



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Questers Groups Support Fonthill Castle Projects

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society, is pleased to announce grants from seven different local Questers chapters to fund three successful textile projects at Doylestown’s Fonthill Castle in 2022. Recently completed and ready for the upcoming visitor season, these projects have contributed significantly to the richness and color of Fonthill Castle’s interiors.

This past year, the Fonthill Questers chapter provided a \$2,000 grant to support the acquisition of replica floor coverings for four of Fonthill Castle’s rooms. The founder of Fonthill Castle, Henry Chapman Mercer, incorporated small rugs in many of the bedrooms – all of which are in poor condition and can no longer be displayed. To provide guests with a more accurate impression of the castle’s interiors, Questers’ funds enabled the museum to acquire several high-quality modern carpets with similar colors and patterns to the originals.

The Questers is a state, national and international organization, organized into local chapters, dedicated to promoting education, history and the preservation of historic sites and artifacts. Over many years, Questers chapters have made significant contributions toward conservation, reproduction and other preservation efforts at the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle.

Fonthill Castle’s original bed coverings have also suffered from damage due to light, moisture, dust, humidity and wear. Two Questers groups, the Lingohocken and Round Meadow Run chapters, combined to contribute \$1,000 toward the acquisition of replica bedspreads and coverlets for the castle’s Dormer, Terrace, West and East Bedrooms.

Finally, four Questers chapters – Mercer Mile, Marquis, Neshaminy Creekers and Ye Olde Almshouse – collaborated to support the reproduction of new draperies for the Yellow Room. These draperies are replicas of the originals, comprised of similar materials and featuring the same color scheme. Grants totaling \$7,000 enabled the museum to purchase new peach and

gold damask fabric, in a pattern very similar to the original drapes. This fabric, with added corduroy borders to match the originals, was then sewn into new draperies for the room.

The Bucks County Historical Society appreciates the generosity of all of these Questers groups, as well as that of the Pennsylvania State Questers organization which provided additional grant funds to match the contributions of the local chapters. The replica draperies, carpets and bedding provide a more accurate and authentic impression of Henry Mercer's original interiors, and may be seen by guests touring his landmark 1908-1912 Fonthill "castle for the New World."

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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, please contact:

Allison Hauser, PR & Marketing Manager
Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle
(215) 345-0210 ext. 131
ahauser@mercermuseum.org