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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens APPOINTMENT OF CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS - NANCY PACKER**

NEW BERN, NC ---“Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is pleased to announce the appointment of Nancy Packer as Curator of Collections,” said Kay Williams, director. “Nancy brings a long-standing interest in the decorative arts and material culture of early America to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.”



As Curator of Collections, Nancy will be responsible for developing, managing, and interpreting the diverse collection of English and American decorative arts and artifacts used to chronicle the history of eastern North Carolina. “I’m thrilled to be working with a collection that is as extraordinary as this one. Having the opportunity to participate at such an exciting moment in the

institution's history, with the opening of the North Carolina History Education Center, is a particular honor.”

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Nancy received her B.A. in Art History at the College of William and Mary, where she studied the arts and architecture of early Virginia at Colonial Williamsburg. She continued her study of early American decorative arts as a fellow in the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware, from which she received her M.A. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the History of American Civilization at the University of Delaware, in the final stages of completing her dissertation on American travelers in Great Britain in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Nancy previously served as Curator of Collections for the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, where she was responsible for a 10,000-object collection of English and American decorative arts installed at twenty-two historic sites statewide. She later moved to Texas to become the first Education Director of the Bayou Bend Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. At Bayou Bend, Nancy was responsible for developing educational programming based on the nationally-known collection of American decorative arts and period rooms, ca. 1620-1870, assembled by Houston collector and philanthropist Ima Hogg.

Most recently, Nancy served as curator of the historic textile collection at The Design Center at Philadelphia University, where she co-founded The Fabric of Philadelphia, an interpretive initiative to capture and communicate the stories of Philadelphia's textile heritage. She also co-curated *Lace in Translation*, which opened in September 2009 and

features newly-commissioned works by three internationally-renowned designers and artists inspired by the Center's collection of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century, Philadelphia, machine-made lace. Nancy authored the scholarly essay for the *Lace in Translation* catalogue, which will be published this spring.

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The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com)

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid-twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation. The North Carolina History Education Center scheduled to open in July of 2010 complements and enhances this mission.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the George W. Dixon House, and the Robert Hay House. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Last tours begin at 4 p.m. The New Bern Academy Museum is closed until March 2010, but is open for group tours. Tickets and tour information is available at the Visitor Center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets.

The visitor center and the first floor of the Palace and gardens are accessible to visitors with disabilities. The North Carolina History Education Center is under construction and is scheduled to open in July 2010.

For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone (800) 767-1560 or (252) 514-4900 or visit our web site: [www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org).