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## Delaware Silver

Featuring The Col. Kenneth P. & Regina I. Brown Collection  
And Loan Exhibition *Masters in Our Midst*

**Dover, DE –**

The production, sale and consumption of silver household object in the largely rural Mid-Atlantic region in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries is a little-explored subject of American decorative art and material culture studies. Perhaps the greatest contributing factor to this void in American silver scholarship has been the lack of viewable, comprehensive permanent collections of Delaware silver in public institutions... until now. On March 5, 2008, the Biggs Museum plans to feature the permanent installation of *The Colonel Kenneth P. and Regina I Brown Collection of Delaware Silver*, one of the largest local collections representing more than 50 years of collecting, and an exciting masterpiece exhibition, *Masters in Our Midst*. The Brown Collection encompasses works by forty of approximately forty-four known Delaware makers from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Featuring silver costume objects, militaria, table wares, commemorative wares, and tea and coffee services; the Brown Collection is among the finest known for studying Delaware silversmiths.

In addition, the loan exhibition, *Masters in Our Midst*, brings together some of the most exceptional silver by Delaware smiths from private and public collections across the country. *Masters in Our Midst* offers family-friendly interactive displays on important stories about *Delaware Silver*.

As one of the grandest projects the Biggs Museum has undertaken since its founding in 1993, the Brown Collection will be the first permanent installation of Delaware silver in the State, referred to as the Silver Study center. The Study Center will offer an intensive view of a discreet medium

creating a visual bridge from the American Rococo to the Federal Period. *Delaware Silver* will unveil to the public on March 5, 2008 with a catered reception and follow with a plethora of public and educational program for audiences of all ages.

The Biggs Museum of American Art will open *Delaware Silver* on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, with a catered reception at 5:30p.m. The reception will introduce the exhibition's catalog; a fully illustrated publication on the Brown Collection. Along with the exhibition and catalog, the Biggs staff is offering a wide variety of children's and adult's art workshops and lecture series. For more information, please see details on the museum website, [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org), or call us at 302.674.2111.

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The Biggs Museum is currently showcasing *Greetings from Delaware and Other Artist Communities* from November 7, 2007 through February 25, 2008. This exhibition features hand-made greeting cards by some of the most important Delaware and American artists of the first half of the twentieth century. Always on the first Saturday of each month, children ages 5-10 can participate in Biggs Kids. Biggs Museum of American Art, 406 Federal Street, Dover, DE, (302) 674-2111, [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org) new hours: M-S 9-4:30 p.m., Sun. 1:30-4:30 p.m.