

# Press Release

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-Mattatuck Museum  
Art and History Live in Waterbury  
144 West Main St. Waterbury, CT 06702  
Tues. – Sat. 10 – 5, Sun. Noon – 5  
[www.MattatuckMuseum.org](http://www.MattatuckMuseum.org)

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## Charles Monagan to Open “Our Beautiful City” Exhibition at the Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center

Waterbury, CT....*Our Beautiful City – Vintage Postcards and Photographs of Waterbury*, a new exhibition at the Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center, opens on Friday, February 26, 2010 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. The exhibition presents turn-of-the-century photographs by amateur photographer Frederick Stone and vintage postcards that depict Waterbury at its zenith – a thriving business center with rich architecture and fascinating entertainments. It is guest curated by Michael Dooling, librarian at the *Republican American*, and John Wiehn, reference librarian at Naugatuck's Howard Whittemore Library. Opening the exhibition will be Charles Monagan describing what made and still makes Waterbury a beautiful city—one of which we all should be proud. As editor of *Connecticut Magazine* and a Waterbury resident, Mr. Monagan has spent years discovering and writing about the people, places and things in his home state.

Nearly 200 postcards drawn from the museum's collections and from the collection of John Wiehn are featured in the exhibition. Mr. Wiehn began collecting postcards of Waterbury as a way to preserve his memories of walking downtown with his grandfather from his South End home. “During its golden age, postcards were printed in Germany from black and white photographs taken in the United States. German artists painted in the color and often embellished the photographs with flags on buildings and additional people and cars. These artists weren't too good and if you look carefully you can see the difference between the original photographs of people and the stick figures that were added,” explains Mr. Wiehn with a laugh. Mr. Wiehn is the co-author with Mark Heiss of *Waterbury 1890 - 1930: A Postcard History*.

Frederick Stone started his professional life as a watchmaker for Scovill Manufacturing Company and undertook photography as a hobby. He joined the Waterbury Photographic Society and served as an early freelance photographer for the *Republican American* newspaper. Mr. Dooling explains that his interest in Stone was sparked by the *Republican American's* collection of almost 200 glass plates of Stone's work. He says that little is known about Stone but that the number of his photographs indicates that he was in demand as an event photographer. Stone was respected for the clearness and fidelity of his images, making them ideal photos for the German made cards. Some of Stone's photographs appear to be exactly the pictures used in later cards. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to compare the two and draw their own conclusions. In addition to his role as the *Republican American's* librarian, Mr. Dooling writes historical articles for the newspaper and has written two books of local history.

*Our Beautiful City – Vintage Postcards and Photographs of Waterbury* is on exhibition Saturday, February 27 through Sunday, May 30, 2010. The public is invited to a free opening reception on Friday, February 26 at 5:30 pm in the museum's Harris Whittemore Gallery.

The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center is operated with support from the Connecticut Commission on Cultural & Tourism, and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, fifteen world-class museums and historic sites ([www.arttrail.org](http://www.arttrail.org)). Located at 144 West Main Street, Waterbury, the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Convenient, free parking is located directly behind the museum on Park Place. For more information about this exhibition, the museum's collections, and other programs, please call 203-753-0381 ext 10 or visit the website at [www.MattatuckMuseum.org](http://www.MattatuckMuseum.org). #####