

## ***THE NATIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS CONFERENCE RETURNS TO ASHEVILLE***

**“The most important weekend of the year for Arts & Crafts collectors.”**

*- The New York Times*

It was the style that changed America forever. From its beginnings in the early 1900's, the Arts and Crafts movement embraced the idea of hand-craftsmanship using native materials, including oak, clay, and copper, in contrast to the mass-produced items of the Industrial Revolution. By 1910, it had swept across the nation, creating a demand for modest, affordable bungalows filled with the handcrafted oak furniture of Gustav Stickley and Charles Limbert, matte green vases by Grueby Pottery and Rookwood, mica lighting by the Roycroft Copper Shop and Dirk van Erp, and handwoven textiles decorated with cattails, gingko leaves, and purple iris blossoms.

Each February for the past 32 years, Arts and Crafts collectors and bungalow owners from across America have journeyed to the historic 1913 Grove Park Inn overlooking Asheville, North Carolina. For three days, starting February 21st, the National Arts & Craft Conference and Shows will again feature Arts and Crafts antiques and contemporary items, educational seminars, hands-on workshops, historic house tours, and artisan demonstrations celebrating America's only truly original style.

On Friday evening, February 21<sup>st</sup>, historical portrayal actor Annette Baldwin will present her rendition in character and period dress of Jane Addams, the social justice icon and co-founder of Chicago's Hull House. Baldwin's performance will illuminate and bring to life the humanitarian and peace advocate's warmth and strength of character, while depicting Addams' journey to find meaning in her own life while striving to effect social change during the Arts and Crafts era. Annette Baldwin has been researching and performing first-person monologues of historic women for more than 30 years and has performed before audiences all over the country, including at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The 33rd National Arts and Crafts Conference and Shows will feature additional seminars and small group discussions which will be announced in the coming weeks at [Arts-CraftsConference.com](http://Arts-CraftsConference.com). In addition, collectors and enthusiasts alike can expect to discover quality vintage Arts and Crafts antiques, as well as handcrafted contemporary items in the Arts & Crafts style, including new and antique jewelry, rugs, furniture, pottery, tiles, artwork, furniture, and metalware, showcasing the hand-craftsmanship and simple yet elegant designs which are the hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts movement and philosophy.

The shows will be held on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00pm until 6:00pm; on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon until 6:00pm; and on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00am until 4:00pm. Adult admission for all three days is \$10; student admission is \$5; there is no charge for children under the age of 14. Outdoor parking at the Grove Park Inn will be free, as will be the first three hours of indoor garage parking.

“In just three days,” explained conference director Bruce Johnson, who has written several books on the Arts and Crafts era, “you will see more, do more, and learn more about the Arts and Crafts movement than you could anywhere else in an entire year.”

In addition to the shows, the Arts & Crafts Conference also includes seminars, walking tours, demonstrations, small group discussions, and the popular pre-conference workshops. Back by popular

demand, the pre-conference workshops provide students with the chance to demonstrate and participate in the “head, heart, and hand” philosophy and learn from a Roycroft Master Artisan. Making their return are workshop instructors Laura Wilder, Frank Glapa, Natalie Richards, and Ron Van Ostrand. Wilder will return with her popular class “Arts & Crafts Printmaking,” and Glapa with his “Coppersmithing: Arts & Crafts Style” class. After a successful first year instructing, Natalie Richards will once again instruct those in beginner and intermediate levels in embroidery, while experienced instructor Ron Van Ostrand will teach techniques in the production of art metal items.

For information on these and for additional information, including lodging options, please go to [www.Arts-CraftsConference.com](http://www.Arts-CraftsConference.com) or call Bruce Johnson’s office at (828) 628-1915.

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