



Winterthur Institute

SUGGESTED READING LIST 2026

The following are introductory resources on the history of decorative arts, study of material culture, and the du Pont family, to generally contextualize Winterthur Institute 2026. While instructors may provide additional bibliographic references for their own subject areas, this list includes easily accessible books, videos, sound bites, and websites to enjoy in preparation for study at Winterthur.

I. INTRODUCTION TO WINTERTHUR

Cooper, Wendy A. *An American Vision: Henry Francis du Pont's Winterthur Museum*. National Gallery of Art, Washington and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Delaware, 2002.

Eirhart, Linda. *The Winterthur Garden Guide: Color for Every Season*. Winterthur, DE: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in association with Temple University Press, 2019.

Eversmann, Pauline K. *Guide to Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library*. Winterthur, DE: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Inc., 2019.

Lidz, Maggie. *The du Ponts of Winterthur*. Winterthur, DE: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 2017.

Lord, Ruth. *Henry F. du Pont and Winterthur: A Daughter's Portrait*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.

Melloy, Alberta A; with an introduction by Maggie Lidz, *Flower Arranging the Winterthur Way*. Winterthur Museum, 2002.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, [Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library Podcast](#).

Winterthur Library. *American Cornucopia: Treasures of the Winterthur Library*. Winterthur, Del.: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1990.

Winterthur Museum Garden and Library, [WinterMuse](#).

[The Winterthur Story](#), *Winterthur Portfolio*, Volume One (1964), pp. 1-169.

II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

[Black Craftspeople Digital Archive](#)

Butler, Jon. *Becoming America*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2000.

[The Dominy Craftsmen Collection](#).

Gevalt, Emelie et al. *Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North*. New York, NY: American Folk Art Museum, 2023.

Hong, Tammy. *Objects Up Close Virtual Series*. [Webinar] Winterthur Museum Garden & Library, 2023.

[Tea Traditions and Chinese Export Objects.](#)

[Chinese Export Painting Techniques and Materials.](#)

[Peeling Back Winterthur's Chinese Export Wallpaper.](#)

*Rockman, Seth. *A Material History of American Slavery*. University of Chicago Press, 2024.
Note discussion with Seth on the Agenda

Strasser, Susan. *Never Done: A History of American Housework*. Owl Books, 2000.

Taylor, Alan. *American Colonies*. New York: Viking Press, 2001.

III. DECORATIVE ARTS SURVEY

Krill, Rosemary Troy, with Pauline K. Eversmann: *Early American Decorative Arts, 1620–1860*. Walnut Creek, California: Altamira Press, 2001.

Van Horn, Jennifer. *The Power of Objects in Eighteenth-Century British America*. Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and University of North Carolina Press, 2019.

IV. CRAFT

Adamson, Glenn. *Craft: An American History*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021.

Robell Awake, *Short History of Black Craft*. Princeton Architectural Press, February 4, 2025.

[Craft Video Dictionary – A new tool for understanding the handmade. Techniques, Materials, Tools](#)

IV. DECORATIVE ARTS BY MATERIAL

A. Furniture

Anderson, Jennifer L. *Mahogany, The Costs of Luxury in Early America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012.

Downs, Joseph (Author) and Henry Francis du Pont (Foreward). *American Furniture : Queen Anne and Chippendale Periods in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum*. Schiffer Pub Ltd; A Winterthur Book edition, 2001.

Fitzgerald, Oscar P. *American Furniture, 1650 to the Present*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018.

Greene, Jeffrey. *American Furniture of the 18th Century: History, Technique, and Structure*. Taunton Press. 1996.

Hoadley, R. Bruce. *Understanding Wood: A Craftsman's Guide to Wood Technology*. Revised edition. Newtown, Conn.: Taunton Press, 2000.

Ronald L. Hurst and Jonathan Prown, *Southern Furniture 1680-1830, The Colonial Williamsburg Collection*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Second Printing edition, 1997.

Kane, Patricia E. *Art and Industry in Early America: Rhode Island Furniture, 1650-1830*. New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, 2016.

Kirtley, Alexandra Alevizatos. *American Furniture 1650-1840, Highlights from the Philadelphia Museum of Art*. Philadelphia and New Haven: Philadelphia Museum of Art and Yale University Press, 2020.

Montgomery, Charles F. *American Furniture: The Federal Period in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum* Schiffer Pub Ltd; A Winterthur Book edition, 2001.

Rauschenberg, Bradford L., and John Bivins. *The Furniture of Charleston 1680-1820*. 3 vols. Winston-Salem: Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, 2003.

B. Pre-Industrial Woodworking Tools

Mercer, Henry C. *Ancient Carpenters' Tools*. New York: Dover Publications, 2000. (First published in 1929)

Salaman, R. A. *Dictionary of Woodworking Tools*. Newtown, CT: Taunton Press, 1990. (First published in 1975)

C. Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Archives

Boudalis, Georgios. *The Codex and Crafts in Late Antiquity*. The University of Chicago Press, 2018

Carter, John and Nicolas Barker. *ABC for Book Collectors*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2004.

Farge, Arlette et al. *The Allure of the Archives*. Yale University Press, 2013.

Greenfield, Jane. *ABC of Bookbinding*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 1998.

Houston, Keith. *The Book: A Cover-to-Cover Exploration of the Most Powerful Object of Our Time*. New York, London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2016.

Pearson, David. *Books as History: The Importance of Books Beyond Their Texts*. Oak Knoll Press, 2008.

Steedman, Carolyn. *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History*. Rutgers University Press, 2002.

Werner, Sarah. *Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800*. Wiley, 2019.

D. Ceramics and Glass

Frelinghuysen, Alice Cooney. *American Porcelain, 1770-1920*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1989.

Il Fuchs, Ronald W., David S. Howard, et al. *Made in China: Export Porcelain from the Leo & Doris Hodroff Collection at Winterthur*. Winterthur Museum, 2005.

Palmer (Schwind), Arlene. *Glass in Early America: Selections from the H. F. du Pont Winterthur Museum*. Winterthur Museum, 1993.

Quimby, Ian G. ed. *Ceramics in America*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1980.

Venable, Charles L. ed. *China and Glass in America: 1880-1980, From Tabletop to T.V. Tray*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2000.

E. Silver and Other Metals

Fennimore, Donald L. and Patricia A. Halfpenny. *The Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens at Winterthur*. Winterthur, Del.: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 2000.

Fennimore, Donald L. *Iron at Winterthur*, Winterthur, Delaware, 2004.

Fennimore, Donald L. *Metalwork in Early America: Copper and Its Alloys from the Winterthur Collection*. Winterthur, Delaware: 1996.

Fennimore, Donald L. and Frank Hohmann. *David Rittenhouse: Philosopher-Mechanic of Colonial Philadelphia and His Famous Clocks*. Winterthur, Delaware: 2023.

Hood, Graham. *American Silver: A History of Style, 1650–1900*. 1971. Reprint. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1989.

Montgomery, Charles F. *A History of American Pewter*. 2nd ed. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1978.

Quimby, Ian M. G. *American Silver at Winterthur*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995.

Rainwater, Dorothy. *Encyclopedia of American Silver Manufacturers*. Schiffer Publishing, 2002 and 2003.

Venable, Charles L. ed. *Silver in America 1840-1940: A Century of Splendor*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1995.

F. Visual Arts

Anishanslin, Zara. *Portrait of a Woman in Silk: Hidden Histories of the British Atlantic World*. Yale University Press, 2016.

- Chapters 8 and 11 WinterthurInstitute.org.

Van Horn, Jennifer. "The Mask of Civility. Portraits of Colonial Women and the Transatlantic Masquerade." *American Art*. Volume 23, Number 3. Smithsonian Institution 2009. pp 8 – 35. WinterthurInstitute.org.

Skolozynski, Julie Niskanen. "[The Art of the Mezzotint](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jikAwCcc0uI)". YouTube. February 2025.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jikAwCcc0uI>

G. Textiles

Brown, Susan. *The Definitive History of Fashion and Style*. DK Publishing: New York, NY, 2012.

Edwards, Lydia. *How to Read a Dress: A Guide to Changing Fashion from the 16th to the 20th Century*. Bloomsbury Academic: New York, NY, 2017.

Cooke, Edward S., Jr., ed. *Upholstery in America and Europe from the Seventeenth Century to World War I*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1987.

Eaton, Linda. *Printed Textiles: British and American Cottons and Linens, 1700-1850*. The Monacelli Press: New York, NY, 2014.

Eaton, Linda. *Quilts in a Material World: Selections from the Winterthur Collection*. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2007.

Edwards, Clive. *Encyclopedia of Furnishing Textiles, Floorcoverings, and Home Furnishing Practices, 1200-1950*. Lund Humphries: Burlington, VT, 2007.

Harris, Jennifer. *5000 Years of Textiles*. Smithsonian Books: Washington, D.C., 2011.

Montgomery, Florence. *Textiles in America 1650-1870*. W. W. Norton & Co., 2007.

Peck, Amelia. *American Quilts & Coverlets in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. Exhibition catalogue. Revised edition. New York: MQ Publications, 2007.

The Quilt Index. <https://quiltindex.org/>

Ring, Betty. *Girlhood Embroidery: American Samplers & Pictorial Needlework, 1650-1850*. New York: Knopf, 1993.

Delaware. [Quiltfolk](http://quiltfolk.org) Issue 37: January 2026. WinterthurInstitute.org

[Sampler Archive: Information and Images of Historic Girlhood Embroideries](#)

Swan, Susan B. *Plain and Fancy: American Women and Their Needlework, 1700–1850*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1995 (reprint).

V. PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. *Caring for Your Cherished Objects: The Winterthur Guide* / edited by Joy Gardiner and Joan Irving. Winterthur, DE: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 2021.

VI. MUSEUM STUDIES AND INTERPRETATION

[Museum Registration Methods: : American Alliance of Museums John E. Simmons American Alliance Of Museums - Bloomsbury](#)