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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

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AGS Conference and Annual Meeting: 2008 and Beyond

The 2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts was a success! Watch for the conference report in the Fall Issue of the *AGS Quarterly*.

The AGS 2007 Annual Report was distributed to those who attended the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 21st. To view a PDF file of the report, please [click here](#).

Save the Dates!

Next year's conference is scheduled for Union College in Schenectady, New York, June 24-28, 2009. Stay tuned to our website, www.gravestonestudies.org for further

information.

Information and Query: Hawaiian Missionary Cemetery

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 The AGS office recently received this announcement and request for input from Susie Murphy, the Relations Director for Hawaiian Mission Children's Society. She writes:

"Aloha,

I am the Relations Director for Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, a non-profit educational institution and genealogical society. Our mission statement follows:

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, a nonprofit educational institution and genealogical society, exists to promote an understanding of the social history of nineteenth-century Hawai'i and its critical role in the formation of modern Hawai'i. The Society operates Mission Houses Museum, a historic site which is comprised of three historic houses and a research library. The Society also compiles the genealogical records of the American Protestant missionaries in Hawai'i and promotes the participation of missionary descendants in the Society's activities. . . In this way, the Society offers the community direct access to the people, ideas and forces that helped to shape Hawai'i.

We also maintain a small cemetery for the original missionaries and their descendants-  
 -this why I am writing.

We would like to do an assessment of our cemetery and we are not sure who to approach. We also wonder if there is appropriate funding for which we may apply. Could you help us in this area?"

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### **Query: Porcelain Markers**

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 This query comes from new AGS member Jim Greene. He writes:

"I am writing in regards to porcelain monuments. The photo below, from Knob Noster, Missouri is of a 'Victorian looking' monument, however it's from the early 1917 to 1919 time frame.

My fellow researchers and I have been on a quest these past couple of weekends to locate more of these particular types of monuments, with some success. Most are in little towns or villages, some are pictured like the one in this letter, but some are small, shaped like pillows and are clearly not granite. Most of the monuments we have encountered are of a pinkish color, but not all. Some are of a whitish color, but we have found some black ones too!

I am working on an article on porcelain markers and am looking for information about them. I just want to know, where they were produced, by whom, and why were they produced?

In a day when all monuments are becoming old and brittle, expensive to say the least,

porcelain would offer someone a 'different' approach towards a lasting monument to their loved one. And, since there is no shortage of clays in the world, I would think it would be an inexpensive alternative to more expensive granites, marbles and bronze markers.

Any help with this would be greatly appreciated. I'm totally lost about this. There is no mention of this on the internet, plus I went to a library and found out nothing. I even went to a local monument company and although they are aware of these types of monuments, they had nothing to offer of where they originated and or by whom.

--Jim Greene _____
 --Lawanna Young
 --Gary Conwell"



New Publication--*Beyond Sight: Hidden World: The Cemetery in Infrared*

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*Beyond Sight: Hidden World: The Cemetery in Infrared* is a new publication by AGS Member Terri Bertsche.

Book description: "This portfolio of digital infrared photographs reveals the hidden world of the cemetery where trees seemingly shimmer with snow-like foliage and sculptures exhibit an ethereal glow."

For more information and to order, visit: [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com).

### **AGS Members in the News**

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 AGS Trustee Jon Appell was featured in the June 13th edition of the Watertown (New York) Times. The article is about a workshop he will be holding in the town of Henderson on July 26 and 27.

[The Watertown Times](#)

AGS Member Ann Diserod was recently featured in the Sunbury, Pennsylvania *Daily Item*. The article is about her June 13 lecture, "Urn and Willow: The Language of Cemetery Art," in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

[The Daily Item](#)

Stone Conservation Course: Venice, Italy

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) is pleased to announce that the 16th International Course on Stone Conservation will be held in Venice from April 16 - July 3 2009.

The primary goal of the course is to improve the practice of stone conservation internationally by providing participants with a holistic understanding of the decay and deterioration of stone, disseminating effective conservation methodologies, and ensuring a practical understanding of appropriate repair methods and long-term management strategies.

The course is designed for a maximum of 20 participants. It is open to archaeologists, architects, conservator-restorers, conservation scientists, engineers and other professionals involved in stone conservation, preferably with at least five years of practical working experience in the field.

Applications should reach ICCROM by September 14, 2008 to ensure inclusion in the selection process.

For more information visit the [ICCROM Website](#).

Virtual Tours of Cemeteries in New York City and Venice, Italy

Please take a moment to check out www.museumplanet.com. The site is a visual guide to cities and other places. Click on "New York," and you can visit Woodlawn Cemetery and Green-Wood Cemetery.

David Brown, creator of the site, adds:

"Click on 'Venice,' and you can visit San Michele Island in Venice, which is the cemetery island of Venice. There are some historic graves there, but most are modern although quite unusual, as they must be moved in, I believe, 20 years to make space for the newly dead. Also, in the major Venice Basilicas Frari and Giovanni e Paolo most of the monuments are in fact very elaborate and historically important tombs."

"Cemeteries in the City" Tour, San Francisco, California

"Cemeteries in the City" Bus Tour, Thursday, August 21, 2008. Visit the last remaining cemeteries in the city of San Francisco: \$40 per person, reservations required. Sponsored by the Old City Cemetery Committee, Sacramento.

For details, visit <http://www.oldcitycemetery.com/>.

July Events: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sunday, July 13th at 12:00 PM: The Cemetery and The (Schuylkill) River, a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery. The cost of the program is \$20 per person (\$17 for members; \$15 for students); children's admission is free. Advance Reservations are requested.

Saturday, July 26th at 1:00 PM: A Kids' Eye View of Laurel Hill, a Family Day 2-hour program at Laurel Hill Cemetery. The cost of the program is \$15 for adults, and children's admission is free. Reservations are required.

Laurel Hill Cemetery is located at 3822 Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia. For reservations or information, please call (215) 228-8200, email tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org, or visit www.theundergroundmuseum.org.

Lantern Festival, Forest Hills Cemetery, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Forest Hills Cemetery's 10th Annual Lantern Festival will take place on Thursday, July 17th, 6-9 PM.

This is a moving memorial ceremony inspired by Buddhist rituals. Inscribe a lantern with a personal message to friends or family and float it across Lake Hibiscus at sunset.

Visit [www.foresthillstrust.org](http://www.foresthillstrust.org) for details.

**Article: "The Cemetery Landscape"**

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This article appears in turfmagazine.com. It is by Michael Trinkley and Debi Hacker of the Chicora Foundation Inc., an AGS member organization.

Article: Underwater Cemetery is an Artificial Reef

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This article, posted on [abcnews.com](http://abcnews.com), is about an underwater cemetery near Miami, Florida. It has recently opened--any certified diver can visit.

**June Issue of Symbolism Newsletter**

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Richard Waterhouse, an AGS member, offers a monthly symbolism newsletter covering symbols in historic cemeteries, art and art history. Richard, who has been doing a symbolism tour of Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta since 2000, has an education in studio art and art history. To view the June issue, [please click here](#). The issue is full of information about sun, sunflower and wheat symbols.

To receive the newsletter the first of each month, please email Richard at rwaterhouse@comcast.net and he will add you to the distribution list.

Contact Information

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phone: 413-772-0836  
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