



**Guide to the Cornelius C. Moore papers
1922-1970**

Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections
1 Cunningham Square
Providence, RI 02918-0001
<http://www.providence.edu/archives/>

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Collection Overview

Creator(s):	Moore, (Cornelius C.), 1885-1970
Title:	Cornelius C. Moore papers
Dates:	1922-1970
Quantity:	3 box(es) (1.5 linear feet)
Abstract:	The papers of Cornelius C. Moore Esq., an avid silver collector, contains correspondence and photographs that relate directly to Moore's silver collecting. Additional material includes documentation on a number exhibitions in the 1960s for Moore's silver collection. The collection was the basis for the publication of the art-history book, "American-Silver 1670-1830: The Silver Moore Collection at Providence College." Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation and Providence College, (1980).
Identification:	rppc_mscemoore
Language:	The records are in English.
Repository:	Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections 1 Cunningham Square Providence, RI 02918-0001 http://www.providence.edu/archives/

Biographical Information

Cornelius C. Moore, a lawyer, banker, politician, and leader of several prominent organizations, was a pivotal contributor to American art and history through his extensive, and well developed, colonial silver collection. Committed to civic and religious duties, Moore generously contributed his time, energy, and material wealth to Rhode Island government, educational facilities, and charitable associations. In addition, he shared with the public his avid interest in colonial Rhode Island silversmiths' work. Over several years, Moore was able to compile one of the foremost American colonial silver collections from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His desire to share the historical, artistic, and educational merits of the silver, has produced substantial referential material to better appreciate the unique aspects of this collection.

The collection's focus on Rhode Island silver work may be attributed to Cornelius C. Moore's life-long residency in Newport, Rhode Island. Born in 1885 to John J. and Katherine M. Moore, he became a prominent citizen of Newport and the greater Rhode Island state. Before passing the bar in 1916, Moore worked as a clerk on the Rhode Island Board of Health. Within three years, Moore established the law firm of Moore, Virgadamo, Boyle, and Lynch, where he assumed the responsibilities of a senior member. He was later awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Salve Regina College in 1961. Moore also served as director (1935) and Vice-President (1942) of the Newport National Bank, before being named the bank President in 1950.

Moore's interest in the law encouraged him to pursue public life. He served as a Rhode Island delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1936, 1940, and 1944. He was a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, a commissioner of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, chairman of the Rhode Island Representative Council, and a member of Rhode Island State Council of Defense. Moore also was a member of the Rhode Island Port Authority and served as Mayor of Newport.

Apart from these political posts, Moore was actively involved in a number of religious and educational organizations. These positions include chairman of the Bishop's Campaign Fund, Knight of St. Gregory, chairman of the 37th Annual Catholic Charities Appeal, chairman emeritus of the board of trustees for Salve Regina College, member of the President's Council at Providence College, and founder of Portsmouth Priory (Portsmouth Abbey).

He was also an advocate for Irish freedom and served as Vice President of the Irish-American Historical Society. Moore was committed to advancing higher learning in Rhode Island and made significant donations to Salve Regina College, most notably the "Four Acres" Ochre Point Avenue property in 1950. As a result of his generosity, Salve Regina dedicated Moore Hall in his name.

In spite of Moore's array of commitments, he found time to amass an extensive silver collection from the American colonial period 1670-1830. Although the collection revolved around Rhode Island silversmiths, such as Jonathan Hull and Robert Sanderson, Arnold Collins, Samuel Casey, Samuel Vernon and Jonathan Otis, Moore also attained pieces from notable colonists such as Paul Revere, John Edwards, Moody Russell, Myer Myers and Samuel Avery. Moore was fascinated by the historical and artistic elements of each object and piece's creator. He frequently permitted public display of the collection to engage and educate those likewise enthralled by colonial antiques. Moore compiled an impressive quantity of biographical, genealogical, and artistic research on each silversmith and work he owned.

After a long period of illness, Cornelius C. Moore passed away on August 11, 1976 at age eighty-five.

Biographical Timeline

1885	Cornelius Cliuian Moore is born to John J. and Katherine M. Moore.
1916	Receives law degree and begins his career as an attorney.
1919	Establishes the law firm of Moore, Virgadamo, Boyle and Lynch.
1920	Hosts Eamon DeValera, President of the Republic of Ireland, for the Irish-American Historical Society.
1926	Founds the Portsmouth Priory and School (Portsmouth Abbey) of Middletown, Rhode Island.
1935	Appointed director of the Newport National Bank.
1936	Rhode Island Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
1940	Rhode Island Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
1942	Appointed Vice-President of the Newport National Bank.
1942-1946	Member and chairman of the Representative Council.
1944	Rhode Island Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
1950	Donates "Four Acres" Ochre Point land to Salve Regina College.
1961	Exhibits silver collection at the Rhode Island Historical Society. Exhibits silver collection at the Red Cross of Newport. Awarded Doctor of Laws Honorary Degree from Salve Regina College.
1962	Exhibits silver collection at Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island.
1963	Chairman of the 37th Annual Catholic Charities Appeal. Exhibits silver collection at Newton College of the Sacred Heart.
1964	Exhibits silver collection at Salve Regina College.
1965	Exhibits silver collection at Rhode Island School of Design.
1966	Exhibits silver collection at St. Julia's Women's Club of Newton, Massachusetts.
1970 Aug 11	Cornelius C. Moore passes away after a long illness.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence and research which comprise this collection reveal the effort and time spent by Cornelius C. Moore to accumulate one of the foremost silver collections from the American colonial period.

Moore, an ardent collector, understood the educative element of the collection, and was thorough in his study of each silversmith and object produced. Although Moore was primarily interested in Rhode Island silver pieces, he appreciated the craftsmanship and historical importance of silver produced in other colonies. His dedication in amassing an array of American silver led to his acquisition of work from prominent colonial silversmiths, including Paul Revere, Myer Myers, Arnold Collins, John Edwards, Samuel Casey, Samuel Vernon, and Jonathan Otis.

Included are photographs of the silver, which are the work of Mr. Brian Pelletier. Mr. Moore commissioned Pelletier to photograph the collection in order to compile a catalog for educative purposes. Moore also directed Mr. Hugh J. Gourley III to write descriptive analyses of each piece, but after Mr. Moore's death, Mr. Gourel's other commitments impeded him from completing the project. Pelletier and Gourel's initial work became the foundation for *American Silver 1670-1830: The Moore Collection* at Providence College published by Providence College and the Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation. Created by a Providence College senior seminar on art historical research methods (1978-1979), the work catalogues each piece from the Cornelius C. Moore silver collection according to geographical and chronological order.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series.

Series list

Correspondence

Photographs

Subject Files

Index Terms

Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

Names

Casey, Samuel, 1724-ca. 1773

Moore, Cornelius C., 1885-1970

Revere, Paul, 1735-1818

Administrative Information

Custodial History

The collection was originally owned and compiled by Cornelius C. Moore prior to its donation to Providence College.

Preferred Citation

Cornelius C. Moore papers, Providence College Library, Special and Archival Collections

Acquisitions Information

In 1970, Cornelius C. Moore bequeathed the silver collection and the accompanying documentation to Providence College in order to expand the educative function of his collection.

Processing Information

This collection was originally processed in 1970.

Restrictions

Open for research.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Photocopying and scanning of materials is a fee based service available in the repository and is allowed at the discretion of the Librarian of Special and Archival Collections when in compliance to the College's policy on copyright and publication.

Related Material

For additional information on the Moore Silver Collection see:

American Silver 1670-1830: The Moore Collection at Providence College. Introduction by Alice H. R. Hauck; essays and catalogue by Anne E. Spokas [et al.] Providence: Providence College and the Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation, 1980.

The College subsequently auctioned off the silver collection, although the reference materials and correspondence continue to be maintained for educative purposes.

Inventory

Series: Correspondence

Dates: 1927-1970

Extent: (35 folders)

Material types:

collections management
correspondence
receipts (financial records)

Scope and Content Note

This series contains the correspondence between Mr. Cornelius C. Moore and art and antique dealers he worked with. The correspondence details the work of the dealers in locating pieces that were of historical and artistic interest to Moore, as well as the financial transactions behind each purchase.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1	Folder 1	Akre, Anne B. - Moore, Cornelius C.	1970
Box 1	Folder 2	Babcock, Adelaide C. - Moore, Cornelius C.	1952-1958
Box 1	Folder 3	Buhler, Mrs. Yves Henry - Moore, Cornelius C.	1961-1965
Box 1	Folder 4	Bunce, Dorothy Clarke - Moore, Cornelius C.	undated
Box 1	Folder 5	Cohon, Morris - Moore, Cornelius C.	1954-1969
Box 1	Folder 6	Considine, George - Moore, Cornelius C.	1957
Box 1	Folder 7	Cooper, Joseph D. - Moore, Cornelius C.	1949
Box 1	Folder 8	Dennis, Jr., William Engs - Moore, Cornelius C.	1946
Box 1	Folder 9	Gannon, W. McKinley - Moore, Cornelius C.	1965
Box 1	Folder 10	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Thornton, J. Wingagte	1927 Dec 18
Box 1	Folder 11	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Sack, Israel	1948 Jul 20
Box 1	Folder 12	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1950
Box 1	Folder 13	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1951
Box 1	Folder 14	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1952
Box 1	Folder 15	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1953
Box 1	Folder 16	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1954
Box 1	Folder 17	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1955
Box 1	Folder 18	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1956
Box 1	Folder 19	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1957
Box 1	Folder 20	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1958
Box 1	Folder 21	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1959
Box 1	Folder 22	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1960
Box 1	Folder 23	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1961
Box 1	Folder 24	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1962
Box 1	Folder 25	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1963
Box 1	Folder 26	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1964
Box 1	Folder 27	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1965
Box 1	Folder 28	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1966
Box 1	Folder 29	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1967
Box 1	Folder 30	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1968
Box 1	Folder 31	Gebelein, J. Herbert - Moore, Cornelius C.	1970
Box 1	Folder 32	Hyman, Ralph - Moore, Cornelius C.	1953-1964
Box 1	Folder 33	Liverant, Nathan - Moore, Cornelius C.	1953-1955
Box 1	Folder 34	Phillips, J.M. - Moore, Cornelius C.	1951
Box 1	Folder 35	Sacks, Israel - Moore, Cornelius C.	1955

Series: Photographs

Dates: undated

Extent: (46 folders)

Material types:
documentary photographs

Scope and Content Note

This series contains photographs of individual pieces from Cornelius C. Moore's larger silver collection, as well as photographs of different displays that featured the silver. Moore intended on creating a catalog of the objects for educative purposes and commissioned Brian Pelletier to photograph the pieces.

The work of several prominent silversmiths are included such as Jonathan Otis, Benjamin Brenton, Samuel Vernon, Samuel Casey, Moody Russell, John Edwards, Samuel Edwards, Andrew Oliver, Paul Revere, Myer Myers, Benjamin Burt, and Simeon Soumaire. Many of these photographs were incorporated into the publication *American Silver 1670-1830: The Moore Collection* at Providence College.

Arrangement

The photographs are divided by pieces from the same time and region and pieces with the same function. Within these divisions, the photographs are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1	Folder 36	Rhode Island Silver Early 18th Century: #1-16	undated
Box 1	Folder 37	Rhode Island Silver Late 18th Century: #17-26	undated
Box 2	Folder 1	Massachusetts Silver Early 18th Century: #27-41	undated
Box 2	Folder 2	Massachusetts Silver Mid 18th Century: #42-66	undated
Box 2	Folder 3	Massachusetts Silver Late 18th Century: #67-75	undated
Box 2	Folder 4	New York Silver: #76-86	undated
Box 2	Folder 5	Pennsylvania Silver: #87-90	undated
Box 2	Folder 6	Caster - Burt, Benjamin	undated
Box 2	Folder 7	Caster - Stamped "PY"	undated
Box 2	Folder 8	Caster	undated
Box 2	Folder 9	Cream Jug - Revere, Paul -Engraved with "CED"	undated
Box 2	Folder 10	Cup	undated
Box 2	Folder 11	Bowl - Hiller, Benjamin	undated
Box 2	Folder 12	Breakfront Bookcase	undated
Box 2	Folder 13	Display - unknown location	undated
Box 2	Folder 14	Display - unknown location	undated
Box 2	Folder 15	Gravy Bowl - Engraved with "TEC" - 1762 Aug 24	undated
Box 2	Folder 16	Mug	undated
Box 2	Folder 17	Mug	undated
Box 2	Folder 18	Mug	undated
Box 2	Folder 19	Mug	undated
Box 2	Folder 20	Mug	undated
Box 2	Folder 21	Mug - Soumaire, Simeon	undated
Box 2	Folder 22	Porringer	undated
Box 2	Folder 23	Salver - Wishart	undated
Box 2	Folder 24	Serving Dishes	undated
Box 2	Folder 25	Snuff Box - Anthony, Isaac - Engraved with "AS"	undated
Box 2	Folder 26	Snuff Box - Eyck, J. Ten - Albany 1706	undated
Box 2	Folder 27	Snuff Box - Vernon, Samuel	undated
Box 3	Folder 1	Spout Cup - Russell, Moody	undated

Box 3	Folder 2	Sugar Bowls/cream pitchers	undated
Box 3	Folder 3	Sugar Bowls - Lownes, Joseph	undated
Box 3	Folder 4	Tablespoons - Revere, Paul	undated
Box 3	Folder 5	Tankard/cream pitcher	undated
Box 3	Folder 6	Tankard with hinged lid	undated
Box 3	Folder 7	Tankard with hinged lid	undated
Box 3	Folder 8	Tankard with hinged lid	undated
Box 3	Folder 9	Tankard with hinged lid - engraved "BL"	undated
Box 3	Folder 10	Tankard with hinged lid - Edwards, John	undated
Box 3	Folder 11	Tankard with hinged lid - La Rouk, Charles	undated
Box 3	Folder 12	Tankard with hinged lid - Russell, Daniel	undated
Box 3	Folder 13	Tea Caddy	undated
Box 3	Folder 14	Tea Caddy - Van Dyke, Peter	undated
Box 3	Folder 15	Tea Pot	undated
Box 3	Folder 16	Tea Service	undated
Box 3	Folder 17	Tea Tray	undated

Series: Subject Files

Dates: 1922-1966

Extent: (21 folders)

Material types:

- advertisements
- appraisals
- articles
- auction catalogs
- collective biographies
- description
- pamphlets
- photographs
- programs
- receipts

Scope and Content Note

As an avid collector, Moore undertook extensive research of both the silversmiths and the pieces they designed prior to purchasing any one particular piece. The series contains the research materials used by Moore to verify the authenticity and history of each item purchased. Also included are auction itineraries and catalogs, appraisals, and receipts generated by Moore's purchases.

Additional documentation pertains to exhibitions of Moore's silver collection hosted by Newton College of the Sacred Heart, Point Association of Newport, the Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island School of Design, and Salve Regina College.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 3	Folder 18	Examples of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Deomestic Silver - Reprint of article by Sargent, Irene and Gebelein, George C.	1922
Box 3	Folder 19	Gebelein Silversmith Advertisements -reprints	1930-1950
Box 3	Folder 20	Boston Evening Transcript - Colonial Tradition of Boston's 18th Century: Silversmiths has its Counterparts Today	1937 Oct 9
Box 3	Folder 21	Parke - Bernet Galleries, Inc.	1946-1955
Box 3	Folder 22	How of Edinburgh, Limited - Receipt	1948
Box 3	Folder 23	Gebelein - Edwards Collection	1950
Box 3	Folder 24	Israel Sack - A Record of Service, 1903-1953 - Compiled by Albert Sack	1953
Box 3	Folder 25	Shreve, Crump, and Low Company - receipt	1957
Box 3	Folder 26	Winter Antique Show - List of Exhibitors	1959
Box 3	Folder 27	Bulletin of Rhode Island School of Design - Museum Notes	1961 May
Box 3	Folder 28	Ginsburg and Levy, Inc. - receipt	1961
Box 3	Folder 29	Rhode Island Historical Society	1961
Box 3	Folder 30	Point Association of Newport - Exhibition	1962
Box 3	Folder 31	Newton College of the Sacred Heart - Exhibition	1963
Box 3	Folder 32	Rhode Island Historical Society - Exhibition	1964
Box 3	Folder 33	Rhode Island School of Design - Exhibition	1964
Box 3	Folder 34	Salve Regina College - Exhibition	1964
Box 3	Folder 35	Pewter Collector's Club of America	1966
Box 3	Folder 36	St. Julia's Women's Club - Exhibition	1966

Box 3	Folder 37	Carl and Celia Jacobs Antiques, Inc.	undated
Box 3	Folder 38	Newport Silversmiths - Histories	undated