

Cherished Possessions

A New England Legacy

A Traveling Exhibition from the Society for the
Preservation of New England Antiquities



Educator's Resource Guide



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Images courtesy of SPNEA
Photography by Peter Harholdt



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*Society for the Preservation of
New England Antiquities*

Dear Educator,

This Educator's Resource Guide is designed to help you make the most of a class visit to the exhibition, *Cherished Possessions: A New England Legacy*. Drawn from the collections of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA), the exhibition includes a wide variety of objects, including furniture, photographs, paintings and textiles, and explores more than 300 years of New England history. This resource guide allows teachers to focus on specific themes within the exhibition that relate to their classroom teaching.

Five thematic sections give students a view of different time periods in American history, and simultaneously introduce students to the techniques historians use to collect and preserve that history. The themes are:

- Everyone's History Matters: Family Treasures
- Tales of the Revolution: Great Stories from the Past
- Neoclassicism: Old Symbols for a New Republic
- Fighting for Freedom: Slavery and New England
- People and Portraits

Teachers may wish to focus on one particularly relevant theme, or string several themes together to give students an overview of the exhibition. Each section includes background information for teachers on two objects, as well as other related objects to look for in the exhibition. In addition, discussion questions, ideas for hands-on activities, and bibliographies are provided. They may be used to prepare students for their visit or for further study back in the classroom after the field trip. All materials have been written in connection with the National Standards For History published by the National Center for History in the Schools.

Please let us know what you think about these materials by completing the evaluation form at the end of this section. We also welcome your ideas and stories about how you have used the materials in your classroom.

Contact us at:

Education Department
SPNEA
141 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

or BostonEd@spnea.org

About the Exhibition

Cherished Possessions: A New England Legacy consists of approximately 200 objects drawn from SPNEA's collection of fine and decorative arts. Each item in the exhibition has been selected for its ability to tell a story and to place the history of that item within the larger history of the region and the nation. History often focuses on the stories of the wealthy and famous, the politicians and the privileged. SPNEA's exhibition touches on these stories, but also highlights the uniqueness of the objects used daily by the everyday citizen. Thanks to New Englanders' penchant for retaining family objects that tell tales, more than 300 years of New England history are evident in the items in the exhibition.

The exhibition will travel to the following venues:

Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine

July 16, 2003–October 26, 2003

Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

June 12–August 22, 2004

Honolulu Academy of Fine Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii

September 29, 2004–January 2, 2005

Bard College Graduate Center, New York

March 2–May 29, 2005

Public Museum of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Michigan

June 22–October 2, 2005

New England's History is America's History

The six contiguous states that make up New England — Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont — take up less space than one-quarter of the state of Texas. However, New England's place in the American psyche is substantial. Known for its picturesque beauty and historical character, New England was the home of Pilgrims and Puritans, the Salem Witch Trials, the first rumblings of American Independence, and the first battle of the Revolution. The Industrial Age sprang up on the banks of New England rivers, and groundbreaking social movements, promoting the rights of women and blacks, found a firm foundation in New England. All of these events influenced the nation we live in today.

We can also learn from those New Englanders whose stories did not end up in the pages of a history book. Tracing lives of everyday citizens over time demonstrates the tremendous changes that have occurred in American society over the last four hundred years, from the subsistence lifestyles of the early settlers to the remarkable age of technology that we live in today.

We hope that no matter what region of the country you live in, you will find the themes and resources in this Educator's Guide useful in sharing our nation's history and culture with your students.

About SPNEA

Founded in 1910 to protect New England's cultural and architectural heritage, SPNEA is an internationally known museum and national leader in preservation, research, and innovative programming. SPNEA collects and preserves buildings, landscapes, and objects dating from the seventeenth century to the present and uses them to keep history alive and to help people develop a deeper understanding and enjoyment of New England life and an appreciation for its preservation.

Headquartered in Boston, SPNEA owns and operates 35 historic sites in five New England States. These carefully preserved buildings and landscapes tell the stories of the people who have called New England home over the past three centuries. For more information, visit our website: www.SPNEA.org.

About the materials

A few notes to help you use the Educator's Resource Guide:

- The first page of each section provides an overview, a list of lesson objectives, and a summary of subject areas, skills, and topics covered in the section.
- Connections to the National Standards for History published by the National Center for History in the schools appear towards the end of each section. The standards may be found at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/nchs/standards/>.
- Underlined words are defined in each section's Glossary section.



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*Society for the Preservation of
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Educator's Resource Guide Evaluation

Your opinions are important to us! Please let us know what you think about the materials provided in this binder.

You may submit feedback in the following ways:

By Mail:

Education Department
SPNEA
141 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114-2702

By Fax:

617- 227-9204

By Email:

BostonEd@spnea.org

Educator Name (optional): _____

School: _____

Subject and Grade taught: _____

Did you visit *Cherished Possessions: A New England Legacy* with your students? If so, when? At what museum?

Where did you get a copy of the Educator's Resource Guide?

- From SPNEA (*printed copy*) From another museum (*printed copy*) From a website (*PDF*)
Name of museum: _____ website: _____

Which section(s) of the Educator's Resource Guide did you use? Please check all that apply.

- Everyone's History Matters: Family Treasures
 Tales of the Revolution: Great Stories from the Past
 Neoclassicism: Old Symbols for a New Republic
 Fighting for Freedom: Slavery and New England
 People and Portraits
 None

Please describe how you used the resource guide to integrate *Cherished Possessions* into your classroom teaching:



Did the materials connect to your curriculum? If so, how?

Please answer the following questions by circling the appropriate answer.

The sections I chose to use from the resource guide were appropriate for the age and abilities of my students.

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

The directions in the resource guide were clear.

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

My students were more engaged by the exhibition because of the materials in the resource guide.

Agree

Disagree

Did not visit the exhibition

Comments:

The National History Standards Connections were useful.

Agree

Disagree

Did not look at them

Comments:

The Skills/Subjects/Topics Charts in each section were useful.

Agree

Disagree

Did not look at them

Comments:

What more would you want to see in the Educator's Resource Guide? Please continue on the reverse if necessary.

1

Everyone's History

Matters:

Family Treasures

13

Great Stories from

the Past:

Tales of the Revolution

26

Neoclassicism:

Old Symbols for a
New Republic

39

Fighting for

Freedom:

Slavery and New England

54

People and Portraits