

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE:

WASHINGTON, ; An exhibition in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Georgetown will open at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, November the 4th. This exhibit, from the Index of American Design, consists of a selection of water color renderings of early American furniture, textiles, wood carving, glass, ceramics, and metal.

The objects in this exhibition are largely from the eastern seaboard, and represent the kind of furnishings that might have been owned by the early citizens of Georgetown. Many are still owned by the descendants of those for whom they were made; others are in historical societies, museums, and in private collections, treasured as part of the nation's cultural heritage.

Some of the best pieces have been reproduced in the Index of American Design, a cross section of American decorative and popular arts from before 1700 to about 1900. The Index was one of the most important projects undertaken by the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration. About 15,000 designs of historical and artistic significance, some of which stood in danger of being lost, were then recorded in finely executed water color plates. They may be studied at the Gallery and are also sent out for exhibition, study, and reproduction purposes.

Each water color rendering was based on a thorough visual analysis of form, shape, color, and texture, such as no photograph could possibly reproduce. This truthfulness arouses general admiration, for the renderings amount virtually to visual equivalents of the originals, done in water color through the skill of the artists.

The selection, representative of the period of about 1750 to about 1850, the first century of Georgetown's history, will remain on exhibit through November the 25th.

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