

## Excitement about New Museum

The CFA Foundation announces that we have signed a lease for part of the building that CFA purchased in Alliance Ohio. The first floor of the building and a part of the balcony area are being turned into a historical area and museum by the Foundation. It was the dream of Vaughn Barber, one of our most distinguished judges, Don Williams who was then President of CFA, and Michael Brim then CFA's Director of Public Relations, that CFA collect and display art and artifacts about cats, both pedigreed and non-pedigreed. The Foundation Board of Directors has expanded that vision to include research materials about cats and our hobby.

There will be a large space (over 5000 square feet) devoted to historical artifacts and art pertaining to the history of cats and cat fancies around the world. Glass cases and tables with glass tops will provide good viewing of these items by the public. The scroll donated by the Hong Kong clubs to CFA for their centennial celebration will be on display.

There will be special exhibits from time to time. The first special exhibit will be items from advertising pertaining to cats, both pedigreed and non-pedigreed from the late 1800's to present. Some items were donated to the Foundation and some were purchased.



There is a cat jewelry exhibit donated by Joanne Thompson, formerly one of our well known cat fanciers from Texas. There will also be an exhibit of medals and trophies, including the famous "Cosey collar" won in 1895 and donated to the Foundation by the National Capital Cat Show. We have collected rosettes and catalogs from shows in both the US and Europe from the late 1800's and some of those will be exhibited as well.

The estate of Whilton Wheeldon gave us some charming and sophisticated artifacts and artwork which will be on display as well. The Wheeldon estate also provided us with the funds to set up and open the historical museum.

Diane Castor has donated a bronze of one of her very first cats, "Pixie," which will be placed in the central part of the museum and can be petted by visitors.

In other rooms on the main floor there will be a library of books and publications available for researchers, including CFA Yearbooks, Almanacs, the CFA stud books, ACFA yearbooks and publications, and eventually histories of all of our pedigreed breeds and other research materials. In addition, we have books from as long ago as 1850 included in our collection.

A "Kids corner" rounds out the main floor with children's books about cats, children's games and puzzles and an area for reading to children. There will be artwork interesting to children as well. Eventually, we hope to get schools to bring children into our space to entice them into our hobby.

We plan to open our doors the second Friday in June (at the time of the Great Lakes Regional Show) and we will continue to outfit the museum during the summer. Come and visit us. We would love to have you.