

ANTIQUES

And The Arts Weekly

***** August 31, 2018

In This Issue - Special Section

Antiques Week In New Hampshire



Newsstand Rate \$2.00

Published by The Bee Publishing Company, Newtown, Connecticut

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Laurent Amiot

Canadian Master Silversmith

BY LAURA BEACH

OTTAWA — Americans tend to think of antiquarianism as something born in Boston and transplanted to New York in the first decades of the Twentieth Century. But as René Villeneuve, curator of early Canadian art at the National Gallery of Canada (NGC), relates in the splendid new volume *Laurent Amiot: Canadian Master Silversmith* and the accompanying exhibition of the same name, Canadians, prompted by some of the same influences, were on a parallel mission of their own.

Though not the first to admire the work of the Quebec master Amiot (1764–1839), the Welsh-born scholar E. Alfred Jones — who visited Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and New England in preparation for his 1913

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Basket with the monogram “JMA,” circa 1795. Silver. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; gift of Léon Simard, Westmount, Quebec, 2010, in memory of his wife Jacqueline Levasseur Simard (43065). Photo NGC.

Above: Tureen of the Hertel de Rouville family, 1793–94. Silver. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; purchased 2015 (46867). Inscriptions: HERSE HERSE (on a scroll); une herse / JR (on the belly); 9. MAR: 3 ONCES et MIE. (on the underside).

Coffee pot of the Le Moine family, circa 1796. Silver, brass and mahogany. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; gift of Suzy M. Simard, Westmount, Quebec, 1994, in memory of Dr and Mme Guy Hamel (37674). Photo NGC.

NEH Grant To Assist Winterthur With Accessibility & Storage Of Its Collections

WINTERTHUR, DEL. — Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library has received a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) to create a long-term plan that will make its collection more accessible to the public while improving the quality of its care.

The grant, from the NEH's Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) program, helps cultural institutions by supporting measures that prevent deterioration of objects in their collections.

At Winterthur, SCHC grant monies will give staff members two years to determine storage locations and sustainable procedures that increase accessibility to its collections of American decorative arts and fine arts objects, library materials, garden objects and estate artifacts. The project will also allow Winterthur to produce research and implement workshops on storage solutions that will be useful for a wide variety of institutions, especially small to mid-size institutions with less accessibility to people and

funds to carry out research on their own.

"Thanks to Henry Francis du Pont and collectors who have followed him, Winterthur holds preeminent collections of fine and decorative arts as well as library materials," said Carol B. Cadou, Charles F. Montgomery director and CEO of Winterthur. "We have been challenged with proper storage for these vast collections since the museum opened in 1951. I'm delighted that, thanks to the NEH, we will arrive at a solution for these truly national collections."

Since it opened, Winterthur has continued to acquire objects that tell the story of our country's preindustrial past. As the collection has grown, Winterthur has converted offices, barns and living quarters to storage spaces. Objects are currently stored in 107 different locations, making it a challenge for staff, researchers, educators and the public to access them. Winterthur wants to address the issue with a solution that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

Intense study of Winterthur's

collections over decades has resulted in a robust field of material culture and art conservation professionals who care for cultural heritage collections around the world. Many of Winterthur's resources cannot be found elsewhere, which makes their long-term storage and

access a paramount concern.

At the conclusion of the grant period in September 2020, Winterthur will have a comprehensive solution for storage challenges that builds upon already strong practices that prolong the useful life of Winterthur's stored collection and that prior-

itizes increased access for programming, education, and research.

Winterthur is on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, and five miles south of US Route 1. For more information, 800-448-3883, 302-888-4600 or www.winterthur.org.

Rochester Antiquarian Book Fair Returns For 46th Year Sept. 8

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The 46th Annual Rochester Antiquarian Book Fair, the oldest continually running regional antiquarian book fair in the United States, will take place on September 8 from 10 am to 5 pm, at the Main Street Armory, 900 East Main Street.

Presented by the Rochester Area Booksellers Association (RABA), the event features dealers from across the nation. Beyond the rare and antiquarian books, collectors can expect to find good secondhand titles of wide breadth and interest, including scholarly texts; as well as prints; maps; photographica; and collectible ephemera embracing an equally broad range of subject

categories.

The fair represents a unique opportunity for book and print enthusiasts to converse with numerous professionals in the field all in one place, some of whom do not maintain brick and mortar shops. The diversity of vendors ensures that there is something for everyone, from affordable curiosities to valuable treasures.

Admission to the book fair is \$5, or free to students who present a current student ID. Advance admission tickets are available through RABA's website, www.rochesterbooksellers.com, where there is more information, or call Jonathan Smalter (Yesterday's Muse Books) at 585-265-9295.

Torrington's Historic & Contemporary House Tour September 21 & 22

TORRINGTON, CONN. — The Torrington Historical Society and the Northwest CT Chamber Education Foundation are teaming up once again to showcase six Torrington homes and to raise funds for educational programs.

The Torrington House Tour includes two separate events: a preview party on Friday September 21 and the house tour on Saturday September 22. This year's house tour includes five historic homes and one from the Twenty-First Century.

The homes selected for the tour range in age from 1780 to 2010. Together, they comprise more than 200 years of Torrington's history and include a home that was built by Torrington abolitionist Uriel Tuttle, whose house was used as a station on the underground railroad. The tour also includes a colonial-era home built by an early settler named Samuel Ferguson, a 1932 Tudor Revival house set on beautiful grounds, a Prospect Street Victorian house that was the first building in Torrington to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a mid-Twentieth Century home made of cut granite, and a contemporary home on Timber Lake. Several of the homes have grounds and gardens that can be explored.

The House Tour Preview Party

on Friday, September 21, will feature a bus tour of the homes followed by a reception with music and refreshments. The preview party will be at the Torrington Library, 12 Daycoeton Place; the tour is from 5 to 7 pm followed by the party to 9 pm. Tickets for the preview tour and party are \$75.

On Saturday the tour will begin at 10 am and end at 3 pm. Participants will start at the Chamber of Commerce, 333 Kennedy Drive, where they will receive a program guide and map. Shuttle buses will circulate between the chamber and the featured homes. Participants may also drive their own cars and park near each home. Tickets for the house tour are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the tour.

For additional information, www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org, 860-482-8260 or visit www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org, 860-482-6586.

NEW YORK CITY — An exhibition of contemporary photography are at China Institute Gallery until December 2. "Art of the Mountain: Through the Chinese Photographer's Lens" comprises more than 60 photographs at 100 Washington Street. For more information, www.chinainstitute.org or 212-744-8181.

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