



## *The Milcom Memory Box* An ESTAR(SER) Travelling Deinstallation

3 August 2023 – 12 May 2024

*The American Academy of Arts and Letters*  
New York City

It has long been suspected that the noted American explorer-naturalist George “Bird” Grinnell interred a body of material related to the *Avis Tertia* on the Grinnell estate at some point before his death in 1938; the Grinnell property in question, of course, having once formed part of the Audubon farm in upper Manhattan.<sup>1</sup> A distinctive gable-topped steamer trunk, recently come to light in the basement of a building in the Audubon Terrace, was briefly believed to have been the Grinnell cache, though subsequent investigations proved otherwise. The trunk in question has recently been refitted as a repository of Birdish memorabilia, including some material related to the work of Learned “Hogfoot” Milcom (1928-1972). Details and viewings: [esthetical.society@gmail.com](mailto:esthetical.society@gmail.com)

About ESTAR(SER): The *Esthetical Society for Transcendental and Applied Realization* (now incorporating the *Society of Esthetic Realizers*) is an established body of private, independent scholars and amateurs who work collectively to recover, scrutinize, and (where relevant) draw attention to the historicity of the so-called *Avis Tertia*, or “Order of the Third Bird.” [www.estarser.net](http://www.estarser.net)

About “The Order of the Third Bird”: There remains some confusion about the history and practices of the body known as The Order of the Third Bird, but evidence points to its having been for some time a loose network of cell-like groups that engage in ritualized forms of sustained attention to works of art. The canons of secrecy around these activities — their structure and purposes — have traditionally been understood to be sufficiently restrictive as to leave some doubt whether any individual professing inwardness with the Order could in fact be genuinely associated therewith.

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<sup>1</sup> See Burnett, Hanson, and Smith, eds., *In Search of the Third Bird* (London: Strange Attractor, 2021), p. 638n. Special thanks to B.B. Chamberlin Fellow Federica Soletta, who chaired the Milcom Memory Box Working Group.