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Long Island Museum —

# Elias Pelletreau

## LONG ISLAND SILVERSMITH AND ENTREPRENEUR

By Laura Beach

STONY BROOK, N.Y. — Dean F. Failey, the American decorative arts authority who died in 2015 after a long affiliation with Christie's, spent much of his life on the road securing the next great treasure for auction. But like Elias Pelletreau (1726–1810), the New York silversmith who apprenticed in Manhattan with the French Huguenot master Simeon Soumaine (baptized 1685–circa 1750) before returning to Southampton, N.Y., Failey never really left his native Long Island. From the beginning of his career to its end, Failey took a scholarly interest in the area's craftsmen.

In a gesture of affection and esteem, Failey's colleagues have picked up where he left off with his study of Pelletreau, guiding his research to fruition in the exhibition "Elias Pelletreau: Long Island Silversmith and Entrepreneur," on view at Long Island Museum through December 30. Deborah Dendahl Waters, a former Museum of the City of New York curator and Failey's Winterthur classmate, served as the show's guest curator and a contributor to its accompanying publication, *Elias Pelletreau: Long Island Silversmith and Entrepreneur, 1726–1810*. The volume published by Preservation Long Island (PLI) builds on Failey's work with additional material supplied by Jennifer L. Anderson, who served as editor; David L. Barquist; Robert B. MacKay and Charles F. Hummel. Championed by Failey's wife, Marie, the two-pronged project was in part underwritten by the Decorative Arts Trust, on whose board Failey served and for whom its Failey Fund, supporting noteworthy research, exhibition and publication projects, is named; the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, named for the heir to Gardiner's Island, Robert D.L. Gardiner (1911–2004), a longtime Failey acquaintance; and Paul Guarner, a collector of New York silver with a focused interest in Pelletreau.

"Many people loved Dean and knew of his contributions. He was just a thoroughly decent and excellent scholar and so helpful to people in the field. The exhibition made perfect sense for us given the kinds of topics we cover and our focus on this region. It's exciting to see it come to fruition," says Joshua Ruff, Long Island Museum's director of collections and interpretation.

Like so many chapters in the study of American decorative arts, this one bears the imprint of collector Henry Francis du Pont (1880–1969), whose onetime summer residence, Chestertown House, is a Southampton landmark. Thanks to funding from du Pont, the Pelletreau Silver Shop, restored between 1960 and 1966 by architect Robert L. Raley for the Southampton Colonial Society, still stands on Main Street. Du Pont acquired several pieces of Pelletreau silver for seasonal display at the shop, whose perpetuity he ensured through endowment.

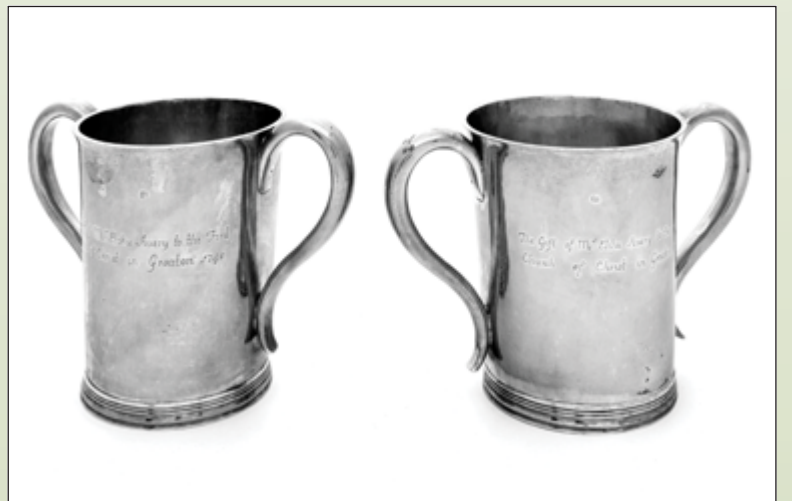
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"Soop Spoon" (ladle) marked by shop of Elias Pelletreau, 1792. Engraved with script initials "JLG" for John Lyon Gardiner (1770–1816). Silver; length 14-1/8 inches. Collection of Paul Guarner. Photo Glenn Castellano.

Two tablespoons marked by Elias Pelletreau, 1762. Each engraved on handle obverse "RW"; engraved on bowl reverse at later date: "One of a set of twelve Spoons Given to Ruth Floyd Daughter of Nicoll Floyd upon her marriage in 1761 To Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull." Silver; length of each, 8-3/8 inches. Preservation Long Island, gift of Larry Bell.



Porringer with keyhole handle, marked by shop of Elias Pelletreau with stamp Mark 4; made by John Pelletreau (1755–1822), 1802. Engraved on handle obverse in block letters "JLG/1802" for John Lyon Gardiner (1770–1816). Silver; height 2 inches, length 7½ inches. Courtesy of Suffolk County Parks, Division of Historic Services. Photo Glenn Castellano.



Church beakers with later handles (two of three), marked with stamps attributed to Elias Pelletreau, circa 1748. Engraved "The Gift of Mr. Elihu Avery to the First/Church of Christ in Grouton [sic] 1748." Silver; height of each 6-7/8 inches. Collection of Paul Guarner. Photo Glen Castellano.





# Giovanni Boccaccio Leads Early Printed Books At Swann On October 16

NEW YORK CITY — Swann Galleries will offer an auction of early printed, medical, scientific and travel books on Tuesday, October 16, featuring notable works by and about women; a surprisingly deep number of Philippine imprints; and a collection of works on science.

Throughout the sale are a number of lots

centered on women. Highlights include Giovanni Boccaccio's *De Claris Mulieribus*, Louvain, 1487, the third edition of the first published work of female biography, containing lives of more than 100 famous women, from the biblical Eve to the Fourteenth Century Queen Giovanna of Naples, and its first edition in Spanish, *De las mujeres ilustres en romance*, Zaragoza, 1494, \$15/25,000 and \$20/30,000, respectively. *L'Innocence de la tresillustre treschaste, et debonnaire Princesse, Madame Marie Royne d'Escoce*, Reims, 1572, on Mary, Queen of Scots, was the Catholic response to the deposition and imprisonment of the Queen, establishing her as a loyal Catholic ruler brought down by the plots and schemes of Protestant rebels (\$800-\$1,200). Also available are *The Female Spectator*, 1775, by Eliza Haywood, which is considered the first periodical written for women by a woman, and a first edition of *Constance: A Novel*, 1785, by Laetitia-Matilda Hawkins, her first novel (\$300/500 and \$500/750, respectively).

Possibly the most unusual offerings in the sale are more than 30 Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century books printed in the Philippines and focusing on religion, history, current affairs and other subjects. The featured lot is José González Cabrera Bueno's *Navegación Especulativa, y Práctica*, Manila, 1734, (\$8/12,000). The book is

José González Cabrera Bueno, *Navegación Especulativa, y Práctica*, Manila, 1734 (\$8/12,000).

the first navigation manual printed in the Philippines and one of the earliest significant scientific works to survive from the colonial period, when few technical works were published.

A Fifteenth Century edition of *Reysen und Wanderschaften durch das Gelobte Land*, Strassburg, 1488, by Jean de Mandeville is being offered. The work is an account of the known world mentioning the Holy Land, routes there from Europe, Asia and Africa (\$15/25,000).

Among illustrated works is Jean La Fontaine's *Fables Choies, mises en Vers*, a first edition of books one through six, with 124 fables. It was published in Paris in 1668 and dedicated to the seven-year-old dauphin of France (\$10/15,000).

Scientific material includes a first edition in English of Sir Isaac Newton's *Two Treatises of the Quadrature of Curves*, London, 1745, limited to 350 copies; and *A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism*, Oxford, 1873, a first edition work on electromagnetic theory of light by James Clerk Maxwell (\$4/6,000 and \$3/5,000, respectively).

Exhibition dates are October 12, 10 am to 6 pm; October 13, noon to 5 pm; October 15, 10 am to 6 pm; October 16,



10 am to noon.

Swann Auction Galleries is at 104 East 25th Street. For information, 212-254-4710 or [www.swanngalleries.com](http://www.swanngalleries.com).



Giovanni Boccaccio, *De Claris Mulieribus*, Louvain, 1487 (\$15/25,000).

## 60 Exceptional Dealers Join Honorary Chair Charlotte Moss— Winterthur's 55th Annual Delaware Antiques Show, Nov. 9–11

WINTERTHUR, DEL. — Celebrate inspiration and elegance at Winterthur's 55th Annual Delaware Antiques Show, a spectacular showcase of art, antiques and design, featuring 60 exceptional dealers, November 9–11, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Del. Charlotte Moss, one of the country's leading interior designers, serves as honorary chair and keynote lecturer.

The Delaware Antiques Show — one of the nation's most acclaimed shows — features the best of American antiques and decorative arts, including furniture, paintings, rugs, ceramics, silver and jewelry.

"I like to think that Winterthur founder Henry Francis du Pont would have a wonderful time if he returned to the Delaware Antiques Show," said Tom Savage, director of museum affairs and coordinator of the show. "This show is the place to find the best in American antiques, as well as wonderful ceramics, metalworks, paintings and textiles."

Keynote speaker Charlotte Moss has accomplished a great deal during her 33 years of work in the interior design industry. In addition to receiving the New

York School of Interior Design's Centennial Medal, she was recently named to Elle Décor Grand Masters list of top designers. A prolific author, she has published ten books. Her most recent book, *Charlotte Moss Entertains: Celebrations and Everyday Occasions* (Rizzoli, 2018), will be a feature of her presentation at the Delaware Antiques Show.

"Charlotte has beautiful taste," said Savage. "She is a seasoned traveler and dedicated student of the fine and decorative arts who brings a deep understanding to her design work that is informed by her study of American, British and Continental design. She is also a great preservationist, serving currently on the board of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Monticello. She serves on the Advisory Board of the New York School of Interior Design, where she received an Honorary Doctorate Degree. And she is a noted philanthropist who supports many causes."

Charlotte's lecture, "The Pursuit of Beauty: Thirty Years in Design," on Friday, November 9, at 10 am, is included with admission. A book signing will follow.

This year's loan exhibit is, "In Fine Form: The Striking Silhouette." The exhibition reveals the many ways in which the silhouette has been used in graphic design, the fine and decorative arts, fashion, theater and the built environment by placing objects "in conversation" with one another on a journey to uncover the history of the enduring silhouette. The exhibition features rare objects from the museum and library collections, including illustrations from the Eighteenth Century's most lavish publication, *Collection of Etruscan, Greek and Roman Antiquities* from the Cabinet of the Honorable William Hamilton, as well as rare silhouette albums, schenschnitte (cut paper designs), wallpaper, Japanese stencils and book covers.

Celebrate the opening of the show with friends, cocktails and exclusive early shopping at the Opening Night Party, Thursday, November 8, 5–9 pm.

The Chase Center on the Riverfront is at 815 Justison Street. For information or to purchase tickets, [das@winterthur.org](mailto:das@winterthur.org), [www.winterthur.org/das](http://www.winterthur.org/das) or 800-448-3883.



Charlotte Moss —Francesco Lagnese photo



Courtesy, Winterthur.

### MECHANICAL MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, October 14, 2018 - 9:30 to 3:30 (early buyer 8am)

Wayne Police Athletic League Building  
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Admission: general \$6.00, early buyer \$15.00

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Show Managers See Page 39

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