

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winter Antiques Show 2004
Announces 50th Anniversary Loan Exhibition
from The Metropolitan Museum of Art

(New York, NY, September --, 2003) Arie L. Kopelman, president of Chanel U.S.A. and Chairman of the Winter Antiques Show committee is pleased to announce that the 50th Anniversary Loan Exhibition for the 2004 Winter Antiques Show will be from The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibition, titled *A Celebration of the American Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art* will be featured at the 50th annual Winter Antiques Show from January 16–January 25, 2004 at the Seventh Regiment Armory, 67th Street and Park Avenue, New York City. The Loan Exhibition at the Winter Antiques Show is sponsored by The Chubb Group of Insurance Companies for the eighth consecutive year.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection of American art is the most comprehensive in the world, reflecting the Museum's long commitment to acquiring, exhibiting and studying the nation's fine and decorative arts. Soon after its establishment in 1870, the Museum began to acquire important examples of both historical and contemporary American art. The opening of the American Wing in 1924 gave the growing collection a permanent home, a home that was greatly expanded in 1980. More than 18,000 paintings, sculptures and decorative arts are currently accessible to the public on four floors of the gallery and study areas. The period rooms and galleries survey American art from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century. The Museum is currently planning further improvements for the American wing, significant alterations that will reflect the Metropolitan's continual dedication to the acquisition, display and interpretation of American art of the highest quality, breadth and interest.

"The Loan Exhibition from the Metropolitan Museum of Art represents 'the best of the best,' stated Mr. Kopelman. "It is the ultimate centerpiece for the 50th Anniversary of the Winter Antiques Show, and we are thrilled!"

A Celebration of the American Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art will showcase the Museum's vast collection with a selection of paintings and decorative arts objects from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Colonial period highlights will include a fine portrait (1773) by

John Singleton Copley, a beautifully carved Philadelphia Chippendale tea table (1765-75), a magnificent basket (1770-76) by master silversmith Myer Myers and an assortment of silver tea and coffee wares. The nineteenth-century display, which begins with a Federal-period pier tea table (1815-19) by Charles- Honoré Lannuier and a splendid girandole mirror (1817) once in the possession of the Van Rensselaer family, also includes a secretary desk (ca. 1882) by the Herter Brothers, Augustus Saint- Gaudens's bronze Diana (1894 or after), John Singer Sargent's oil on canvas Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Phelps Stokes (1897) and a selection of favrile glass vases by Louis Comfort Tiffany. This exhibition, which includes many rarely loaned objects, will suggest both the depth and breadth of the American Wing's collection.

"It is a great pleasure for the Met to take part in the 2004 Winter Antiques Show," commented Philippe de Montebello, Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Taking into consideration the prestigious nature of the event and the discerning audience it attracts, it seems fitting that we participate in this golden anniversary with a display of the 'best of the best' from our American collections. We hope that this sampling from the myriad of treasures housed in the American Wing will continue to draw visitors to experience the Metropolitan Museum and its vast collection in the future."

The Metropolitan Museum's American Wing curators will present a lecture series during the 2004 Winter Antiques Show. Lecture will take place Monday-Friday, January 19-23 at 2:30pm in the Tiffany Room at the Armory. They will be open to the public. Topics will include the history of The American Wing, American silver, Federal-period furniture, American Impressionism, and the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

- Monday, Jan. 19: Morrison H. Heckscher
Lawrence A. Fleischman Chairman of The American Wing
"The American Wing: Past, Present and Future"
- Tuesday, Jan. 20: Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen
Anthony W. and Lulu C. Wang Curator
"Louis Comfort Tiffany at The Metropolitan Museum of Art"
- Wednesday, Jan. 21: H. Barbara Weinberg
Alice Pratt Brown Curator
"American Impressionism at The Metropolitan Museum of Art"
- Thursday, Jan. 22: Beth Carver Wees
Associate Curator
"American Silver at The Metropolitan Museum of Art"

- Friday, Jan. 23: Peter M. Kenny
Curator
"The Taste and Style of Antiquity: American Classical Furniture at The Metropolitan
Museum of Art"

All proceeds from the Winter Antiques Show benefit East Side House Settlement, a 113-year-old social services organization in America's poorest congressional district, the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx. Show hours are noon to 8:30 p.m. daily; Sundays and Thursdays, the Show is open from noon to 6:00 p.m. Tickets to the Opening Night Party, sponsored by Elle Decor magazine with Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City as Honorary Chairman on Thursday, January 15, or the Young Collectors' Night on Thursday, January 22, are available by calling (718) 292-7392 or by visiting the Show's website at www.winterantiquesshow.com. General admission to the Show is \$16, which includes a catalog.

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