

# WINTERTHUR



## Researching and Studying at Winterthur

### What is here?

Winterthur includes a museum, a library, and a garden.

The museum focuses on American decorative and fine arts from about 1600 to 1860, but the collection also includes a wide range of other objects. Its collection comprises approximately 90,000 objects including ceramics, furniture, glass, prints, maps, paintings, metalwork, and textiles. While many of these objects are on view in the museum's rooms and galleries, even more are available for study in on-site storage. Files with details about the provenance of an object, its history of exhibition, records of conservation and research, and other information, are available for study as well.

The library contains printed books, periodicals, trade and auction catalogs, manuscripts, printed ephemera, photographs, and archival resources. The focus is on the documentation of American household goods and their use, decorative arts and design, and the material culture of everyday life in America from the 17th through the early 20th centuries.

### How do I find what I'm looking for?

Exploring the online databases can orient you to the collections. These databases can be navigated from Winterthur's homepage ([winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org)). At the top of the screen, hover your cursor over the word "Collections" and then scroll down to "Online Collections."

The Museum Collection Digital Database is searchable by object type and keyword. This is an excellent way to browse through digital images of objects in the collection. Basic information about an object's manufacture, the date it was made, original location, and accession number is available here.

WinterCat is the library's online catalogue with bibliographic records of holdings. Follow links at the top to view a selection of library items in the Digital Collections, trade catalogs available through the Internet Archive, and manuscript finding aids.

In the case of both the museum and the library, if you are having trouble finding what you are looking for, or would like more information, contact one of the staff members listed below. They are eager to share their extensive knowledge of the collection with you and connect you to the materials you want.

### How do I plan a visit to the museum collections?

Appointments are necessary to gain access to objects and object files in the museum collection. To set up an appointment, contact either the Curatorial Fellow or the Graduate Assistant listed in the contact list below. This is best done at least two weeks in advance to ensure that staff can prepare the materials you wish to see. During your visit, the Curatorial Fellow or Graduate Assistant will guide you within the collections.

The library is open to the public year-round, Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm except for legal holidays. No appointment is necessary to visit the library.

Directions to the library and museum collections are available at the visitor center adjacent to the visitor parking lot. Handicapped parking is available at the visitor center and at the library.

*Visiting the library or arranging a research session in the collection is free. You do not need to pay admission to use these resources.*

### Whom should I contact?

#### Curatorial Fellow

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