

Gear Roundup

TCAA partners up with the Brinton Museum for a new exhibition in Big Horn, Wyoming.



Ernie Marsh, sterling silver spurs with 14k-gold accents, fine silver inlays and “the fish,” a sign of piety, inlaid in 18k green gold



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John Willemsma, California mission saddle with silver overlay designed, fabricated and hand engraved by Scott Hardy and long saddle strings of braided rawhide and finished with heavy silver ferrules and horsehair tassels by Nate Wald

The Traditional Cowboy Arts Association, known for their authentic silver and leather cowboy gear, has teamed up with the Brinton Museum in Big Horn, Wyoming, for *Spring Roundup with the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association*, a new exhibition that opens May 19.

The special exhibit will feature exquisite saddles, ornate spurs, bits with decorative silver and gold inlay, rawhide braid quirts, braided reins and many other items from the TCAA's 14 members: Rick Bean, Wilson Capron, Beau Compton, Mark Drain, Scott Hardy, Leland Hensley, Pablo Lozano, Ernie Marsh, Pedro Pedrini, Cary Schwarz, Chuck Stormes, Nate Wald, Troy West and John Willemsma.

“We are proud to be showing at the Brinton Museum... We feel like the Brinton Museum is a perfect place to tell our story and to talk

about the story of the West,” says Capron, TCAA's president. “The West is known for its ruggedness, the romance and excitement of discovery. One thing forgotten is the elegance that could be found in the homes of the cattle barons and often on the horse of the cowboy. The works you will find from the TCAA members represent that elegance. We feel like the elegance of our culture is being pushed out by mass production, and the individual stories of the cowboy



Mark Drain, oval gold buckle with steer head

aren't being told properly. Thanks to all at the Brinton Museum for allowing the TCAA to come to a region filled with rich traditions to tell our story and the elegant story of the West.”

Brinton director and chief curator, Kenneth L. Schuster, says the exhibition presents a great opportunity to show how the organization and the museum have teamed up. “It represents our institutional commitment to carrying on a tradition which Bradford Brinton started in 1923 when he purchased the Quarter Circle A Ranch here in Big Horn, Wyoming, and made it the focal point and repository of his Western

collections,” he says, adding that Forrest E. Mars Jr. also made large contributions to the museum and its legacy. “The Brinton Museum and the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association honor the vision of these monumental patrons of Western Art by presenting the time-honored cowboy crafts of saddlemaking, bit and spur making, silversmithing and rawhide braiding in an exhibition showcasing the living masters of these skills producing works which blur and stretch the boundaries between fine and applied arts.”

The exhibition continues at the Brinton through July 29. Visit www.thebrintonmuseum.org for more information.