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***Love Story* Exhibition Features Romantic Images to Share
With Your Valentine at The Arkell Museum**

Canajoharie, NY-- The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie will focus on all things romantic just in time for Valentine's Day with a reception for *Love Story*, an exhibition of American illustration from the New Britain Museum of American Art's permanent collection.

The reception, free for Arkell Museum members and \$10 for non-members, will be held from 7:30 pm-9:00 pm on February 7, 2009, a week before Valentine's Day. *Love Story* includes some 60 original works of art that were used to illustrate romantic fiction over the past 100 years, including drawings, watercolors and oil paintings. Many works accompanied love stories in early issues of magazines such as *Saturday Evening Post*, *McCall's*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Harper's Monthly*, *Redbook*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Woman's Home Companion* and *Ladies Home Journal*, which published original fiction in each issue. Represented in the exhibition are such well-known artists as James Montgomery Flagg, Dean Cornwell, Henry Raleigh, Coby Whitmore, Alex Ross, F.R. Gruger and Alice Barber Stephens.

"Many people are not aware of the fact that the New Britain Museum of Art owns one of the best collections of American illustration in the country," says Martha Hoppin,

guest curator, who got her first good look at the collection about six years ago when she was asked to research information for a catalogue.

“As I spent hours upon hours looking through the collection, I immediately thought of romance as a theme for an exhibition,” says Hoppin, who was astounded by the overall scope and size of the illustration collection founded in memory of the Museum’s first Director, Sanford B.D. Low. Rich in early works of the romantic genre, it now encompasses more than 1,000 illustrations dating from the 1890s to the present, including many from the “golden age” of illustration from 1890-1930.

Many illustrations in the exhibition were donated to the New Britain Museum by the artists themselves, who learned of the collection through Low, also an artist, and his friends and associates. The collection is now overseen by the Museum’s Illustration Committee, whose members provided valuable assistance to Hoppin in planning the *Love Story* exhibition. Martha Hoppin will be at the opening reception to present a gallery talk and sign the catalog which will be for sale.

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