

Dateline: Alliance, Ohio= June 10, 2011

The CFA Foundation, Inc..... A taste of history, and a look to the future.

The dream finally has become a reality. The vision of a cadre of men back in 1990 spearheaded by Vaughn Barber, Michael Brim, Don Williams (then CFA president) and the CFA attorney, Sy Howard to establish a repository for the history of CFA, and by extension, the history of the cat. The concept was presented at the June 1990 annual and was overwhelmingly endorsed by the delegation. Thus was born the CFA Foundation, Inc. Vaughn was president of the CFA Foundation until his death, and always wanted to have an actual museum to house the many artifacts that were now being donated. That museum is now very real, and the overwhelming response to the opening was very heartening.

As has been reported, Don Williams attended the opening ceremony, and his remarks were tinged with emotion and a great deal of pride. He commented that Vaughn, Michael and Sy would be very proud of this day. To see the collections, the artwork, the books and magazines, the myriad of donations of breed related memorabilia, original artwork from cat fanciers, and the generous financial donations – truly a day to be proud.

This day would not have been possible without the Foundation being the beneficiary of the estates of The Gladys J. Wheeldon and the Wilton E. Wheeldon Charitable Remainder Trust, and the Estate of Wilton E. Wheeldon. These ladies, mother and daughter were not cat fanciers per se, and it was Wilton who was the fancier of cats, and all objects relating to cats. Her collections are now housed in the new museum.

The Foundation has just recently been the recipient of another donation. A life size bronze statue of a very special cat, “Pixie”, from Diane and Bruce Castor, Playwicky cattery. The bronze is the only cat statue that J. Clayton Bright ever created and was commissioned by the Castors. “Pixie” occupies a very prominent position in the museum as well. The model for the bronze was an outstanding silver tabby female cat and was featured in a 1977 article of “Just Cats” magazine.

A set of three aqua tints from 1810 acquired by Vaughn and Wanda Barber for the Foundation is now housed in the new library. The library features hundreds of books about the cat as well, with more books anticipated in the next few weeks.

There are so many artifacts, and so much more work to do now that the Foundation has a home- and you can be assured that the numerous displays and collections will be rotated frequently, so every visit you make to this museum will enthrall you with new and interesting artifacts.

Thank you for helping make June 10, 2011 a memorable day. Your continued support will be necessary to help us move forward and we encourage you to “take a walk through history with us” as we continue to build on the legacy left by those with a dream in 1990.

www.felinehistoricalfoundation.org