



# VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Story of Virginia*

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Jennifer Guild, Senior Officer for Public Relations and Marketing  
(804) 342-9665, [jguild@vahistorical.org](mailto:jguild@vahistorical.org)

## Virginia Historical Society Hosts Special Institute on Southern Furniture Renowned Scholar Sumpter Priddy Will Discuss Collecting Southern Antiques

**What:** The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) is hosting a special educational program called *With a Collector's Eye: An Institute on Southern Furniture*.

The event will feature two sessions taught by guest instructor Sumpter Priddy III: *New Perspectives: Lessons from the Antiques Market* and *The Maturing Field of Antiques Collecting in the South*.

The institute will explore approaches to private collections and investigate collectors as preservationists, decorators, scholars, patrons, and investors. Priddy will also explain the relationship between architecture, history, and the decorative arts to provide context about artisans and furniture created in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

**When:** Saturday, May 19, 2012. Classes begin at 3:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Virginia Historical Society, 428 North Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23220

**Who:** Sumpter Priddy III is a renowned southern furniture scholar and decorative arts expert. He specializes in eighteenth- and nineteenth- century American goods. An active researcher in the field of American regional culture, Priddy has amassed a photographic archive of southern artifacts that is among the finest in the field.

Priddy holds a bachelor's degree in the history of architecture from the University of Virginia and a master's degree from the Winterthur Program in early American culture from the University of Delaware. He served as curator for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and tutored for the Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship Program.

Priddy now works privately as a consultant to collectors and museums and for the last twenty-nine years has served as president at Sumpter Priddy III, Inc., a fine arts gallery located in Alexandria, Virginia. His book, *American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts, 1790–1840*, won Historic New England's 2005 Book Award.

### Additional

**Information:** Institute admission for Virginia Historical Society members and early registrants (by April 25, 2012) is \$150. After April 25, admission is \$175. Admission includes class fees, a reception, and dinner. Space is limited to the first 200 guests. To register, visit [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org).

For more than 182 years, the **Virginia Historical Society** (VHS) has been connecting people to America's past through the unparalleled story of Virginia. The VHS—a history museum and research library—features award-winning exhibitions that are entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages. The Society is the only museum with all of Virginia's history under one roof—all centuries, all regions, and all topics are covered. Although designated the Official State Historical Society, the VHS is a privately funded non-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to sustain its operations. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Admission is free. Museum hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m.–5 p.m. Library hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, call (804) 358-4901, visit [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org), or find the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

Post Office Box 7311  
Richmond, Virginia 23221  
[www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org)

