

WORKING WOOD

IN THE 18TH CENTURY

CABINETMAKERS LOOK TO THE EAST:
Asian Influences on 18th-century English and American Furniture

JANUARY 12–15
AND
JANUARY 16–19, 2011

Colonial Williamsburg
Be part of the story.

Cosponsored by

Fine
WoodWorking

The topic of the 2011 Working Wood in the 18th Century conference is the influence of Asian design and products on 18th-century English and American furniture. We tend to think of these “chinoiserie” pieces as having a very Oriental, often elaborate look, and no doubt, black japanned chests and chairs come to mind. In reality, the influence of the exotic wares and art pouring into the western world through the China trade had a much larger and broader impact on the decorative arts. Today, we take many of these influences for granted, and we may even think of them as having originated in England, America, or Western Europe. But, we owe much—high-style “Queen Anne” chairs with curved crest rails and cabriole legs, ball-and-claw feet, “Marlborough” legs, many forms of fretwork, clean and elegant tea tables and chests, ornaments freely inspired from nature, and even joinery techniques themselves—to the growing knowledge (some accurate, some not) of the East and its material culture.

This year’s program is jam-packed. Guest cabinetmakers **Phil Lowe** and **Andrew Hunter** will join us. Andrew will explore traditional Chinese furniture making itself—the intricate and graceful inspiration for Western adaptations. Phil will present the construction of a high-style, New England “Queen Anne” chair. **Mack Headley**, **Kaare Loftheim**, and **Brian Weldy** of the Hay Cabinetmaking Shop will build a tea table made by the Scott shop here in Williamsburg and an elaborate “Chippendale” armchair with a history of ownership by Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire. Conservator and paint analyst **Christine Thomson** will delve into period lacquering and japanning, and **Christopher Swan** will introduce us to caning. **Ted Boscana** of our Historic Trades joinery shop will construct a fretwork garden bench. And, **Bill Sargent**, former curator of Asian export art at the Peabody Essex Museum, will set the stage for it all.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Ted Boscana, journeyman joiner, Colonial Williamsburg

Mack Headley, master cabinetmaker, Colonial Williamsburg

Andrew Hunter, cabinetmaker and sculptor, Accord, New York

Kaare Loftheim, journeyman cabinetmaker, Colonial Williamsburg

Philip C. Lowe, cabinetmaker, teacher, and author, Beverly, Massachusetts

William R. Sargent, consultant and former curator of Asian export art, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

Christopher Swan, furniture conservator, Colonial Williamsburg

Christine Thomson, furniture conservator and architectural paint analyst, Salem, Massachusetts

Brian Weldy, apprentice cabinetmaker, Colonial Williamsburg

Garland Wood, master carpenter, Colonial Williamsburg

The conference is informal. Participants' comments and questions are welcomed. During morning and afternoon breaks, speakers display their work, tools, and materials; demonstrate techniques; and chat with participants. To include more participants while keeping the conferences small enough for everyone to be involved, two identical programs are offered.

The Program

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

- 2–7:30 p.m. Program registration. Introductory Gallery at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, 326 West Francis Street, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- 5 p.m. Program introduction. Jay Gaynor, director, Historic Trades, Colonial Williamsburg. Hennage Auditorium, DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.
- “All things necessary to furnish a Princely house”: Chinese Export Art and Its Influence in the West. **William R. Sargent**, consultant, former curator of Asian export art, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.
- Traditional Chinese Furniture Making. **Andrew Hunter**, cabinetmaker and sculptor, Accord, New York.
- 6:45 p.m. Opening Reception. Central Court, DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, AND MONDAY, JANUARY 17

- 8:30 a.m. DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum opens for conference registrants.
- 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast. Central Court, DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.
- 9 a.m. *Traditional Chinese Furniture Making* continues.
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee break. Central Court. Museum Shop is open.
- 11 a.m. *Traditional Chinese Furniture Making* continues.
- Oriental Lacquer and Western Japanning*. **Christine Thomson**, furniture conservator and architectural paint analyst, Salem, Massachusetts.

- 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.
- 2 p.m. *The Peter Scott Williamsburg Tea Table*. **Brian Weldy**, apprentice cabinetmaker, Colonial Williamsburg.
- The Governor Wentworth Armchair*. **Kaare Loftheim**, journeyman cabinetmaker, and **Mack Headley**, master cabinetmaker, Colonial Williamsburg.
- 4:45 p.m. Afternoon refreshments. Central Court.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 8:30 a.m. DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum opens for conference registrants.
- 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast. Central Court, DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.
- 9 a.m. *Scott Tea Table* and *Wentworth Armchair* program continues.
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee break. Central Court. Museum Shop is open.
- 11 a.m. *Scott Tea Table and Wentworth Armchair* program continues.
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.
- 2 p.m. *American Queen Anne Chair*. **Philip C. Lowe**, director and master craftsman, The Furniture Institute of Massachusetts, Beverly, Massachusetts.
- Oriental Lacquer* and *Western Japanning* continues.
- 4:45 p.m. Afternoon refreshments. Central Court.
- 6:30 p.m. Reception.
- 7 p.m. Group banquet. After-dinner comments
 Session One: **Asa Christiana**, editor,
 Session Two: **Matt Kenney**, associate editor,
Fine Woodworking, Newtown, Connecticut.
 Williamsburg Lodge Conference Center.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, AND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

- 8:30 a.m. DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum opens for conference registrants.
- 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast. Central Court, DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.
- 9 a.m. *A Chinoiserie Garden Bench*. **Ted Boscana**, journeyman carpenter and joiner, and **Garland Wood**, master carpenter, Colonial Williamsburg.
- Caning*. **Christopher Swan**, conservator, furniture, Colonial Williamsburg.
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee break. Central Court. Museum Shop is open.
- 11 a.m. *Queen Anne Chair* program continues.
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.
- 2 p.m. *Chinoiserie Hanging Shelves* and *Folding Screens*. **Mack Headley**.
- Queen Anne Chair* program concludes.
- 3:30 p.m. Conference wrap-up.

COMPANION PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION

Space limitations at the Museum Café do not permit us to offer companion tickets for continental breakfast. Companion program tickets and guest tickets for the opening reception and group banquet *must be purchased in advance* using the conference registration form. Companion program locations will vary. Please refer to the personal agenda you will receive at registration. Transportation is not provided.

The Art of Theorem Painting. This workshop on the early American technique teaches participants the basic skills for designing, stenciling, and painting their own theorem painting on a linen background. A tour of Bassett Hall is included in the workshop. Mrs. Rockefeller included theorems in her folk art collection. Bassett Hall, which is furnished with the Rockefellers' collection, includes many examples of theorem work. Instructors: **Mary Dickens** and **Cathy Edmonds**, museum historic sites coordinators, Colonial Williamsburg.

Bassett Hall Cottage: 2–4 p.m., January 12; 10 a.m.–noon, January 19

Beginner Knitting teaches participants the basic stitches required to start a knitting project for a scarf or fingerless gloves. **Ann Merkley**, museum monitor, Colonial Williamsburg, is also a local artist, and has been teaching knitting at Bassett Hall for several years. Mrs. Rockefeller enjoyed knitting and making socks and scarves for servicemen during the war. A tour of Bassett Hall is included in the workshop.

Bassett Hall Cottage: 10 a.m.–noon, January 13 and 17

Williamsburg Inn Style. Back by popular demand! The Williamsburg Inn concierge staff will present a brief history of “America’s Guest House.” Learn firsthand how a renowned museum, interior designers, and architects collaborated to create a grand Virginia country estate. You will also be entertained with amusing facts and anecdotes about the famous guests who have called the Inn their “home away from home.” The tour will include visits to the Inn design and floral studios. **Clark Taggart**, floral design manager, **Cheryl Griggs**, design studio manager, and the Williamsburg Inn concierge staff.

Williamsburg Inn Lobby: 2–3:30 p.m., January 13, 14, 17, and 18;
9–10:30 a.m., January 15 and 19

Gowns, Fripperies, and Gewgaws. This informal presentation will explore the variety of fashions available during the period 1770–1790. The arts of the mantua-maker will be revealed in a gown cutting (questions are invited during the process). Once the mantua-maker is done, the milliner steps in to complete the fashionable appearance through accessories. The audience is invited to take the role of the customer in both of these endeavors. Colonial Williamsburg Historic Trades milliners and mantua-makers.

Lane Auditorium, Bruton Heights: 9–10:30 a.m., January 14 and 18

“Of Behaviour at Meals”: Dining Etiquette, 1750–1800. **Cathy Hellier**, historian, Colonial Williamsburg. The second half of the 18th century saw a proliferation of self-help books, among them books of etiquette. In them, we have found a rich (and often amusing) source of information on proper dining and serving behavior. This illustrated lecture will combine advice from the etiquette books with the satirical print *The Dinner* and other illustrations from Colonial Williamsburg’s collections to show us the ideal and the real of genteel dining.

Lane Auditorium, Bruton Heights: 11 a.m.–noon, January 14 and 18

Lodging, Dining, and Spa

The following special rates are available at the Colonial Williamsburg Hotels for conference registrants. (*Hotel rates are for single or double occupancy, per night. Rates do not include applicable taxes.*)

LODGING OPPORTUNITIES

Williamsburg Inn®

Regarded among the world's great hotels, the Williamsburg Inn is the crown jewel of the Colonial Williamsburg Hotels.

≈ Main building guest rooms \$189

Colonial Houses—Historic Lodging

This unique lodging experience allows guests to enjoy accommodations in the Historic Area within one of 27 restored or reconstructed 18th-century buildings, complete with today's modern conveniences.

≈ Superior \$159

Williamsburg Lodge

Colonial Williamsburg's most recently restored and expanded hotel is known for its southern charm and hospitality.

≈ Superior \$98

≈ Deluxe \$135

DINING

Distinctive dining options are offered throughout Colonial Williamsburg's restaurants and historic dining taverns. Dining reservations can be made by calling 1-800-261-9530, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. (ET).

SPA SERVICES

The Spa of Colonial Williamsburg provides a full menu of services. A team of experts has collaborated to create a spa that exudes southern charm, harmonizes with its historical surroundings, reflects its colonial heritage, and honors traditions of wellness and relaxation throughout American culture. Experience the wonders of our spa for yourself by calling 1-800-688-6479.

Registration Information

FOUR EASY WAYS TO REGISTER AND MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS

ONLINE history.org/conted **PHONE** 1-800-603-0948 **FAX** (757) 565-8921
MAIL Office of Conferences, Forums, and Workshops
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Post Office Box 1776, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-1776

PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

No tripods/camera mounts, long-term video photography, or flash photography permitted. All photography, still or video, is permitted only for private use.

REGISTRATION

Preregistration and payment in full are required. Payment can be made by check or charged to American Express, Discover, Visa, or MasterCard. Registration includes the opening reception, three continental breakfasts, five breaks, group reception and banquet, presentations proposed in this program, and a Colonial Williamsburg admission pass valid for the duration of the conference.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If notice of cancellation is received in writing before January 3, 2011, Colonial Williamsburg will refund your registration fees, less a \$50.00 administrative fee. Refunds will not be made after January 3. Travel and/or trip interruption insurance is recommended. Check with your travel agent for details.

HOW TO REACH WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg is easily accessible by plane, train, and car. Located in eastern Virginia, Williamsburg is about 150 miles south of Washington, D.C., and midway between Richmond and Norfolk. The Williamsburg area can be reached via many major airlines, with more than 200 flights arriving daily, to three airports just 25 to 45 minutes away: Newport News—Williamsburg (PHF), Richmond (RIC), and Norfolk (ORF). Each airport has rental car and limousine services. Amtrak also serves Williamsburg with trains daily to and from the northeast corridor.

Registration Form - 2011 WORKING WOOD

One person per form; duplicate as necessary

Mr./Dr./Mrs./Ms./Miss (Print full name) _____

Address _____

City, state, zip/postal code _____

Daytime phone _____

Email address _____

I would like my name badge to read: Name _____

City, state _____

Companion badge name _____

Companion city, state _____

Please indicate session January 12-15 January 16-19

COMPANION OPTIONS

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companion banquet ticket | \$70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companion opening reception AND lecture ticket (quantity limited) | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theorem Painting, January 12 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theorem Painting, January 19 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knitting, January 13 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knitting, January 17 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg Inn Style, January 13 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg Inn Style, January 14 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg Inn Style, January 15 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg Inn Style, January 17 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg Inn Style, January 18 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg Inn Style, January 19 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Costume Accessories, January 14 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Costume Accessories, January 18 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Etiquette Lecture, January 14 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Etiquette Lecture, January 18 | \$20 |

REGISTRATION FEE AND PAYMENT

Registration fee (\$325) _____

Optional Program fee(s) _____

Total of enclosed check (Payable to "The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation") _____

Total credit card charge _____

Circle one: Discover Master Card Visa American Express

Credit card number _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder name (please print) _____

Cardholder signature _____