

February

By Hand, Hammer and Machine: Metalworking through the Ages

Presenter: Stephen Smithers

Wednesday, February 25, 2-4 p.m.

The Connecticut River Valley has played a pivotal role in the evolution and development of American metalworking. New England artisans have led the way in innovation, from the hardware and tool-making of the earliest blacksmiths to the lighting and tableware of the first copper, tin and silversmiths to the great manufacturing which followed. Smithers will discuss this important regional history and the origins and characteristics of various metals used. He will also show tools and demonstrate techniques employed by metalworkers across centuries, illustrating the range of metal objects that have become a major part of our lives. This presentation will include video segments and photographic images, as well as samples of Smithers' own work.

Stephen Smithers has been practicing the art of silversmithing and metalworking for over 40 years. He has performed restorations on early metal objects of all kinds, received commissions from many of America's most noted institutions and collectors and taught at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Clark Art Institute.
