



# News Release

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Holiday Giving Made More  
Special with Museum Ideas

Columbia, S.C. --- Picking the right gift for that special someone is often the most stressful part of the holidays. That's when the South Carolina State Museum's store, the Cotton Mill Exchange, comes to the rescue.

Whether one is seeking educational toys, stuffed animals or clothing for children or grandkids, or that unusual book for the family historian, the Cotton Mill Exchange is the place to look.

South Carolina-oriented gifts for out-of-state friends and relatives are a specialty of the store, and the museum store features the largest selection of items in the state carrying the popular palmetto tree symbol.

"The range includes jewelry, neckties - including our new palmetto-and-crescent Christmas tie, which is exclusively ours, - plus glassware, shirts and caps among many other palmetto tree items," said Store Manager Scottie Ash. "Plus, many items also feature other attractive South Carolina symbols such as the state seal and the Carolina wren, our state bird."

Also new this year are beautiful hand-painted "egg" ornaments, each featuring the Carolina wren and yellow Jessamine, plus the state butterfly and, of course, the palmetto tree.

"And our book section includes not only a wide variety of history books, but also Southern cookbooks and books on natural history, art and more." That "more" includes

the charming children's book "The Lonely Shadow" by renowned Lowcountry silhouette artist Clay Rice, and compact discs of the music of this multi-talented South Carolinian.

Other popular items at the museum store include two charming South Carolina-oriented card designs by South Carolina artists, featuring Santa with the state flag and with a decorated palmetto tree. A variety of items with the friendly Southern greeting "Merry Christmas, Y'all" includes tree decorations and hand towels. Cheerful colored Christmas bowls for seasonal goodies will delight holiday guests, as will wine glasses featuring light-decked palmetto trees, an elegant carved glass palmetto tree wine bottle cork and much more.

Some of these items are designed exclusively for the Cotton Mill Exchange, such as tree decorations representing the museum's Phillip Simmons Gate, as well as a new, exclusive palmetto and crescent cookie cutter that has become especially popular.

South Carolina-made food items from chocolate to shrimp and grits to she-crab soup make excellent palate pleasers too, said Ash.

Shoppers looking to avoid crowds can sample the wide variety of the store's unique items by visiting its Web site, [www.cottonmillexchange.com](http://www.cottonmillexchange.com).

The store is open seven days a week through Dec. 23: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Along with the museum, it will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For more information about the Cotton Mill Exchange, contact Scottie Ash at (803) 898-4967.

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## CUTLINE FOR COTTON MILL EXCHANGE

The Cotton Mill Exchange, the store of the South Carolina State Museum, features a wide variety of gift ideas for the holidays. Items such as the lovely new “egg” ornaments feature a distinctly South Carolina theme, with the Carolina wren and yellow Jessamine, the state butterfly and, of course, the palmetto tree. Shoppers can check out the tremendous variety of original ideas both at the museum store and online at [cottonmillexchange.com](http://cottonmillexchange.com).

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Susan Dugan/courtesy S.C. State Museum

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