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Contact: Steve Volstad, (919) 549-7173; svolstad@unctv.org

“Collecting Carolina” Series on UNC-TV’s North Carolina Weekend
Focuses on Vintage Decorative Arts Beginning August 15

Do you have a family heirloom or a flea market treasure that you'd like to learn more about? Perhaps you've always wanted to visit an auction or find a great deal at an antique fair, or expo. UNC-TV's weekly series North Carolina Weekend invites you to join them as they follow collectors and treasure hunters around the state in search of distinctive artifacts fashioned by the people who settled in our state in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Early settlers established communities along rivers, which were the transportation highways of the day. Local soils and natural conditions combined with cultural backgrounds of these immigrant groups to produce individual styles in furniture, pottery, textiles and metal goods for their daily needs.

North Carolina Weekend Producer Julia Carpenter, with curatorial assistance from The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Winston-Salem, will visit one of the 12 river basins that comprise the state each month in search of these historic treasures. In turn, each month **North Carolina Weekend** will bring you another report on the hidden gems they have unearthed, revealing much about the history, culture and aesthetic sensibilities of those first North Carolinians. MESDA identifies itself as “the only museum in the world that addresses the history and the material culture of the early South.”

Anyone with an interest in history, antiques, or curiosity about a family heirloom won't want to miss a single “Collecting Carolina” report.

North Carolina Weekend, which is made possible by the generous support of the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development can be seen on UNC-TV Thursdays at 9:00 p.m., repeating Fridays at 8:30 p.m., and is also available on sister channels UNC-EX and UNC-MX.

Here is a summary of the projected broadcast dates and subjects of each of the “Collecting Carolina” reports:

8/15/13: An overview of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, and The Gray Library & MESDA Research Center.

8/29/13: Julia Carpenter, historian and collector Michael Briggs, and MESDA Chief Curator Robert Leath visit the Metrolina Expo Marketplace and explain how to recognize a true artifact from North Carolina. The report focuses on guns and Mecklenburg County's storied history.

10/5/13: Julia Carpenter is joined by writer and historian Ray Owen and MESDA

curator June Lucas at the Cameron Antiques Fair in the Sandhills, where they expected to find some exciting surprises – and they did!

11/14/13: Andrew Brunk of Asheville, a frequent appraiser on the PBS series Antiques Roadshow, and MESDA curators June Lucas and Daniel Ackermann join Julia at the Brunk Antiques Auction.

The tentative schedule for future “Collecting Carolina” segments includes:

December 2013: Identifying and collecting Thomas Day Furniture

January 2014: The Eastern North Carolina Antiques Auction

February 2014: Cellarets and other collectibles in the Albemarle and Roanoke basin

March 2014: Pottery and iron works at the Catawba Pottery Festival

April 2014: Identifying and collecting paintings, maps and documents

May 2014: Moravian pottery along the Pee-Dee and Yadkin Rivers

June 2014: Duck carvings from the Wilmington area

July 2014: Textiles from the Watauga and New River valleys

August 2014: Cherokee handmade baskets

September 2014: Treasures from the Sandhills at the Liberty Antiques Fair

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Steve Volstad Director of Communications and Marketing UNC-TV (919) 549-7173 UNC-TV is PBS and More for All North Carolina visit us online at www.unctv.org