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THE OXFORD HOTEL SHOWCASES THE FRONTIER WITH COMPELLING COLLECTION OF ART

*--Works of art within a work of art capture spirit of the West
at Denver's most historic hotel--*

June 2008 (Denver, CO) – Artists inspired by the American West have long been welcomed at The Oxford Hotel. The historic hotel in Denver's LoDo (Lower Downtown) historic district maintains a compelling collection of western art dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, some of it acquired from the artists themselves as settlement for room fees. Boasting talent from well known to nearly anonymous – including George Vander Sluis, Charles Ragland Bunnell, and Denver resident Charles Partridge Adams – the hotel's 40-piece collection has been compiled to suit the western essence of The Oxford itself.

Perhaps no hotel in Denver has a more righteous claim to the spirit of the American West than The Oxford. A work of art itself, the hotel is the most historic in Denver, designed by Colorado's leading architect of the day, Frank E. Edbrooke, and opened in just 18 months in 1891. As witness to Denver's growth from small mining supply town to a regional metropolis, The Oxford creates an authentic setting for perusing artful interpretations of the west, with works on display throughout the main lobby, the Sage Room, the Cruise Room Martini Bar, McCormick's Fish House and the Grand Ballroom. For an in-depth look at the wide range of artworks, just stop by the front desk and ask about guided tours to experience the full scope of the collection.

Many of the artworks have delightful stories behind them, starting with some that were exchanged to settle tabs at local hotels and saloons. John Perry's dramatic *Panoramic Mountain Landscape*, which occupies space in The Oxford's lobby, was acquired this way. The tradition actually endured into the 1970s at The Oxford, when singer-songwriter Tom Waits crooned live to cover his tab.

While it incorporates Western art, The Oxford's collection actually shows more breadth. Gracing the bar at McCormick's Fish House are three large "cathedral glass" opalescent panels of Dutch village scenes, which were returned to daylight by the hotel in 1983 after nearly 40 years in storage and a once-over by the original artist's grandson. In The Cruise Room, Art Deco panels by Alley Henson (c. 1930) are best viewed with a martini in hand, while *Shipwrecked*, a frothy oil on canvas by J.M. Fortenbury (c. 1905) presides over the Grand Ballroom.

Among distinctly Western works on display for your discerning eyes at The Oxford Hotel in Denver:

- *Sunset, Estes Park, Colorado* – Charles Partridge Adams (1858-1942), oil on canvas
- *Mountains in Spring* – George Vander Sluis (1915-1984), oil on board, 1944
- *Health Spa (Eldorado Springs)* – Charles H. Harmon (1859-1936), oil on canvas, c. 1890
- *Panoramic Mountain Landscape* – John Fery (1865-1934), oil on canvas, c. 1890
- *Garden of the Gods* – Anonymous, oil on canvas, c. 1890s
- *Rock and Pines* – George Vander Sluis, oil on board, 1946
- *King of the Prairie* – John Dare Howland (1842-1914), oil on canvas
- *Pike's Peak* – Charles Ragland Bunnell (1897-1968), egg tempura on board, 1931

For more information or reservations at The Oxford Hotel, please phone (800) 228-5838, or visit www.theoxfordhotel.com

The Oxford Hotel is a landmark in the lively LoDo (Local Downtown) District of Denver. A member of Historic Hotels of America and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the five-story property is managed by Sage Hospitality in Denver. The hotel offers authentic, engaging luxury in all 80 uniquely appointed guest rooms with European antiques and contemporary luxuries including complementary high-speed wireless internet access. After a recent upgrade, flat screen TVs and Bose radios with iPod docking stations were added as some of the newest in-room amenities. The hotel also maintains an extensive collection of Western art, with works by prominent Coloradoans. McCormick's Fish House and Bar sits adjacent to The Oxford Hotel, offering a daily menu of fresh fish and fine food. Just off the lobby, the Cruise Room, which like McCormick's opened the day after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, serves award-winning martinis in an Art Deco atmosphere. The hotel also has a Grand Ballroom for weddings and events, and right next door is the Oxford Club Spa, Salon & Fitness Center. For more information or reservations at The Oxford Hotel, please call (800) 228-5838, or visit www.theoxfordhotel.com