



The Library Company OF PHILADELPHIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Stylish Books: Designing Philadelphia Furniture* Exhibition to Open at the Library Company**

Philadelphia, PA— October 10, 2018

The Library Company of Philadelphia will open a new exhibition, *Stylish Books: Designing Philadelphia Furniture*, on November 2, 2018. Curated by Curator of Art and Artifacts and Reference Librarian, Linda August, *Stylish Books* will run through April 26, 2019. The Library Company's exhibition gallery is free and open to the public Mondays through Fridays from 9:00am – 4:45pm.



About the Exhibition:

Printed designs spread new ideas. Artisans, as well as their patrons, relied on books as a way to learn about the latest fashions in interior decoration. Philadelphia became a center for creating stylish furniture. The Library Company played a role by acquiring architecture and design books, which its members, who included cabinetmakers, frequently read and used. On display will be items spanning the 18th through 19th century. Highlights will include: Thomas Chippendale's book, *A Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director*; the only known copy of the tradecard of Benjamin Randolph (who was a Library Company member); and colorful plates by Désiré Guilmand, who inspired Philadelphia cabinetmaker George Henkels.

The Library Company will host an opening reception for *Stylish Books* on November 2, 2018, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Additional programming for the exhibition includes a tour of the Center for Art in Wood (November 7, 2018), an author talk and book launch with Jay Robert Stiefel (December 10, 2018) for his new book, *The Cabinetmaker's Account: John Head's Record of Craft and Commerce in Colonial Philadelphia, 1718-1753* (in partnership with the American Philosophical Society and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia), a curator-led gallery tour (January 16,

2019), a special collection review led by the Curator of Art and Artifacts, Linda August (January 22, 2019), and a Library Company symposium (April 3, 2019).

The Library Company would like to thank the current sponsors for supporting the exhibition and programs including the Center for American Art, Jay Robert Stiefel, and Freeman's. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please contact Raechel Hammer, Chief Development Officer at 215-546-3181, ext. 142 or rhammer@librarycompany.org

For more information about these programs and tours please go to librarycompany.org/calendar or contact the Programs and Events Coordinator, Clarissa Lowry at clowry@librarycompany.org or 215-546-3181.

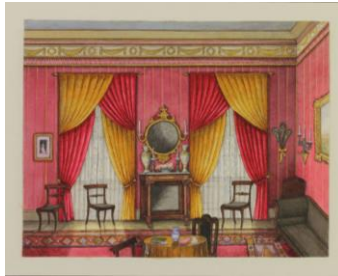
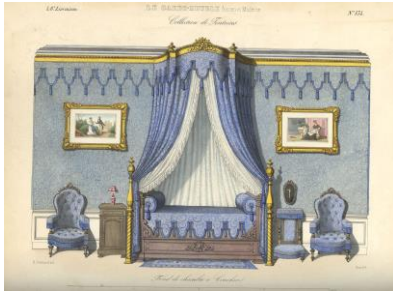


Image Details:

First Row Left to Right: London Society of Cabinet Makers, *The Cabinet-Makers' London Book of Price and Designs of Cabinet Work* (London, 1793); Thomas Chippendale, *The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director* (London, 1755); Thomas Chippendale, *The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director* (London, 1755).

Second Row Left to Right: Désiré Guilnard, *Le Garde-Meuble Ancien et Moderne* (Paris, ca. 1848). Bequest of James Rush, 1869; George Albert Lewis (1829-1915), *The Old Houses and Stores With Memorabilia Relating to Them and My Father and Grandfather* (Philadelphia, 1900). Gift of Oliver E. Allen; Anne C. Lewis (1831-1898), *Memories of the Home of Grandma Lewis* (Philadelphia, 1896).

About The Library Company of Philadelphia

Founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin, the Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library and educational institution specializing in American and global history from the 17th through the early 20th centuries. Claiming one of the world's largest holdings of early American imprints, the Library Company also has internationally-renowned collections in early African American history, economic history, women's history, the history of medicine, and visual culture. The Library Company promotes access to these collections through fellowships, exhibitions, programs, and online resources. To find out more, please visit www.librarycompany.org

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