

## **Federal Period 1780-1830 (50 Years) - The ending of Colonial Williamsburg**

### **Flower Arranging Information for the Federal Period Era**

**Containers:** Floral arrangements were often placed in tall, footed or pedestal vases, handled urns, epergnes or tiered pieces, cachepots (what we would call today a plant pot), baskets and bowls of ceramic, silver, metal, or tole (lacquered or enameled metal used decoratively).

**Plant Material:** Choice of material emphasized favorites of the ancient world, such as golden wheat sheaves, ivy, oak and laurel leaves, and with fruits such as pomegranate, fig, peach and quince.

**Flowers included:** Anemone, Bachelor's Button (Cornflower), Camellia, Hellebore, Hemerocallis (Day Lily), Hyacinth, Lily, Narcissus, Platycodon (Campanula), Poppy, Primrose, Rose, and Violet.

**Colors:** Restraint manifested itself in muted, restricted color schemes. Matte or grayed greens and blues with outlines of white or ivory were most popular.

Designs remained traditional symmetrical masses but were elongated or tall, flame-like shapes as would be found in a pair of mantel arrangements. In single arrangements, the triangle might be elongated in the horizontal direction as for a dining table. In both cases, the plant material would gently overhang the rim of the container. Within the stable mass shape, the plant material reflected "slim elegance". Upside down cone (Pyramid).

In the characteristic designs of the Federal Period (late 18th and early 19th century), fruits were used in combination with flowers and foliage.