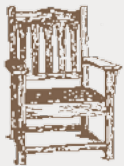




# NOTES FROM THE FARMS

THE JOURNAL OF THE STICKLEY MUSEUM AT CRAFTSMAN FARMS



From the  
Director's Chair

—Vonda K. Givens

*"If you want a golden rule that will fit everything, this is it: Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful."*

—William Morris

**W**e're moving out! The museum's staff is clearing out of our offices in preparation for a 14-month project to rehabilitate the Administration Building (this project includes the preservation and conversion of the original ground-level garage to program space and the rebuilding of the two upper levels for use as offices and collections storage. See page 2 for historic photos of this building. For full details on the project, see the Spring 2017 *Notes from the Farms*).

Everything must go—into our temporary offices, to storage, to charity, or to a landfill. We've had to inventory and assess everything in the building. We've had to think about how we work, what we use, and what we need, and don't need, to do our jobs each day.

Because of this, my office desk has been on my mind. It's a usable work surface, which I'm glad to have, and a suitable, inexpensive

*Continued on page 2*

## THE STICKLEY WEEKEND, OCTOBER 7-8

**T**he Stickley Weekend at the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8. During this weekend, we will welcome attendees from all over the country for two days packed with special events, including the museum's most important annual fundraiser, The Craftsman Gala.

With an atmosphere that is part reunion, part conference, and part homecoming, the focus of The Stickley Weekend points entirely in one direction: Stickley. The weekend is a celebration of Stickley's Arts and Crafts vision and Craftsman Farms, the home he built to embody that vision. It was established to advance the museum's core mission of sharing Stickley's legacy through the preservation, protection and interpretation of Craftsman Farms.



The Craftsman Gala, which will be held on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. at The Mountain Lakes Club, will be co-chaired this year by Eliane Talec of Rago Arts and Auction Center and by John P. Walcher of John Toomey Gallery (for more on the Gala, see page 7). The Craftsman Gala is a formal party with informal camaraderie and a celebratory fundraiser, featuring both live and silent auctions, through which a significant portion of the museum's annual operational income is raised each year.

Before The Craftsman Gala, Saturday morning will begin with the museum's 7th annual Scholars Symposium, which is made possible through the generous support of the Arts & Crafts Research Fund. The Symposium's theme will evolve around the museum's exhibition *Original: Gustav Stickley Furnishes His Log House* and will feature graduate student presentations and presentations by two distinguished scholars, Marilyn Fish and Dr. Jonathan Clancy, co-curator of our ongoing exhibition, who will present the annual Amy Stahl Memorial Lecture.

*Continued on page 2*



*Stickley Weekend continued from page 1*

(For more on this year's Symposium, see page 3.)

On Sunday The Stickley Weekend will come to a close at the Log House at Craftsman Farms, with an Open House spotlighting our ongoing exhibition and marking the 100th anniversary of Stickley's sale of the property in 1917. Tours will be suspended for the day, allowing visitors the opportunity to explore the Log House interior at their own pace.

We invite you to participate in any portion of the weekend's events or all of them! Watch our website for news and mark your calendar now for two days of strictly Stickley fun that add up to years of securing the legacy of this important visionary.

*Director's Chair continued from page 1*

desk for a small museum office on a budget, but beyond that, it doesn't have much going for it. It has cubbies where it needs drawers and a pockmarked surface that I often try to hide with file folders. It has seen better days.

The new offices will have built-in desks. I've been contemplating whether or not to move this desk into my temporary office and am ready to declare my executive decision. I'm saying goodbye to the desk.

Buoyed by William Morris' "golden rule"—albeit applied to an office!—I am removing that which I know to be lacking in usefulness and beauty. For 14 months, I'll work at a couple of sturdy tables. The desk will go to a charitable organization for resale. Perhaps for someone else the desk will meet Morris' requirements.

In making this decision, I've been thinking about what the desk has meant to me. I often write and speak about the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, which were deeply cherished by Gustav Stickley. Inspired by those ideals, Stickley believed, simply put, that good design led to a good life. As I have griped about my desk's failings over the years, those very failings have helped me appreciate and fully grasp the value of the useful, beautiful, thoughtful designs that Stickley prized.

Stickley was producing his furniture in the early 20th century, but good design is, of course, as essential now as it was then. Good design isn't history. All year round, when we open the doors of Stickley's beloved Log House to the public, we make the case for the timeless value of good design. Over the years, my desk has helped me focus on that message.

So, maybe I'll miss the desk in the end? Maybe, but not enough to keep it.



Historic photos of the administration building. The photo at lower left was taken in the 1920s. The remaining three were taken after a fire in 1950.



## CONNOISSEUR TOURS WITH DR. JONATHAN CLANCY

In conjunction with our ongoing exhibition, *Original: Gustav Stickley Furnishes His Log House*, we are pleased to offer a special Connoisseur Tour with co-curator and decorative arts historian Dr. Jonathan Clancy on Saturdays, September 9 and September 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.



Purposely limited in size and designed with Members, collectors, and Arts and Crafts enthusiasts in mind, this tour will offer a rare opportunity to join Clancy in a close, in-depth examination of objects featured in the exhibition and objects on regular view in the Log House interior. Register early to secure your spot.

**Connoisseur Tours with Dr. Jonathan Clancy**  
**Saturdays, September 9 and September 23**  
**4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**  
**\$25 Members and \$30 Non Members**  
**To register, visit [StickleyMuseum.org](http://StickleyMuseum.org) or call 973.540.0311**



We're preparing for our 11th Annual Fall Family Day on Saturday, September 16.



## 7TH ANNUAL SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

During The Stickley Weekend, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday morning October 7, the museum will be pleased to host its 7th annual Scholars Symposium, which is made possible by a generous grant from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund. Established to encourage rigorous scholarship on topics related to the Arts and Crafts movement, the Symposium supports the work of both emerging graduate scholars and distinguished scholars. The museum's ongoing exhibition, *Original: Gustav Stickley Furnishes His Log House*, has provided a rich starting point for the 2017 Symposium which will revolve around the theme: "Home at the Turn of the Century: New Perspectives."

As always, the Symposium will feature graduate student presentations along with presentations by well-known scholars including the Amy Stahl Memorial Lecture by *Original* exhibition co-curator Dr. Jonathan Clancy. In his lecture, "Unpacking the Log House: Stickley as Consumer and Collector," Clancy will address his research related to the exhibition.

The Symposium will also feature a lecture by Marilyn Fish. An independent art historian, Fish is best-known in Arts and Crafts circles as the author of the *New Craftsman Index*, a guide to the entire 15-year run of Gustav Stickley's magazine *The Craftsman*. Fish will present a lecture about Mary Fanton Roberts, the editor of *The Craftsman* from 1905 until its final days in 1916.

The Symposium will be followed by lunch with the scholars at a nearby restaurant. We hope you'll join us and offer your support of Arts and Crafts scholarship.

**Scholars Symposium**  
**Saturday, October 7**  
**9:00-12:30 p.m.**

**Symposium Only**  
**\$25 Member**  
**\$30 Non Member**  
**\$5 Student**

**Symposium plus lunch at a nearby restaurant**  
**\$50 Member**  
**\$55 Non Member**  
**\$30 Student**

**To register, visit [StickleyMuseum.org](http://StickleyMuseum.org) or call 973.540.0311.**

## ORIGINAL: GUSTAV STICKLEY FURNISHES

## PART II

*The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms is pleased to announce a new exhibition 100 years in the making, Original: Gustav Stickley Furnishes His Log House, co-curated by Dr. Jonathan Clancy and Peter K. Mars. Featuring furniture and furnishings original to Gustav Stickley's home before it was sold in 1917, this exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view Stickley family belongings, reunited with the Log House for the first time in 100 years and gain insight into Stickley's personal sense of taste and style. As the only home designed, built and furnished for Mr. Stickley's own use, the Log House and its interior are considered his architectural masterwork and an icon of the American Arts and Crafts movement. The article to follow, by Peter K. Mars, (for Part 1, see the Spring 2017 Notes from the Farms) addresses the development of the museum's permanent collection and recent findings that will greatly inform the museum's future.*

It is probably the ultimate compliment that visitors think the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms (SMCF) has never changed since the Stickleys lived here. However, it is no overstatement to say it has taken the passion and energy of hundreds of people to make it appear so. This essay will briefly recap these efforts as a way of illustrating how, in a manner of speaking, the current exhibition *Original* has been in the making for one hundred years.

When Craftsman Farms was saved from development in 1989, the Log House was empty and in poor condition. The bones were good, but

damage was evident throughout the house, with water stains blotching the white painted chestnut log walls, the ceilings and the maple floors. The building needed tremendous work, and it needed its furnishings. But what was originally in the house?

Long before it became a museum, the furnishings of Gustav Stickley's Log House were a subject of speculation and interest. Since the establishment of the museum in 1990, tremendous effort has been made to identify, catalog and return as many original furnishings as possible. Today, Mr. Stickley's home looks much as it did when published in a 1911 issue of his magazine, *The Craftsman*, with six interior and



One of Parker's photos of the living room.

two exterior photos by local photographer Daniel Parker (see above.) Mr. Parker couldn't know that his carefully considered photographs would one day become the most important visual documents related to the restoration and refurnishing of the Log House. From Parker's photos, and descriptions of objects seen in the house by scholars visiting Craftsman Farms in the 1960s and '70s, the first comprehensive list of furnishings was published in this newsletter in 1991.

The list details over eighty pieces of furniture and decorative art objects. With this inventory, the search for the Log House furnishings had begun and would lead in numerous directions.

In 1989, nearly simultaneous to the purchase of Craftsman Farms, Christie's auction house mounted a sale featuring twenty-three original furnishings from Stickley's home. From this sale, a set of wrought iron fireplace tools, two brass and iron fireplace radiators and a dining room carpet were donated to the museum soon after. A handsome oak wardrobe was purchased by The New Jersey State Museum, and the remaining items went into private collections. Over time, ten lots from the sale have returned to the museum. Lot 14, a distinctive pair of Craftsman Workshops No. 100 andirons, was placed on long-term loan to the Stickley Museum last fall. This important loan served as the inspiration for the *Original* exhibition.

The museum opened to visitors in 1990 with Arts and Crafts furnishings loaned by friends of the museum who believed in the foundation's vision. With-

in a short time, and without a permanent collection, the museum was able to mount two highly regarded exhibitions, *Gustav Stickley: His Craft*, and *Innovation and Derivation: The Contributions of L. & J.G. Stickley to the American Arts and Crafts Movement*. Both exhibitions were widely reviewed and the accompanying catalogs are still referenced in scholarly works to this day.

To protect the Log House and the growing collections within, between

## HIS LOG HOUSE — CO-CURATOR PETER K. MARS

1994 and today the museum administration has undertaken multiple phases of restoration, preservation and prevention that have included: a complete roof restoration, stripping paint from interior log walls and fireplaces, removing outmoded heating systems, restoring wall surfaces and floors, restoring and replacing original doors and windows, reproducing interior and exterior copper lanterns, replacing missing chinking between logs, inserting steel where needed from basement to attic, and adding a state-of-the-art fire suppression system. The result is that most of the Log House looks as it did in Stickley's time, with the addition of safer, updated electrical systems, fire protection, and climate control to further protect the house and its contents.

The large second floor bedroom originally shared by Stickley's daughters became the first fully restored room in 2002. Named in memory of Paul Fiore, the Massachusetts antique dealer who helped bring so many original objects back to Craftsman Farms, the room is furnished with four original pieces of furniture and four exquisite replicas that allow visitors to see how the furniture may have looked when new.

Though the museum is fortunate to hold most of the original one-of-a-kind pieces constructed for the house, the whereabouts of several are as yet unknown. The lost originals have been replaced with carefully crafted replicas by both professional and volunteer woodworkers. For example, five of the eight original American chestnut bookcases in the living room have returned, but a sixth was replicated by a Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout award; the two final bookcases were faithfully reproduced by a skilled woodworker who cleverly re-used parts of an original bookcase that had been sawn in half.

Remarkably, the three original English Arts and Crafts carpets from the dining room have survived. The two larger carpets are in the collections of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The long carpet runner that sat in front of the dining room's oak sideboard is in the collection of Crab Tree Farm of Lake Bluff, Illinois. As a gift to the museum, an Arts and Crafts carpet maker reproduced the three carpets in 2006, using the museum's original carpet as a guide for design, color and knot spacing.

By necessity and happenstance, museum collections grow and change, many times through unexpected gifts. One such gift will inform the growth and understanding of the museum's collection for years to come.

Gustav and Eda Stickley sold Craftsman Farms to Major George and Mrs. Sylvia Farny in 1917. Spanning seventy-two years of ownership, three generations of the Farny family thrived at Craftsman Farms. In 2014, grandson Michael Farny's family gave the museum a packet of papers related to the 1917 sale of the Farms. The packet included legal documents describing the extent of the property and buildings, and the Bill of Sale containing a complete inventory of the contents of the Log House, which was sold fully furnished. The museum's established 1991 list of over 80 original objects, taken from just three rooms photographed in 1911, is now dwarfed by the 1917 inventory of over 200 objects. This comprehensive list covers seven rooms, three bathrooms and the fully furnished front porch. The inventory includes over 90 pieces of furniture, 32 pillows and nearly 30 carpets. While it is enlightening, it is not necessarily descriptive. For instance, we now know the master bedroom had "twin satin brass beds," but we don't know the maker or the design. We can make educated guesses

about many of the furnishings in the inventory, but others will remain a mystery.

The Bill of Sale is vague about the contents of the three cottages adjacent to the Log House, which may have been empty at the time of the sale. Stickley's daughters Barbara, Mildred and Marion are known to have resided in the cottages early in their marriages and may have been given the furnishings to start their homes when leaving Craftsman Farms. Objects owned by each of the three daughters, some of which remain in the Stickley family, are included in the *Original* exhibition, as is a facsimile of the 1917 Bill of Sale.

For the museum and followers of Stickley's work, the historic importance of bringing together the objects for this exhibition, even for a brief period, cannot be understated. For seven months, the sum of the museum's collections, institutional loans and family heirlooms will offer a more complete look at the design intentions for Stickley's home than has been seen since 1917. Please join us as we celebrate Gustav Stickley's accomplishments and the home he built for his family, the Log House at Craftsman Farms.

**About the Author:**

**Peter K. Mars** is a co-vice president of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms and co-chair of the museum's new Curatorial Committee. A founding partner of the home products studio Arnge Design, with a background in furniture, interior design and home product design, he was the first Homekeeping Editor at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and designer of the Martha Stewart Everyday Garden Furniture Collection. Prior to that he was Assistant Chair of the BFA Interior Design Program at Parsons School of Design.



# RECENT MEMBERSHIPS

March 26, 2017 to July 10, 2017

We extend a warm thank you to the following members who joined or renewed their membership during the past few months.

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## GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY:

We are grateful for recent gifts from:  
**David Cathers;**  
**Peter K. Mars;**  
**Davey and Nancy Willans.**

## GIFTS TO THE ARCHIVES:

We are grateful for a recent gift from:  
**Beth Cathers.**

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# SPECIAL THANKS

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We are grateful for a recent gift from:  
**Jill Thomas-Clark.**

## GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION:

We are grateful for a recent gift from:  
**Theodore M. Lytwyn**

# CRAFTSMAN GALA 2017

The Craftsman Gala, the highlight of The Stickley Weekend, will take place on Saturday, October 7 at the Mountain Lakes Club in Mountain Lakes, NJ, beginning at 6 p.m. This formal party, which features live music, and delicious food amid beautiful autumn views of Mountain Lake, is the museum's biggest fundraising event of the year. We're delighted this year to be joined in this effort by two co-chairs, Eliane Talec of Rago Arts and Auction Center and John P. Walcher of John Toomey Gallery, who are both familiar faces to Arts and Crafts enthusiasts around the country.

## MEET THE CO-CHAIRS

A long-time supporter of this organization, **Eliane Talec** directed the first three Arts & Crafts Symposia to Benefit Craftsman Farms, held in 1993, 1994 & 1995. She is the Chief Administrative Officer at Rago Arts and Auction Center, a leading U.S. auction house. Originally specialists in 20th century design, today Rago's expertise covers centuries of fine art, decorative arts, furnishings, jewelry and ethnographic property. Talec is in charge of auction administration and finance. A key member of the Rago management team, she is integrally involved with human resources. Talec promotes Rago at shows and events across the country and has appeared on the HGTV show "On the Block." Her latest undertaking is auctioneering, both at Rago and various charity auctions including Habitat for Humanity, Bright Pink, the Philadelphia Children's Alliance and the Hunterdon Art Museum, among others.



About this fundraising effort Talec states, "Great cause..awesome group of people..helping promote and continue the legacy of Gustav Stickley and his beliefs through not only the preservation efforts for his homestead but the educational programs the museum develops and offers to the community makes being a co-chair of this Gala all that more meaningful and exciting."

**John P. Walcher** is Director of the Silver & Decorative Arts Department at John Toomey Gallery, a leading resource for 20th century design, with special interest in Prairie School works, and Primary Auctioneer at Treadway Toomey Auctions, a specialty auction house, considered one of the premiere auction houses in the country to sell 20th Century Art and Design. Walcher regularly performs appraisals and auctions. He is actively involved with the Sustaining Fellows of the Art Institute of Chicago, serves as Chair-Emeritus of the Joffrey Ballet's Auxiliary Board, is a Committee Member of the Chicago Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society and is engaged in many other philanthropic organizations and causes. He also has assisted many charitable organizations by offering his services as a professional auctioneer.



"I am truly thrilled to be co-chair, with Eliane, of the 2017 annual Craftsman Gala," says Walcher. "This is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our competition, as leaders in the 20th Century art and design auction industry, in order to combine our efforts for a common cause and advance the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. It's an honor to know that the funds we will assist in raising will go toward continuing the museum's mission of preservation and education for current and future generations."

Join our co-chairs in support of The Craftsman Gala. To offer Corporate and Benefactor support, donate auction items, purchase tickets and more, call 973.540.0311 or visit our website, [StickleyMuseum.org](http://StickleyMuseum.org).

## IN HONOR:

We are grateful for gifts in honor of the marriage of **Gus Fuldner and Lucy Stamm** from  
**Adam Godfrey;**  
**Joan Hunt;**  
**Anita and Lee Owen;**  
**Jean Wilson.**

We are grateful for gifts in honor of  
**Catherine Mathis and Bob Burchell** from  
**Jill Totenberg.**

## IN MEMORY:

We are grateful for gifts in memory of  
**Joan Albin** from  
**Lynn M. and Stanley Leeb.**

**Henry E. Rohe** from  
**Christine Priest.**

**Patricia Perlett** from  
**Sharon Woodard.**

## GRANTS:

We are grateful for Grants from the following individuals which provide support for the installation of the original dining room cabinet (1976.389.2a-f):  
**Anonymous;**  
**Dorothy A. Beattie;**  
**Vonda and Allen Breed;**  
**Catherine J. Mathis and Robert C. Burchell;**  
**Susan and David M. Cathers;**  
**Amparo and Mitchell Codding;**  
**Louis G. Glesmann, III;**  
**Suzanne R. Jones;**  
**Theodore M. Lytwyn;**  
**Laura and Richard Reilly;**  
**Ula Ihnytzky and Raymond Stubblebine.**

We are grateful for Grants from the following individuals and organizations which provide support for operations, exhibitions, publications and acquisitions:  
**Thomas Bird;**  
**Susan and David M. Cathers;**  
**Clark Public Library;**  
**Barbara Nitchie Fuldner.**



## VISITING CRAFTSMAN FARMS

Craftsman Farms is located at  
2352 Route 10 West  
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

The entrance is located on Route 10  
West at Manor Lane, about 3 miles  
west of I-287 in Parsippany-Troy Hills,  
New Jersey (mailing address is Morris  
Plains). Driving directions are available  
at [StickleyMuseum.org](http://StickleyMuseum.org).

Free to members and children under 2  
Adults: \$10; Seniors & Students \$7

Closed on Major Holidays.

## MUSEUM TOUR SCHEDULE

### HOURS:

Thursday through Sunday, year-round  
Tours depart hourly 12:15 to 3:15 p.m.

### Group Tours available by reservation.

Call 973.540.0311

## MUSEUM SHOP HOURS

Thursday through Sunday Noon to 4 p.m.

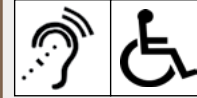
## CONTACT US

Voice: 973.540.0311

Fax: 973.540.1167

Email: [info@stickleymuseum.org](mailto:info@stickleymuseum.org)

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## The Stickley Museum at Craftsman

Farms is committed to  
assuring that all individuals  
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programs. If you require the  
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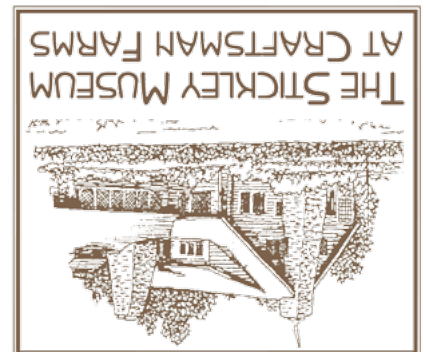
*Craftsman Farms, the former home of noted designer Gustav Stickley, is owned by the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills and is operated by The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, Inc., ("SMCF") (formerly known as The Craftsman Farms Foundation, Inc.). SMCF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New Jersey. Restoration of the National Historic Landmark, Craftsman Farms, is made possible, in part, by a Save America's Treasures Grant administered by the National Parks Service, Department of the Interior, and by support from Morris County Preservation Trust, The New Jersey Historic Trust, and individual members. SMCF received an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. SMCF gratefully acknowledges a grant from the New Jersey Cultural Trust. Educational programs are funded, in part, by grants from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund.*



## The Stickley Weekend, October 7-8

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