

WINTERTHUR



Winterthur Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Nardone
Mnardone@winterthur.org
302.888.4803

Hamilton Comes to Winterthur

Hamilton and Burr: Who Wrote Their Stories? uses objects from the museum's collection to explain how the legacies of the opponents in the most infamous duel in American history came to be.

Winterthur, DE, May 30, 2019—The hit Broadway smash *Hamilton* sparked new interest in the founding father and his relationship with Aaron Burr, whom he infamously duelled. *Hamilton and Burr: Who Wrote Their Stories?* opens on the 215th anniversary of the duel, July 11, 2019, and runs through January 5, 2020, at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. The exhibit examines how Alexander Hamilton's and Burr's legacies were shaped by other founding fathers, a devoted wife, a dedicated daughter, historical documents, and yes, even an enormously successful modern-day musical.

Early on the morning of July 11, 1804, in Weehawken, New Jersey, Vice President Aaron Burr stood ten paces from former Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, each of the men grasping a long-barreled dueling pistol. In a matter of minutes, those pistols changed everything we remember about the men. They may have even changed the course of history. At the very least, the shots they fired solidified two legacies: Hamilton's as that of a founding father and Burr's as the man who killed him.

But how did these two men, once friends, find themselves settling their differences in a duel? The exhibit picks up where Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical left off. Winterthur tells the story through objects in their collection such as clothing and furniture of the kind that informed set

design for *Hamilton*, bank notes, commemorative items such as Staffordshire child's mugs and printed handkerchiefs, and even the Mary Way miniature portrait of Burr's daughter. Visitors can see Burr's letter to Doctor David Hosack asking about Hamilton's condition after the duel. The exhibit includes pieces from Washington's personal tableware—the 302-piece the Society of Cincinnati dinner and tea service created to honor Revolutionary War heroes such as Hamilton and Burr and considered by many to be the most significant group of ceramics in the United States. Finally, a letter from Hamilton, an immigrant from Saint Kitts, to French immigrant Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours, great-great-grandfather of Winterthur founder Henry Francis du Pont, reminds us of the historical precedents behind issues the nation continues to grapple with to this day.

ABOUT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY

Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, 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 Henry Francis du Pont's former home 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.

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Museum hours are 10:00 am–5:00 pm, Tuesday–Sunday. \$20 for adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$6 for ages 2–11. 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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