

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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This Month's Theme: How Objects Tell a Story

Ever wonder why some museums are full of old things? Ever wonder where they came from and why someone kept them? Old things, objects, and artifacts, tell stories. Heirlooms, family treasures passed down from one generation to the next, carry stories as well.

Heirlooms

Objects can tell stories of the past, of the people who owned them, of how those people lived, and who they were. These stories help us understand where we came from and who we are. How do these objects tell stories? How do they help us remember the past? Why is that important?

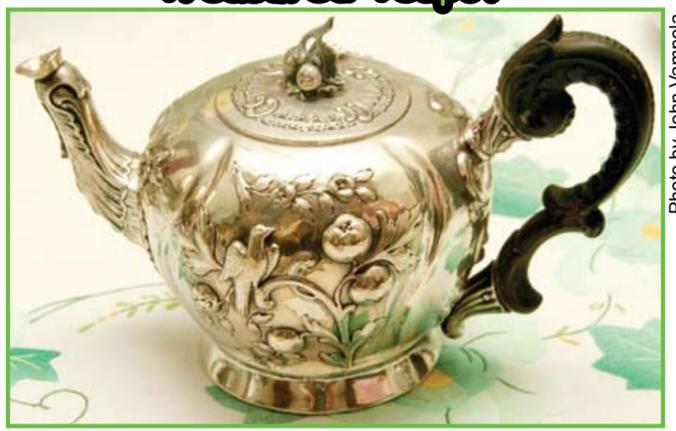
Roll Call

Do you play the guitar? Guitars are often associated with cowboys and ranchers. At the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, we have a unique guitar case. The entire front and back of the 70 year-old leather case is covered with almost 150 signatures of past members of the Santa Barbara equestrian group, *Los Rancheros Vistadores*. Signatures include heavyweight boxing champ Max Baer and Chicago Cubs owner and chewing gum magnate Phillip Wrigley, as well as singers, comedians, saddle makers, and politicians. Rarely shown in public, this guitar case can be seen now through the summer in a special exhibit. Stop by and see if you can find Walt Disney's signature!



Rancheros Vistadores guitar and case

Treasured Teapot



Ida Hollister's Teapot

You can find the above object at the **Stow House***Rancho La Patera. The story behind this teapot begins with the legend of young Ida Hollister, who first arrived in the Goleta Valley in 1853. Early one morning on a stagecoach visit to family, Ida and her sister found no one to greet them when they got off the stagecoach. Out of the morning mist came a horse and buggy with Mister Sherman Stow aboard. He greeted the girls and escorted them to Glen Annie Ranch. From this chance meeting, Ida and Sherman fell in love and soon married. When Ida moved into the Stow House in 1872, she brought her teapot with her. What a special heirloom! What conversations took place around this teapot? How did the guests dress? It is fun to imagine the stories behind the objects in museums.



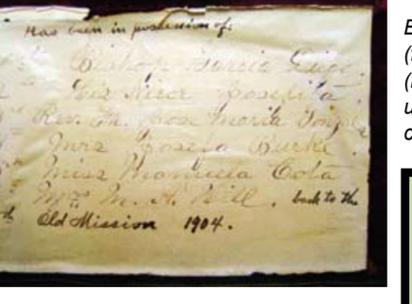
Bishop's Doll photos by Kristina W. Foss

The Bishop's Doll

If the "Bishop's Doll" could talk it could tell us about many different owners. We know it first belonged to Bishop Garcia Diego who came to Santa Barbara in 1844. It was probably part of an old Christmas crèche display. Where else has this pink cheeked baby been? We can find some clues if we look carefully. Under the seat of the doll's tiny chair, you can still see the faded names of the doll's owners: first the Bishop, then his niece Josefita, then the Mission pastor Father Gonzalez-Rubio, then Josepha Burke and finally Manuela Cota who gave it back to the Mission more than 60 years after the Bishop arrived with it. Come see this much-traveled doll and his little chair at the Santa Barbara Mission Museum.



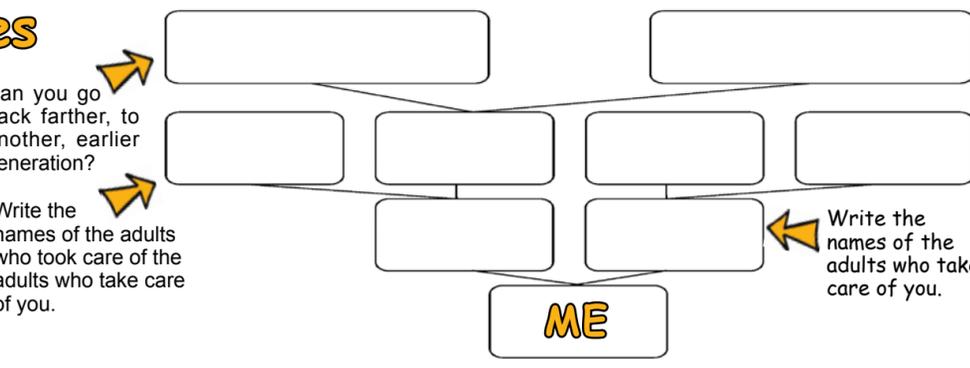
Bishop's Doll (far left), chair (right), and underside of chair.



Museums are full of objects that tell stories. Use your Passport to Santa Barbara or download one from <http://www.sbert.org/programs.php> to visit our local museums for FREE to explore their stories. Hurry! The Passport program ends April 30, 2008!

Your Family Treasures

Someone in your family may have something they kept from long ago, maybe from a grandparent. You may have a treasure you want to keep and give to your children or nieces and nephews when you grow up. Look at the generation tree: can you fill in the names of some of these people in your family, the people that live with you and the adults that take care of you? Does someone have an object that connects more than one person on the family tree?



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Page by Tina Foss, Santa Barbara Mission Museum; Robin Roe, Santa Barbara Historical Museum; and Cheryl Vampola, Stow House*Rancho La Patera.



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