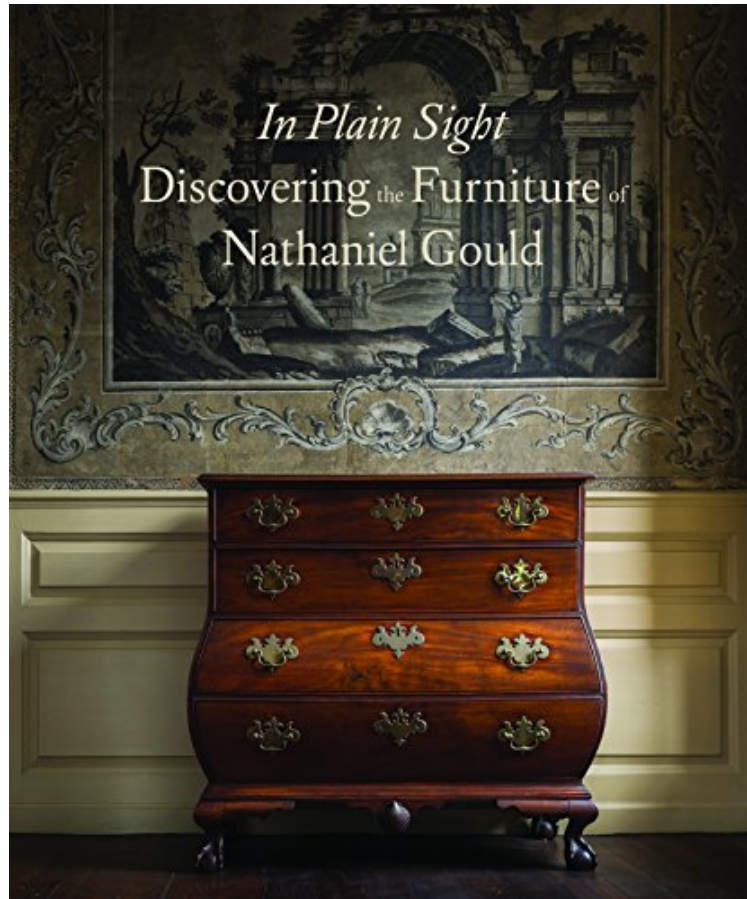


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In Plain Sight: Discovering the Furniture of Nathaniel Gould

Kemble Widmer, Joyce King : In Plain Sight: Discovering the Furniture of Nathaniel Gould before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *In Plain Sight: Discovering the Furniture of Nathaniel Gould*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Book on Beautiful Furniture -- An Heirloom VolumeBy RockLobsterThis book, and the exhibit with which it is associated, is a remarkable achievement. Over the course of a decade's work, the authors have composed a detailed picture of one of America's greatest furniture makers, and of his client base and broader economic context. And their detective work has yielded an object of beauty fit for anyone interested in history, the decorative arts, or how America came to be. This book opens a door for readers into another world, and makes it truly accessible to both connoisseurs and lay people. While the show will close at the end of March 2015, this book will last for many decades as a seminal contribution to the understanding of material culture during and in the years leading up to our Revolution. Not to be missed!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book.By Homeschool MomThis book is a wonderful addition to the library of a traditional furniture lover or craftsman. The pieces are beautiful and the photography superb. It is also a well-written account of a furniture designer/maker and his business.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Getting lost in 18th

century Salem By Jonathan Rickard Exhaustive study made exquisite by the highly capable photographs of extraordinary classics of American furniture.

In Plain Sight: Discovering the Furniture of Nathaniel Gould is the stunning result of happy accident and indefatigable, dedicated research. In the field of early American furniture made in Massachusetts, Nathaniel Gould has loomed as something of a mystery believed to have been prolific, handsomely skilled, and exceptionally enterprising, yet considered elusive because of a scarcity of known works, lack of documentation, and difficulties of attribution.

Accident the unexpected discovery of Goulds day books and account book in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society and analysis painstaking and inductive have produced an invaluable, multifaceted case study. This book establishes Gould unquestionably as Salems leading cabinetmaker before and during the period of the American Revolution. He made substantial and often expensive furniture, including case pieces of bomb form embellished with carving. The number of works that can be attributed to Gould remains small, but the foundation for increasingly assured connoisseurship lies within these pages and Goulds archival records. The scale of his workshop, his impressively large, diverse clientele, and his successes in Salems furniture export trade attest to his achievements as an entrepreneur. However, this book illuminates not only a particular individual, but the Salem/Boston/New England spheres in which Gould operated during a tumultuous time in American history. The scrupulously recorded notations in his ledgers are precious clues to emerging concepts of style and taste, cultural mores, business practices, socio-economic circumstances, and familial histories with local, regional, and national relevance. In Plain Sight presents a choice array of forms confidently assigned to Goulds shop, and makes accessible the ledgers themselves, meticulously analyzed and interpreted to facilitate present and ongoing scholarship regarding Nathaniel Gould, Salem, early New England furniture, and colonial America.

"In addition to superb photography and detailed discussions of each piece, the book includes appendices reproducing and categorizing the contents of the Gould ledgers, making it an invaluable resource for collectors as well as scholars and connoisseurs of American antiques" Barrymore Laurence Scherer, Wall Street Journal Intriguing results of careful research are revealed here with large photos, indices, numerous related essays, and illustrations all with clear presentation" Maine Antique Digest "Promises to keep scholars occupied well into the future" Carol Stocker, Design New England blog Destined to be a classic Gerald W.R. Ward, the Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Emeritus at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston "Widmer and King have firmly established the richness and value of the Gould account books" Philip D. Zimmerman, West 86th