



# JOURNAL of EARLY SOUTHERN DECORATIVE ARTS

## Call for Papers

### Special Issue: Southern Material Culture and the American Founding

In view of the 250th anniversary of American independence, an upcoming special issue of the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* seeks object-focused essays on Southern material culture at the American founding.

Published by the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for fifty years our journal has advanced new empirically-grounded research on the decorative arts and material culture of the American South prior to 1860.

Contributions could include, but are by no means limited to, the materiality of topics such as:

- Pre-Revolutionary protests and boycotts in the Southern colonies
- The Southern Theater of the Revolutionary War
- The material life and experience of enslaved Southerners during the Revolution
- Post-independence memorials or celebrations
- Founding-era Southern ties to the wider hemispheric or Atlantic world

We are interested in soliciting traditional article-length contributions (approximately 10,000 words) as well as shorter “New Discoveries” essays that draw attention to newly uncovered objects, or to fresh perspectives on well-known ones (approximately 500-1000 words), edited by A. Nicholas Powers.

Authors considering a submission are asked to send a one-page CV or resume and a 250-word summary of their proposed contribution to managing editor Kim May ([kmay@oldsalem.org](mailto:kmay@oldsalem.org)) by **May 1, 2025**. Please use the subject heading “MESDA Journal Special Issue Submission.”

We will notify you of your preliminary acceptance no later than **July 4, 2025**, with completed manuscripts due **April 1, 2026** to begin peer review, for publication in our **Fall 2026** issue.

For more information please contact managing editor Kim May ([kmay@oldsalem.org](mailto:kmay@oldsalem.org)) or acquisitions editor Mitch Oxford ([meoxford@wm.edu](mailto:meoxford@wm.edu)).