

# Winterthur Library

## *An Introduction to Resources*



## Curators' Papers

Winterthur Library's papers of museum curators specializing in the decorative arts offer scholars a rich array of documentary material for the study of seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century furniture, silver, textiles, pottery, and glassware.

### Joseph Downs Papers

Joseph Downs (1895–1954) was instrumental in developing the study of American decorative arts into a serious discipline. Downs was assistant curator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1932 until 1949. In 1949 he came to Winterthur as curator of the museum and began a three-volume history of American furniture. The first volume of *American Furniture in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum*, covering the Queen Anne and Chippendale periods, was published in 1952, but Downs died before the later volumes were complete. The Downs Papers consist of notes and photographs for his unfinished volumes on American furniture as well as research material for other publications and lectures worked on throughout his career. Several boxes of materials refer to work he did on Chinese export porcelain.

### Charles F. Montgomery Papers

Charles F. Montgomery (1910–78) was a collector, pewter dealer, and consultant before coming to Winterthur in 1949. He was appointed associate curator and executive secretary of the Winterthur Corporation in charge of the operation of the museum. In 1954 Montgomery was appointed director of the museum. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. The papers include materials on objects and room installations at Winterthur as well as research notes for lectures and publications. The papers are especially rich in information about pewter and furniture.

### Florence M. Montgomery Papers

Florence M. Montgomery (1914–98), wife of Charles F. Montgomery, was assistant curator of textiles at Winterthur and textile consultant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was the author of *Printed Textiles: English and American Cottons and Linens, 1700–1850*. The collection contains photographs and slides of textile sample books, articles about the textile industry, research notes, and correspondence from institutions and individuals regarding the identification and use of textiles.

### Benno M. Forman Papers

Benno M. Forman (1930–82), an authority on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century furniture, taught in the Art History Department at the University of Delaware and in the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. Forman edited a reprint of Joseph Moxon's *Mechanick Exercises* (1703) and co-edited a reprint of George Smith's *Collection of Designs for Household Furniture* (1808). He published articles in *The Magazine Antiques* as well as many scholarly periodicals. His *American Seating Furniture, 1630–1730: An Interpretive Catalogue* (1988) was published posthumously.

The Forman Papers consist of records and correspondence relating to his work at Winterthur and his personal research. Most significant is the material on American furniture of the seventeenth century and William and Mary period. Much of this work was research for a catalogue Forman was writing at the time of his death.

### Gregor Norman-Wilcox Papers

Gregor Norman-Wilcox (1905–69) was curator of decorative arts at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from 1933 until his death. Norman-Wilcox wrote extensively on the decorative arts for both scholarly and popular audiences. He contributed many articles to *The Magazine Antiques* and for more than twenty years wrote a syndicated newspaper column on antiques.

The collection includes research material, correspondence, and photographs on a variety of decorative arts topics. A copy of each of his newspaper columns is included. Also in the collection are 145 keepsake books that Norman-Wilcox created for his wife.



*Winterthur Library is located in the  
Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from  
the main entrance to Winterthur Museum &  
Country Estate.*

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

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