

# The International Museum of Ceramic Art

## Ceramophile

New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University  
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Ceramophile



Original Spring 1991, Ceramophile.

Ceramic History Class utilizing Museum Teaching Tools exhibit collection, March 1996. Left to right: Mark Tosh, Brandy Horton, Margaret Carney, Sam Cassino, Michelle Stys, and Jesse Kaplan. Photo by Bill Moogan.

SPECIAL  
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

# Message from the Director

by Margaret Carney

This is our fifth anniversary of the formal establishment of the International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred. We have a lot to celebrate and that is reflected in this Fifth Anniversary Edition of the *Ceramoscope*. Not only have we 100% recognized the Museum's name change to the *International Museum of Ceramic Art* at Alfred, recommended by Alfred University President Edward G. Coll, Jr., but we have also selected the architectural firm to design the Museum's new facility.

Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer of New York City has been selected as the architectural firm, out of an international search which involved nearly eighty firms originally. The designing of the building is being funded by a planning grant from the State of New

York. Key proponents of this one million dollar grant have been Alfred University President Edward G. Coll, Jr., Vice President for University Relations, William Stepp, New York State Senators Randy Kuhl and Jess Present, and a host of others.

We are also under new leadership, as Dr. David Pye assumed the position of Dean of the New York State College of Ceramics on March 1, 1996. Please see the box at right for a few welcoming words from the Museum's governing authority, Dean Pye.



MESSAGE FROM  
THE DEAN OF  
THE COLLEGE  
OF CERAMICS

by David Pye

It is a great honor and privilege for me to be dean of the College at a time when an opportunity exists to make an enormous contribution to the status, heritage, and future of the College by creating and strengthening the International Museum of Ceramic Art. I regard this initiative, born from the labor of love and commitment to the College by past and present faculty, students, and alumni, as the signature of the centennial celebration now planned for the College in the year 2000.

## Special Thank You to Recent Museum Volunteers

During the past six months, the Museum has been fortunate to have had the assistance of several outstanding volunteers who have assisted with exhibition preparation, cataloging of gifts and miscellaneous assignments. Former area art teacher and ceramic artist, Bruce Greene, has generously volunteered many hours since January. He has successfully completed major cataloging projects, including cataloging portions of the Frans Wildenhain Collection, the William Pinney Collection and the English Staffordshire pink lustreware collection donated by Phil Baker.

Graduating senior Ann LePore dedicated many hours of her busy final semester as a fine arts student to cataloging the Wildenhain painting and drawing collection donated to the Museum in the late Fall by Lili Wildenhain. Sarah Lindley, another

graduating senior in fine arts, assisted on a weekly basis with cataloging, exhibition preparation, and various Museum duties as they arose. Bill Walker unselfishly volunteered, as he completed his Ph.D. in Ceramic Engineering this semester, with exhibition installation and planning and catalogue editing.

And in crisis you know who your friends are, as Sara and Steve Arrasmith assisted with pedestal painting in the critical hours before the *Alfred Teaches Ceramics, 1900-1996* exhibit was installed. Ceramic artist Jeff Oestreich donated beautiful glazed stoneware teacups to the Museum to be used as membership premiums.

Another volunteer group which continues to be crucial to the Museum's success is the Museum's External Advisory Committee con-

sisting of the following members: Anne Carrier, Chair, Alastair Comack, Helen W. Drutt English, Polly Guth, Wayne Higby, Bill Hunt, Mark Lyman, Ted Lyon, Ginger Miller, Marty Moskof, Bill Parry, Susan Peterson, Bob Pfannebecker, Mario Prisco, Susan Strong and Bob Turner. Our Spring meeting was held on April 20th in Alfred. Those who were not able to attend the meeting submitted written input on agenda items beforehand.

And although not a volunteer, I would especially like to thank Kathleen Collins, Dean of the School of Art and Design, for her leadership and guidance and friendship during these formative years of the Museum. She will be leaving Alfred in June to become President of the Kansas City Art Institute. She will be missed.

# Focus on the Collection

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Although only highlights of new acquisitions can be presented here, there are several notable additions to the Museum's permanent collection which have occurred in the past six months. A beautiful collection of English Staffordshire pink lustreware was donated to the Museum by D. Philip Baker (AU '58). Mr. Baker began collecting pink lustreware in 1974 and has located pieces to add to his extensive collection all over the U.S., Continental Europe and England. Pink lustre, which is actually a thinner application of the gold that makes copper lustre, is the predominant feature of Mr. Baker's collection which is comprised of earthenware cups and saucers, bowls, dishes, plaques, jugs and mugs dating from the early 1800's until the early 1900's. In recent years he focused his collecting on the acquisition of plaques, jugs and mugs, the more unusual items (see photo). While the gifts can be counted at over 150 pieces, Mr. Baker made it clear that he felt comfortable that the collection had "come home" to Alfred where he still has his roots and family ties. He said he was influenced to make the gift based on the potential that the "collection would be housed in a world class museum." We are

extremely pleased by this generous donation. A few pieces from this extensive collection are currently on view in the exhibition *Teaching Tools: the Museum Collection at Alfred*.

Nancy Seiberling, who has been a generous supporter of the Museum over the past five years, has continued her own tradition by donating a wonderfully expressive earthenware Pre-Columbian Jaina figure. Traces of blue pigment remain on this figure, which arrived at the Museum in March. Additionally, Mrs. Seiberling donated a bowl created in the early 1940's by Edwin and Mary Scheier.

Cavan Gonzales, who attended Alfred University from Fall 1988 until Spring 1992, grandson of famed Native American ceramist Maria Martinez, very generously donated a stunning decorated jar to the permanent collection. The piece he created is titled *Eagle Tail*, and was exhibited during the NCECA post-conference event in Alfred in the 2nd Annual Native American Student Organization Art Show, which was shown on campus in the Robert Turner Gallery (see photo of the exhibit installation).

Several functional American ceramic pieces were purchased for the Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics, including an organic formed cup and saucer created by Bonnie Seeman, and a footed bowl by Steven Hill.

A teapot was recently purchased for the Collection — made by noted ceramist Bruce Winn. These purchases were made possible through the generosity of one donor, Mr. Roger D. Corsaw (AU '35), who had a vision years ago about a fine Museum at Alfred, and put his



Shown far left on pedestal: large jar by Cavan Gonzales, on exhibit on March 23, 1996 during 2nd Annual Native American Student Organization Art Show exhibit in the Robert Turner Gallery on campus.

money where his heart is — in Alfred and the Museum. He is alive and well in Asheville, North Carolina, and cannot be persuaded to move back to Alfred where he could be put to work on a daily basis. Mr. Corsaw donated a Michael Sherrill piece titled *Jucundescant Bottle* and a small pitcher by Larry Spears. Josh DeWeese (AU MFA '91) who is now director of the Archie Bray Foundation, donated a charismatic stoneware pitcher he created to the Corsaw Collection in late January. It is currently on display in the *Teaching Tools* exhibit.

Other notable additions to the permanent collection include a Fred Walrath vase signed and dated 1902, donated to the Museum by Dorothy Lay in memory of Anna Lydia Mays Fleck (AU '26). Joel Philip Myers (AU MFA '62) donated his remarkable glass creation titled *Kaleidoscope White I*, which was exhibited previously in *Fifty Years of MFA Ceramic Art at Alfred, 1943-1993*, an exhibit organized by this Museum and shown in both Alfred and Chicago in 1993 and 1994.



From left, Museum Director Margaret Carney, D. Philip Baker, and Alfred University President Edward G. Coll, Jr. shown with a selection of English Staffordshire pink lustreware donated by Mr. Baker.

## Current Exhibitions

**Alfred Teaches Ceramics, 1900-1996**  
March 14 - September 8, 1996

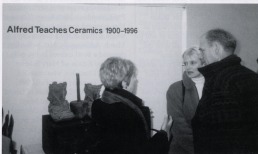
While *Alfred Teaches Ceramics, 1900-1996* officially opened to the public on March 14, it wasn't until Saturday March 23d that the celebration got fully underway, with more than 1,200 people visiting the exhibit during the NCECA post-conference event in Alfred. The total Alfred event, organized by ceramics Professor John Gill, included exhibits all over campus and welcoming receptions at strategic locations.

The exhibit, which features the seventeen Alfred faculty members who have taught ceramic art and design at Alfred at the New York State College of Ceramics during its nearly one hundred year history, includes ceramic artwork and teaching statements by Charles Fergus Binns, Marion Fosdick, Charles Harder, Don Schreckengost, Dan

Rhodes, Theodore Randall, Val Cushing, Robert Turner, Wallace C. Higgins, William Parry, Wayne Higby, Tony Hepburn, Tom Spleth, Anne Currier, John Gill, Andrea Gill, and Doug Jeck.

While the exhibit remains on view for a few more months, if you can't

get to Alfred, you *can* order the fully illustrated 83-page catalogue by sending a check made payable to the Museum, in the amount of \$20.00. A catalogue will be rushed to you in the mail after payment is received.



Visitors to the Alfred Teaches Ceramics, 1900-1996 exhibit during the NCECA post-conference event in Alfred on March 23, 1996.



## Current Exhibitions

### *Teaching Tools: the Museum Collection at Alfred*

March 14, 1996 -

no closing date announced

*Teaching Tools: the Museum Collection at Alfred*, features highlights from the diverse permanent collection of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred. The ceramics gifted, purchased, or bequeathed to Alfred become the hands-on teaching tools of the faculty and the students alike. More than two hundred objects from the permanent collections are on display, including selected pottery of the Ancient Americas from the Krevolin Collection; highlights from the Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics; examples from Alfred's unique M.E.A. Gloryhole Collection; tiles; sculpture; European dinnerware from the Wesp Collection; ceramics created by visiting artists; Asian ceramics from the Chow Collection (Chinese) and Fox Collection (Korean); Japanese ceramics by Rosanjin; art pottery including pieces by George E. Ohr and Van Briggie; ancient Roman and Byzantine lamps; early American crocks and jugs; contemporary American ceramics; and technical ceramics.



Visitors at the Teaching Tools exhibit, Spring 1996.



# Upcoming Exhibitions Ignatz, Where are You?

by Robert  
Tichane

For those of you with short memories, Ignatz, the mouse, was the antagonist in George Herriman's cartoon series of 80 years ago. His favorite occupation was tossing bricks at Krazy Kat.



HEARTWART

## Handle With Care

Alfred, New York  
October 17, 1996 -  
February 14, 1997

Opening Reception Thursday  
October 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Watch soon for our announcements for the *Handle With Care* exhibit, which will feature more than forty objects from the permanent collection and special exhibit loans, focusing on the different manner in which artists and designers have dealt with handles on cups, platters, vessels, teapots, casseroles, sculpture, etc. The objects range from Pre-Columbian stirrup-handled bottles, to Val Cushing pots with donut-shaped handles, to Glidden Pottery forms, to industrial ceramics with the kind of handles you use at your local diner, to contemporary pieces created by Ken Ferguson, Akio Takamori, Adelaide Paul, Betty Woodman, John Gill and others. A show designed to make you think more seriously about handles and what they're all about.

What has this to do with late 20th century ceramists? Since you ask, we will answer: a search is on for present day brick tossers. However, since we now all live in glass houses, the tossing should be symbolic only and that function should be left to the tender mercies of the delivery man.

Here is the plot. If you have (or can legally obtain) an old brick with the manufacturer's name on it (and preferably a little historical record), there is a recipient out there waiting for you. Margaret Carney, Director of the Alfred University Museum of Ceramics has been collecting named bricks from manufacturers in the vicinity. Now, with your assistance, she would like to extend the scope of the Alfred collection to a wider area.

While some folks may think that a brick collection is something that only a ceramist would love, the history of some bricks is quite fascinating. A recent sample of a large vitreous paving brick from Corning, New York was available as the result of the removal of some trolley tracks from a downtown street. One has to admire the quality of an impervious hard block like that, which could not only resist the abuse of metal clod

wagon wheels but could even withstand the ravages of modern snow removal salt. Concrete makers, eat your hearts out.

Hence, if you have an interesting "named" brick that you would be willing to donate, you can contact Dr. Carney by phone at 607-871-2421 or by mail at the International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, Alfred, NY, 14802. Even if you are not personally involved with old bricks, it would be helpful if you could pass the word to others.



Museum Director Margaret Carney (right) with noted ceramic designer Eva Zeisel during Dr. Zeisel's keynote presentation for the Design Division of the American Ceramic Society Conference in Indianapolis on April 15th.

# Friends of the Museum

Listed below are the individuals or organizations who have taken out a new membership or renewed their membership contribution, or contributed to an acquisition, memorial, or capital campaign fund, or contributed ceramic work to the permanent collection, from the period of December 1995 through May 1996. It is not too late for you to join and help us provide a broader funding base for the Museum. Remember that we are state-assisted, not state-funded and we need your help today. Your membership contribution helps to fund our changing exhibition program, care of the permanent collection, and special educational events. Membership information is located on the back of this issue.

## BENEFACTOR

D. Philip Baker  
Roger D. Corsaw  
Sanford and Sandra Davidow  
Cavan Gonzales  
Bruce Greene  
Vivika and Otto Heino  
Pamela Joseph  
Dr. and Mrs. Marlin Miller, Jr.  
Joel Philip Myers  
William Pitney  
Arthur and Lea Powell  
Nancy Seiberling  
Sue and Robert Turner  
William J. Walker, Jr.  
Lili Wildenhain

## PATRON

Evelyn Barriger  
Donald and Ursula Farn  
Dorothy Lay  
Joel and Ann Moskowitz  
Hal Riegger  
Bob and Sally Silberberg  
Robert Tichane

## CERAMIC CONNOISSEURS

Karen Johnson Boyd  
James B. Crocker

## CONTRIBUTING OR BUSINESS

Dr. David V. Becker  
(in honor of Bob Turner)  
Robert Bien  
Buffalo China, Inc.  
CENTERED: The  
Connecticut Potters  
Cooperative Association  
Josh DeWeese  
Bruce and Susan Greene  
Dr. Robert and Beate Hamlin  
Monarch Tile (T.S. White)  
Susan Peterson  
George and Dorothy Saxe  
Dave and Ann Shaner  
Peter A. Slusarski  
Penelope F. and David Weiss

## SUSTAINING

Morton and Mildred Abler  
Inge and Don Balch  
Herb Cohen  
Val and Elsie Cushing  
Susanne K. Frantz  
Rhonda Friedman  
Jeff Jacox  
John Looee  
Aaron Milrad  
Mr. and Mrs. Carlton B. Moore  
Robert Plannebecker  
Leonard Rubenstein  
Judith and Martin Schwartz  
Carl Shanahan  
Harriet B. Thompson

## FAMILY

Steve and Sara Arrasmith  
Gerald and Mary-Lou Cartledge  
Phyllis Blair Clark  
Corning, Inc. Foundation  
(matching Wosinski)  
Josh DeWeese and Rosie Wynkoop  
Mr. and Mrs. M. Gregg Gau  
Sheryl and Spencer Gorman  
Cavalene and Lockhart Harder  
Karen Karnes  
Kathy and John Ritter Olenick  
Megan Parry and Leslie Brill  
Paul and Joanne Perrot  
Mario and Margaret Prisco  
Thomas and Margaret Rasmussen  
Marilyn Thomas  
Jean and John Wosinski  
Roy and Betsy Zimmerman

## INDIVIDUAL

Gregory Cohen  
Zoe Coombs  
Lois Flint Eldridge  
Jane P. Hartsook  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Library  
John Neely  
Casey O'Connor  
R.I.T. Wallace Library  
Gaylord and Elzada Rough  
Chris Stealey  
Roger A. Wahl

## SENIOR CITIZEN/STUDENT

Bacia Edelman  
Elvira Peake  
Jane Weiss

**Membership Information**  
**The International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred**  
**Friends of the International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred**

— I would like to become a Friend at the membership level indicated below

- \$500 or more Benefactor
- \$250-499 Patron
- \$125 (Individual) Ceramic Connoisseur
- \$100-249 Contributing or Business
- \$50-99 Sustaining
- \$25 Family
- \$15 Individual
- \$10 Senior Citizen/Student\*

\*If Student Membership, please include a photocopy of your student I.D. card.

All contributions to the International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred are tax deductible to the extent allowed under the law. All contributions will be used for collections, conservation, exhibitions, or educational programs unless otherwise specified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made payable to:  
The International Museum of Ceramic Art  
at Alfred*

**Mail to:**  
The International Museum of Ceramic Art  
at Alfred  
Membership Office  
New York State College of Ceramics  
at Alfred University  
Alfred, New York 14802  
607-871-2421

**Information**

Directions to Museum temporary exhibitions: From Route 17 (Southern Tier Expressway), Exit 33 in Almond. Follow signs for Alfred University to Route 21 south and to Route 244 into Alfred. Just past the Steuben Trust Company bank building on the right is the Alfred State College Horticulture Building — the Ceramics Corridor Innovation Center is on the left-hand side directly across the street. The building is handicapped accessible. Museum offices are temporarily located on the second floor of the new Scholes Library building, on the Alfred University campus.

**Admission:** FREE

**Telephone:** 607-871-2421

**Summer Public Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday 1pm-4pm or by appointment.

**Tours:** Group tours should be scheduled 2 weeks in advance. Call during regular business hours for an appointment.

**Cameras:** Photography is permitted only with handheld cameras and electronic flash in permanent collection exhibit areas only. No photos may be taken of travelling exhibitions. No photographs taken in the Museum may be reproduced, distributed, or sold without permission from the Museum.

**Checkrooms:** All umbrellas, parcels and bags must be left in the racks available in the Museum foyer.

**Membership:** Benefits to members include subscription to the Museum newsletter, *Ceramicscape*; invitations to celebrate special exhibitions and educational programs; discount on Museum exhibition catalogues; and invitations to participate in Museum sponsored trips.

**The International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred**

**Governing Authority**  
L. David Pye, Dean, The New York State College of Ceramics

**External Advisory Committee**

Margaret Carney  
Alastair Cormack  
Anne Currier  
Helen W. Drust English  
Polly Gurb  
Wayne Higby  
Bill Hunt  
Mark Lyman  
Edward P. Lyon  
Ginger Miller  
Martin Moskow  
William Perry  
Susan Peterson  
Robert L. Pfannebecker  
Mario Prisco  
Susan Strong  
Robert Turner

**Internal Advisory Committee**

Margaret Carney  
Carla Freeman  
Roger Freeman  
Andrea Gill  
John Gill  
Elizabeth Gulawcy  
Wayne Higby  
Paul Johnson  
George Onoda  
Donald Royce-Roll  
Fred Tschida

**Staff**

Margaret Carney, Director  
Susan Kowalczyk, Collections Manager  
Anne Currier, Adjunct Curator  
Val Coshing, Adjunct Curator  
Andrea Gill, Adjunct Curator  
John Gill, Adjunct Curator  
Wayne Higby, Adjunct Curator  
Museum Administrative Assistant: Beverly Johnson  
Museum Clerk: Maureen Harding  
Museum Assistant: Zoe Strecker and Bruce Gibson  
Museum Aides: Seth Balliet, Amy Gallagher, Steve Jaimie, Phong Li, Angela Morgan, Kimberly Mosers, Marcia Palmer, Ryan Porter, and Albion Stafford  
Museum Intern: Ann LePore, and Sarah Lindley