



LAST VIEWING OF A MASTER COLLECTION



PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK KOLLEGGY

For lovers of Americana, a visit to Pokety, the Maryland eastern shore estate of the late Colonel Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, was an unexcelled experience. The Garbisches' interest in Americana began when Mrs. Garbisch received Pokety as a gift from her father, Walter P. Chrysler, who used the property as a hunting lodge. The Garbisches completely remodeled the house along 18th-Century lines and decided to buy a few examples of American folk paintings to enliven the interiors. Those purchases led to a collection of some of the finest examples of American furniture, glass, Chinese Export porcelain, and one of the best collections of naive painting ever assembled.





The Great Hall (above) contains mainly Chippendale-style furniture, including the Newport tall-case clock in the corner and the rare block-and-shell carved kneehole desk, also from Newport and possibly made by Edmund Townsend (opposite center right). Part of the Garbisches' exceptional collection of miniature and children's furniture stands in a window of the Great Hall (opposite center left). At left, a portrait of the Garbisch family painted by John Koch in 1955. Opposite below, The Burnish Sisters by William Mattheae Prior.



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For the Garbishes, collecting was a joy. They selected every piece themselves, buying only what they truly loved in every category. At Pokety, their favorite naive paintings formed a backdrop for American furniture, while their New York City apartment was filled with the best antique French furniture and Impressionist and modern paintings. But it was in the field of naive paintings that the Garbishes were best known as collectors. In the early 1950's they began to compile a comprehensive collection that could be studied by scholars of folk art. Over the years, they demonstrated their generosity by lending and donating many paintings to museums; the remainder of their naive paintings were given to museums after their deaths. All the furniture, pottery, porcelain, and other folk art, however, was auctioned off last May by Sotheby Parke Bernet in a \$3.9 million sale, the largest on-premises auction ever held in America.

A Federal mahogany three-pedestal table, surrounded by Philadelphia Chippendale chairs, stands in the center of the dining room at Pokety (below and opposite above). The table is set with "Lotus" pattern Chinese Export plates. On the table and at right are examples from the Garbisches' collection of 18th-Century Dutch delft animals and figures. The over-mantel painting (opposite above), Horizon of the New World, was painted c. 1825. All the other paintings in this room, including Fruit and Goldfinch (opposite below) by Wagguno, are still lifes.





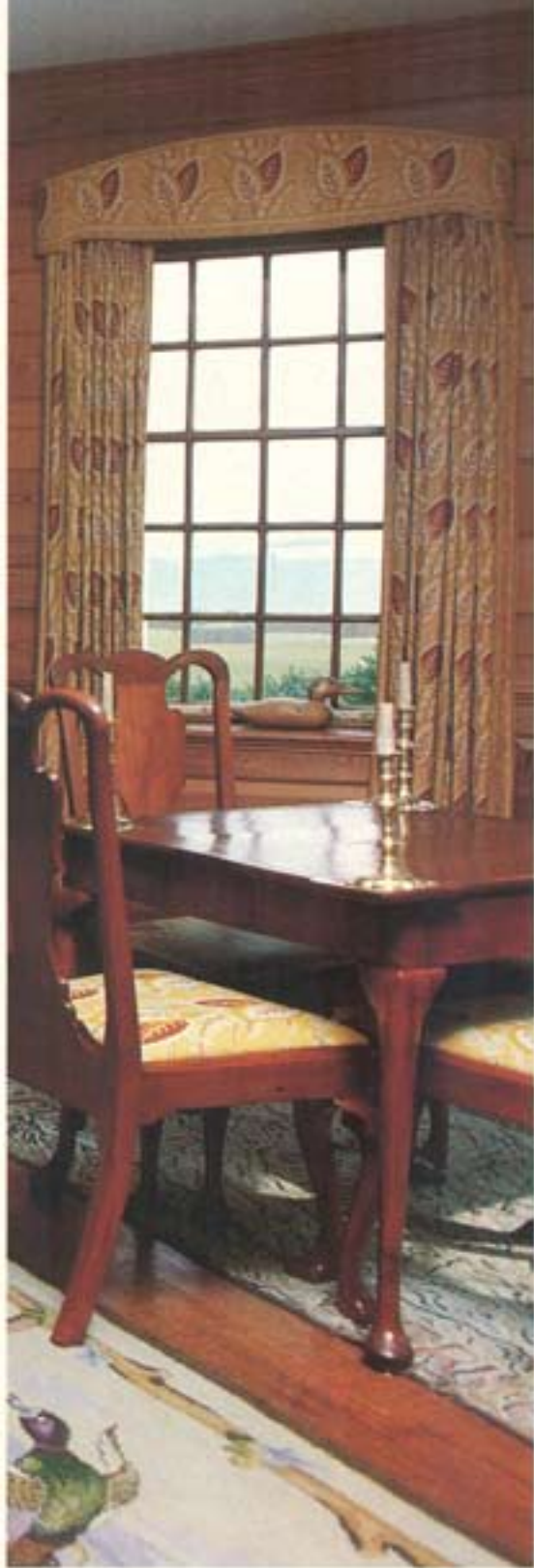
For the remodeling of Pokety, the Garbisches commissioned architect Thomas J. Waterman, an expert on 18th-Century American buildings. Using elements from old houses in the area—including original glass and wood paneling—whenever possible, they completely reworked both the exterior and interior archi-

ture. In the Gun Room, shown here, the walls are paneled in an 18th-Century manner with heart of first-grown, long-leafed yellow pine. It is this room—with its informal furniture, bottle collection, and Colonel Garbisch's favorite sporting paintings—that most evokes the hunting lodge atmosphere of Pokety.

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"Sporting" primitives in the Gun Room (left) include Sportsman's Dream by C.F. Senior over the mantel, and The Cat to its right. The drapery fabric here, as well as much of the fabric and needlepoint rugs throughout the house, was adapted by Mrs. Garbisch from antique designs. The collection of American blown glass bottles and historical flasks (below) features a number of rare pieces. Above, the portrait of Joshua Lamb, painted by Abram R. Stanley. The rare bamboo-turned and painted Windsor side chairs (below) are from early 19th-Century New England.





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The pool house (opposite), furnished with 18th-Century country pieces, contains a William and Mary gateleg table surrounded by Windsor and William and Mary chairs. Particularly interesting furnishings in this room are the Windsor child's armchair and "Shoo Fly" chair (above). Bedroom (below) is decorated in a Country style, with reproduction fabrics. The Peaceable Kingdom (above left) is one of seven Edward Hicks works that hung in Col. Garbisch's office.





Visitors to Pokety would be reminded of a self-sufficient 18th-Century Maryland estate. The 480-acre property includes—besides the 20-room Georgian-style house—a working farm, poultry house, stables, kennels, greenhouse, and the pool house (*above*) that was used as a guest house and summer sitting room. A distinct contrast to the more formal main house,

this building is furnished as a country gentleman's home. Here, the works of anonymous country joiners are displayed with all the appropriate rustic crafts and accessories. Some guest bedrooms, such as the one shown (*opposite*), were also decorated in a Country style, and here Mrs. Garbisch hung the children's portraits, theorems, and needlework she favored.