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04/04/1988 - Decorative Art Symposium Set

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DECORATIVE ART SYMPOSIUM SET

CHARLESTON, IL--On Saturday, April 9th, Eastern Illinois University will host a one day symposium entitled, "ADVENT OF ANONYMITY: MECHANIZATION OF THE DECORATIVE ARTS."

Each year the Historical Administration Symposium attracts a diverse group of participants who share an interest in material culture history. This year's symposium examines the mechanization of decorative arts as their production moved out of the cottage and into the factory. It will highlight the repercussions these changes had for both the craftsman and consumer.

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Five presenters will be featured. Steven K. Young will present, "Glass: It doesn't Always Fit the Mold," in which he will set forth the dichotomy between innovative mechanical processes and the ongoing work of individual craftsmen.

Young is a graduate of the Historical Administration Program at EIU and currently is the Director of Public Programs and Services for the Corning Museum of Glass.

Thomas Hines will focus on the variety of products the Shaker's made for sale to the "outside world" in his presentation, "Shaker Community Industry: The Mass Production."

Naomi Whiting Towner, who leads the Fiber Program in the Illinois State University Art Department, will present "Transitional Textiles: From Handmade to Mass Production." She is interested in how mechanization affected the lives of textile craftsmen, influenced their textile designs, and inevitably shaped the attitudes which the designers, manufacturers, and consumers had toward the end product.

Timothy J. Chester will present, "The Decorative Arts: In a Good History Museum They're Neither Decorative nor Artistic."

The final speaker, Michael J. Ettema, Curator of Domestic Life for the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan will speak on the topic of "The Anonymous Consumer" and he will also synthesize the other presentations as a part of his investigation of the 19th century American decorative arts.

This symposium is being coordinated by Adult and Continuing Education. For more information, please call (217)581-5114.