

Newly acquired prints are on display in house

A longstanding objective of Monticello's curators is to re-create Monticello's interior as it was known by Thomas

Jefferson, which includes finding original works of art and furnishings. Jefferson named many of the prints he possessed in an 1815 list of works of art displayed in the four public rooms of the house. Relying on this list and additional documentary study, Monticello curators have acquired prints identical or similar to those owned by Jefferson.

"Locating Jefferson's prints is an important part of the effort to offer an accurate representation of Monticello," said Collections

Manager Carrie Taylor.

Four such prints were recently installed in Monticello's Dining Room and Parlor.

One of these is *Thaddeus Kosciuszko*, an engraving by F. Blot after a painting by Austrian artist Jozef Grassi. While serving as vice president in Philadelphia, Jefferson met Kosciuszko, a Pole who served as a colonel in the Continental Army during the American Revolution; the two men immediately became friends. During this visit, Kosciuszko brought with him prints to present as gifts, and this is most likely how Jefferson acquired his print.

The second newly acquired print is *Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford*, engraved by Barthelemy Joseph Fulevan Roger. Count Rumford conducted scientific research in the areas of explosives and heat transmission. One of the results of his studies was a non-



Zenobia, an engraving by William Sharp is based on a painting by Michelangelo.

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Prints

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smoking fireplace, an idea Jefferson incorporated into the design of several of the fireplaces at Monticello.

Zenobia, an engraving by William Sharp based on Michelangelo's painting, represents the third-century queen of Palmyra. As suggested in the 1815 inventory, the prints of Kosciuszko, Rumford, and Zenobia currently hang in the lower tier of works in the Parlor.

The fourth recently acquired print, *Mount Vernon*, a view of George Washington's home published in Philadelphia by William Birch, is on display in the lower tier of works in the Dining Room.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org