

Gobelin Tapestry Restoration is the New Colorado State Project



After visiting the Colorado Governor's Residence in December, and viewing a variety of options for the new State Project, Quester State Board members voted to support the restoration of one of the Mansion's lovely tapestries. State Treasurer, Joyce Taff, will begin accepting donations for this new endeavor after Spring Council.

The Governor's Residence is the proud home of several intricately-woven tapestries that were favorites of historic owners, Claude and Edna Boettcher. In the past, Colorado Questers have helped the Mansion repair two torn and tattered tapestries, and have now committed to helping restore the largest of the collection. The piece measures ten feet, one inch in height and six feet, eight inches in width. Claude Boettcher secured the tapestry from an art dealer in New York.

The beautiful eighteenth century example of the weaver's art, worked in choice wools and richly highlighted in silk, was produced in the Ateliers of Nielson, Manufacture des Gobelins, in Paris. It is best known as a royal factory supplying the court of the French monarchs since Louis XIV, and is now administered by the French Ministry of Culture. Details of the tapestry include an ecru ground, bordered in sky blue with a framework of golden leaf scrolling, hung with festoons of pastel-colored roses, peonies, and other flowers. The center is highlighted with an oval medallion depicting a landscape vignette with the figures of three children in the Claude Boucher style.

The Governor's Residence Preservation Fund estimates \$3,100 is needed to restore and frame the tapestry. This will include repairing holes and tears, matching and restoring dyes, strengthening seams and borders, building a frame, and stretching. The GRPF will commit to funding the project beyond the Questers' contribution if required. Any surplus donations for this State Project will be applied to repairing the beautiful and imposing Tiffany grandfather clock that stands on the mansion's entry hall staircase landing. The State Board is excited to begin gathering donations for this project, and hope that Questers all across Colorado will feel the same. We are looking forward to a variety of fundraising events to support this restoration, and anticipate seeing the beautiful result of our efforts.