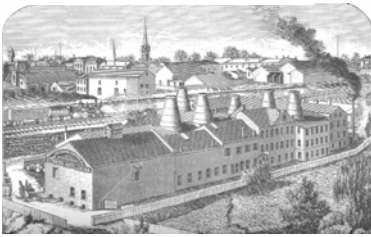


TRENTON POTTERIES

Newsletter of the
Potteries of Trenton Society



The Lenox Legacy: America's Greatest Porcelain, 1889-2005

The Newark Museum Presents a Glimpse of Its Collection on August 13

Newark - (July 15, 2008) - For almost six generations, brides and brides-to-be across the country have treasured wedding gifts manufactured by Lenox, America's premier porcelain brand. The Newark Museum presents a glimpse of its Lenox collection, including rare and highly unusual pieces, in an intimate exhibition entitled *The Lenox Legacy: America's Greatest Porcelain, 1889-2005* opening on August 13.

The Newark Museum galleries provide an elegant setting for one-of-a-kind enameled porcelain vases and dinner plates by William Morley, Sigmund Wirkner and Hans Nosek; minutely detailed and rare porcelain figurines by Patricia Eakin, and modern designs from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. A centerpiece for the *Lenox Legacy* exhibition will be one of only two known porcelain busts of company founder Walter Scott Lenox, modeled in 1917 by Isaac Broome. Fittingly set in the Museum's Walter Scott Lenox Pavil-

ion (funded in 1989 by Brown-Forman, Inc.), Lenox's bust will be surrounded by large, undecorated, Victorian vessels of pure ivory porcelain, the firm's trademark since 1889.

"The history of The Newark Museum's decorative arts collection is profoundly linked with that of Lenox China, which is itself part of American design history," remarked Ulysses Grant Dietz, Curator of the Museum's Decorative Arts Collection. "The significance of this exhibition goes to Lenox's beginnings in New Jersey,



Porcelain basket from the 1910 Modern American Pottery exhibition at The Newark Museum

Made by James Shelton for Ceramic Art Company, Trenton, ca. 1900. Gift of Walter Scott Lenox, 1911

This is one of two technically remarkable pieces that were part of a very small group of such "woven" porcelain objects intended to mimic the popular Belleek wares from Ireland. These pieces were made by James Shelton for the Ceramic Art Company at the beginning of the twentieth century. They are considered the finest examples of only four such pieces known to have survived to this day.

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The Potteries of Trenton Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Trenton's ceramic past. Officers: President - Patricia Madrigal; Treasurer - Jay Lewis; Secretary - Brenda Springsted. Board: Ellen Denker, Richard Hunter, Meta Janowitz, Jay Lewis, Emma Lewis, William Liebeknecht, George Miller, Brenda Springsted, Rebecca White. Newsletter Editor: Patricia Madrigal

The Lenox Legacy

Service plate from the Truman service

Lenox China, ca. 1951

Porcelain, enamel, gold

Gift Lenox China, 1990

For its third White House service, produced for Harry Truman in 1951, Lenox adapted the design of the Woodrow Wilson service from 1918. The soft green border reflects the new “colonial” color used in the recently rebuilt State Dining Room in the White House. President Truman insisted that the head of the eagle in the Great Seal of the United States should face the olive branches of peace rather than the arrows of war.



Dinner plate in moderne style

Frank G. Holmes for Lenox China for Tiffany & Co., 1938

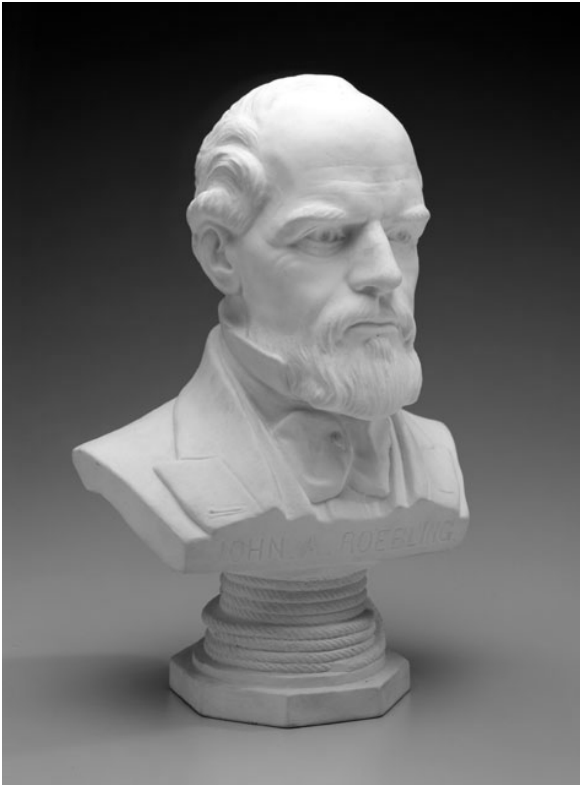
Porcelain, enamel, gold

Gift of Dr. Harold H. Kelsey in Memory of Arthur V. Colletti, 2002

In the late 1930s, as Tiffany & Co. celebrated its 100th anniversary, it began experimenting with modernist designs for its Newark-made silver. Lenox produced several exclusive modernist china patterns during this period to accompany Tiffany’s new silver patterns.



The Lenox Legacy



Bust of John Augustus Roebling

Isaac Broome for Lenox China, 1909

Porcelain

Gift of Ferdinand W. Roebling, 1911

The Roebling family, through Walter Lenox, commissioned Isaac Broome to do this portrait bust of family patriarch John Augustus Roebling (1806-1869). At the request of The Newark Museum's founder, the Roebling family donated this bust to the then fledgling institution around the same time Walter Lenox gave the Museum a group of his company's porcelains.



Lavender-ground presentation vase with a portrait of Marie Antoinette

Decorated by Hans Nosek for Ceramic Art Company, Trenton, 1905

Purchase 2006 W. Clark Symington Bequest Fund

For the central design of this vase, Hans (also known as Jan) Nosek turned to a famous portrait of Marie Antoinette. The vase consciously refers to porcelains made by Sèvres in France during the same period. Translated from German, the gold inscription on the back of this vase reads: Dedicated to the Concordia of Carlstadt, N.J. in acknowledgement of their services with the Harmony Songfest, 3 & 4 July, 1905 at Trenton, N.J.

The Lenox Legacy

(Continued from page 1)

when it first captivated households across America.”

The history of Lenox began in 1889 when Walter Scott Lenox (1859-1920) founded the Ceramic Art Company in Trenton, New Jersey. He renamed it Lenox, Incorporated in 1906 when the firm’s focus shifted from producing porcelain artware to high-quality tableware. By the early 20th century, the brand was considered as exclusive as French, English and German imports. The most influential family in the United States – the country’s First Family – chose Lenox as the official White House china in 1918. Examples of three presidential services (Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan) will be on display as part of *The Lenox Legacy* exhibition.

According to Dietz, the Lenox legacy at The Newark Museum began in 1910 when the new museum, founded a year earlier in 1909, displayed borrowed Lenox pieces for its first exhibition of modern American pottery. In 1911, Lenox donated those porcelain objects to the Museum’s burgeoning permanent collection and continued to support the Museum throughout the twentieth century.

In 2005, Lenox’s parent company, Brown-Forman, Inc. sold its New Jersey Lenox division but, desiring to keep the Lenox legacy in the State of its origin, donated one-half of the Lenox Archives collection to The Newark Museum in 2007. The collection comprising more than 2000 porcelain objects, reflects every phase of the company’s 116-year history in New Jersey. The remaining porcelain archives were donated to the New Jer-

sey State Museum in Trenton, while the Rutgers University Library Special Collections in New Brunswick has received the paper archives. Together, these three New Jersey institutions are the stewards of the unique and irreplaceable history of Walter Scott Lenox’s legacy to the people of New Jersey.

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the Downtown/Arts District of Newark, New Jersey, just 3 blocks from NJPAC and 10 miles west of New York City. The Museum is open all year round: Wednesdays through Fridays, from Noon - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., October 1 - June 30; and Saturdays and Sundays, from Noon - 5:00 p.m., July 1 - September 30. Suggested Museum admission: Adults, \$9.00; Children, Seniors and Students with valid I.D., \$6.00. Members are admitted free. The Museum Café is open for lunches Wednesday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available for a fee. For general information, call 973-596-6550 or visit our web site, <http://www.NewarkMuseum.org>. The Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State – a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

The Newark Museum is just a few steps from the NJTransit Light Rail Washington Park Station. Direct connection with the Light Rail at the Broad Street Station and through Penn Station makes the Museum a convenient ride from all points in the region.

Lenox, Inc. Historical Records at Rutgers University

Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries, is pleased to announce that the historical records, 1889-2005, of fine china manufacturer Lenox, Inc., are now available for consultation. This collection, comprising about 248 cubic feet of material, is housed in 523 boxes of varying sizes. A finding aid for the collection, including a historical chronology, collection overview, filing unit descriptions and container list, is available online in four sections beginning at: <http://www2.scc.rutgers.edu/ead/manuscripts/lenox01f.html>. This finding aid is a guide to the records only; it does not include reproductions of documents housed in the collection.

Lenox, Inc., was organized in Trenton in 1889 as the Ceramic Art Company, the first American pottery devoted exclusively to porcelain production. The firm started making fine china dinnerware early in the twentieth century and went on to become the American market leader. China giftware also was produced by the company, which opened a second factory in Pomona, New Jersey, in 1954. Gifts and tableware in crystal and in silver were added to the company's product line in later years.

The records of Lenox, Inc.--which emphasize the firm's production of china and which vary in completeness--document product design and creation, advertising and promotional efforts, sales practices, financial history, and changes in corporate structure and ownership. The records were donated to the Rutgers University Libraries in 2005 when Lenox,

Inc., was sold by its parent company of over two decades, Brown-Forman Corporation, a distiller and marketer of a diversified line of spirits. At the same time, Brown-Forman donated Lenox's historical china collection to two New Jersey museums, the Newark Museum, which currently features an exhibit of Lenox porcelain, and the New Jersey State Museum. (Subsequent to the 2005 sale, Lenox's new owner moved the Lenox headquarters out of New Jersey and ceased all remaining in-state product manufacturing.)

The arrangement and description of the Lenox, Inc., records was completed during a 22-month period. The project was supported by grants-in-aid received from the Brown-Forman Foundation and from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

As the collection is stored off-site due to its size, advanced notice is required to consult the Lenox, Inc. records. Persons desiring to access the collection should first identify boxes of interest to them by reviewing the online finding aid. They should then use the "Contact Archivist" e-mail button included with the finding aid to communicate that information so that the specified boxes can be retrieved in time for their visit to Special Collections and University Archives. Although questions regarding the records' content also can be placed via the "Contact Archivist" button, researchers are encouraged to consult the collection in person, since the staff is limited in the amount of time that it can devote to any one inquiry.

The New Jersey Room, the reading room for Special Collections and University Archives, is located on the basement level of the Archibald S. Alexander Library at 169 College Avenue in New Brunswick. For driving directions and hours, consult the repository's web site: <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libscua/scua.shtml>.

POTS Membership

Membership in the Potteries of Trenton Society is open to all interested in Trenton's pottery industry and the ceramic products manufactured here. We welcome pottery workers, historians, archaeologists and collectors. Your contribution is used to support newsletter, lecture, meeting, and conference costs.

Annual Memberships:

_____ Regular (\$20) _____ Couples (\$25) _____ Students (\$15, with ID) _____ Seniors (\$15)

Name: _____

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Please make your check payable to the Potteries of Trenton Society and mail to:

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