Printed Textiles: British and American Cottons and Linens, 1700–1850 has been comprehensively updated by Winterthur’s Linda Eaton, the John L. & Marjorie P. McGraw Director of Collections and Senior Curator of Textiles.

The author, Linda Eaton, has produced a worthy sequel to Florence Montgomery’s original 1970 publication, Printed Textiles: English and American Cottons and Linens, 1700–1850, offering a fresh and thoroughly documented look at not only fabrics and techniques but also the broader worlds of commerce and material culture.

Printed Textiles is based on the collection of historic furnishing textiles in Winterthur Museum, collected for more than 25 years by Winterthur founder Henry Francis du Pont and added to since his death through purchases and the generosity of many donors. Taking the form of quilts, curtains, slipcovers, or design repeats, the Winterthur Museum collection includes some of the finest cotton and linen textiles made or used in America and Britain between 1700 and 1850.

The textiles collected by Henry Francis du Pont document the fashions of the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s as much as the tastes of the 18th and 19th centuries. Printed Textiles offers rare insights into the fascinating—and sometimes surprising—origins of designs, textures, patterns, and colors today inextricably woven into modern culture.

The new volume not only highlights Montgomery’s important scholarship but incorporates the work of numerous scholars over the past 45 years. Notably, the title now properly acknowledges the textiles printed in Scotland and Ireland by changing the word English to British.

In Eaton’s update, textiles from the original book have been re-photographed in color and pieces acquired by Winterthur Museum since 1970 have been added. In all, over 600 glorious color photographs are included in the new edition.

Eaton’s book offers not only information for academics and collectors but also inspiration for artists and designers as well as an introduction to the important Winterthur collection of British and American printed textiles.

Winterthur’s rich collection of printed cottons and linens provides a unique position from which to document and discuss the industry. With the first publication of Printed Textiles, Winterthur curator Montgomery outlined for the first time all aspects of these fabrics. The book quickly became a classic, serving as a comprehensive guide on creative and technical issues through detailed research, expert insight, and dramatic illustrations.

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Background:

One of the fastest growing and potentially lucrative trades in the 18th and early 19th centuries, on the forefront of developments in science and engineering, chemistry and technology, the textile industry is a fascinating lens into international trade relations and cultural exchange over two centuries. With hundreds of beautifully photographed samples, this significant addition to textile scholarship allows for a full appreciation of these fascinating fabrics.

For more information, visit winterthur.org.