Image above: The Witch Woman and Her Consorts
Illustration by Virgil Finlay for Dwellers in the Mirage written by A. Merritt
appearing in Fantastic Novels Magazine, Sept. 1949.

Story intro: The strangest adventure any man had encountered since time began faced Leif Langdon when he traveled through that Alaskan mirage into a lost world.
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
Florida Artists Hall of Fame
Great Floridian 2000
633 Osceola Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32789
407-647-6294  fax: 407-647-0410
www.polasek.org

Season: September 1 – June 30
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-4
Sunday 1-4

Admission:
Adults $5, Seniors (60+) $4
Students w/ID $3
Members & Under 12 Free

Our Mission:
To promote the legacy of internationally known
Czech-American sculptor
Albin Polasek, N.A.,
and to encourage study, appreciation and furtherance
of representational art.

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is a 501(C)(3)
public charity, non-profit organization whose budget is
funded by donations and memberships. All donations and
dues go to support the preservation, maintenance and operation of the
Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens.
Please give generously.
We need your support!

Maidens & Monsters
Student Intern
Lisa Melegari

Intern Lisa Melegari, a student at UCF’s
Florida Interactive
Entertainment Academy, has been
heading the museum’s
marketing efforts for
Maidens and Monsters: The Art of
Science Fiction, Fantasy and Adventure
since the summer. Originally a gaming
major, Lisa ultimately specialized in
marketing. She has represented the
museum at six “cons” (conventions),
attended by fans of various forms of
entertainment medium - fantasy, anime,
sci-fi, gaming, horror, film and more.
Lisa has also established an online
presence for Maidens and Monsters at
www.maidensandmonsters.com, as
well as administrating accounts for the
exhibit on Facebook and Twitter.
by Michelle Harm, Curator

The Maidens and Monsters exhibit now on display at the museum began with a chance encounter in a frame shop in Longwood. Stephen D. Korshak, a lifelong collector of fantasy art, was picking up some newly framed paintings and needed some restoration work done. Mike Creamer of Matthew’s Galleries refers this work to Gary Hollingsworth, an art restorer and Polasek Museum Board member. Once Gary learned of the extent of the world-renowned, private Korshak Collection, he immediately thought of the Polasek Museum and of the wonderful opportunities an exhibition of this unique art form would present.

The exhibition showcases over fifty original paintings and drawings of alien worlds, brawny heroes, strange beasts and buxom beauties by twenty-three grand masters of illustration. The works span over eighty years of science fiction and fantasy “pulp” magazine covers as well as hardcover and paperback book cover illustrations from 1914 to 1995. The gallery walls are filled with illustrations of timeless adventure stories such as the Allan Quatermain series by H. Rider Haggard and the Tarzan and John Carter of Mars (Barsoom) series by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Classic sci-fi and fantasy pulp magazines are also represented from the 1910s through 1960s, such as illustrations for Amazing Stories, Weird Tales, and Wonder Stories.

As pulp magazines, named after the cheap wood pulp paper they were printed on, lost popularity by the 1960s, they were replaced by the paperback book craze that skyrocketed the careers of cover artists such as Michael Whelan and Frank Frazetta, who still maintain a cult-like following for their artwork today. Original works by these two artists as well as N.C. Wyeth, Frank R. Paul, Virgil Finlay, Stanley Meltzoff, James Avati, Kelly Freas and J. Allen St. John, among other pioneering artists, are featured in this exhibition.

Stephen Korshak has graciously loaned his collection to the Polasek Museum for this five-month exhibit, which is sure to draw a new crowd to the museum. Stephen is an Orlando-based attorney and the author of several books relating to the artists represented in his collection, including Grand Master of Fantasy: The Paintings of J. Allen St. John (Vanguard, 2008), A Hannes Bok Treasury (Underwood-Miller, 1993), and his latest publication From the Pen of Paul: The Fantastic Images of Frank R. Paul (Shasta-Phoenix, 2009), available in the Polasek’s gift shop among other colorful Maidens and Monsters merchandise.

When asked how the collection began, Stephen explains, “As a young man I was fortunate enough to grow up with great art in my bedroom. My father, Erle Korshak, was the publisher of a pioneering science fiction book company, Shasta Publishers, which issued in the transition of important science fiction literature from magazines printed on cheap pulp paper to hardcover ‘library’ quality books. Much of that art lived with us at our house and at the company office.”

Maidens and Monsters: The Art of Science Fiction, Adventure and Fantasy debuts at the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens on November 24th, 2009 and will run through April 18th, 2010.

Michelle A. Harm, Hollingsworth Fine Arts Traveling Exhibitions

Harm is the Director of Exhibits for the traveling exhibition program at Hollingsworth Fine Arts. She curates and manages eight collections totaling over 1,000 objects. Harm holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Central Florida and a Masters degree in Museum Studies, specializing in collections management and conservation, from the University of Nebraska.
Sculptures and Their Stories
by Trudy Furno

The beautiful sculptures of Albin Polášek are many and are spread between the public arena and the private home in various places throughout the country and around the world. In this column, we will endeavor to take you on a journey for each creation, giving a small history for each piece and, where possible, highlight the connections between Mr. Polasek and the sculpture subject and give you an update on where it resides today.

As most of you know, Albin Polášek began his sojourn in America when he emigrated from Moravia in 1901, joining his brothers Robert and Emil who were priests in Minnesota. Finding work was not easy, but soon he began carving figures for churches in Dubuque, Iowa. These figures attracted the attention of Mr. Egid Hackner, whose altar factory in La Crosse, Wisconsin, had just received an order for sculptural decorations at St. Michael’s Church in Chicago, Illinois. As a result, Polasek was persuaded to work for Mr. Hackner on this monumental project for the commemoration of St. Michael’s 50th year as a parish. According to Ruth Sherwood’s biography, Carving His Own Destiny, Mr. Polášek earned three dollars per day for his labors. For larger figures, he was paid by the foot: a three-foot figure brought $7.50 per foot, and a six-foot figure brought $10 per foot.

To all eyes, the altar at St. Michael’s is a wonder to behold. Over the summer, I had the pleasure of contacting the tour director at the church, Ms. Linda Evans. She supplied us with some amazing photos and information regarding the 56 foot-high altar so we could get an idea of its immensity. The statues on the first level of Saints Peter and Paul are life-sized, as are the angels flanking that same level. Each figure, large or small, is a masterpiece! If you happen to be in the Chicago area and wish to see these treasures, St. Michael’s is located at 1633 N. Cleveland Avenue in what is known as “Old Town,” and they would love to take you on a tour. More next time . . .

A Holiday Gift Idea

Museum membership is an essential component of support for the museum. Your museum membership includes reciprocal benefits with the American Horticultural Society and their over 200 gardens nationwide.

If you would like to join or renew, please contact the museum at 407-647-6294 or visit www.polasek.org
Educational Outreach...

Polasek educators participated at the Apopka Family Learning Center’s Hispanic Heritage Festival on October 24. Rey Justiz and Karen Louden helped children make air-dry clay masks decorated with “gems” and feathers during this annual event.

Students from Jill Altimore’s class at Parke House Academy in Winter Park pose with their “Zombie Scuba Diver” scarecrow in the museum’s vegetable garden. This is the third year Altimore’s students have made an autumnal scarecrow for the Polasek.

Join Us on December 12th for the 5th Annual Holiday Boat Parade

Music, food, wine, ski show and other activities will begin at 4:30 pm in the gardens. The lighted boat parade begins at sundown.
The Polasek will host the official judging stage on the shores of Lake Osceola.
visit www.winterparkboatparade.com

Ayako Yonetani at the Polasek Exclusive Chamber Concert Series

The museum’s annual 3-concert music series features internationally acclaimed violin/viola player Ayako Yonetani and a variety of guest instrumentalists.

Held in the Polasek residence, concert-goers experience acoustic perfection in an intimate setting. Limited to 50 seats, the performance is followed by a private reception.

November 22, 2009

January 24, 2010

March 14, 2010
Featuring works by the composers Kreisler, Bach, Ysaye, Mendelssohn, McCartney and Paganini. Guest performance TBD.

All concerts this season run from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Tickets are $30 per person per concert or $80 per person for the season.
Call 407-647-6294 or visit www.polasek.org
Refreshments generously provided by Peach Valley

Sunday December 6, 2009
1:00 to 4:00 pm
In collaboration with Festival of Orchestras “A Gold Party”
Will be held at the museum to benefit both organizations.
Bring your gold jewelry during the afternoon to be appraised or purchased on site.
Notes from the Garden . . .

The Demonstration Vegetable Garden by Arthur Jones

A hydroponic addition now graces the demonstration vegetable garden. The Tower Garden is producing lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, cilantro, basil, and nasturtium. The nutrient solution is based primarily on the liquid fertilizer from a worm composter called Can-O-Worms. The worms are fed kitchen scraps. In return the worms produce castings, over 100 pounds a year, from their three-tray townhouse. The castings can be applied to the garden as a soil amendment, and in addition, by soaking castings in water, a "tea" can be brewed and applied to plants for nutrient purposes as well as helpful control of garden pests like leaf miners and other chasers. The entire process is odorless and completely organic. Our two new units and associated supplies have been generously supplied by an Apopka company, Our Vital Earth, Inc. (Thank you Carl and Bernie!) Stop by the vegetable garden for a look on your next visit to the Polasek.

Several large containers are sporting luxuriant growth: peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, okra, herbs, lettuce, bok choi, red cabbage. If you have vegetable or herb gardening interests but have little space, consider using large containers to your advantage, both aesthetically and for the table. Also, using 24" pots is very comfortable physically as you merely lean over to work the planting rather than stoop or kneel. And, don't forget, using the proper blend of planting medium and nutrient in containers allows the small-space gardener to largely bypass a host of problems common to traditional bed or row gardens: nematodes, too high or too low ph, and soil-borne pathogens, bacterial or viral, that disease our plantings. Avoiding these issues saves a great deal of time and effort for the busy gardener.

The three main garden beds are approaching their fall finery. Growing now are several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, herbs, beans, peas, mustard, collards, cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, lettuce, chard, spinach, egg plant. Nematodes were especially interested in the squash and okra this fall. Plantings of these vegetables have been removed and discarded. Which reminds that any problems observed in the garden should be noted and dealt with summarily. Plants exhibiting disease should be dealt with: identify the problem and its source, treat, prune, or remove as necessary. Avoid contributing to the spread of problems by practicing good garden hygiene.

The Polasek demonstration vegetable garden will have a new face next growing season featuring raised beds. Table-high beds will allow the wheel-chair bound gardener to work from the chair, reaching across the bed comfortably to attend planting, maintaining, harvesting chores. While wheel-chair bound gardeners may require assistance in having the raised bed(s) constructed, this can be done quite inexpensively and in many cases probably with volunteer assistance. Similarly, a table-high raised bed offers older gardeners exceptional comfort by standing and reaching over the bed to work rather than kneeling or stooping. The raised beds will also let us avoid some of the problems mentioned earlier in this article -- nematodes, ph issues, and soil-borne pathogens. And careful planning and plant spacing in these raised beds offers the potential of more than tripling the productivity of the garden compared to traditional gardens in an equivalent space. Be sure to check out the new raised beds when they are in production next spring.

A fence will be installed soon to separate the garden and the museum building which will greatly improve the overall aesthetic appearance of this area of the campus. The new fence will also shelter badly needed work space and storage for pots, supplies, tools, sprayers and other items.

Come, ask questions, discuss, enjoy. The demonstration vegetable garden continues to grow, make an impact and extend the outreach of the Polasek into our larger community.

Update by Pam Paisley

Wishes Do Come True!

Our last Wish List included funding for garden signage and wheels for one of our disreputable garden carts. We can always count on our members to rise to the occasion and this time was no different. Many thanks to Vince and Trudy Furno who provided the funding for the plant identification signs you will see sprouting about the garden. Three
The Garden as a Gift
by Barbara Carson

Daily headlines remind us that we live in a world darkened by war, hunger, climate change, pandemics and economic decline. Our own daily lives remind us, moment by moment, of personal challenges, from the soul-wracking to the annoying. We rush, text and tweet, staying connected and “on” at every moment, it seems, but feeling often disconnected and turned off—from ourselves and from what really matters.

In such a complicated world, ornamental gardens may seem a luxury—or even a triviality. The truth, however, is that gardens are needed more than ever. For at least six thousand years (as Egyptian wall decorations make clear), people have cultivated plants, not for practical purposes, but for something else. The ancient Persians channeled water from distant mountains, creating walled gardens as a refuge from the heat and the blankness of the surrounding sands. The same principle applies today: Amid the aridity of much of modern life, a garden can provide a place full of life. It also offers calm in the midst of chaos, a chance to refocus on what really counts, to reconnect with nature—and with our own physical selves. As Hanna Rion has said, “The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses.”

But evidence is mounting that gardens bring other gifts in the process. For example, the Chicago Botanic Garden’s horticultural therapy program has demonstrated that gardens and gardening actually “promote health and harmony, restoration and healing.”

“Why do people send you flowers when you are sick?” their webpage asks, then answers, “Because they contribute to feelings of well-being.” (horttherapy@chicagobotanic.org)

The same, they are finding, is true of plants still on the stem.

Of course, gardens serve other purposes as well. The gardens of the Polasek Museum function in their own, smaller way like those around the Alhambra or the Taj Mahal, forming a backdrop for the focal art, but also displaying another medium for human creativity, where, like the artisans in stone memorialized nearby, people work with nature to create beauty. Here gardens are reminders of both the impressiveness and the limitations of human control of nature. If nothing else, gardens can restore a sense of humility to modern lives.

With its three acres on Lake Osceola, the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens invites visitors to a brief retreat into a quiet space where nature and people create in harmony, where the business of daily life stays outside the gates, and where the human place in the larger scheme of things becomes a little clearer.

(Update continued...)

hundred signs have been printed on waterproof paper and mounted on an attractive brown corrugated material. All signs sport a handsome image of Sower and include the common and scientific name, plant family and place of origin. We would be remiss if we didn’t thank Claire Ponsonby, who applied her graphics and computer know-how to this project. Our garden carts are in A-one condition thanks to David Foley, one of our mechanically handy volunteers. He found new wheels at the best price, rebuilt the frames, and applied fresh paint so they are all looking brand new. We are so grateful for his skills and his initiative. Thank you David!

Fall Planting is Upon Us,
Finally!

After the lengthy heat wave that left gardeners and their flowers looking tired, cooler weather has arrived. Volunteer Leo Hartman, our plant nurseryman, has ordered an array of winter flowers to brighten the gardens. We will begin to remove spent plants and refresh the weary beds in the coming weeks. By early December you will begin to see Petunias, both Dreams Mix and Wave purple; Osteospermum Passion Mix; Rocky Deep Purple Violas; Compact Blue Lobelia; Berries and Cream Nemesia; Fuschia Gartenmeister; Wallaby Yellow Bractyanta and lastly, two Verbenas, Patio Rose and Patio Blue set in place.

Randy has hinted that any leftovers may be for sale!
Trustee Carolyn Bird (at right) hosted this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on October 1. Volunteers enjoyed a feast in the East Garden as a kick-off for the 2009-2010 season.
If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering please have them call 407-647-6294 or visit www.polasek.org