

WINTERTHUR LICENSED PRODUCTS WELCOMES NEW PARTNERS



Al Bar-Wilmette Platers and Stark Corporation offer products inspired by Winterthur

October 10, 2008 (Winterthur, DE) — Winterthur Museum & Country Estate announces the addition of two new firms to its Licensed Products program.

Al Bar-Wilmette Platers, Inc. and its subsidiary, **Wilmette Hardware, LCC** of Wilmette, Illinois is licensed to produce architectural hardware from designs found in Winterthur's collection. Al Bar-Wilmette Platers was founded in 1937 by two craftsmen dedicated to the restoration and preservation of fine artifacts for the communities of Lake Michigan's North Shore and Chicago. Since inception, quality craftsmanship has been at the forefront of their mission. Throughout its history, Al Bar-Wilmette Platers has acquired like businesses such as Gilbertson's of Chicago and has built its existing business base from a local concern to a nationwide service organization. Over the past three years, the company used its combined talents to introduce a line of high-end entry hardware based on period designs and finishes. This hardware as well as other custom hardware is available to architects, designers, and homeowners on the new Wilmette Hardware Web site. As a licensee of Winterthur, Wilmette Hardware will offer high quality, period-based hardware inspired by examples found in the Winterthur collection.

Online at www.albarwilmette.com or www.wilmettehardware.com

Stark Corporation of New York, NY is licensed by Winterthur to produce hand-painted scenic murals based on designs in the museum's extensive collections. For over 60 years, Stark has provided custom service for the interior design professional. Founded by the late Arthur and Nadia Stark, the firm is now headed by their sons, John and Steven Stark. Stark's newer wallcovering division is a wonderful addition to the company, which also specializes in custom designed carpet, fabric, and furniture. "For years, Stark customers have requested coordinating wallcovering for their design projects, so this is a long overdue expansion," according to Arthur Phillips, director of Stark Wallcovering. All of Stark Wallcovering's hand-painted scenic murals are unique, with each panel individually handcrafted, creating a continuous scenic mural of traditional Chinese, European, or historical American scenes. Stark's re-creation of the beautiful paper from the Port Royal Entrance Hall at Winterthur Museum & Country Estate will be featured in the 2008 Designer Showhouse collaboration between Historic Fort Worth and Winterthur. Currently, Stark is working on producing a reproduction of the famous hand-painted wallpaper found in the Chinese Parlor at Winterthur.

Online at www.starkcarpet.com or www.starkwallcovering.com

The Winterthur Licensed Products program was launched in April 1982 to make available high-quality furnishings and decorative accessories based on antiques in the collection of the world-renowned Winterthur Museum & Country Estate. Winterthur licenses more than 25 companies to reproduce, adapt, or interpret designs from its collection. Revenues generated by the sale of licensed products support educational programming at Winterthur.

###

Winterthur Museum & Country Estate—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American antiques, naturalistic garden, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. Winterthur has been named one of the country's "10 great places of historic proportions" by *USA Today* and "one of the 10 grandest mansions in America" by *Budget Travel*.

Museum hours are 10 am–5 pm, Tuesday–Sunday. Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except holidays and during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907. Online, visit winterthur.org.