

WINTERTHUR WILL HOST GROUNDBREAKING FORUM ON BOSTON FURNITURE, MARCH 6–8, 2013

Sewell C. Biggs Winterthur Furniture Forum Serves as Inaugural Event of the Anticipated Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture Project

Winterthur, DE—Winterthur will host the first in-depth discussion in more than 40 years of early Boston furniture during the *Sewell C. Biggs Winterthur Furniture Forum: New Perspectives on Boston Furniture, 1630–1860*, March 6–8, 2013. The forum, which is sold out and open only to media at this time, will serve as the inaugural event of the anticipated venture *Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture*.

For three days, 30 leading experts on early Boston furniture from institutions such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Metropolitan Museum of Art; Plimoth Plantation; Yale University; Winterthur; and others will deliver groundbreaking lectures and host in-depth workshops and demonstrations. The program also will feature an exhibition of Winterthur's finest Boston furniture.

Long a favorite of collectors, early Boston furniture is among flagship collections in many museums, historic houses, and private collections across the country. Boston's craft history is a rich, colorful tale of immigrants and native-born sons, of European designs and regional innovation, of local customers and distant markets, and more, dating to the earliest days of the nation.

This year's *Sewell C. Biggs Winterthur Furniture Forum* also serves as the launch of *Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture*, a collaborative venture among the Colonial Society of Massachusetts; Concord Museum; Fuller Craft Museum; Historic Deerfield; Historic New England; Massachusetts Historical Society; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; North Bennet Street School; Old Sturbridge Village; Peabody Essex Museum; and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. The venture will feature exhibitions, lectures, programs, and other events over the next year.

Winterthur's forum will benefit from the generous assistance of two prominent auction houses. Scholarships for graduate students and young professionals to attend the forum were funded by Ronald Bourgeault and Northeast Auctions, Inc. of Portsmouth, N.H. Additional support was provided by Freeman's of Philadelphia.

Winterthur is especially pleased to partner with the Colonial Society of Massachusetts in the development of this forum and thanks the society for its commitment to publish selected papers in a volume devoted to Boston furniture.

All lectures will take place in Copeland Lecture Hall, located in Winterthur's Visitor Center. Optional workshops will be held in the museum and research buildings. For more detailed information on the forum, including session titles and speakers, please call 800.448.3883 or download the brochure at winterthur.org/furnitureforum.

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Photo credit: Courtesy of Winterthur, Tall Clock, Museum purchase 1955.96.3.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Liz Farrell
lfarrell@winterthur.org
Phone: 302.888.4803
Fax: 302.888.4950

Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic garden, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house, as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$18 adults; \$16 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

Museum hours

10 am–5 pm, Tuesday–Sunday

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.

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