

## VICTORIAN PARLOR AT CHRISTMAS

After the close of the successful ANTIQUE QUILTS exhibit, the current exhibit represents a middle-class parlor of the Victorian era at the holiday season. Several furniture items from the museum collection are featured.



The outstanding item is the 1740s Pennsylvania German corner cupboard, recently donated (see the separate article on page 7). The shelves in the glass-door upper section hold a pewter coffee-service set with coffeepot, teapot, sugar bowl and creamer. Another item is an 1840 footed pewter coffeepot with wood handle, made by Leonard Reed & Barton Company of Taunton, Massachusetts; an identical—but much shinier—item is on display at New York’s Metropolitan Museum.

Another notable cabinet is a glass-front china cabinet; its three double-curved glass panes, almost four feet tall, are rare and irreplaceable. It came from the family of Clarence Trescott of Espy, owner of the Trescott Carriage Works in Berwick; his company built hundreds of carriages and later built many truck bodies.



Another distinctive item is an 1888 “Concerta” cylinder music box made in Switzerland and imported by Jacot Company of New York. Its beautiful oak case features an intaglio gilded “guitar and music-page” design. The wind-up mechanism plays steel cylinder music rolls, each with six one-minute tunes generated by thousands of tiny teeth which prick 76 steel tines as the cylinder rotates. The collection includes seven different music cylinders.

Included in the exhibit, though of somewhat later origin, is a rocking cradle made by George L. Krum (1870-1949) of Grovania and Rupert for his wife Cora. The Krum couple had three children who died in a tragic fire in 1915; they then had three more children. This cradle is a recent gift from Society volunteer Kathy Martin Kreisher, Krum’s granddaughter.



The centerpiece of the exhibit is a “grandfather” clock 73” high. It is signed on the clock face by the clockmaker “BENJAMIN HILL/RICHMOND.” Benjamin Hill Jr. (1771-1848) lived in Richmond Township, Berks County; only a few of his tall clocks are known to survive. This one was made in about 1797. It is an 8-day clock with a brass pendulum and two weights; its dials show date, moon phase, hour, minute and second. The case is carved mahogany in Chippendale style. This clock was donated by former Society president Edwin M. Barton to Bloomsburg State College (now Commonwealth University Bloomsburg) and is on indefinite loan to the Society.

Apart from the Victorian parlor, the exhibit also includes a display of Victorian toys and dolls. Included are doll carriages and rocking chairs along with child-size sleds and a rocking horse.