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Highlights from the Chipstone Foundation

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The Chipstone Foundation has generously made a loan of 17 choice pieces of early American furniture to be displayed on the Elvehjem mezzanine from February 19, 2002 to June 30, 2003. Included are works by New England cabinetmakers including desks, clocks, chairs, chests, tables, and cupboards. The earliest work on view is a Boston court cupboard, dated from 1670 to 1680 and the latest is a Philadelphia side chair, dated from 1800 to 1810. Each piece of furniture represents an exquisite bit of handmade history from colonial and federal America.

The Chipstone Foundation was organized in 1965 by Stanley Stone and Polly Mariner Stone of Fox Point, Wisconsin. To represent the culmination of their shared experiences in collecting American furniture, American historical prints, and early English pottery, they created the foundation with the purpose of preserving, interpreting, and enlarging their collection, while also stimulating research and education in the decorative arts.

The Stones began collecting American decorative arts in 1946, and by 1964 they decided that their collection should be published and exhibited. To that end, the foundation now publishes two annual journals (American Furniture and Ceramics in America) and has many of its objects on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum. With this display of highlights from the collection, the foundation continues its ongoing relationship with the Elvehjem Museum of Art that began with the 1999 exhibition Makers and Users: American Decorative Arts, 1630–1820 from the Chipstone Collection.

The Elvehjem Museum of Art is open Tuesdays-Fridays 9-5 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 11-5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to galleries and educational events is free. The museum is located at 800 University Avenue on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is accessible to wheelchairs from the Murray Street (north) entrance. Parking is available at the city of Madison's Lake Street and Frances Street ramps, university lot 46 on Lake Street between Johnson and University Avenue, university lot 47 on Johnson Street between Park and Lake streets. Evening and weekend parking is also available under Grainger Hall with entrance on Brooks Street between University Avenue and Johnson streets. The Elvehjem Museum of Art will provide sign language interpreters for associated programs by three-week advance request to Anne Lambert, Curator of Education, weekdays, 608 263-4421 (voice).