



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Metropolitan Museum Board Memorandum

**TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD** **DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2019**

**FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF ONE (1) SILVER-PLATED PICKLE CASTOR, WITH GLASS JAR**

## **ISSUE:**

Recommend that the City Council approve the accession of one (1) silver-plated pickle castor, with glass jar, produced by the Rockford Silver Plate Company into the Museum's permanent collection.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Metropolitan Museum Board recommend that the City Council approve the accession of one (1) silver-plated pickle castor, with glass jar, produced by the Rockford Silver Plate Company into the Museum's permanent collection.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On October 15, 2019, the Museum's Collections Committee, with nine (9) Committee members present, unanimously approved a recommendation for the accession of one (1) silver-plated pickle castor, with glass jar, produced by the Rockford Silver Plate Company into the Museum's permanent collection.

## **BACKGROUND:**

A member of the Riverside Museum Associates has donated one (1) silver-plated pickle castor, with glass jar, produced by the Rockford Silver Plate Company to the Museum. The Rockford Silver Plate Company operated from 1882 to 1924. The donor acquired this artifact specifically for exhibit at Heritage House.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Pickle castors reached their peak in popularity in the 1890s and were a popular Victorian status symbol indicating that the household could afford servant(s) to pickle produce. The pickle castor

will be exhibited in the Heritage House dining room. The Museum currently has no pickle castors in its collection. The curators and Riverside Museum Associates have had a longstanding interest in procuring a pickle castor for exhibition in the Heritage House dining room. Pickle tongs are not included with the castor, but the museum has pickle forks in its collection. Because the pickle castor will go on exhibit immediately on the dining table, it presents no burden to the present storage capacities of the Museum.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:  
Certified as to  
availability of funds:  
Approved by:

Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director  
Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager