EXHIBIT "ARK OF INDIA"
OPENS OCTOBER 16**

“Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia” is an exhibit about personal discovery and exploration. It is an account of late 19th and early 20th century India as seen by Alabama artist, Roderick D. MacKenzie, using his paintings, drawings, sculptures, and most importantly, photographs, and writings. MacKenzie spent more than a decade in India, a place he described as exotic, dangerous, and colorful. He rode with princes on tiger hunts, climbed mountains along India’s Northern border, and observed the sacred rituals at the Ganges River in Benares, India’s most holy city. MacKenzie was the official painter of the Delhi Durbar in 1903, which marked the coronation of King Edward VII.

Returning to America in 1913, MacKenzie soon found other topics for his artwork, such as Bellingrath Gardens, the Mobile waterfront, and Birmingham’s steel mills. Yet his time in India remained with him for the rest of his life. He earned a deep and abiding respect for the people of India, perhaps because they were not so different from the artist himself.

The exhibition is organized by the History Museum of Mobile and is on view from October 16, 2014 through September 1, 2015.

Artifacts and Conservation

Comprising more than 100 artifacts and images, this exhibition is the first to fully explore MacKenzie’s Indian sojourn. MacKenzie brought back more than a dozen items of clothing and footwear from India, many of which are included in this exhibit. These objects have recently been conserved.

The exhibition is organized by the History Museum of Mobile to be a traveling exhibit once it closes in September 2015.

Public Programs

A series of public programs will accompany the exhibition. A *Learning Lunch* presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at Noon, entitled “Azaleas and Steel Mills: Roderick MacKenzie Returns to Alabama,” by Marlene Rikard, PhD., Samford University. The History Museum has collaborated with the local Indian community concerning cultural activities such as the annual Holi Festival of Colors held on Saturday, March 2, 2015. Family friendly exhibit based activities and tours are also available. More information can be

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found on the museum's online calendar at <http://historymuseumofmobile.wordpress.com/events-at-the-history-museum-of-mobile/>. Additional programs will be posted online at a later date. To schedule a school or group tour contact the Education Department at 251-208-7510.

Exhibit Interactives

The exhibition features hands on activities, which will help visitors understand how MacKenzie created his works of art.

Publication

An accompanying book on MacKenzie's time in India was written by Scotty E. Kirkland, curator of history at the History Museum of Mobile. It is the first publication of Southern Market Press, the publication division of the History Museum of Mobile. Books will be available for purchase at the History Museum and at select locations in Mobile.

Credit

“Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia,” is organized by the History Museum of Mobile. Support for the exhibition was provided by the following:

The A.S. Mitchell Foundation, Inc.
Historic Mobile Preservation Society
The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book & Manuscript Library, USA
The Mobile Public Library
Mobile Museum of Art
Dynasty Collection
Ashland Gallery
MH3
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Susan Downing-White

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Jeanne Sledge
Marion Stimpson
Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Meaher, III
The family of Colonel Soren Nelson and Mrs. Lucy Green Nelson
Tom Mason Communications
John McCall
Library of Congress

For more information about this exhibition, contact the museum at (251) 208-7652 or e-mail museumrelations@cityofmobile.org.

Located in the Old City Hall/ Southern Market at 111 S. Royal Street in downtown Mobile, the History Museum of Mobile documents the 300-year history of Mobile and the surrounding region. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. -5 p.m. Admission to the museum is free.

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