



▶ RUSSIAN ICONS.....1



▶ FIND US NEXT.....2

▶ HURONIA.....3

▶ MADE IN USA .....4



# Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 – SPRING 2009

*Museum of Russian Icons Expands Their Audio Reach*

## An Appreciation of Russian Icons



*Ancient icon of 18 century, the author is unknown.*

For Gordon Lankton an interest in Russian icons, turned into a collection; a collection that now has its own museum. Mr. Lankton, opened the Museum of Russian Icons on October 2006 in St. Clinton, MA to house his impressive collection of Russian Icon art.

The collection includes about 340 Russian icons, the largest collection of its kind in

North America. It is also one of the largest private icon collections outside of Russia. The collection spans six centuries and includes important historical icons dating from the earliest periods of icon painting up to the present.

Russian icons are a stylized form of religious art, brought to Russia by Christian Orthodoxy in 988 AD. The icons themselves are representations of Christian saints, often with depictions of Mary and the Baby Jesus. Unlike Western art, the artist does not usually sign the icon paintings. Painters follow a strict structure and format for layout and design. The artist is not given credit, as the paintings are believed to be “written” or inspired by the hand of God.

Interest in Russian icons has been growing steadily and the museum recently doubled the size of their audio tour system to keep up with visitor demand.

Audio tours are available in English and Russian.

The audio tour is provided free of charge. The English tour features founder Gordon Lankton talking about the icons in his collection.

To quote Mr. Lankton, "I like the art, and I like the people. I never found a culture I've liked as much."

**Link:**

- Museum of Russian Icons:  
[www.museumofrussianicons.org](http://www.museumofrussianicons.org)

## U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii

The US Army Museum of Hawaii provides an unusual glimpse into the past. Audio tours at the Museum feature Tour-Mate's SC550 Wands. Visitors to the Museum will hear stories of silenced tanks and vacant bunkers; stories that recount how the army protected Hawaii from invading forces. The audio tour creates a real "you were there" experience.

The U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii is open to the general public and is located at Hale Koa Hotel on the recently renovated Fort DeRussy Recreation Center in the heart of Waikiki.

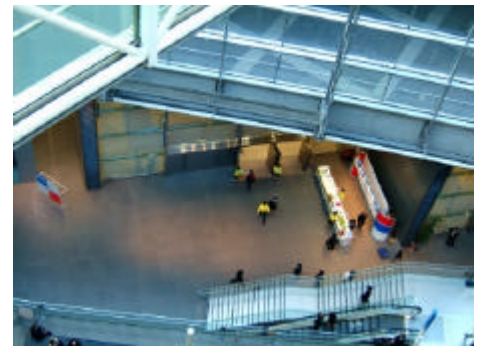
## SC550 EL Product Update



Our SC550 Wand has been upgraded. It now offers up to 99 language capability as well as a 'talking keypad'. The 'talking keypad' software assists with ADA compliance by providing audio description of both numbers and functions entered on the Wand keypad.

Talk to a Tour-Mate Project Director about implementing a SC550-EL system at your facility.

## FIND US NEXT AT:



### MUTUAL CONCERNS OF AIR AND SPACE MUSEUMS

OTTAWA, ON  
APRIL 18-21, 2009

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS (AAM)

PHILADELPHIA, PA  
APRIL 30 – MAY 4, 2009

PLEASE COME BY OUR BOOTH  
#1211

#### MEET OUR TEAM:

NEIL POCH, ATUL GARG, JAMES CUSACK, ROYA DOSTZADAH, VICTORIA FIRSTENHAUPT

### AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION (APGA)

ST. LOUIS, MO  
JUNE 23 – 27, 2009

# DISCOVERY OF HURONIA HISTORICAL PARKS

*Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons and Discovery Harbour  
Feature Tour-Mate Tours*



The Huronia Historical Parks system oversees the Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons Heritage Village and the Discovery Harbour site.

Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons is located in Penetanguishene, Ontario. It is a nationally significant historic site, as it was the 17th-century headquarters for the French Jesuit mission to the Huron people.

The historical village recently added an interpretative audio tour, featuring Tour-Mate's SC550-EL system. The site's audio tour is available in 12 languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Dutch, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese and Italian.



Neil Poch, President at Tour-Mate said: "Working with Huronia Historical Parks was a delight, it's exciting to see the addition of a multi-lingual language tour featuring the new EL version

SC550 Wands."

The tour takes visitors through the award-winning historical village of 25 reconstructed 17th-century buildings.

Discovery Harbour, in Midland, Ontario, has also introduced a Tour-Mate tour for its visitors.

Discovery Harbour takes the visitor back to the days of a 19th-century British Navy and military outpost. Discovery Harbour was founded to protect Upper Canada during the War of 1812.

Tours take visitors through the 15 reconstructed buildings, waterside boardwalks, as well as historic watercraft, such as the H.M.S. Bee and the Tecumseh.

The audio tour at Discovery Harbor also features Tour-Mate's SC550-EL. Tours are available in three languages: English, French, and German.

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## British Columbia Museum of Mining Features the EB100 Eco-Box

Featuring over seventy years of mining history, this museum also highlights the community of approximately 60,000 people that worked and made their homes in Britannia. The museum recently purchased a number of EB100 Eco-Boxes. The EB100 will provide visitors to this National Historical site with audio interpretation.

Diane Mitchell, Curator of Education and Collections said, "To have audio guides that are weather-proof and self-powered is ideal for our needs."

The EB100 Eco-Box is Tour-Mate's ecological power-smart, self-contained tour guide system.



# MADE IN USA



Tour-Mate is truly a North American company – with facilities in Victor, New York and Toronto, Canada. All of the products destined for our American clients are fabricated at our facility in Victor, New York.

In addition to design, manufacture, and assembly, the Victor, NY facility also functions as our primary service depot.

Our Victor NY facility also fabricates all Tour-Mate products destined for overseas markets. If “Made in USA” is a part of your organization’s mandate, Tour-Mate can help you fulfill it.



## About Tour-Mate

Headquartered in Toronto, Tour-Mate develops and markets self-guided *audio tour* systems for the interpretive market. We have installed systems in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Puerto Rico, Australia, *China and Macao*. Millions of visitors have experienced Tour-Mate *audio tours* in museums, art galleries, historic sites, zoos, aquariums, and botanical gardens. Our high quality, easy to use hardware and creative approach to content creation ensures that each *visitor* has a significantly enhanced visit experience. Tour-Mate has over 16 years of experience, including the provision of audio tours to museums such as *the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, the Vancouver Art Gallery, and the Corning Museum of Glass*. Our commitment to customer service is second to none. For more information please visit:

[www.tourmate.com](http://www.tourmate.com)

### Tour-Mate Systems Ltd.

137 St. Regis Crescent  
Toronto, ON M3J 1Y6

7676 Netlink Drive  
Victor, NY 14564

#### Phone:

800-216-0029  
416-636-5654

#### Fax:

416-636-9541

#### E-mail:

[info@tourmate.com](mailto:info@tourmate.com)