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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

See stunning Examples of the Arts and Crafts Movement in  
*Flowers & Monsters: Hand-carved Furniture by Karl von Rydingsvärd*  
at the American Swedish Historical Museum  
Exhibition Opens April 3rd, 2016

**Philadelphia, PA-** The American Swedish Historical Museum is excited to announce our next special exhibition, *Flowers & Monsters: Hand-carved furniture by Karl von Rydingsvärd*, featuring stunning wood furniture from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This beautiful collection is not only a great example of the era's Arts and Crafts movement, but also highlights this Swedish-born craftsman's attention to aesthetic detail and functionality. The exhibition opens April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and will be on view through December 2016.

Karl von Rydingsvärd was a Swedish immigrant with a story of Swedish nobility and American success. He trained as a decorative sculptor at the Royal Technical School, Stockholm before moving to the US in 1883 to pursue the arts. Viking motifs, Swedish figures, and floral patterns from his childhood decorate much of his meticulously hand-carved furnishings. In America, he became a prominent teacher. He spread the ideal that everyone, including women, could and should learn to carve wood—a gender barrier that mostly went unchallenged at the time. He taught at Columbia: the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences; the Rhode Island School of Design; the Worcester Art Museum; the Troy School of Arts and Crafts, and the Massachusetts Normal Art School. Additionally, he ran summer woodworking classes from his home near Brunswick, Maine. Countless American students learned from, and became inspired by, von Rydingsvärd's ornate style and personal approach to shaping wood into a functional piece of decorative art.



The American Swedish Historical Museum's original exhibition, *Flowers & Monsters: Hand-carved furniture by Karl von Rydingsvärd*, showcases a rare collection of von Rydingsvärd's furnishings that have never before been on public display. On loan from a family's private collection, this exhibition of works demonstrates the relationship between von Rydingsvärd's Swedish woodcarving style and his passion for the dynamic American Arts and Crafts movement. The exhibition features a stunning assortment of over twenty works, ranging from dining table with six chairs, to a bookcase and a storage cabinet for kitchen sundries, among many other pieces.

For more information on the exhibition and the museum itself, please visit [americanswedish.org](http://americanswedish.org) or call (215) 389-1776. This special exhibition is included with general admission, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, \$4 for children 5-11, free for children under 5 and for members.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's AT&T/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Route 17 (Naval Base) can bring you right to the Museum.

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