

THE PHILADELPHIA ANTIQUES SHOW



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NEW LOCATION FOR THE PHILADELPHIA ANTIQUES SHOW HIGHLIGHTED IN SPECIAL MARITIME LOAN EXHIBIT

Loan Exhibit Pays Tribute to Philadelphia's Maritime History

PHILADELPHIA (January 2008) – In commemoration of The 2008 Philadelphia Antiques Show's move to The Navy Yard and the City of Philadelphia's storied maritime history, the Show's Loan Exhibit, *Fore & Aft – Philadelphia Collects Maritime*, curated by Independence Seaport Museum, showcases maritime art and antiques from collections across the region.

The Philadelphia Antiques Show, the country's premier American antiques and decorative arts show, along with its unique maritime Loan Exhibit, will attract thousands of visitors from across the globe to the Philadelphia Cruise Terminal at Pier One in The Navy Yard Saturday, April 12-Tuesday, April 15, 2008. A gala preview reception on Friday, April 11, will inaugurate the four-day show and sale. The Haverford Trust Company is the presenting sponsor of The Philadelphia Antiques Show, which benefits the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

The Loan Exhibit

Culled from public and private collections throughout the Delaware Valley, the Loan Exhibit pays tribute to Philadelphia's rich history as a principal colonial port city. Artifacts span the American Revolution to the Civil War and include a William Rush figurehead, 1840s "Jack Tar" shop figure, 1787 Charles Willson Peale sea captain's portrait, an assortment of scrimshaw, paintings, nautical instruments, ceramics, sailor art, and an early 19th century ship model.

Independence Seaport Museum Curator Craig Bruns researched and amassed this thoughtfully selected gathering of artifacts from both obvious and unexpected regional institutions and private collections that together tell a cohesive and fascinating tale of Philadelphia's great maritime past. This never-before-seen assemblage offers Antiques Show visitors an opportunity to see objects from private collectors never before publicly displayed and other gems from the collections of smaller institutions and those not traditionally thought of as repositories of maritime objects.

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“I used the Loan Exhibit to explore the region’s collections for objects that divine the stories of the Delaware River and the seas and exotic cultures to which it leads, viewing seemingly standard antiques through a maritime lens,” Bruns said. “My goal was to bring to light modest but distinct passages in history to give illustrate how the maritime world reaches into the every day lives of people both ordinary and renowned.”

Loan Exhibit lending institutions include the Camden County Historical Society, Corinthian Historical Foundation, Dietrich American Foundation, Frankford Historical Society, Girard College, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Atwater Kent of Philadelphia, Independence National Historical Park, Independence Seaport Museum, The Rosenbach Museum & Library, Swedish American Museum, and Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.

Additionally, select dealers will specialize in the display and sale of maritime antiques, including Diana H. Bittel Antiques of Bryn Mawr, Pa., Hyland Granby Antiques of Hyannis Port, Mass., Earle D. Vandekar of Knightsbridge of New York and Martyn Gregory of London.

The Loan Exhibit is dedicated to Independence Seaport Museum Founder J. Welles Henderson (1920-2007), who recognized that the region’s maritime history, so essential to the development of Philadelphia and the founding of the new nation, should be celebrated in a museum. It is organized into themes that together chronicle the story of Philadelphia’s maritime history.

The Dedication

A salute to Henderson that features pieces from his personal collection, including the iconic Jack Tar life-size sailor figure and a miniature anchor collected as a boy that led to an enduring passion for all things maritime and ultimately to the creation of a museum.

Citizen Merchant

A dramatic pyramid of boxes lent by Girard College that once contained the documents and records of Philadelphia maritime merchant Stephen Girard is a focal point of the exhibit and a nod to Girard’s importance as one of America’s first multi-millionaires.

Push Comes to Shove

A chevaux-de-frise, part of an underwater defense system designed to sink British ships, and a cannon from the explosion of the British HMS *Augusta*, both lent by the Camden County Historical Society, reveal the region’s contributions to the war of independence.

War & Peace

A Thomas Birch painting of the battle between the USS *Constitution* and HMS *Guerriere* and William Rush's allegorical figurehead, *Peace*, illustrate America's struggle for freedom of commerce against the British, French and Barbary pirates.

Infernal Machines

A half-model and construction drawing of the famed ironclad Civil War USS *Monitor*, designed by Swede John Ericsson and lent by the Swedish American Museum, embodies the oceanic transformation from the Age of Sail to steam-powered warfare.

Ambassadors of the Sea

Post-Revolution sea captains took on a new role as de facto ambassadors of the new republic as they traveled the world's ports. Highlights include Peale's painting of Captain Josiah and an octant owned by John Barry, the father of the American Navy.

Sailing the Seven Seas

Sailors became the life blood of America's economic independence by the late 18th century. This section provides depictions of the American sailor, the most significant being the 1840s life-size shop figure of a Jack Tar from the Henderson collection.

Dangers at Sea

In appreciation of a safe voyage, sailors and passengers often presented captains with luxury "thank you" gifts, such as the late-19th century gold and mother-of-pearl binoculars. An 1870 U.S. Lifesaving Service Lantern, used to alert approaching ships of the shoreline, illustrates efforts to battle the vagaries of the capricious sea.

Bounty of the Ship

Sailors on long voyages had plenty of down time in which they used their idle hands to make things onboard, such as the pedestal cup fashioned of whale bones and a coconut carved with a dock scene, and purchase items in foreign ports, including the famed so-called "Sailor Valentines," intricate shell art creations, for sweethearts back home.

About Independence Seaport Museum

Independence Seaport Museum on the Delaware River at Penn's Landing features two floors of exhibit galleries, a working wooden boat workshop, the Spanish-American Cruiser *Olympia*, the World War II Submarine *Becuna*, a Concert Hall, children's educational programs and adult group tour programs, a premier maritime research archives and libraries, and a nautical gift shop.

About Independence Seaport Museum Curator Craig Bruns

Since 2005, Independence Seaport Museum Curator Craig Bruns has overseen collections that span two floors of galleries and two National Historic Landmark ships. He has extensive experience creating exhibits at the Museum, most recently *Fishing on the Grand Banks: The Marine Art of Thomas Hoyne*, *Benjamin Franklin's Strong Inclination For The Sea*, and *Founder's Favorites*, an exhibit honoring Henderson. Bruns is developing *Skin & Bones*, an original exhibit about tattoos and American sailors for 2009, and a special exhibit with a citywide outreach element to celebrate the Museum's 50th anniversary in 2010. Bruns has a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from Temple University's Tyler School Art.

About The Philadelphia Antiques Show

The Philadelphia Antiques Show, celebrating its 47th anniversary, is the premier antiques and decorative arts show in the country featuring a large selection of American antiques. Since 1962, Show proceeds have contributed nearly \$15 million for the advancement of patient care at the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Organized by a committee of more than 250 volunteers, The Philadelphia Antiques Show features more than 50 of the nation's leading antiques dealers and fine art galleries. In 2008, the featured Loan Exhibit will be *Fore & Aft – Philadelphia Collects Maritime*. Each year visitors can also choose from a wide and varied schedule of special events. The presenting sponsor for the 2008 Show is The Haverford Trust Company. Visit The 2008 Philadelphia Antiques Show online at www.philaantiques.com.

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