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MESDA Honors Richard Jenrette with First Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award for Southern Decorative Arts

Winston-Salem, NC (May 22, 2013) — The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem Museums & Gardens honored Richard Hampton Jenrette at a special evening on Thursday, May 17, 2013. At the event, MESDA presented Jenrette the first ever Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award for Southern Decorative Arts.

The Frank L. Horton Achievement Award is a new award created by the MESDA Advisory Board to recognize outstanding lifetime contribution to southern decorative arts. Frank L. Horton was a founder, along with his mother, of MESDA, and contributed significantly to the fields of southern decorative arts and material culture.

“Richard Jenrette is the perfect person to honor with our first Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award,” said Robert Leath, Chief Curator and Vice-President, Collections and Research at Old Salem. “His southern roots and unprecedented contributions to the fields of preservation, conservation and collecting have made him an important presence in our world.

“I am tremendously honored to be the recipient of the Frank L. Horton Award from MESDA,” said Richard Jenrette. “Frank L. Horton and MESDA have rescued our heritage of Southern Decorative Arts, which had fallen into obscurity. MESDA today is one of the nation's most respected centers of scholarship on the decorative arts.”

Richard Hampton Jenrette is a self-proclaimed “house-aholic.” Over the past 40 years he has owned and restored a dozen old houses, most dating back to the early 19th century. He also restored the antebellum Mills House Hotel in Charleston, S.C. Some of these properties were sold or given away, but he currently retains six of the finest, including Roper House (1838), Charleston, S.C; Millford Plantation (1840), Millwood, SC; and Ayr Mount (1815), Hillsborough, N.C. With the collection of early American houses came the next logical step, the collecting of period antiques to furnish the houses. Today, Jenrette owns hundreds of important antique objects, many original to the six houses. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 5, 1929, Jenrette is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina and received an MBA from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business.

He served as Chairman of the Board of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Inc. from 1974 to 1996, having been a founder of the firm in 1959. He is also the former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. Described by *The New York Times* as “the last gentleman on Wall Street,” Jenrette’s distinguished career has included service on numerous corporate boards of directors and philanthropic groups.

Jenrette has received various awards for his historic preservation activities, including the Louise duPont Crowninshield Award, presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the

Hadrian Award, presented by the World Monuments Fund. In his Foreword to Jenrette's book, *Adventures With Old Houses*, HRH The Prince of Wales wrote, "No wonder some of his admirers have described Dick as a one-person National Trust for Historic Preservation."

Jenrette established a foundation, Classic American Houses Preservation Trust, to preserve, protect and open to the public examples of classical American residential architecture as well as fine and decorative arts of the first half of the 19th century. For more information on the foundation, visit classicalamerican.org.

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