

Chair with Cheney Silk at Metropolitan Museum, New York City.

The sign on the wall next to the chair says:

Tiffany & Wheeler (1879-1881)
Manufactured by Cheney Brothers (1838-1955)
South Manchester, CT
Thistle Textile c. 1881
Silk & metallic thread
Gift of Mrs. Boudinot Keith, 1928 (28.70.3)

In about 1879, Louis C. Tiffany & Candace Wheeler formed the interior decorating firm Tiffany and Wheeler – later known, after the arrival of Lockwood de Forest, as Louis C. Tiffany and Company, Associated Artists. The firm of Tiffany & Wheeler was hired in 1880 to design several interiors, including that of the ship’s main “saloon,” or drawing room, for the luxury steam yacht *Namouna*, owned by the newspaper publisher James Gordon Bennett, Jr. Across the saloon portholes could be drawn – as described in a contemporary magazine article – “exquisite hangings in which the interwoven thistle is wrought in silk and gold” and of which this damask is an example.

