

## *New Discoveries in Georgia Painted Furniture* wins GAMG Exhibition Award

ATHENS, GA, January 20, 2009 – The Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries (GAMG) has presented *New Discoveries in Georgia Painted Furniture*, an exhibition at the Georgia Museum of Art in early 2008, with its award for the 2008 Museum Exhibition of the Year under \$100,000. The award honors an exhibition that embodies scholarship, contributes to the cultural fabric of the state and exemplifies excellence in broadening the museum or gallery's audience.

*New Discoveries*, which coincided with the fourth biennial Henry D. Green Symposium of the Decorative Arts, included an arrangement of 25 painted pieces of furniture from 19th-century Georgia. This display featured chairs, chests, cupboards and wardrobes and presented historical background on the history of painted furniture in the state in a lengthy brochure.

The exhibition's curators, Ashley Callahan, then curator of decorative arts at the museum, and Dale L. Couch, senior archivist and historical research advisor of the Georgia Archives, extensively researched paints, colors and furniture styles available in numerous Georgia towns. The curators' efforts provided a motive for the 2008 Green Symposium, "A Colorful Past," which presented an exclusive session on painted furniture.

"The exhibition contributed impressively to scholarship on the subject and supplied something that went beyond the usual collection of attractively decorated and assembled pieces," said William U. Eiland, director of the Georgia Museum of Art. "It broadened the museum's audience beyond those with aesthetic interests to those with an interest in the history of Georgia as it truly developed as a state."

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Partial support for the exhibitions and programs at the Georgia Museum of Art is provided by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Individuals, foundations and corporations provide additional museum support through their gifts to the Arch Foundation and the University of Georgia Foundation. The Georgia Museum of Art is located in the Performing and Visual Arts Complex on the East Campus of the University of Georgia. The address is 90 Carlton Street, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 30602. The museum's galleries and shop are now closed in preparation for construction of the museum's expansion. Events and programming will continue on museum premises through the end of February 2009. "GMOA on the Move," a series of off-site events and exhibitions, will launch March 3, 2009. For more information and event times and locations, please visit [www.uga.edu/gamuseum](http://www.uga.edu/gamuseum).