

THE GADROON

Newsletter of the South Carolina Silver Society, Inc.

Early Summer 2017

LeHEUP SILVER COLLECTION FEATURED AT SCSS EVENT

The Program Committee of the SCSS along with Charlton Hall Galleries sponsored a very special showing of the silver collected by SCSS member John LeHeup on the afternoon of Saturday, April 8, 2017, at Charlton Hall Galleries.

Dr. LeHeup, a charter member and past president of the SCSS, was described in an article in *Traditional Home Magazine* as “the former defensive tackle [for the USC Gamecocks and member of the Gamecocks Hall of Fame] who attacks silver with the same passion displayed on the football field.” He was quoted as saying, “Discovering new information through research is almost as good as owning a piece.”

The showing featured some sixty pieces from his extensive collection of one-of-a kind pieces from numerous South Carolina silversmiths. During the show, Dr. LeHeup talked about the pieces and answered questions. While many of the pieces have been featured in museum exhibitions, others were shown publicly for the first time. To Ron Long, Kinga Bender, and the staff of Charlton Hall Galleries go a special note of thanks for providing not only the venue but also for providing the delicious refreshments.

As one person remarked, “It is so great to be able to see all this, and what can be better than sipping champagne and walking around and looking at fabulous silver!”

SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION A ROARING SUCCESS

By Joann Brown Morton, Fundraising Chair

Kudos to all involved in the Scholarship Silent Auction fundraiser at the South Carolina Silver Society's Annual Banquet. From the committee members, Henry Brown who developed and maintained the phenomenal

spread sheet and Kay Durham and Kitty Macintosh who set up and managed the auction, to the members who donated such exciting items and the members who bid and purchased all the items donated, everyone was outstanding. We raised \$2,600, which is amazing (HUGE) for a group of our size. This, combined with the \$1,900 raised last year, brings us to \$4,500.

To fund a full scholarship we need \$5,000 or another \$500. So we are asking you to please dig deep and send a check to Judy Anderson, President/Secretary/Treasurer by June 30, 2017, so we can complete this scholarship drive and be in a position to fund a study in 2018. It will really be exciting to sponsor new research on the South Carolina silver industry and have that information presented at our annual banquet. With your help we will make it happen. Thanks.

HISTORIC COLUMBIA RECEIVES IMPORTANT SILVER SERVICE

With the closing of Kensington Plantation in 2016 as an historic house museum, a tea and coffee serving set of significant Lower Richland County provenance was transferred to the care of Historic Columbia. Passed down through the Singleton and Lowndes families, this sterling silver set was purportedly used at Kensington. The stamped hallmarks indicate manufacture by Jean-Nicola Bastin in Paris between 1809 and 1819.

Though the six pieces do not match exactly, this trait is not unusual for the time. Highlights of the set include: a waste bowl; a coffee pot with a horse's head for a spout; two blown glass sugar bowl inserts; and a delicate wire bread basket. A unique wood and leather travel case with fitted spaces for each piece survived the past two hundred years, protecting the set during travel or while in storage. The set

is on exhibit in the Robert Mills House as part of the *Prideful Possessions: A South Carolina Silver Sampler Exhibit Gallery*. For more information contact Fielding S. Freed, Director of Historic House Museums at Historic Columbia. He may be reached by at ffreed@historiccolumbia.org.

SCSS MEMBERS CONTINUE SILVER PROJECT AT WHITE HOMESTEAD

By Ashby Morton

Monday, April 3, 2017, six members of the SC Silver Society journeyed to Fort Mill, SC, to continue documenting the silver collection at the White Homestead. Judy Anderson, Henry Brown, Kay Durham, Jane Barnhill, James Brannock, and Ashby Morton were greeted by Ann Evans, the White Homestead curator. As before, the group used the large glass table in the family recreation room as a worktable.

As Judy explored the house to find silver, the other members of the team would take photographs, measure, weigh and identify makers of the items she brought from the various rooms. After a productive morning we enjoyed discussing our findings over a picnic lunch.

Although this was the second trip to the White Homestead, there is still more silver to be documented so we will be planning a return trip during this coming August. Watch your e-mail for further information.

In addition to being useful to the Springs family, this project provides an opportunity to learn more about the silver collection of a prominent South Carolina family – a collection that grew and changed over time and was used daily. It is also a lot of fun to get to know other members of the society and learn from each other. Hopefully all members of the society will participate in this or other service projects in the future and enjoy the same camaraderie we have experienced.

SILVER SERVICES NO LONGER IN HIGH DEMAND

Someone recently wrote to the SMP Silver Forum asking about purchasing a silver service for his wife. It seems his wife had been wanting a silver service for a long time, and he was asking about purchase options ranging from e-bay to auctions.

The answer from the experts at SMP to the questioner is that the good thing going for him is that it is now a buyer's market (sets made by Tiffany & Co. excluded) for silver services since there presently is not a great demand for them. SMP noted that there were so many made and put away in attics when they went out of fashion, that there are many available at reasonable prices. Younger people today don't seem to be doing the formal entertaining of past generations and are quite willing to let the family's silver service go to the highest bidder.

SCSS TO HAVE AD IN SILVER MAGAZINE

A member of the SCSS who wishes to remain anonymous recently provided funds to purchase advertising in *Silver Magazine*. The ads, a first for the SCSS, will appear in three issues.

Silver Magazine offers in-depth articles on individual patterns, silversmiths, interesting forms, and manufacturers that embrace history, as well as providing great images and diverse voices. There is something for anyone and everyone interested in silver from beginner to advanced connoisseur. Special features include pattern profiles, old versus new, interesting and rare pieces, in addition to auction results, museum and exhibition notices, book reviews, classified ads, and display ads from leaders in the silver world.

Silver Magazine reaches readers in all fifty states and in many foreign countries from Canada to China. It is available only through subscription. Published bi-monthly, it has a readership of several thousand. For more information or to subscribe, go to its website <https://www.silvermag.com>.

SCSS MEMBERS ASKED TO SUBMIT IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

Members are asked to submit any ideas for articles or other information that could be included in future issues of *The Gadroon*.

SOUTH CAROLINA SILVER SOCIETY, INC.

Judy Anderson, President

Bart Mullin, Immediate past president

Henry Brown, Vice-president

Judy Anderson, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Frank White, Newsletter

<http://southcarolinasilversociety.org>