

Victorian history on display

BY C.W. LATTIN

As director of the Cobblestone Society Museum, I have arranged for several displays of artifacts to be displayed at the Swan Library this winter. Our photo shows the display case with its current exhibit of two Rogers Groups now through Monday.

John Rogers (1829-1904) was a talented sculptor whose works became treasured during the second half of the 19th century when it was fashionable to have statuary displayed in the home parlor.

Between 1859 and 1892, Rogers, of New York, created 80 different groups representative of daily life. Cast in plaster of Paris, they were made affordable to the middle classes.

Consequently, Rogers produced more than 100,000 pieces of statuary, which on average cost around \$14. He was considered the ablest animal sculptor of the 19th century and was recognized and appreciated in his own time. He has more recently been referred to as the Norman Rockwell of the Victorian era.

The two pieces on display in the Swan Library are: "Coming to The Parson," patented in 1879, and "Neighboring Pews," produced in 1883, and patented in 1884. In Rogers' catalogue, he



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described this piece as "two ladies have come late to church. The gentleman is showing the younger woman the place in the hymnbook where they are singing. The older woman is indignant for the preference he has shown. His son, being neglected, has put on his father's hat and is trying on his father's gloves."

Other displays in this series through the end of April will include: American Pattern Glass of the late 19th century, Currier

and Ives prints representing the second half of the 19th century, Bisque figurines of the last quarter of the 19th century and late 19th-century kitchen utensils.

The first display in this series was Victorian Bristol vases.

These small displays are an extension of the Cobblestone Society Museum. They represent the era of time in which the museum tries to reflect and depict through its complex of historic buildings in Childs.