

March 3, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALTOONA MUSEUM TO OFFER LUNCH PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF RAU
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona will host a Lunch a l'Art program in support of its present exhibition, *William H. Rau: The Rise and Fall of the Main Line Canal*. The program begins at noon and includes lunch and presentation by several guest speakers. Cost is \$15 or \$14 for SAMA members. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations or additional information.

Leading the Lunch a l'Art presentations will be exhibition co-curators Stan Snyder, SAMA-Altoona administrative assistant, and Julie Fether, Project Coordinator at Penn State Altoona's Center for Community-Based Studies. Joining them will be Nathan Koozer, park ranger with Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site/Johnstown Flood National Memorial, who will speak about the history of the Main Line Canal and Pennsylvania Railroad. Also scheduled to speak is Josh McConnell, Altoona Area Public Library archivist, who will discuss William Rau – the official photographer of the Pennsylvania Railroad at the turn of the 20th century - and the Library's historic collection of vintage Rau photographs.

The 33 albumen and sepia-toned photographs in *William H. Rau: The Rise and Fall of the Main Line Canal* have been selected to take the viewer on a non-stop trip from Harrisburg to beyond Johnstown, displaying the scenic splendor along the railways that passengers would have enjoyed more than a century ago. Additionally, they illustrate the transition of transportation in Pennsylvania – from evolution to revolution – at a vibrant and turbulent time of industrialization. Rau's photographs poignantly capture the modernization of travel across Pennsylvania as a gateway to the West.

Lunch a l'Art programs are offered to encourage a greater understanding of various art forms and movements, as well as foster a deeper appreciation for the exhibitions presented by the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible

facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.