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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

Since the time of the Newport Historical Society's first bulletin in 1912, diversity has been the hallmark of its publications. Articles have addressed every class of Newporter—from socialites to slaves, from the aged to children, from the working class to the leisure class, from the military to the clergy. Writers have approached topics from wide ranging disciplines: architectural history, science, military history, art history, literature, social history, religion, and oral history. Styles of writing have ranged from the scholarly to the humorous to stream-of-consciousness. The formula—or the lack of one—has worked well. *Newport History* serves the broadest possible audience, offering something for every potential reader.

This issue of *Newport History* fits this formula. Milo M. Naeve provides a furniture specialist's exploration of a specific type of 18th-century New England chair. Gary Scharnhorst takes the reader on a romp through the literary times of a 19th-century feminist. The topics could not be more different, and yet there is a common thread uniting both articles: meticulous research that sheds important new insight.

Milo M. Naeve is the Field-McCormick Curator Emeritus of American Arts at the Art Institute of Chicago. He holds a B.F.A. from the University of Colorado (1953) and an M.A. from the University of Delaware's Winterthur program (1955). From 1975-91, he was founding curator of the Department of American Arts at the Art Institute of Chicago, responsible for both fine and decorative arts through the 20th century. In addition to his appointment as emeritus curator since retiring in 1991, Mr. Naeve has received awards from the Illinois Academy of the Arts, the Royal Society of Arts (since 1977), and the Decorative Arts Society. His publications include *The Classical Presence in American Art* (1978), *John Lewis Krimmel: An Artist in Federal America* (1988), *Identifying American Furniture: Colonial to Contemporary* (1981, 1989, and 1998) and *150 Years of Philadelphia Painters and Painting* (1999).

Gary Scharnhorst has been a Professor of English at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque since 1987. He received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Perdue University in 1978. A recipient of five Fulbright scholarships since 1978, he is the author of books on Horatio Alger, Charlotte Perkins Gilmore, and Bret Harte, among others. His recent tome *Bret Harte: Opening the American Literary West* (2000) received the Thomas J. Lyon Award for "Outstanding Book in Western American Literary Criticism" from the Western Literature Association. Since 2002, Dr. Scharnhorst also has served as chair of the Modern Language Association's literature section, the highest office for an American literature professor. To conduct his research on Kate Field, he spent time at the Feminist Research Institute of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is at work on a full-length biography of Kate Field.