



NEWS RELEASE

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Bridges of Friendship: How Children Learn about Other Cultures **International Exhibit to Open at Wilmington College on March 3, 2010**

Wilmington, Ohio – The Quaker Heritage Center, Peace Resource Center and Watson Library of Wilmington College will host *Bridges of Friendship: How Children Learn about Other Cultures*, a new exhibit exploring how children learn about other cultures through books, dolls, festivals and music. The exhibit will open on Wednesday, March 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and run through October 1, 2010. The campus is located at 1870 Quaker Way, Wilmington, Ohio. Visitors can see the exhibit Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and specific Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The exhibit has a strong focus on the 1927 Friendship Doll Project with the historic peace doll Ellen C's. homecoming. Ellen C. will travel from her kindergarten class on Hirado Island, off the coast of Nagasaki, to Wilmington for a five month stay and then return to Japan. In addition, a traditional *Ohiosana*, Japanese doll platform set used during the Honorable Small Dolls Festival on March 3, has been donated.

The exhibit will feature monthly special events, including the Children's Festival on May 5. It has something for boys and girls of all ages and those young at heart. School tours, coloring books, and in-classroom programming led by museum staff are available.

A package deal is available for those who visit the exhibit: a discount coupon for the Clinton County History Center to visit their toy exhibit, a discount coupon for American Girls books purchased at Books-N-More, and a special overnight stay at the General Denver in downtown Wilmington.

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Special group tours or classroom visits can be arranged. For more information visit <http://www.wilmington.edu/qhc/> or contact Ruth Dobyms, curator of the Quaker Heritage Center, at ruth_dobyms@wilmington.edu or call (800) 341-9318, ext. 719.

The 1927 Project was an exchange of dolls between America and Japan inspired by tensions between Asia and Americans over immigration restrictions. The Committee on World Friendship among Children sent 12,739 American dolls to Japan and 58 *Torei Ningyo* (Dolls of Gratitude) to America.

During World War II, most of the Japanese Friendship Dolls were stored out of sight. Only 45 of the 58 Dolls of Gratitude have been located in America. At the same time, American Friendship Dolls were destroyed in Japan. As of 2010, only 325 have been found, including Ellen C. She was dressed and named by the Wilmington Friends Junior Sunday School Class, in Clinton County, Ohio. Ellen C.'s story is detailed in the book *Finding the Friendship Dolls, A True Story: How Children Can Help Create World Peace through Toys* and is available at the Peace Resource Center, <http://www.wilmington.edu/prc/bookstore.cfm>.

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