

*The Magazine*

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# ANTIQUES





## Splendors for sale on the Schuylkill

The Philadelphia Show is coming back, live and in person! To co-opt W. C. Fields's famous (if entirely fictitious) epitaph: on the whole, we'd rather visit the great annual Philadelphia art and antiques fair in real life than online.

This is the sixtieth iteration of the Philadelphia Show, and this year it will be held at a wonderful new venue: the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which has organized the event since 2018. While we always enjoyed seeing the stately array of warships at dock when the fair was held at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, the great arts institution on the Fairmount really is a better location for the show. The event will be held on the PMA's East Terrace—the plaza at the top of the so-called Rocky Steps—which offers that magnificent view down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to City Hall.

Some forty top-of-the-line dealers will be on hand, exhibiting everything from fine art and antique and modern design to folk art, Americana, silver, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, and other decorative arts. As it was at the Navy Yard, the event will be held in a tented space—a semi-al fresco venue that should help allay worries about any new Covid surprises.

**The Philadelphia Show • Philadelphia Museum of Art, East Terrace • April 29 to May 1, preview party April 28 • [thephiladelphiashow.com](http://thephiladelphiashow.com)**



Lotus table lamp attributed to Tiffany Studios, c. 1906. Photograph courtesy of Lillian Nassau LLC, New York.

Irish George II mahogany games table, c. 1740. Image courtesy of Hyde Park Antiques, New York.

Regional craft specialties have emerged in the United States for any number of reasons. The Edgefield District of South Carolina was rich in deposits of red clay and kaolin, making possible the production of the stoneware for which the area is now so famous. The stylistic peculiarities of the wondrous quilts made in Gee's Bend, Alabama, are due in part to the fact that the community is relatively isolated.

## Sew and Sew at the Florence Griswold



Man's nightcap, c. 1580. Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Helen M. Danforth Acquisition Fund.

The needlework produced in New London County, Connecticut, in the late colonial period and in the early decades of the new republic are considered masterpieces of American craft. A current exhibition at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, Connecticut, *New London County Quilts and Bed Covers, 1750–1825*, attempts to explain why the county, to use the term employed by the show's curator, Lynne Bassett, became a "hotbed" of artistic textile making.

The exhibition is a must-see for needlework mavens, and draws on artifacts from a surprisingly diverse array of sources—such as petticoats from the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, DC, and the museum of the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence.

***New London County Quilts and Bed Covers, 1750–1825 • Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, Connecticut • to May 1 • [florencegriswoldmuseum.org](http://florencegriswoldmuseum.org)***