24 January 2017

Dear Jacques-Andre,

Thank you for sharing your amazing designs for Felicity and even earlier, for parachutes. Excellent examples of the joy-filled creativity we aim to foster here.

Kind regards,

Emily Carter

Emily A. Carter

Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Science

Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment

Princeton University

Room C230 Engineering Quadrangle

41 Olden Street

Princeton, NJ 08544-5263

[www.princeton.edu/engineering](http://www.princeton.edu/engineering)

[carter.princeton.edu](http://carter.princeton.edu/)

"Do all the good you can, for all the people you can,

in all the ways you can, as long as ever you can.”

“A Grand Project” Trip Advisor review April 2017

There are 3 ways to take in this phenomenal museum whose mission is to "To Engrave in Granite Highlights of the Collective Memory of Humanity"  
. 1) Skim through, 2) Select a monument of interest and spend time with it (list follows). 3) Spend a day and get history lessons in: HISTORY of HUMANITY, HISTORY of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA, USMC Korean War legacy, FOREIGN LEGION, QUEST for the SKY, HISTORY of ARIZONA, HISTORY of CALIFORNIA, HALL OF FAME OF PARACHUTING. The editor of the various panels is a master of concise, clear language making a day spent well worth the time. Oh, and don't forget to start off with the intro video. And you can take a break from panelitis by going to the church at the top of the hill for a fine overview. It's just a shame the schools in the area don't take advantage of this marvel. Highly recommended!!

Dear Editor:

I generally enjoyed the road trip article (“Let’s Hit the Road”) in the Sept 13, 2017 edition of PAW. It is unfortunate however that PAW funded Mark Bernstein’s trip only to St. Louis. If sufficient funding had been available to extend the trip to California, then there may have been a very different tone to the sidebar note on page 25 about Felicity, CA. Terms like “quirky” and “purports” make it clear that the writer of the sidebar does not consider The Museum of History in Granite and the many collateral monuments at Felicity to be a serious endeavor. The monuments at Felicity are certainly unexpected and unconventional, but an objective observer must come away from a visit to Felicity truly in awe of the audacity and beauty of the project. Certainly Timemagazine concluded as much by citing Felicity (and the Museum) as one of “24 Inspired Works of [American Design]” in May of 2014.

I would encourage PAW to fund a trip to Felicity for Mr. Bernstein or another fine writer to produce a feature article on Felicity. While many other monuments, museums and locations were noted in the article, few, if any, of those sites are living, growing museums actively being built by an alumnus long after most of his contemporaries have retired.  This audacious and inspired project by Jacques Istel ’49 is something to be lauded and encouraged, not derided.

Brian Hays ‘70

# InboxPraise for the Museum of History in Granite

**By Jacques-Andre Istel ’49**

[**Published in the October 25, 2017 Issue**](https://paw.princeton.edu/issues/v118-n03-10252017)

[0 Comments](https://paw.princeton.edu/inbox/praise-museum-history-granite#disqus_thread)

[https://paw.princeton.edu/sites/all/themes/paw/images/printer-icon.png](https://paw.princeton.edu/print/170906)

[**SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**](https://paw.princeton.edu/node/add/inbox?field_in_response_to=170906)

**IN RESPONSE TO:**[**LET’S HIT THE ROAD!**](https://paw.princeton.edu/article/lets-hit-road)

Published online Oct. 25, 2017

The Museum of History in Granite (cover story, Sept. 13), designed to last 4,000 years, has been praised by distinguished visitors as well as Princeton University presidents. You have a perfect right to express your opinion by stating that it is “quirky” (weird, wacky, freakish). Here is what others have said:

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote: “the engravings are wonderful.”

Two presidents of Princeton wrote complimentary letters, immediate past president Shirley Tilghman and current President Chris Eisgruber ’83.

Among alumni, John C. Bogle ’51, founder of the Vanguard Group, stated: “... an extraordinary monument for all humankind and done so with class and thoroughness.” Martin Hoffman ’54, former secretary of the Army: “One is simply staggered by the imagination and dedication behind this incredible structure.”

From President Janet Napolitano, president of the University of California: “... an amazing site with the Museum of History in Granite ... every reason to take great pride in it.”

And from publications: “Meticulously researched” (Los Angeles Times); “Design worth the trip” (TIME magazine).

Your damaging allegation of “purports” (i.e. profess or claim, often falsely) regarding the thoroughly researched text of the granite History of Humanity is shocking, particularly since this History of Humanity is used for teaching by Northern Arizona University.

Have you thought about the process involved in engraving history in granite? Two states – New Hampshire and Arizona – have, since they passed resolutions requesting that the Museum of History in Granite become a World Heritage Site.

 The Princeton community deserves an explanation of your opinion, singularly different from others. Upon sending the photo that you requested, you were asked to read [www.historyingranite.org](http://www.historyingranite.org/) (which I recommend to all Princetonians). If you did not, you failed to perform the research expected from a serious publication.

Jacques-Andre Istel ’49

Founder/Editor, Museum of History in Granite, Felicity, Calif.