

**For Immediate Release**



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### **The Mercer Museum Announces Smithsonian Affiliation**

**DOYLESTOWN, PA (May 20, 2016)** -- The Mercer Museum announced that it has been named a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate along with its other museum, Fonthill Castle. The museums will now be the Bucks County conduit to the Smithsonian and its many resources. This new status makes the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle two of only 210 Smithsonian Affiliates nationwide.

“We are very honored to begin the new Affiliation between the Smithsonian Institution and the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle. Both organizations have a longstanding common interest in the roots of American life,” said Harold A. Closter, Smithsonian Affiliations Director. “The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle have inspired generations with its amazing collections, rich scholarship, and engaging educational programs. Working together we see greater opportunities to advance the vision of Henry Mercer and spread the story that began in Doylestown to audiences across America.”

“We are delighted to join the ranks of some very distinguished museums and institutions across the country,” said Doug Dolan, President and Executive Director of the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle. “Our National Historic Landmarks look forward to partnering with the Smithsonian Institution as Affiliates to share collections and other resources of this nationally recognized institution. This designation furthers our ability to fulfill our commitment to visitor engagement and life-long learning for all audiences.”

This announcement comes as the Mercer Museum is celebrating its Centennial year. The museum, built by tile-maker Henry Mercer to house his collection of pre-industrial tools of early America, opened on June 17, 1916.

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## **Mercer Museum Announces Smithsonian Affiliation/2**

Smithsonian Affiliations, established in 1996, is designed to facilitate a two-way relationship among Smithsonian Affiliates and the Smithsonian to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. The program establishes long-term relationships with museums and education and cultural organizations to facilitate the loan of Smithsonian artifacts and traveling exhibitions, as well as develop innovative educational collaborations locally and nationally.

There are Smithsonian Affiliates in 46 states, Puerto Rico, and Panama. Affiliates represent the diversity of America's museum community – size, location and subject – and serve all audiences.

### **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 celebrates its Centennial in 2016. The Mercer Museum is located at Pine & Ashland Streets in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call [215-345-0210](tel:215-345-0210), or visit: [www.mercermuseum.org](http://www.mercermuseum.org).

### **About Fonthill Castle**

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. The National Historic Landmark has been featured on A&E's "America's Castles," and in Martha Stewart Living Magazine. Fonthill is open daily for guided tours. For hours and pricing, visit [fonthillmuseum.org](http://fonthillmuseum.org).

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