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| |  | | --- | | Martin Hoffmann <mrhoffmann101@gmail.com> | | 4:12 PM (4 hours ago)  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |  | https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |
| |  | | --- | | 15 Jan 2014 to me  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif | | | |

Jacques, congratulation to you on a magnificent accomplishment !!  One is simply staggered by the imagination and dedication behind this incredible structure !!

I regret that I cannot make the event. I am committed that weekend in California at an event to help Afghanistan/Iraq brain injured soldiers (the Army is classically failing to treat them with available means).   
  
I am determined to visit albeit at a less auspicious time  - I would love to catch up with you and see and hear about this superbe creation.

I wish you the best for your event on the 21st, and deeply regret I cannot be with you.

Best wishes !!

Marty Hoffmann

MC1382

Yuma, Arizona

1 review

[“Ambitious undertaking”](http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g32375-d2651157-r197340388-The_Museum_of_History_in_Granite-Felicity_California.html#CHECK_RATES_CONT)

5 of 5 starsReviewed March 14, 2014

Being from Yuma, AZ, I am ashamed that I did not go to Felicity sooner (the first time was in 2012, and my most recent visit was around the first of this month). The Museum of History in Granite there is a massive, ambitious undertaking that is also executed beautifully. Throughout the monuments is a professed hope for the longevity of humanity. The entire museum is designed not only for present visitors, but future ones as well, serving as a large time capsule of humanity’s greatest successes and failures to remind us – and teach future visitors – who we have been and who we are.  
  
The monuments, though not finished, cannot be taken in all at once. I suggest taking a break from them in the Church on the Hill and enjoying the quiet therein before returning to the monuments, bearing in mind as you descend the stairs that you are taking your place once again in the narrative of humanity, as observer and (hopefully) appreciator of the part of the story that has been collected here thus far.  
  
One of my favorite panels (and there are quite a few) is actually the final panel of the History of Humanity monument. I found it by peeking around the first panel, but for the best dramatic effect, I suggest approaching it from the opposite end of the monument, walking past the blank panels and imagining what may one day be inscribed there, until you reach the panel with the large question mark. “Unless we destroy ourselves, or succumb to a cosmic accident,” the panel reads, “our destiny should be set on a path to the stars. May distant descendants, perhaps far from planet Earth, view our collective history with understanding and affection.” This hope that humanity will endure, in flesh or in memory, is profound. It gave me chills and brought tears to my eyes, and it was not the only panel to do so.  
  
Felicity is definitely a unique destination, and the history here must be savored and absorbed, not simply rushed through, for full effect. I suggest the visitor to Felicity take his or her time to read each panel and connect it with his or her experiences and prior knowledge. Approached this way, Felicity offers a wonderful benefit to the visitor: it not only enlightens from without, but it also draws forth information and analysis long buried in one’s memory, allowing each visitor – who takes the time to – a chance to reacquaint themselves with their history and their humanity. That is perhaps the ultimate, lasting value of Felicity, CA.

Visited March 2014

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**Was this review helpful?** Yes

Problem with this review?

[Ask MC1382 about The Museum of History in Granite](http://www.tripadvisor.com/SendMessageRD?to=250C7CE98DF37841643AD60086DE2686&lang=en&messagetype=2&d=2651157&geo=&src=197340388&t=r&summary=The+Museum+of+History+in+Granite)

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.



For Promotion??

MC1382

Yuma, Arizona

1 review

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Visited March 2014

Less

**Was this review helpful?** Yes

Problem with this review?

[Ask MC1382 about The Museum of History in Granite](http://www.tripadvisor.com/SendMessageRD?to=250C7CE98DF37841643AD60086DE2686&lang=en&messagetype=2&d=2651157&geo=&src=197340388&t=r&summary=The+Museum+of+History+in+Granite)

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.

LtCol Istel,  
I chanced across your letter in the Princeton Alumni Weekly -- and though I missed the NY Times Magazine article, I was intrigued and found your website and Wikipedia entries.  You sound like a remarkable man, a scholar, and someone who intends to leave the world better than you found it and with a lasting imprint.  
I hope to see your museum on my next drive out to California, and if possible, meet you as well.  
Sincerely,  
C.J. Diegel '01, Major USAF (2001-12) Scottsdale, AZ

22 April 2014

Dear Jacques-Andres and Felicia.

Thank you so very much for hosting this past weekend's event. The World Commemorative Center is a World Treasure! To be able to view it from the land and sky is something that I will keep in my heart and soul for as long as I live.

Your vision is incredible. Your wisdom and goal of sharing is what many are looking for. May it continue for 4,000 years and more.

I hope to visit again soon with my family and friends. May God Bless you and the Spirit continue to live on through you and your works.

Jeffrey Boddiger

316 648 2981

1349 N. Crestline St.

Wichita, KS 67212-4348

**More**

**2** of **1,981**

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| Why this ad?  [Free Spell Check Toolbar](http://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=CXgAASEtcU7PvLMz6lweklYCADtLvw9sGqtvWxhaizt7NNBABIIaPgAIoBVDLiqaxAWDJps2GxKOQGKAB7o3t4gPIAQGoAwGqBJQBT9CT18DdxiJYqA7VT6Qw4vAVED97LWrJzrRWxQvBcprk17jGNzzUncN__ZElBOVpyFk2zWoA1Z1eiO7LgnXjD5-Cv_3c6xuoXiVd31xlhvFiUg0jsMAeJuNAy-kUpDwazjcTPzvMHS7TDb9ptmLtQVw5A1MDSYyYlf3bF9MJ_P0W-Ww4S8MPHX1Wk9r_ndobta8nLYAH-vGSHQ&num=1&sig=AOD64_0g4ZNd9IaNYVS-ztgi-QaocAi-kw&adurl=http://download.dictionaryboss.com/index.jhtml%3Fspu%3Dtrue%26partner%3DXQxdm003) - [www.dictionaryboss.com](http://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=CXgAASEtcU7PvLMz6lweklYCADtLvw9sGqtvWxhaizt7NNBABIIaPgAIoBVDLiqaxAWDJps2GxKOQGKAB7o3t4gPIAQGoAwGqBJQBT9CT18DdxiJYqA7VT6Qw4vAVED97LWrJzrRWxQvBcprk17jGNzzUncN__ZElBOVpyFk2zWoA1Z1eiO7LgnXjD5-Cv_3c6xuoXiVd31xlhvFiUg0jsMAeJuNAy-kUpDwazjcTPzvMHS7TDb9ptmLtQVw5A1MDSYyYlf3bF9MJ_P0W-Ww4S8MPHX1Wk9r_ndobta8nLYAH-vGSHQ&num=1&sig=AOD64_0g4ZNd9IaNYVS-ztgi-QaocAi-kw&adurl=http://download.dictionaryboss.com/index.jhtml%3Fspu%3Dtrue%26partner%3DXQxdm003) - Avoid Spelling Mistakes with Free Spell Checker - Download for Free! |
| Expand all  Print all  In new window Professional Failure reprint in PAW  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Inbox | x |   https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/profile_mask2.png   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Old Salt <oldsalt\_06@hotmail.com> | | 3:38 PM (1 hour ago)  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |  | **https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif**  **https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif** | | |  | | --- | | to me  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif | | | |   Good afternoon Mr. Mayor,  Your piece (NYT reprint) while curiously appearing in the Alumni Weekly is understandable and fitting to  your unique life and undimmed energy in the middle of your 9th decade upon our planet - it is good for us  to "hear" your voice, clear and always direct.    The NYT is what it is, not what it may have been, now devolving and entropic yet sadly influential to  a largely dumbed-down readership, its transparent bias and ideology rising ever higher to make its point(s)  in every article.  It is read here daily (but painfully) simply because what it publishes still influences  widely as some of us need to gauge the scope of its impact.  Before closing this note, mon ami, might I respectfully comment (as a fine arts & archaeology graduate)  that "modern" safety pins were considered an invented (and indeed patented as you know) modern item,  but had existed since antiquity.  I have seen many at the old Gulia (national Etruscan) museum in Rome  some years ago.  Be well,  Old Salt |

(JAI answer: Delighted to credit the US rather than Etruscans who I may eventually credit with spaghetti or lasagna as a consolation prize.)

Dear Jacques,

Tim Beirne, the newly named chair of SBS' History Department (and our teacher of U.S.A. history) was pleased to review *History of the United States of America: Engraved in Granite.*  His comments follow:

Dear Mr. Istel,

Thank you for sharing with me this charming edition of the*History of the United States of America*. Your work with the Museum of History in Granite is truly an ambitious endeavor

​,​

 and the results are quite impressive. What stands out to me most about your project is the desire to bring the history of the American people to the American public. Too often, history has been trapped within the halls of academia, shut off from the people who should be engaging with it most. Your museum serves the vital function of preserving America’s past for generations to come.

Furthermore, your effort to include the history of all Americans, even those

​

 on the​

 margins, is admirable. The robust presence of Native American and African

​-

American history, to name just a few examples, engraved on these panels serves as an ever-present reminder of the vision necessary to create one nation out of many and the struggle involved in building a society that promotes liberty and justice for all. Your ability to weave together a concise and coherent narrative out of the complex and expansive stories of the American past is a service to all those seeking a deeper understanding of the United States, its people and its history. Thank you again for the chance to experience a piece of the excellent work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Timothy Beirne

Timothy Beirne

History Department Chair

***Character Before Career***

The Stony Brook School

One Chapman Parkway, New York 11790

Phone: [(631) 751-1800, ext. 507](tel:%28631%29%20751-1800%2C%20ext.%20507)

[www.stonybrookschool.org](http://www.stonybrookschool.org/)

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif

Dear Mr. Istel,  
  
Thank you for your donation to Bill's fund.  
  
I also thank you for forwarding the picture of a segment of the Wall for the Ages. It is a great tribute to Bill and all others named there. I was also pleased to see the name of our good friend Mary Rembe placed there also. I certainly will share this with Bill's friends.  
  
Our mutual friend Ed Harris regularly forwards me news items of the progress in Felicity, CA. Keep up the wonderful work you are doing there.  
  
Working for you at PI in my youth were some of the best days of my life.  
  
Wishing you good health and best wishes,  
  
Jim Holston

**Re: LESSONS FOR MILLENNIA ®**

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY TEACHES CLASS AT MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE**

*NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY TEACHES AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE In a new program, future teachers from NAU taught by Professor Alma Sandigo were given this interesting assignment: 1) Select a Museum of History in Granite panel from either the "History of Humanity” or "History of the United States of America" monuments. 2) After further research, since panels are summarized, explain how you will teach the subject to your own future students. The innovative program was instituted by Dr. Russell Prust, Chair of the Education Department at NAU. Museum founder Jacques-Andre Istel said: "This is the precise purpose of the museum. Designed for students of the distant future, it is grand to welcome contemporaries who are entering one of the noblest professions. The museum is seen at*[*www.historyingranite*](http://www.historyingranite.org/)

Updates for friends:

1. TIME, Inc on web showed our design as one of "24 Designs in America worth the voyage"

2. NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY TEACHES AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN GRANITE

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                                                        \_\_\_\_\_\_

3. All text of "History of California" is engraved. Artist etching 55 more drawings.

4. Lessons for Millennia (R)

5. New project- .

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Istel,

The experience our class had in visiting the museum of History in Granite was just invaluable. They spoke about the honor of interviewing you and being inspired to dream big and about the great legacy the museum indeed is for our community. Jazmine mentioned how wonderful it was to see a palpable part of the Eiffel Tower that linked Paris with a renowned President of the United States. They were also impressed with the inclusion of several languages and the perspective of the past, present, and future. I honestly think you would have also enjoyed their reflections. Again, I thank you for your hospitality. My family and I are planning to visit the museum this Friday, after Thanksgiving. I am planning to take a note and memorabilia chosen by our students to say thank you.

Our joy is in the thought that this is only one of many other class visit to the museum of History in Granite. THANK YOU!!!

Alma M. Sandigo

BME/ESL Assistant Clinical Professor

NAU-Yuma

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On Sun, Nov 23, 2014 at 9:59 AM, <[john\_c\_bogle@vanguard.com](mailto:john_c_bogle@vanguard.com)> wrote:

Hi, Jacques,   
  
I very much enjoyed the photos of you (looking pretty darn good!) and the students and teachers.  And I quickly realized that I had not responded to your October 15 email.  Just too busy!   
  
I've not yet received your book, but look forward to reading it.  At my age, my "roledex," as it were, is pretty spare, but I'm more than happy to think about someone who might be a good fit for your cause.  (By the way, have you ever sent a summary and photos--and the book--to PAW?  Some PR might open a few doors.)   
  
I salute you once again for your single-minded devotion to a worthy cause.  I know of no other soul who has undertaken such a remarkable and important mission.   
  
Best,   
  
                                                        Jack

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| |  | | --- | | Steven Brown (Producer PBS TV) | | Dec 10 (2 days ago)  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |  | **https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif**  **https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif** |
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Hi Jacques,

The "how" of the museum can easily be incorporated into the TV show if we have photographs documenting the steps (or as many as possible), and/or illustrating examples.  If you have historical photos (high resolution) we can use, it also helps us set the museum in context properly, whether of the beginnings of the town, yourself and Felicia, events at Felicity, etc.  If necessary, we can bring a laptop and scanner with us.

I greatly enjoyed the letter to the New York Times.  While there certainly is a sense of whimsy to Felicity in some respects (which is charming), the museum is nothing short of world class.  I tell people to plan to spend hours there, if not the whole day, to immerse themselves in the experience.  My degree is in history.  I know how difficult it is to distill essentially a near-infinite quantity of historical data into a concise and fascinating narrative.  But you have pulled it off, and admirably.  Your historical narratives are not dry and dusty, but brilliantly sourced and woven, using quotes, art, philosophy, and more.  The museum is unusual, but not in a demeaning manner, pushing it into the realm of quirky but forgettable roadside attractions.  It is monumental and I hope it is revered and cherished for centuries to come.  It is one of the more impressive accomplishments I have come across in my lifetime.

thanks,

Steve