

## LIONS PAW CHAIR, SOFA AND CHAISE

The iconic lion's paw foot and crown motif details that define the stately and elegant character of this chair, sofa and chaise were all adapted from a chair hand crafted in southern Norway in the early 17th century. The original had a leather seat and the same crown-like motif on top of the chair back and stretcher, as well as the lion's paw footing. Because of its age and dense ornamentation, it is thought to have belonged to a royal household in Norway.

Museum of International Folk Art founder Florence Dibell Bartlett loved Scandinavia, and traveled there often to purchase textiles, furniture, and folk art. Bartlett likely purchased the original chair on one such trip, and later gave it to the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Chicago Philanthropist Florence Dibell Bartlett (1881-1954) traveled extensively both in the United States and abroad. Wherever she went Ms. Bartlett studied the history of the local culture and collected the decorative art objects unique to the area. During one of her excursions, she visited and fell in love with New Mexico and decided it was there she wanted to establish a museum based on her collection. In 1953 the Museum of International Folk Art opened. Over the ensuing years, the museum continued to grow receiving over 100,000 additional objects. Today with collections totaling over 100,000 representing 100 countries and over 60 nations, it is the largest museum of its kind in the world.

