

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exhibit images available upon request.

/ A collection that speaks for itself.

“TREASURES OF THE KINGS” OPENS JULY 30

New Fine-Scale Miniature Works Premiering at The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures

July 12, 2016 (KANSAS CITY, MO) – Three new fine-scale miniature works will be unveiled July 30, 2016 at The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (T/m). *Treasures of the Kings: 18th Century French Interiors in Miniature* highlights Louis XV and Louis XVI royal furniture arranged in two room settings from the Palace of Versailles and one from the Palace of Fontainebleau. The centerpiece of the collection is Denis Hillman’s *Bureau du Roi*. The works are on long-term loan from Ede & Ravenscroft, the oldest tailor in London and the exclusive provider of robes for the British Royal Family.

One of the most gifted fine-scale miniature artists of the 20th century movement, Denis Hillman was commissioned by Chairman Michael Middleton to craft a collection of French furniture in celebration of the company’s 300th anniversary as Purveyors of Royal Robes to the Crown. King Louis XV commissioned the *Bureau du Roi* (King’s desk) in 1760. Hillman’s version includes all the luxuriousness of the original. Taking over four years to complete, the desk is comprised of over 16,000 individual pieces of fruitwood in seven marquetry designs representing the king’s love for art, music, literature, astronomy, and mathematics, and his command of land and sea. The desk can be unlocked with a key that simultaneously opens the cylinder top and all of the drawers, including the secret compartments.

The *Bureau du Roi* and Hillman’s other pieces are housed in Louis XVI’s Private Library at the Palace of Versailles (c. 1774), Louis XV’s Private Office at the Palace of Versailles (c. 1760), and Louis XV’s Salon at the Palace of Fontainebleau (c. 1765). The room settings were created by Kevin Mulvany and Susie Rogers, the same artists behind T/m’s Art Deco Jewelry Store.

Treasures of the Kings: 18th Century French Interiors in Miniature can be seen beginning July 30, 2016 at The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures. Other works by Denis Hillman, Mulvany and Rogers, and other artists included in the exhibit are on view now in the Fine-Scale Miniature Galleries. T/m will also be hosting the following events in conjunction with the exhibit opening:



MEMBERS-ONLY "TREASURES OF THE KINGS" EXHIBIT UNVEILING

JULY 29, 2016

Become a member of The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures today to get a first-look at the exhibit during the members-only preview. Memberships start at \$25. Find out more at toyandminiaturemuseum.org/membership.

LITTLE ADVENTURES: ROCKING ROCOCO

AUGUST 3, 2016 AND AUGUST 6, 2016 | 1-3:30PM

In the 18th century, Rococo style was all the rage. Check out T/m's newest miniature additions, the Rooms of Versailles and Fontainebleau, and get fancy making a miniature desk fit for a king. Little Adventures includes gallery talks and guided tours at 1PM and 2PM, and hands-on workshops from 1-3:30PM. Recommended for ages seven and up. Included with museum admission.

WHAT *Treasures of the Kings: 18th Century French Interiors in Miniature*

WHERE The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
5235 Oak Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

WHEN Beginning July 30, 2016
Open Daily 10am – 4pm
Closed Tuesdays and major holidays

COST \$5 for ages 5 and up
Free for ages 4 and under
Free for members
Free for UMKC faculty, staff, and students
Free for active duty service members and their families

ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

The National Museum of Toy and Miniatures educates, inspires, and delights adults and children through the museum's collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Located on the University of Missouri - Kansas City campus, the museum exhibits the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys. The museum reopened on August 1, 2015, after a year-and-a-half, \$8 million renovation. For more information, call (816) 235-8000 or visit www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org.

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