

C.R. Society

December 15, 1964

Mr. Cornelius C. Moore
5 Toure Park West
Newport
Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Moore:

A major loan exhibition of Rhode Island furniture will be held by The Rhode Island Historical Society at its headquarters, John Brown House, Providence, R. I., in May and June of 1965. The goal of the exhibition is to assemble, in a contemporary mansion, important examples of local manufacture that illustrate the scope and brilliance of our early craftsmen.

We hope to contribute to the steadily growing fund of knowledge about our early cabinet and chair makers by bringing together pieces not generally known to the public from recent books or exhibitions on American furniture. We shall emphasize newly discovered forms and those with documentation, labels, or signatures.

It has been the happy experience of the Selection Committee to bring to light many important Rhode Island pieces whose existence had been unknown to collectors and students. Further, each item of furniture requested fills a definite need in the exhibition and makes the whole more comprehensive and educational.

The Committee has asked me to request your help in making the exhibition a success. It has also unanimously voted to ask you to lend your fine block front chest of drawers with a slide, corner chair without stretchers and claw and ball feet, shell carved slipper foot lowboy and the interesting bottle carrier.

There will be a complete catalog, to be available at the opening of the exhibition, with illustrations of all pieces and appropriate text and descriptions.

Suitable protection for the furniture, including guards and other museum safeguards, will be provided. John Brown House is an impressive brick dwelling, with brick interior partitions, finished with paneling and plaster, and is termed a fire resistant building. A folder describing the house in a little more detail is enclosed.

The exhibition will open with a reception for the lenders, committee members, and sponsors on Friday, May 14, 1965. On May 15 the exhibition will open to those same groups only; and beginning May 16 it will be open to the public. It will close June 20, 1965.

THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT JOHN BROWN HOUSE, BUILT IN 1786



52 POWER STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. 02906

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We are taking the liberty of enclosing a loan form to be executed for each piece loaned if you are willing to participate. We would be more than pleased to answer any questions you may have about the exhibition.

The Society will undertake all costs, including transportation to and from John Brown House. As you might expect, these are high. Any financial assistance you or your friends may wish to give will be greatly appreciated. Those doing so will be listed separately in the catalog as sponsors, in addition to the lenders.

All lenders and sponsors will receive at no charge a special numbered issue of the catalog in hard covers.

The enthusiasm already shown in the organization of the exhibition has been especially rewarding to the members of the Exhibition Committee, and we are delighted to be the hosts for such an imposing event of national importance. With your help we hope to make this loan exhibition a complete success.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph K. Ott, Chairman
Exhibition Committee

Members of the Exhibition Committee (a partial listing)

Mr. and Mrs. William Slater Allen
Mr. John Nicholas Brown
Mr. Ralph E. Carpenter, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Chace, Jr.
Mr. Lansdell K. Christie
Mr. and Mrs. Lamont duPont Copeland
Mr. Henry Francis duPont
Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Ewing
Mrs. Robert H. I. Goddard
Mr. Robert G. Goelet
Mr. Norman Herreshoff

Mr. J. A. Lloyd Hyde
Mr. and Mrs. Washington Irving
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mauran III
Mr. Cornelius C. Moore
Mrs. Katherine Prentis Murphy
Mrs. Kenneth Shaw Safe
Mr. Stanley Stone
Mrs. Andrew Varick Stout
Mr. John A. H. Sweeney
Mr. Mitchell Taradash
Mrs. George Henry Warren

Enclosures
JKO:mr