

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Winner of 20 Pulitzer Prizes

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NEWS AROUND THE CLOCK philly.com

STEPHAN SALISBURY

MUSEUMS

Frogs, detectives, American Revolution

Openings and reopenings at area museums.

Without doubt, the big news in the world of Philadelphia-area museums this spring is the grand opening of the Museum of the American Revolution. Decades in the dreaming and in the making, the \$120 million Robert A.M. Stern museum at Third and Chestnut Streets will be the only full-scale museum in the area — and possibly in the world — devoted to the American Revolution.

But the museum is not the only huge project slated for completion this spring. The \$90 million Longwood Gardens fountain and garden refurbishment is in the home stretch and will open to the public May 27.

Elsewhere, the region's nonart museums will offer an eclectic array of exhibitions, ranging from luxuriously colorful presentations of frogs to a close look at the impact of war in the Middle East and an examination of monstrous human abnormalities.

1917: How One Year Changed the World
(March 17-July 16, the National Museum of American Jewish History). This exhibition explores three key events of 1917: America's entry into World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the signing of the Balfour Declaration, which proclaimed British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. (215-923-3811, nmajh.org)