

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

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Washington, August 3: One hundred and eleven watercolor renderings from the Index of American Design will be placed on exhibition tomorrow at the National Gallery of Art, David E. Finley, Director, announced today. The exhibition, entitled "Made in America", will continue until September 15th.

The Index of American Design consists of more than 22,000 drawings and photographs of early American designs in native arts and crafts. Under the Works Progress Administration, artists and photographers all over the country recorded these examples, dating from the seventeenth century to 1900.

One of the chief features of the exhibition is a group of illustrations of early American toys and of woven coverlets and quilts of the same period. Also included are renderings of carved ships' figureheads and billetheads, gay circus and carrousel animals and figures, and the colorful cigar store Indian and other shop signs. Illustrations of glass and furniture, weathervanes and band-boxes show the high quality of craftsmanship that produced the original objects. The religious communities are represented by selected items from the Bishop Hill settlement of Illinois, the Shakers, and the Spanish Colonial folk art of the Southwest.

One of the interesting items on display is a drawing of a bright red rooster used in a horse-drawn merry-go-round at a county fair. Another is "Chief-Rain-in-the-Face", an Indian puppet, from nineteenth century Punch and Judy shows. Other drawings show a circus wagon with dragons, called "The Golden Age of Chivalry", Indian weathervanes with a warrior on horseback about to spear a mountain lion, and ships' figureheads including one of a large figure of "Liberty" robed in the red, white and blue of the flag.