

Arts & Crafts Collectors Look Forward To 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Grove Park Inn

When 300 Arts & Crafts collectors and two dozen dealers arrived at the Grove Park Inn overlooking Asheville, North Carolina in 1988, they had no idea that the Arts & Crafts revival, let alone an Arts & Crafts conference, would last longer than the best years of the original Arts & Crafts movement.

But 30 years later they continue to come, including 22 dedicated collectors who have never missed a single Grove Park Inn Arts & Crafts Conference. They will join 2000 other Arts & Crafts enthusiasts in Asheville on February 17-19 to celebrate this milestone event.

Hailed in 1913 as "the finest resort hotel in the world," the historic Grove Park Inn has always hosted what the *New York Times* has called "the most important weekend of the year for Arts & Crafts collectors."

Founder Bruce Johnson, author and publisher of ArtsAndCraftsCollector.com, has long been known for his keen organizational skills, his selection of knowledgeable seminar speakers and for organizing the largest and finest selection of both antique and contemporary Arts & Crafts for this three-day educational event.

But finding a way to celebrate this milestone 30th anniversary event proved his greatest challenge. "We already utilize every square foot of the 512-room Grove Park Inn," Johnson explained. "And with an expected crowd of 2000 collectors arriving for the three-day conference, plus another 2000 for just the afternoon shows, it wasn't like we had an empty space waiting for us."

Johnson opted not to go for a formal banquet or one special event to commemorate the 30th anniversary. Instead, he has planned an entire three days of celebration, including champagne and dessert social hours on Friday and Saturday evenings, drawings for items donated by the 120 exhibitors, "Dancing on the Terrace" each evening, plus a special viewing of the Hollywood hit *Genius*, which tells the story of Thomas Wolfe (Jude Law) and his editor Max Perkins (Colin Firth). Free admission to this screening is sponsored by the Arts & Crafts Research Fund.

Johnson has also hand-selected a lineup of experienced seminar speakers from all corners of the Arts and Crafts Movement to bookend each day of the Conference.

To kick things off Friday evening, professor and architectural historian, Kevin Nute will deliver the first seminar, *Frank Lloyd Wright: Japanese Art as a Means to Organic Architecture*, which will be followed by a special sneak preview of the forthcoming

documentary, *Gustav Stickley: American Craftsman* along with a brief presentation by film director, Herb Stratford giving attendees a behind the scenes look into the making of this highly anticipated film.

Saturday morning will open with Adrienne Spinozzi, American Wing Research Associate at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and her talk, *Professional Aspirations: Women and the Art Pottery Movement*. She will be followed by author and celebrated Arts and Crafts historian David Cathers with, *Arts & Crafts Electric Lighting: Beautiful, Useful, Inevitable*. After the Saturday shows, demonstrations and discussion groups, Johnson will present a short seminar titled, *Scott, Zelda & Tom: Literary Asheville*. This will also serve as an introduction to the feature-length film, *Genius*.

And to close the Conference out, on Sunday morning celebrated Arts & Crafts author and historian Michael McCracken will address the group with, *The Mysterious Oscar Onken and His Shop of the Crafters* followed by architectural historian and Gamble House director Ted Bosley with, *Building Paradise In California: The Gambles and Their House*.

In addition, the Arts & Crafts Conference will include nearly 30 Small Group Discussions, educational displays by the American Art Pottery Association and the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, both walking and house tours, numerous hands-on workshops and demonstrations by craftspeople, and over \$10,000 in Customer Appreciation Give-Aways celebrating 30 years of the National Arts & Crafts Conference.

Each afternoon the attention will turn to the exhibition ballroom, hallways and meeting rooms, where 120 nationally-known antiques dealers, craftsfirms, artists, book sellers, non-profit organizations and magazine publishers will be exhibiting.

For detailed information on exhibitors, workshops, Small Group Discussions, transportation and lodging options, please go to www.Arts-CraftsConference.com or contact Bruce Johnson at (828) 628-1915 or bj1915@charter.net

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High resolution photographs available by visiting:

<http://www.arts-craftsconference.com/mediaroom.html>