Forsyth Galleries

Brown-Bag Lecture Series
Thursday, Sept. 19 12:00 - 1:00

PARADOX AND PLUNDER IN THE GILDED AGE:
Mass-Media and Material Culture
of the Klondike Gold Rush 1897-1898
Presented at the Forsyth Galleries by Gregory D. Phillipy

Topic Overview:
I will explore the conditions and the effects of the Klondike Gold Rush, identifying it as a media sensation and as a place where remaining evidence of it, the detritus of an epic struggle, still litters the trails.

Placing this in context of the Forsyth Galleries, we will examine the front-page news and illustrations that reached across the nation. We will also view the iconography of the decorative glass art in the Runyon Collection of Forsyth Galleries entitled The Klondike.

As the Victorian era drew to a close, the dawning of a new century brought the promise of a future gilded in progress, wealth and convenience.

Photo by A.E. Hegg: 1898.
Print showing the endless line of packers climbing summit of Chilkoot Pass, Alaska and Yukon border, also known as “The Golden Stairs.”

Klondike Clear and Gold Pitcher: c. 1898
Manufacturer: Dalzell, Gilmore and Leighton Glass Co.
Detail symbolizing the Golden Stairs

The San Francisco Call: Dec. 19, 1897