



OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

DEC 21 1970

PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

THOMAS D. & CONSTANCE R. WILLIAMS
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT TELEPHONE 567-8312

XVIIIth & XIXth CENTURY AMERICAN DECORATIVE ARTS

December 16, 1970

*The Reverend William P. Haas
333 Eaton Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908*

Dear Father Haas;

Sometime ago our mutual friend Ben Sturges told me that the late Mr. Cornelius Moore of Newport had given his collection of Americana to Providence College and that we might possibly be of assistance to you in regard to the collection. As a matter of fact he wrote to me asking us to stay with him giving us 2 dates in October. Unfortunately, his letter was mislaid here until recently discovered. You can imagine my dismay and embarrassment. As you know, Ben is the kind of person who is always doing something helpful for his friends and I am so sorry that this has happened.

Mr. Moore was a friend of mine of long standing. He was what I would call a Collectors' Collector - one who acquired objects of rarity, artistic and historic importance. His interest in his native city of Newport was evidenced by his collection - paintings, prints, furniture and silver by the great artists, cabinet makers and silversmiths of Newport working in the 18th and early 19th century. He was by far the most sophisticated and knowledgeable collector



THOMAS D. & CONSTANCE R. WILLIAMS
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT TELEPHONE 567-8312
XVIIIth & XIXth CENTURY AMERICAN DECORATIVE ARTS

in Newport and, of course, anywhere in this country. Ben's cousin Bob Goddard a descendent of John Goddard, has several great pieces by his ancestor. In addition, the furniture collection includes several fine 18th century Philadelphia examples. Mr. Moore's interest in Philadelphia was increased because during the 18th century through marriage pieces from this area found their way to Newport. The "Quaker Tom Robinson House" at 64 Washington Street owned by Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Wood, Jr. contains several fine 18th century pieces made in Philadelphia and brought to Newport through marriage of Mr. Wood's ancestors. The Silver collection featuring the Silversmiths of Newport, New England and other areas was the greatest still in private hands. Since Newport was a great trading port Mr. Moore was also interested in Chinese porcelain and painted enamel for export to our country. In the last years of his life he was very keen to find outstanding objects of painted Chinese Enamel particularly those decorated with 18th century American and European ladies and gentlemen. Since, my wife and I collect in Southeast Asia every year, he eagerly awaited our return to see if we had found any painted Chinese Enamel. Shortly before he died I visited him in his home in Newport. He was sitting in a chair in his bedroom to receive me and was delighted with a beautiful small enameled box with gold mounts decorated with European figures which I had found on our trip and which he, of course, acquired.



THOMAS D. & CONSTANCE R. WILLIAMS
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT TELEPHONE 567-8312
XVIIIth & XIXth CENTURY AMERICAN DECORATIVE ARTS

He was such a student and perfectionist that he could not abide superficiality. Consequently he only opened his house once at my request to the fall meeting of the Pewter Collectors' Club of America in 1966. This group were enchanted to see the house and furnishings. One of our members discussed each piece of silver in the collection to the whole group. It was the high point of a great meeting. I am enclosing a copy of the program.

I am most anxious to help you in any way possible if I can be of service to you. I am so disheartened to have failed my friend Ben and you.

Sincerely,
Tom Williams
Thomas D. Williams

TDW/lp