

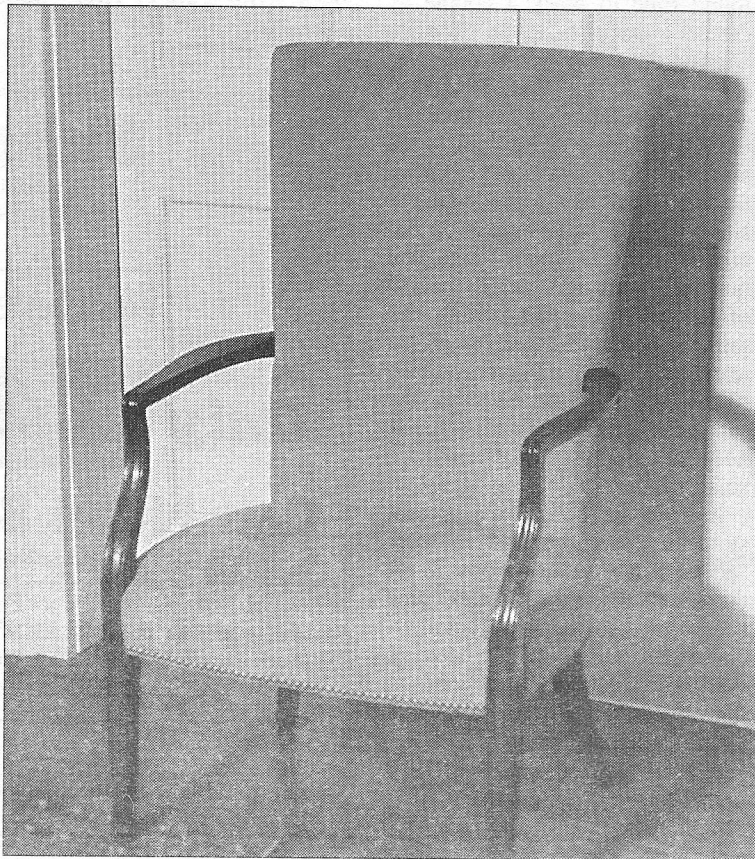
The Goldberg Wares

Furniture, Accessories and Paintings in North Salem



In his book Montgomery goes on to credit the English Adam brothers for jump starting a "revolution in taste" beginning in the 1760s, springing from innovations based on classical ornament and design. These were fresh adaptations of the art and architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. Robert Adam and his brothers had, said Montgomery "a profound effect upon architecture and every art and craft in England after about 1770." The Adam designs plus those of George Hepplewhite and Thomas Sheraton were powerful influences on the Federal-era furniture and accessories made here. Nonetheless these lithe and elegant products were unmistakably American as well and Jesse Goldberg has many examples he can show you and sell you. And, as he said, "Lots of Federal furniture is still decently priced."

Artemis Gallery is housed in Jesse & Carol Goldberg's home in North Salem, a spacious and comfortable dwelling that Carol Goldberg first encountered as a



child and then bought as a young woman of 27, back in 1972. The place, called Artemis Farm, was a horse farm and Carol Goldberg—now a real estate broker—was in the horse business then, training horses and training people to ride them. Artemis, appropriately enough, was the Greek goddess of the hunt.

Jesse Goldberg has been an antiques dealer for 30 years, specializing in the Federal-era material since the late 1970s. "The nice thing about being a teacher," he said of his early days in the trade, "was having time off to build up my antiques business, without having to rely on it for all my income." Goldberg took a master's degree in chemistry and then taught the subject in the public schools of Rockland County for 20 years.

The Goldberg wares—furniture, accessories and paintings—are arranged in room settings throughout the ground floor of the house. It's truly a feast of antiques, handsomely inlaid card tables for which the era is justly famous, Pembroke tables, sewing tables, library and center tables, sideboards, stands, single chairs and sets of chairs, dining and breakfast tables, tall case clocks, small inlaid boxes, lighting, paintings small and large.

You can invest in a mahogany banquet table to seat as many as 16 for \$12,500. Or you can take home a neat and neatly crafted little octagonal sewing box, made of cherrywood and profusely veneered and inlaid, for \$4800. At \$2800 Artemis offers a carved mahogany classical sofa made in early 19th century Boston, a lot of seating for the money. If you need storage, the small inlaid four-drawer mahogany chest from early Baltimore can be yours for \$7500.

One of the most interesting

A Lolling Chair is an example of the many chairs and sets of chairs available from Jesse Goldberg.

If you're an American why buy English furniture?" asked Jesse Goldberg, the long time North Salem antiques dealer whose business is called Artemis Gallery.

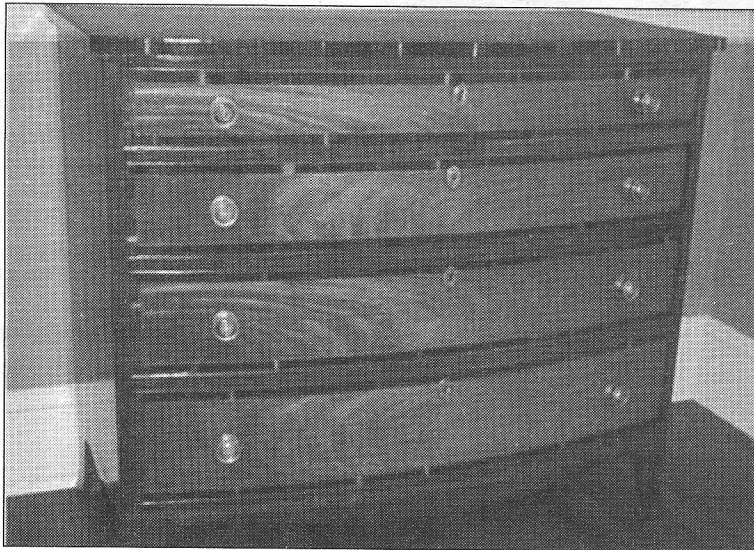
The Goldberg query, which is largely rhetorical since many American antiquaries happily and avidly do collect English furniture, has to do with his own fierce focus, which is on American furniture and accessories from the Federal Era.

"Federal furniture is distinctly American, even though some of its design sources are European," said Goldberg, a man who taught school for many years and for whom a scholarly skew comes naturally. "I associate each piece with the birth of our country, with American history."

The Federal Era ran from 1788 to about 1825, according to the late Charles Montgomery, formerly director of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in Delaware. In 1966 Montgomery wrote "American Furniture, The Federal Era," still considered an authoritative reference despite the explosion in information about American output in the last forty years.

"Sweeping changes in American cabinetmaking and furniture styles closely parallel the emergence and coalescence of the thirteen American colonies into one nation," writes Montgomery. "After the peace, and during the forty years now generally called the Federal Era the United States, still primarily an agricultural country, became increasingly concerned with manufacturing, commerce and trade. American cabinetmakers were quick to take advantage of the opportunities in this time of growth and expansion as new markets for new products were created."

It has, apparently, always been about the economy.



Artemis Gallery offers an array hard-to-find period tables, clocks, dressers and lighting fixtures..

Artemis offerings is a 19th century portrait—marked \$7500— of a circa 1848 Boston grandee seated in a richly appointed room, one of whose rich appointments is a Solar lamp, the most up to date lighting of the period. Goldberg avers that this portrait may well be the earliest depiction of a type of lighting that was a major technological breakthrough in its time.

Between 1830 and 1870 there was a revolution in the way Americans lighted their homes and offices, after millennia of making do with flickering candles. Mining produced the nickel, copper, zinc and lead needed for the bronze, brass and other alloys to manufacture metal lamps. The emerging

glass industry did its part, creating beautiful and functional light sources that are highly collectible today. Whale oil from the sea, turpentine from the Southern forests, the new petroleum derivatives from Pennsylvania, all provided the bases for burnable fluids that could be used in lamps. Whatever fuel was used in the new fluid lamps, they all worked the same way. When a wick is soaked in liquid fuel and a lighted match is applied, gas is produced and the vapor burns.

These new light sources made a big difference in American life in many ways. People could work more productively and efficiently and a steady reliable source of reading light expanded the markets for books and periodicals exponentially, making leisure time

more enriching and studying easier. Competition made sure most households could afford several fluid lamps. Jones's Improved Patent Lamps wholesaled for between \$6 and \$30. The Solar lamp in the Artemis portrait may be by Cornelius & Company of Philadelphia. This enterprise made lighting for the elites. As Nadja Maril writes in "American Lighting 1840-1940," "If you find a lamp made by Cornelius & Sons with all its original pieces it will be very expensive, because these lamps were found only in the homes of the very wealthy."

Many early lamps cast a shadow, formed by the fuel reservoir. The solution to this problem was called the astral, or sinumbra lamp, wherein the fuel was stored in a circular ring, away from the light source. The term sinumbra derives from the Latin phrase sine umbra, meaning without shadow. This considerable advance in domestic lighting combined the argand burner, which yielded a brighter light than previously possible, through improved combustion, with a shadow-less oil reservoir. One of these tall and graceful lamps on a round table characteristic of the period would allow the entire family to read or do fine sewing for an evening. ♦

Artemis Gallery is located at 22 Wallace Road in North Salem and you can visit any time by appointment. Telephone is 669-5971. The Gallery can be visited at www.ArtemisAntiques.com.