

# THE GADROON

Newsletter of the South Carolina Silver Society, Inc.  
EARLY SPRING 2019

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## ANNUAL DINNER HELD ON FEBRUARY 8th

Thirty-seven members and guests of the South Carolina Silver Society met on February 8, 2019, in Columbia at the Palmetto Club for the society's twenty-second annual dinner.

Society president Judy Anderson presided at the business meeting. During the meeting reports were heard from the various committees and officers were re-elected for 2019. There was a discussion on ways to raise funds to support further research into silver-related topics. It was announced that the 2920 annual meeting and dinner is to be held on Friday, February 7, 2020.

After dinner, Hampton Smith, the SCSS's first MESDA scholar who did research on a John Ewan pitcher, presented a most interesting program on his work.



*President Judy Anderson presides at the annual business meeting.*



*Hampton Smith addresses SCSS members at the annual dinner.*

## SCSS HOLDS SPRING PROGRAM AT KAMINSKI HOUSE

By Judy Anderson

On Saturday, February 23, 2019, thirteen members of the South Carolina Silver Society met in Georgetown at the Kaminski House Museum. Greeted by the Executive Director Robin H. Gabriel, the group was given a tour of the home by Lisa Stalvey, Curatorial Assistant. After the tour, the group was able to see the silver pieces belonging to the museum.

One of more than sixty antebellum homes in Georgetown, the Kaminski House is one of the most representative of the Georgian style of that era. Built on a bluff overlooking the Sampit River, it is typical of the Low County "single house" style of the mid-eighteenth century.

The house was built circa 1769 by Paul Trapier, a leading merchant of the era who was known as "The King of Georgetown." The house

was in the Trapier family until 1855. It then was owned by various people until 1931 when it was purchased by Harold and Julia Kaminski who gave the house as series of renovations to update the home making it more comfortable for the family. Bathrooms were installed for every bedchamber, the dining and drawing rooms were extended as were the bedchambers of the second floor, and a balcony was installed on the second floor to name some of the renovations.

Upon her death in 1972, Julia Kaminski left the house to the City of Georgetown. The terms of her will stipulated that the house was to be used as a museum. Now meticulously preserved, the house offers history in a lovely setting and features a fine collection of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century English and American decorative arts including several pieces of 18<sup>th</sup> century Charleston-made furniture and silver owned by the Kaminski family.



*Silver Society members on the front steps of the Kaminski House*

More information about this project will be forthcoming as soon as we work out the details. Also a “Save the Date” about our next program will be distributed soon.



*The Kaminski House*

We all enjoyed being in lovely, historic Georgetown – and sampling its wonderful food! Members went in various directions to eat, shop, and antique.

The South Carolina Silver Society has chosen the Kaminski House as its volunteer project for this year. As was done at other museums – The Aiken Thoroughbred Hall of Fame and Museum and The White Homestead in Fort Mill – members will assist the museum by inventorying the silver belonging to the house.

## **MAJOR UPCOMING EXHIBITION OF GORHAM SILVER COMING NEXT YEAR TO CHARLOTTE**

A major upcoming exhibition, *Gorham Silver: Designing Brilliance 1850-1970*, will open at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum on May 3, 2019.

The exhibit is being described as casting new light on the legacy of this distinctive company, established in 1831 in Providence, Rhode Island. Home to the largest collection of Gorham silver, the RISD Museum will present exceptional silver and mixed-metal wares, reflecting the industry, artistry, innovation, and technology of the manufactory for 120 years. Adeptly coupling art and industry, Gorham boldly rose from a small firm to become the largest silver company in the world, putting uniquely American design on the international stage. Creating everything from commissioned presentation pieces to showstoppers for the dining room, Gorham responded to the era’s desire to celebrate, feast, socialize, honor and simply enjoy the everyday in style. The exhibition will travel to the Cincinnati Art Museum in March of 2020 and the Mint Museum

in Charlotte from July 25, 2020, to November 1, 2020.

To accompany the exhibition, Rizzoli books is publishing a new work, *Gorham Silver: Designing Brilliance*. Edited by Elizabeth A. Williams, the Rockefeller Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the RISD Museum, the book will be available in hardback from Rizzoli and other booksellers in April 2019 at a cost of \$75.

### ...AND YET ANOTHER IDEA ON POLISHING SILVER

We all know that silver tarnishes when sulfur compounds in the air react with it to form silver sulfide and that people will try all kinds of “interesting” ways to remove the dreaded tarnish. Perhaps one of the most unusual that crops up on the Internet is polishing tarnished silver with ketchup! Turns out that it’s not so much the tomatoes but the acetic acid (vinegar) in the ketchup. A chemist associated with England’s Royal Society of Chemists says, “There’s nothing special about tomatoes and ketchup. You’d get the same result with just about any acid, including lemon juice.” Sounds like a good way to waste ketchup that could be put to better use on a hot dog or hamburger.

### PRESENTATION PITCHER SELLS AT CAMDEN AUCTION

A silver ewer described as a “very important Regency presentation pitcher” was sold in Camden at Wooten & Wooten’s December 2018 auction.

Made in London in 1830 by Paul Storr, the ewer was crafted especially for John Laurence Manning of South Carolina. The magnificent ewer had brilliantly exacted detail of the highest quality boasting an acanthus detailed body with a chased mid-body centered by Manning’s initials.

The piece was marked three different times by Storr, once at the base with “Storr & Mortimer,” again at the middle center of the body with Storr’s hallmarks with a left facing lion, and again at the interior of the handle

This pitcher would have been used by Manning and his wife Susan Frances Hampton Manning, daughter of Gen. Wade Hampton I, at their home at Milford Plantation and most likely during the time (1852-54) he served as governor of South Carolina. The pitcher

weighed 36.1 troy ounces and was 11 ¼ inches tall. This piece, which had been passed down through John Laurence Manning’s family until the sale, brought \$7,500 plus a 25% buyer’s premium against a pre-auction estimate of \$10,000 to \$15,000.



*Manning Presentation Pitcher*

### SCSS MEMBERS ASKED TO SUBMIT IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

Members are asked to continue to submit ideas for articles or other information that could be included in future issues of *The Gadroon* to Frank White at [frankwhite@bellsouth.net](mailto:frankwhite@bellsouth.net).

### SOUTH CAROLINA SILVER SOCIETY

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