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**MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DOYLESTOWN, PA: (March 28, 2017) – The Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society, announced today that its President and Executive Director, Douglas Dolan will retire in June, 2017 after 34 years of dedicated service. Currently, the Board of Directors is in the final stages of a nationwide search for his replacement.

“It has been an honor and privilege to continue the vision of Henry Mercer and to educate and engage visitors with the stories and artifacts of the past,” said Dolan. “With the Mercer Museum celebrating its 100th anniversary last year, I thought the time was right to pass the torch to another steward for this extraordinary cultural legacy.”

Under Dolan’s leadership, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle have grown into two of Bucks County’s major tourist attractions with the museums seeing in excess of 95,000 visitors per year. In 2012, Dolan received a Visit Bucks County award for his contributions to the county’s tourism and hospitality industry. His tenure also includes several national honors for the museums. The castles were named National Historic Landmarks in 1985 and received accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in 1992. In 2016, the museums were awarded Smithsonian Affiliation.

Dolan has guided the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle through numerous expansion and restoration projects. In 2011, he spearheaded a \$12.5 million capital campaign that enabled the Mercer Museum to build a new wing featuring a state-of-the-art learning center, changing exhibitions space and upgraded visitor amenities. Other notable projects over the years include

the building of a 9,500 square foot, off-site Collections Study and Storage facility to house the museums' collections, and the restoration of Fonthill Castle's *Terrace Pavilion* and its adaptive reuse as an education and program center.

“Doug’s impact on our institution will continue to be felt for years to come,” said Bucks County Historical Society Board Chair, John R. Augenblick. “He has left us well-positioned to enter a new and exciting phase.”

Before coming to the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, Dolan served as Executive Director and Assistant Director of the York County (PA) Historical Society (1977-1982). He received his B.A. and M.A. in American History from the University of Delaware. Long active in the museum and arts field, Dolan served as Treasurer and Member, Executive Board, Museums Association of Pennsylvania from 1993 - 2012. He is a past President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums and has served on the boards of the American Alliance of Museums and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. Mr. Dolan resides with his family in West Rockhill Township.

About the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle

The Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are operated by The Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS), a private nonprofit organization. The Mercer Museum 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. Fonthill Castle, Henry Mercer’s amazing concrete castle home, boasts 44 rooms and 18 fireplaces. The interior walls, floors and ceilings are elaborately adorned with an incredible array of Mercer’s original handcrafted tiles. Both the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are open seven days a week. For more information , call 215-345-0210, or visit mercermuseum.org.

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