



# THE NEWPORT ANTIQUES SHOW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **THEIR MANNERS PLEASING, AND THEIR EDUCATION COMPLETE: NEWPORT SAMPLERS 1728-1835**

*Dr. Margaret Ordonez Presents Loan Exhibit Talk*

NEWPORT, RI – (July 2011) – August 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> marks the fifth anniversary of the Newport Antiques Show, benefiting the Newport Historical Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County. Each year the Show presents an exhibit that highlights items from the Historical Society's collections viewable only for the weekend of the Antiques Show. For this landmark year, the loan exhibit will feature eighteenth and early nineteenth century samplers from the Society's textiles collection in the exhibit *Their Manners Pleasing, and Their Education Complete: Newport Samplers 1728-1835*.

This selection of local samplers reflects the evolution of Newport needlework over the course of a century and includes examples of the different types of samplers that a girl might produce during her lifetime. "Sampler-making was a vital part of a young woman's education in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries," explains Jessie MacLeod, exhibit curator and Newport Historical Society intern. "Stitching a plain sampler helped a girl practice her sewing skills, and elaborate pieces of fancy needlework served as evidence of a young lady's refinement and accomplishment."

Most decorative samplers were made in female academies, where pupils learned needlework along with subjects like reading, arithmetic, painting, and music. Frances Townsend ran one such school for the daughters of Newport's elite, promising in a 1787 advertisement that her instruction would "render their Manners pleasing, and their Education complete."

On Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am, Dr. Margaret T. Ordoñez, Professor in the Textiles Department at the University of Rhode Island, will discuss the components of seventeenth through early nineteenth century samplers and show how time, method of mounting, and use affect their condition. Dr. Ordoñez will offer advice on storing and displaying samplers in homes, museums, and historic houses.

Newport samplers are well-known for their lively and distinctive designs and many fine examples will be exhibited during the Newport Antiques Show. *Their Manners Pleasing, and Their Education Complete* is generously sponsored by Woodbury Auction, LLC, the auction services division of Thomas Schwenke, Inc.

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The Newport Antiques Show opens with a Gala Preview Party on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and runs Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> (10am-6pm) and Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> (10am-5pm). General Show admission costs \$12 per person, advance reservation for party tickets is required. All net proceeds from sponsorships and ticket sales benefit the Newport Historical Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County.



*Sampler completed by  
Roba Whites Sampler, 1806,  
Newport, RI.*

*From the Newport Historical  
Society's collections.*



*Sampler completed by  
Ann Baker, 1754, Newport, RI.*

*From the Newport Historical  
Society's collections*

For additional details and/or media photos, visit the Show website at [www.NewportAntiquesShow.com](http://www.NewportAntiquesShow.com) or contact: Elizabeth Sulock, Public Affairs Associate, Newport Historical Society, 401-846-2669, [esulock@newporthistorical.org](mailto:esulock@newporthistorical.org).

**About The Newport Antiques Show**

The Newport Antiques Show, founded in 2007, is one of the country's leading antiques and decorative arts shows. Proceeds benefit both the Newport Historical Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County. For more information please visit [www.NewportAntiquesShow.com](http://www.NewportAntiquesShow.com) or call 401-846-2669.