

For Immediate Release

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**THE MERCER MUSEUM PRESENTS MAJOR EXHIBITION ON SHAKER CULTURE *Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection******on view***

***January 28, 2017*** ***− April 23, 2017***

**DOYLESTOWN, PA:** (January 3, 2017) ***–*** The Mercer Museum will present ***Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection****,* an extraordinary exhibition featuring more than 200 Shaker objects collected over 40 years by Faith and Edward Deming Andrews. The comprehensive collection represents the most significant body of Shaker materials ever assembled. The Mercer Museum is the last venue for *Gather up the* *Fragments*, which wraps up a ten-city national tour. The exhibition will be on view in the Mercer’s Martin & Warwick Galleries from **January 28, 2017** through **April 23, 2017**.

The Andrews were among the first to recognize the unique contributions of the Shakers, an almost extinct Christian sect known for their ecstatic worship, to American culture. The story of how they acquired and eventually disposed of their collection is a fascinating tale of intrigue, promises made and broken, relationships, friendships, ethics, passion and scholarship. From the 1920s through the 1960s, they actively pursued Shaker objects, collecting mainly from the Shakers themselves. Their efforts resulted in numerous publications, nearly all of which were pioneering scholarly works that examined multiple facets of Shaker life and launched the field of Shaker studies.

Organized by and first exhibited at the Hancock Shaker Village (HSV), Gather Up the Fragments delves respectfully into the Andrews’ personal interactions with specific Shakers, mostly as friends, but occasionally as overeager collectors whose presence could verge on intrusive. Objects in this comprehensive exhibition include humble household objects, traditional textiles, baskets, kitchen implements, furniture, replicas of several of the iconic Shaker Gift Drawings, and also rare pieces that have never been publicly exhibited before. *Gather Up the Fragments* illustrates that the sheer breadth and depth of the Andrews’ collecting activity assured, as the Biblical phrase from *John 6:12*, *King James Version* from which the title is drawn states, “Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.”

Hancock Shaker Village was the primary recipient of the portion of the Andrews Shaker Collection which consisted of furniture, textiles, gift drawings, and household objects. The traveling exhibition brings together representative artifacts from the HSV collection as well as loaned objects from private collections. The exhibition examines the full scope of the Andrews scholarship, from their first article published in the August 1928 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*, through Faith Andrews’ summary of their Shaker pursuits. The story of the Andrews’ relationship with the Shakers is examined comprehensively and honestly.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Mercer Museum will be hosting a lecture by *Gather Up the Fragments* curator, Christian Goodwillie, on Saturday, January 28 at 11 a.m. Goodwillie will share his knowledge about the Shakers and Faith and Edward Deming Andrews and highlight the triumphs and controversies that attended the Andrews’ efforts to preserve Shaker culture. Also on Saturday, January 28 from 2-4 p.m., local artisan Karen Wychock will demonstrate and share her knowledge of Shaker basket-making traditions. Both the lecture and basket-making demonstration are included with museum admission. For more *Gather Up the Fragments* related programming, visit mercermuseum.org.
*Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection* is included with museum admission. Mercer Museum admission is $15 for adults, $13 for seniors (65+) and $8 for youth ages 6-17.

*Gather Up the Fragments* is locally sponsored by Visit Bucks County, Bucks County Foundation, Superior Woodcraft, Freeman’s, Hendrixson’s Furniture and Pennsylvania Trust.

*Gather Up the Fragments* is organized by Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA, and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

**About the Mercer Museum**
The **Mercer Museum,** one of Bucks County’s premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life.  The Museum’s collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world’s most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America.  The museum celebrated its Centennial in 2016. The Mercer Museum is located at Pine Street & Scout Way in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210 or visit www.mercermuseum.org.

**About Hancock Shaker Village
Hancock Shaker Village** recently celebrated its 50th anniversary as a living history museum and center for the study of principled living. Situated on a picturesque expanse of farm, field and woodland in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the fully restored Village includes 18 historic buildings, heirloom medicinal and vegetable gardens, 22,000 examples of Shaker furniture, crafts, tools and clothes that depict daily life at the Shakers’ City of Peace through its 220 years, as well as heritage breed farm animals and spectacular hiking trails. There are daily tours, craft and cooking demonstrations, lectures, workshops and a variety of activities for children and families, as well as a Museum Store and Shaker-inspired cuisine at the Village Harvest Café. For more information, call 800.817.1137 or go to [www.hancockshakervillage.org](http://www.hancockshakervillage.org).

**About International Arts & Artists
International Arts & Artists** in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally, through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public. Departments include a Traveling Exhibitions Service that circulates art exhibitions to large and small museums in the US and abroad, a Cultural Exchange Program that arranges training programs for international students at US museums and arts organizations, a Design Studio that produces a full range of print and web services specifically for the arts; and an onsite gallery, Hillyer Art Space, that showcases contemporary artists working in the mid-Atlantic region. Since its founding in 1995, IA&A’s Traveling Exhibition Service has collaborated with more than 380 museums and cultural institutions in forty-nine states and several foreign countries that have hosted an exhibition. IA&A exhibitions cover a broad and dynamic range of art, including works in all media, as well as exhibitions from significant collections and art movements. Visit [www.artsandartists.org](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.artsandartists.org&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEuYXd74PrR4gg2LliFcqLXN4A7yg).

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