

Salve Regina University

Digital Commons @ Salve Regina

Press Release Archive

Archives and Special Collections

1-18-1974

Salve to Present a "Colonial Arts Weekend"

Salve Regina College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/releases>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

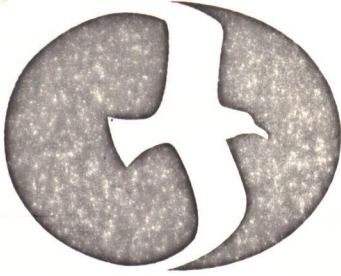
Salve Regina College, "Salve to Present a "Colonial Arts Weekend"" (1974). *Press Release Archive*. 1001. <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/releases/1001>

Rights Statement



In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted. URI: <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC-EDU/1.0/>

This Item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. In addition, no permission is required from the rights-holder(s) for educational uses. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



RELEASE: Upon Receipt

CONTACT: Robert J. McKenna
401 847-6650

SALVE TO PRESENT A "COLONIAL ARTS WEEKEND"

Salve Regina College will present a "Colonial Arts Weekend" on January 18, 19 and 20. The special weekend program will consist of an 18th century drama, an exhibition of decorative arts from the colonial period, and a concert of colonial music.

The entire three-day package is part of Salve's Bicentennial Education Program, a first-in-the-nation series of lectures on our national heritage. Purpose of the colonial arts weekend will be learn how the colonists viewed their world by examining their expressions through art.

The weekend will begin with a performance of The Contrast by the Salve Regina Players on Friday, January 18, at 8:00 p.m., in the college's Creative Arts Center. Like all "Colonial Arts Weekend" events, the play will be open to the public free of charge.

The Contrast is a play by Royall Tyler which satirizes British and American life through a comparison of British sophistication with the less cultured American spirit. It was originally performed at the John Street Theater in New York City in 1787.

The play was America's first professionally produced native comedy and the first attempt to use native material as substance for dramatic art. Indian songs and the original rendition of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" were used to capture the emerging American spirit and national pride.

The Salve Regina Players will recapture this spirit through the dress, language and mannerisms of colonial times. To add authenticity to the production, the cast has constructed a replica of the original John Street Theater with a \$500 grant from the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission.

On Saturday, January 19, there will be an exhibit of decorative art from the colonies in Salve's Ochre Court beginning at 2:00 p.m. Items for the exhibit have been loaned by the Newport Historical society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Rhode Island School of Design Museum and private collectors.

The exhibition will feature a re-creation of a room from a colonial home. There will be examples of colonial furniture, textiles, artwork and cabinet making. Rare pieces of Melville silver, Stiegal glassware, Goddard chests and a Malbone miniature painting will also be on display.

Sunday's program will consist of a 2:00 p.m. concert of colonial music by the Salve Regina Glee Club in Newport's Trinity Church. The church itself dates back to colonial times, and the singers will be accompanied by a restored 18th century organ.

The first part of the concert will be a re-creation of an 18th century church service with the sermons and prayers eliminated. This part of the program will follow the church practice of "lining out." Lining out is a method of singing in which the song leader sings a line from the songbook and the congregation repeats it. This was done to teach the psalms by rote memory. When the colonists first landed in the new world, they knew all the psalms by heart. Over the years they began to forget them, so "lining out" became the popular method for teaching psalms.

The second half of the concert will feature varied selections of music from the colonial era. There will be songs from the Ainsworth Psalter (1612), the songbook of the Plymouth colonies and The Bay Psalm Book (1698), the first psalm book published in America.

Selections of work from the colonial singing schools follow next. These schools were established by the churches to keep music alive in the colonies. With the hard life the colonists faced in the new land, there was little time for music and people began to lose interest. In response, the churches sponsored itinerant musicians who would go from community to community teaching music. These musicians would often write their own songs and they were the first American composers.

Also on the program will be several selections relating to the Revolutionary War. These patriotic songs were written

to rouse the colonists against Britain. William Billings' "Chester," the colonial anthem, and his "Lamentation Over Boston," a biblical parody decrying the British siege of Boston, highlight this part of the program.

Winding up the evening will be music from the late colonial period showing the European influence of the colonists who came over long after American had been settled. These people were of a more genteel class and many had formal music training in Europe. Included will be selections from William Selby, who served for a time as the organist in Newport's Trinity Church.

- 30 -

R.L.N.

11074km