



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, September 10, 2021**

***Found, Gifted, Saved! The Mercer Museum Collects Local History* Exhibit Opens at the Mercer Museum October 15, 2021**

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Mercer Museum, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS), is pleased to announce its new major exhibit, open from Friday, October 15, 2021, through Sunday, April 10, 2022, entitled *Found, Gifted, Saved! The Mercer Museum Collects Local History*, opening in the Martin & Warwick Foundation Galleries at the museum.

Found, Gifted, Saved! The Mercer Museum Collects Local History displays a staggering array of artifacts collected by the Bucks County Historical Society between the years of 2000 and 2021. These objects, images, and documents help illuminate the people, history, and culture of Bucks County.

The exhibit consists of a series of thematic groupings that connect diverse objects, images, and documents in a meaningful and thought-provoking way. These groupings are intended to suggest themes that range chronologically and geographically across Bucks County's past.

The themes on display in the *Found, Gifted, Saved!* exhibit are:

- ***Made in Bucks*** – Includes objects crafted, manufactured, and marketed in Bucks County, from the 18th through the 20th centuries.
- ***The Way We Played*** – Features artifacts from the 19th and 20th centuries related to sports, games, and children's play in Bucks County.
- ***The Times of Our Lives*** – Includes items that accompany the stages of life: infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. This group also included important rites of passage and rituals such as baptism, marriage, and funeral customs.
- ***A Diverse People*** – Features artifacts, documents, and images that illustrate Bucks County's historical racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, as well as those that document the arrival of immigrants to Bucks County.
- ***What We Wore*** – Includes a broad sampling of men's and women's head-, foot-, and outerwear from different periods in Bucks County's past.

- ***Thank You for Your Service*** – Displays objects, images, and documents representing Bucks County residents in service to their country and community.
- ***Which Side Are You On? Politics & Social Movements*** – Features political campaign and election materials, labor union artifacts, and items connected with various social or environmental movements.
- ***The Way We Worked & The Tools We Carried*** – Includes a variety of implements used or carried by local laborers, objects that represent various types of workplaces, and images depicting the working lives of Bucks County's people.
- ***It Pays to Advertise!*** – Features numerous examples of advertising and commercial ephemera created to promote local businesses and industries.
- ***Going to School in Bucks County*** – Includes objects and images related to public and private education and students' school day experiences in Bucks County.
- ***Wish You Were Here: Visiting Bucks County*** – Exhibits materials related to Bucks County's long history of attracting tourists, day-trippers, artists, celebrities, and seasonal visitors, especially in the 20th century.
- ***Collecting the Now*** – History continues to happen all around us. Materials in this segment reflect some contemporary events, issues, and concerns, collected while these events were happening.
- ***Staff Picks*** – Mercer Museum staff have their own ideas about what local materials BCHS should collect – and why. This regularly-changing segment of the exhibition will highlight artifacts or images that staff members find particularly interesting, relevant, or evocative. Get to know the staff and the connections that they make to the collection!

Highlighted artifacts on display include a Brewster F2A “Buffalo” Fighter Cockpit, a Joseph Ellicott Tall Case Clock, a Brashears Family Crazy Quilt, and a Graflex Press Camera of Gene Asro.

Bucks County Historical Society’s Vice President of Collections and Interpretation Cory Amsler states, “A huge challenge for museums collecting local history is to adequately represent - in objects, images, and documents - the full complexity of a community's past and the diversity of its people. We hope this exhibit launches a conversation with visitors about what we have been able to capture, what we have missed, and whether the things we've acquired help tell the stories that are most important and relevant to us as Bucks County residents.”

Members of the Bucks County Historical Society are invited to preview the exhibit early at a dedicated Member Morning on Friday, October 15, 2021, with reserved timed-ticket entry exclusively offered for members online.

Found, Gifted, Saved! The Mercer Museum Collects Local History is sponsored by Tom Thomas, Jim and Kathy Morrison, Alice and Bob Vernon, Brian and Louise McLeod, Raphael Architects, Happ Contractors Inc., and Lower Bucks Hospital – Prime Healthcare.

Found, Gifted, Saved! The Mercer Museum Collects Local History is included with general

Mercer Museum admission. In addition, the Mercer Museum will host a slate of community programs related to the exhibit throughout the season.

The Mercer Museum is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. via timed-entry slots and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Advance tickets are highly recommended. To learn more, visit mercermuseum.org.

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About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912, and was the home to Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his home and as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901.
Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street in Doylestown, PA, 18901.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit mercermuseum.org.

For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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