



National Law Enforcement MUSEUM A MATTER OF HONOR

Mission Statement

The National Law Enforcement Museum tells the story of American law enforcement through exhibits, collections, research and education. The Museum dynamically engages the broadest possible audience in this story in an effort to build mutual respect and foster cooperation between the public and the law enforcement profession. By doing so, the Museum contributes to a safer society and serves to uphold the democratic ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

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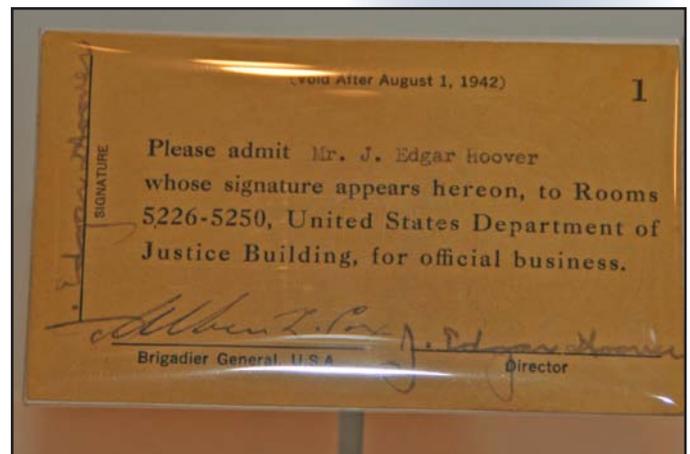
Collections Management Intern

Newseum Exhibiting Trial Pass issued to J. Edgar Hoover

Earlier this year, the National Law Enforcement Museum signed its first-ever loan agreement with another museum. The [Newseum](#), located in downtown Washington, DC, is exhibiting a trial pass issued to J. Edgar Hoover to attend the 1942 trial of Nazi saboteurs who were part of a spy ring that was investigated and caught under Hoover's supervision by the FBI that year. The trial pass is a part of the larger [Hoover Collection](#), which contains over 5,000 objects from the estate of J. Edgar Hoover.

This is a milestone of sorts for the Museum. When a new museum loans artifacts to another museum, the new

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Saboteur Souvenirs

Above, the pass issued to Hoover to attend the tribunal that tried the Nazi saboteurs. At left, a replica of a Nazi uniform cap worn by a saboteur.

Cap: Loan, FBI Tour; pass: Loan, National Law Enforcement Museum, Washington, D.C.

Trial pass on display at the Newseum.

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museum begins to establish its identity in the larger community of museums and makes the artifacts accessible to a wider audience.

The National Law Enforcement Museum is a work still in progress. The building is designed but not yet built; the exhibits have been planned but not yet constructed. The artifact collections, however, are tangible and real and inform the design, content, and programming of what the Museum will soon become. The Museum's collection currently numbers almost 15,000 objects, documents, and photographs. By the time the Museum opens its doors in late 2013, the collections will be accessible to the public in a number of ways, including exhibits, publications, behind-the-scenes tours, and other educational programs.

The collections of the Museum are unique in that that they tell the *national* story of American law enforcement. In the United States, law enforcement is not a nationalized institution, and the agencies that make up law enforcement span the local, state, and federal continuum. The National Law Enforcement Museum will be the first place for other educational institutions, academicians, and researchers to come to learn the larger, national history of American law enforcement. Having Museum artifacts on exhibit in other museums serves the community by increasing public



Trial pass for J. Edgar Hoover, 1942. 2010.11. Collection of the National Law Enforcement Museum, Washington, D.C.

access to and awareness of law enforcement's legacy. Loaning artifacts also serves to build collaborative partnerships with museums across the country.

The Collection

A Rogues' Gallery: Thomas Byrnes and *Professional Criminals in America*

In 2007, the National Law Enforcement Museum acquired a first edition of Thomas Byrnes' *Professional Criminals in America* (1886), a photographic "rogues' gallery" of known criminals and their techniques and methods. This rare first edition volume gives the reader an intriguing view into the thoughts of a late 19th-century New York City police detective and the criminals he was determined to put away.

Thomas Byrnes (1842-1910) was Chief of the New York City Detective Bureau from 1880–1895. A native of Ireland, Byrnes immigrated to the U.S. as a boy and became a patrolman in 1863. He established his reputation as a tough, ruthless and efficient investigator when [he broke the 1878 robbery of the Manhattan Savings Bank](#), recovering millions in cash. He was soon promoted to the New York City Detective Bureau as its first Chief of Detectives and was appointed Superintendent of Police in 1892.

In 19th century America, it was easy to remain an anonymous criminal; if you became known in one town, you moved to another. Byrnes addressed this problem by devising a rogues' gallery to help identify local criminals. He created a photo gallery of over 7,000 criminals, and he encouraged his detectives to compare the photos with suspects they were seeking. Byrnes' use of photography to document known criminals helped change the nature of American detective work by accurately documenting criminals' images, rather than relying on verbal descriptions, physical measurements, or sketch artist images to identify criminals. Byrnes' [rogues' gallery](#), he claimed, helped him arrest over 3,000 criminals in New York City in a four year period.

Among Byrnes' accomplishments was the publication of *Professional Criminals in America* (1886), a hefty tome that describes the habits,



Pages from *Professional Criminals in America* by Thomas Byrnes, 1886. 2007.35.1. Collection of the National Law Enforcement Museum, Washington, D.C.

appearance, and techniques used by criminals. He used some of his rogues' gallery photographs in the book and noted in detail the methods of the most common types of criminals, as well as the physical appearance and criminal habits of those pictured in the book.

Byrnes' reputation for toughness and ruthlessness made him a figure both revered and reviled in New York City, [as one reporter wrote](#) soon after his retirement in 1895.

"We shall not soon have another like him, and that may be both good and bad... He was a Czar, with all an autocrat's irresponsible powers, and he exercised them as he saw fit. If they were not his, he took them anyhow; police service looks to results first. There was that in Byrnes which made me stand up for him in spite of it all... He was a born policeman."

Policing has evolved much since the 19th century, and Byrnes' book helps the Museum explore those changes.

Education Programs

Empowering Teens at the National Law Enforcement Museum

Although domestic violence is generally acknowledged as a severe public safety problem, its counterpart among youth—teen dating violence—is not. The National Law Enforcement Museum is currently creating a program that will bring attention to this unrecognized problem. To help put this issue into perspective, consider the following [statistics from Break the Cycle](#), a leading teen dating violence prevention organization:

- One in three teens will experience some form of dating violence.
- Women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence—nearly triple the overall average.
- Studies indicate a high correlation between dating violence and other juvenile delinquent behavior. In fact, nearly 92% of girls who enter the correctional system report being victims of physical or sexual abuse.
- Teen victims of domestic violence are substantially more likely than their classmates to bring guns or other weapons to school and three times as likely to be involved in a physical fight.

Teens must realize, in the words of Break the Cycle's Executive Director, Marjorie Gilberg, that "some behaviors are not just wrong, they are illegal." Obviously, the National Law Enforcement Museum's ultimate goal is to stop the violence before it starts. Promoting healthy relationships among youth is vital to ending this hidden epidemic. That's why the Museum has developed the kIDsafe program. Funded in part by the Verizon Foundation, the program for middle and high school groups empowers teens by:



Ninth grade girls discuss photos of a staged crime scene during a kIDsafe session.

- Providing a safe space where conversations about dating violence can occur
- Enabling youth to recognize the signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Helping them know their rights and responsibilities in a dating relationship
- Giving participants the tools they need to be able to help someone who may be involved in an unhealthy relationship
- Providing access to helpful resources for support and guidance.

During the preteen and teen years, young people are learning skills they need to form positive relationships with others. The kIDsafe program provides youth during this formative time with strategies to guide their developing relationships and prevent patterns of dating violence that can last into adulthood. If you have a group of teens you would like to participate in the kIDsafe program, please contact Dean MacLeod, Evaluation & Community Education Specialist, at 202-737-7982 or dmacleod@nleomf.org.

Exhibits

Exhibits of the National Law Enforcement Museum: The Hall of Remembrance

An important message informing the exhibits of the National Law Enforcement Museum is that law enforcement is a brotherhood of shared experiences, values, and dangers. Virtually every exhibit in the Museum explicitly



or implicitly speaks to the bonds formed by members of that community as officers serve to protect civil society. The most powerfully expressed representation of this concept is found in the Hall of Remembrance.

Each year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial honors the fallen from the law enforcement community with National Police Week. This weeklong commemoration culminates in the addition of the names of the fallen to the Memorial wall and a Candlelight Vigil to remember and reflect. The Hall of Remembrance echoes this evocative experience by providing a serene and quiet space in which to contemplate the sacrifices of these men and women.

As the visitor enters the Hall, a wall with images of the fallen gives a human face to loss. The photographs will change from year to year, with images of the newly fallen replacing earlier images. (Visitors may choose to learn more about an officer through interactive kiosks that will profile each officer in the Hall of Remembrance—those officers whose names are inscribed on the Memorial.) One exhibit in the Hall will showcase objects of tribute brought to the Memorial wall during Police Week by family and friends of fallen officers. These objects, often poignant, are part of the Memorial Collection of the Museum, a special collection of items created by friends and survivors of fallen officers in their honor. Another exhibit will tell the remarkable story of the annual Police Unity Tour, in which hundreds of officers bicycle several hundred miles to the Memorial during Police Week in honor of their fallen colleagues.

The Hall of Remembrance is a place to learn about, reflect on, and remember the nature of the risks and sacrifices that officers of the law face and make.

Next month: [Spotlight on the Main Theater](#)



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MUSEUM

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