



## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Furniture History Society & Silver Society Joint Symposium  
Saturday 28 March 2026, V&A Museum, London**

### **Silver and Furniture: Aesthetics and Value from the Middle Ages to Now**

We are delighted to announce that the Furniture History Society and the Silver Society will be joining forces in Spring 2026 to hold a one-day symposium on the theme of ‘Silver and Furniture: Aesthetics and Value, from the Middle Ages to Now’.

This one day conference explores the relationship between furniture and silver in terms of valuing, owning, describing and making. Furniture displays and stores silver; how did the two combine in princely, ecclesiastical, domestic and retail settings, and how did viewers react? Do collectors prize silver in its native or worked state, in terms of its place of origin, as they might a rare wood? What prominence do artists give furniture and silver in paintings, and how does furniture frame depictions of metalwork? How do inventories and chronicles describe silver and associated furnishings? Did designers and manufacturers of silver and furniture work collaboratively, or mutually influence each other? Did all societies across the globe value these materials equally, and has their relative importance and material worth fluctuated over the centuries?

We welcome submissions for short conference papers on these, and related topics, from anyone working in the field of decorative and visual arts across continents, in archives, and in conservation.

Presentations should be limited to 20 minutes in length.

To submit a proposal, please send an abstract of 250-300 words and brief biography to:  
Dr Amy Lim (Co-chair, Events Committee, Furniture History Society), at [events@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:events@furniturehistorysociety.org)  
or to Dr Kirstin Kennedy (Chairman, The Silver Society), at [chairmankmk@gmail.com](mailto:chairmankmk@gmail.com)

**Deadline: 31 August 2025.**