

Charlotte Vickery...

presents

"Fabrics against the web of history"

A gracious and accomplished raconteur with a background of music, literature and art, Charlotte Vickery gives you a key to design which will unlock doors in the world of history and art and make living the richer. During her talk she uses laces, brocades, damasks and hand loomed tapestry furniture coverings from the fabulous collection inherited from her father — a life-long student of color and design. His great friend, a Parisian connoisseur, made it possible for him to acquire fabrics and tapestry sets which were denied the usual American collector in 19th century France.

The French revolutionists had destroyed the original sets made on the hand looms of the Aubusson, Gobelin and Beauvais workshops from the cartoons by famous artists of the periods when the Crown was the patron of the weavers. Only a few hidden pieces escaped the rage of the mob. But in the middle of the 19th century the hand looms were again active and both fabrics and tapestry sets of the Louis XIII, XIV, XV and XVI periods were copied from the few original pieces still in existence. These are copies only in the sense that the design in an original 17th century piece was followed because the cartoon from which the original had been woven had been destroyed. The same wools, silks, dyes and colors were used by weavers who were descendants of the weavers of the earlier periods. It has been said that the weavers "were artists who used their looms as easels, their shuttles as brushes, and wool and silk as their color medium."



Mrs. Vickery weaves her story of the fabrics through the centuries — using the history of Europe as the warp, and the wars, explorations, loves and intrigues of the princes of church and state as the woof. As she talks the designs of each great period come alive. You may examine the exquisite fabrics such as are usually found only behind glass in museums. And with the feel of texture comes the feeling and understanding of the influences that produced the essential designs of each great period.

MANAGEMENT

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