

House/Garden

French Corner Antiques Opens New Shop

BY LINDA DORMONT
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The next best thing to a trip to France is a visit to French Corner Antiques, a shop of French Country furniture and accessories which has opened at 16 Haverford Station Rd., Haverford.

"We started this business in Ardmore in 1987," says Guy Veroli, a Paris native and industrial design graduate who owns the shop with his artistic wife, Daniele. "The idea came when we could not find enough French antiques to fill our Main Line home. We wanted to share our love for these things with others."

Today, customers from all over the Main Line and from California, purchase their 18th- and 19th-century fine wood furniture, faience pottery, brassware and more.

"The criteria we use in selecting our pieces are charm, quality and design," says Daniele Veroli.

Their spacious shop is arranged in room settings — dining rooms, bedroom — to give people ideas for decorating.

The ambience is of someone's lovely home in a French province, from the earthtone walls to the antique sabots in the nursery. Beautiful oil paintings by French-born Merion Artist Maya Starr, lend excitement to the decor.

All of the furniture at French Corner Antiques is authentic. If restorations are made, they are by Guy, who works with the centuries-



OWNERS WITH ARTIST. Guy and Daniele Veroli, owners of the new French Corner Antiques at 16 Haverford Station Rd., Haverford, are joined by Artist Maya Starr of Merion whose hand-made French peasant dolls and oil paintings are on sale in the store. The store is celebrating its grand opening today through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be joined by Mock Fox Antiques, Antiques Upstairs, Linens by Design, James S. Jaffe Rare Books and Chelsea House Ltd.

old techniques of provincial craftsmen. "You can see the beautiful grain of the wood, even the old wormholes," says Daniele Veroli.

Visitors will find hutches, tables, buffets, chairs and armoires, both hand-painted and carved. There is a rare 19th-century bread box and dough table, an 18th-century painted corner cabinet, Art Deco glass and a Louis Philippe tall clock. Not all pieces are "country"; some are formal. Everything will meld into almost any decorating style.

An extra feature of the shop is a fabric room, where clients can work with the Verolis on design and order from their catalogs of fine imported fabrics, including fabrics by Brunswig & Fils.

The shop also carries the collec-

tions of two exceptional French artists, Martine Vermeulen, who creates useful faience pottery, and Maya Starr, who hand-makes French peasant dolls in authentic costumes.

French Corner Antiques will be joined in celebration during its Grand Opening Days — today through Saturday — by the antique shops of Haverford Station Rd.

Mock Fox Antiques, Antiques Upstairs, Linens by Design, James S. Jaffe Rare Books and Chelsea House Ltd. also will be open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on these days.