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> Donation from page 1

For as big of a star Judy Garland was during his heyday, she of course made the ranks of Warhol portraiture. Her signed print now hangs at the Judy Garland Museum.

And the cabinet? When L. Frank Baum was trying to think of a name for the mystical land where his stories could take place, he happened to glance at a filing cabinet with two drawers. The top read A-N, and the bottom read O-Z. The land of Oz then had a name, and "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" was subsequently published in 1900. Now, 110 years later, the Judy Garland Museum has become the benefactor of a generous donation: a first edition of L. Frank Baum's classic "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."

A man by the name of Fred Trust, who owns Rare Oz Books in Owings Mills, Md., contacted Judy Garland Museum curator John Kelsch earlier this year wondering if they had a first edition copy of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Kelsch responded that they didn't, so Trust asked if they would be interested in one. Naturally, Kelsch jumped at the opportunity.

Before sending it, Trust had the book appraised by Teresa Johanson of Johanson Rare Books in Baltimore, Md. The near-mint condition book was appraised for \$80,000.

This was the second first edition "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" book that Trust has donated. The first was to the Wizard of Oz Museum in Wamego, Kan. He has plans to make a future donation to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. as well.

"My intention of donating is to educate people of all the Oz books L. Frank Baum wrote," said Trust.

In addition to "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," Baum wrote 13 other Oz titles, and an additional 26 more official Oz titles were written by other authors, including Ruth Plumly Thompson, John R. Neill, Jack Snow, Rachel R. Cosgrove, and Eloise Jarvis McGraw with Lauren McGraw Wagner.

The book was one of 2,000 originally printed "B" bindings. The "A" bindings were ones Baum personally would've had for

friends and family, and most likely would've had his signature. The "B" bindings are recognizable by errors in the color plates and also by a few misspellings, that were subsequently corrected with later printings. In mint condition, the "B" bindings go for upwards of \$100,000. Trust estimates that due to time, and the fact that it's a children's book (that would've been handled by children and been subject to wear and tear by them), there are probably less than 1,000 first editions left in existence, and less than 100 of the "B" binding first editions.

The book now joins the ranks of other valuable and unique items currently housed at the Judy Garland Museum, including the carriage that Dorothy and her friends rode on in the Emerald City, the Andy Warhol print of Judy Garland, the gold record commemorating the millionth copy sold of "Over the Rainbow," which was also named the number one song of the 20th century by the Recording Industry Association of America, and the Tony Award won by Garland for her work at the Palace Theater in 1951.

The signed Warhol print was assessed by Christie's in New York to be worth between \$35-45,000.

"Now, that was awhile back, so now we're figuring that it's worth \$50,000," said Judy Garland Museum board member Jon Miner.

Lincoln's carriage was purchased at another Christie's auction by Miner and Kelsch. Though an official appraisal hasn't been done on the carriage lately, Miner and Kelsch estimate the value at roughly \$750,000.

All told, the total appraised value of the museum and all its holdings exceeds \$3 million. And now that such a rare book, and one whose story catapulted Judy Garland to fame is amongst the collection, there's a whole new reason to check out the museum. Besides being a place of music and film history, there's a little bit of literary history there as well.

For more information on the Oz titles that have been written, visit www.rareoz-books.com.

AARP Driver Safety classes for October

The following AARP Driver Safety Program Classes are scheduled for the month of October.

- Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 5 and 7, 8 hour intro-

ductory class, 4-8 p.m. Administration Building in Grand Rapids. Call 327-5730, ask for Renee for reservations.

- Thursday, Oct. 7, 4 hour refresher class, 1-5 p.m., Cohasset City Hall. Call 328-6225, ask for David for reservations

- Wednesday, Oct. 13, 4 hour refresher class, 4-8 p.m., Bigfork VFW. Call 832-3652, ask for Jack for reservations.

- Saturday, Oct. 16, 4 hour refresher class, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Administration Building in Grand Rapids. Call 327-5730, ask for Renee for reservations.

- Tuesday, Oct. 19, 4 hour refresher class, 5-9 p.m., Nashauk High School. Call 885-1280, ask for Marcia for reservations.

- Monday, Oct. 25, 4 hour refresher class at 4-8 p.m., Deer River High School. Call 246-8241, ask for Kathy for reservations.

- Thursday, Oct. 28, 4 hour refresher class, 5-9 p.m., Grand Rapids Clusiau Sales. Call 326-9421, ask for Shannon for reservations.

Cost is \$12 or AARP members and \$14 for non AARP. Participants need to bring their Minnesota driver license.

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