

The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred

Ceramophile

New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University
Volume II Number 1 Spring/Summer 1992



Alan Ogilvie

Daniel Rhodes (American, 1911-1989),
untitled HEAD, ca. early 1970's, wood-fired
stoneware, Ht. 24.8 c.m., Gift of Barbara
Cowles, Acc. No. 1992.1.

Focus on the Collection

The first new acquisition to the permanent collection of the Museum in 1992, the Daniel Rhodes wood-fired stoneware head featured on the cover of this issue of *Ceramophile*, was acquired through the generous gift of Barbara Cowles of Rochester, New York.

Although Daniel Rhodes (1911-1989) is known internationally for his writings about ceramics such as *Clay and Glasses for the Potter*, *Stoneware and Porcelain*, and *Kilns*, which have become the "bibles" of clay artists, he is also known at Alfred as the first graduate of the MFA program (class of 1943) at New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. An influential artist, teacher and thinker, Rhodes' earliest honors were received due to his efforts as a painter. Born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Daniel Rhodes studied summers at the Art Institute of Chicago and received his degree

from the University of Chicago.

From 1938 to 1940 Daniel Rhodes won three consecutive sweepstakes awards for his oil paintings at the Iowa State Fair. At that time, the only other artist to win the award three times was Grant Wood (best known as the painter of American Gothic). Despite this success, a mural that Rhodes and another artist did for display at the State Fair drew such bitter criticism that in 1946, Fair Board Secretary Lloyd Cunningham ordered it taken down, sawed up and the wood used as scrap around the fairgrounds.

The mural, painted in the horticulture building, was done as a WPA (Works Progress Administration) art project in 1938. It was 110 feet long and 10 feet high and depicted Iowa's development as an agricultural and industrial state. Cunningham said that the work insulted Iowa farmers, "casting them

as coconut-headed barrel-necked and low-browed." Other critics were particularly angry that Rhodes depicted an Iowa farmer sowing oats with his left hand. Some interpreted this as a radical political symbol and demanded that Rhodes rework the piece, making the farmer sow with his right hand. Rhodes refused.

1940 marked the beginning of his experimentation with clay at the Colorado Springs Art Center. He then did his graduate work at New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and later returned there to teach. The Museum has a growing collection of ceramic works by Daniel Rhodes, including a vase form which was recently donated by William L. Pulos, and earlier works from both the Gloryhole and from gifts donated by Daniel's sister Rachel Rhodes in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and by his widow, Mary Beth Coulter Rhodes.

Message from the Director

By Margaret Carney Xie

Don't be surprised if you soon receive more mail, a phone call, or even a visit, from someone connected with the Museum requesting your financial and moral support. This we'll need as we begin firming up plans to guarantee the success of the Museum, in terms of establishing a healthy endowment to ensure the continuance of excellent programming and locating the optimal site for the new Museum building. If you'd like to become more involved feel free to contact myself, Val Cushing, Bob Turner, or Bill Parry to offer your support.

After the Binns exhibit closes on June 14, the Museum will briefly be closed to the public as the Scholes Library of Ceramics moves to its new facility across the street and the contractors begin the rehab of Harder Hall (we're located on the fifth floor). This involves the shoring up of the floors and due to

potential vibration effects during the rehab, most of the collection will be temporarily taken off public display and wrapped, to avoid damage. If you are planning a visit to the Museum from June 15 until some time in September, please phone ahead to check our progress.



Gloryhole, 1992.

I have a favor to ask. We would like to compile a history of the Gloryhole Collection in the Museum. After the formal establishment of the Museum, including the installation of locked storage areas and a professional security system, I have heard many stories about how in the past the Gloryhole Collection had been given away as gifts to visiting dignitaries, stolen, or broken. We would like to compile a written history of these events to record the efforts it has taken to maintain our collection since the turn of the century. Even if you have told me the story before, call and refresh my memory or write me a note. All names will be withheld if requested.

Your renewal notice is probably in the mail. Thank you for your support in the past year and we hope you will continue your generous contributing in the future.

Recent Acquisitions

It should be no surprise that the Museum has once again been blessed with outstanding new gifts of artwork to the permanent collection during the months of September 1991 through March 1992. If the rehab of the floors below the Museum is successfully completed prior to late fall, there will be another "Recent Acquisitions" exhibition in the Museum from October to mid-January. Please phone the Museum for updated information.



Glidden Parker (American, 1913-1979), untitled BOWL, ca. 1950's, diam. 26.7 cm., Gift of J. Sheldon Carey, The Roger D. Corsaw Collection, Acc. No. 1992.9.

Several hundred new acquisitions have been received by the Museum during this seven month period, making it impossible to list all significant gifts in this brief article. A few highlights will be mentioned. The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred is pleased to announce the generous donation of ceramics to the Museum's permanent collection, from the collection of Chaoling and Fong Chow (BFA '52, MFA '54). This important gift includes sixteen ancient Chinese ceramics from the Neolithic through the Yuan dynasty, and four significant works by Glidden Parker and Fong Chow. The Chinese ceramics will have their inaugural exhibition beginning in January, 1993, as part of the exhibit *Asian Ceramics in*

Alfred Collections, which will be on view until June, 1993.

The Roger D. Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics has been enhanced by the gift from Sheldon Carey of eleven ceramic pieces by such notable ceramists as Robert Turner, Hamada, Warren MacKenzie, Marguerite Wildenhain, Glidden Parker (illustrated), Minnie Negro, and Edwin and Mary Scheier. They were part of Sheldon Carey's teaching collection gathered over many years and we are grateful to have them as part of the Corsaw Collection today. Other additions to the Corsaw Collection include a jar created by Vivika and Otto Heino donated by Roger Corsaw, a Rose Cabat porcelain "feclie" donated by the Schneider-Blum-Loeb Gallery in Chicago, and a covered jar by Mark Derby purchased by the Museum at Chicago International New Art Forms.

The Krevolin Collection has been augmented by the recent addition to the collection of several extremely fine Nigerian market pots, Pre-Columbian pieces, vessels made in the Philippine Islands, and a Sepik River bowl from New Guinea, all donated by Elizabeth Krevolin Cairns. Another significant collection, this one focusing on Alfred-trained ceramists, has been donated by William L. Pulos, which includes works by Daniel Rhodes, Val Cushing, Arthur Baggs, Charles Fergus Binns, Marion Fosdick, Charles Harder, Ken Price, Ken Ferguson, Victor Babu, and Fong Chow, to name just a few.

A tremendous gift was made by Larry Jainchill who donated more than 300 pieces of Glidden pottery from the estate of Sidney Burstein, ranging from the Fong Chow designed ashtrays to square plates with poodle motifs. Another large Fong Chow designed Glidden Parker bowl was donated to the Museum recently by Rosalind Constable.

This was also a time when significant gifts were made by individuals of individual pieces, including the Daniel Rhodes wrapped HEAD (see cover illustration), donated by Barbara Cowles; a perfect early American blue and white transfer ware pitcher (illustrated), circa 1830, donated by Everett Clair; a lidded jar by Richard Fairbanks, donated by Dixie Parker-Fairbanks; an exquisite porcelain vase created by Ted Randall and several works by Piero Fenci donated by the Randall Family; and a beautiful selection of George Ohr pottery donated by Robert and Sue Turner, along with a piece by Marguerite Wildenhain; an outstanding circular earthenware platter by Charles Harder, donated by Mrs. John McMahon; a large ceramic sculpture of Venus created by sculptor Philip Maberry and donated by Caroline Hirsch; and two contemporary Chinese Guan ware vessels donated by the Hangzhou Porcelain Factory via Dr. X. Wang. All these new acquisitions and others show the interest generated by our new Museum at Alfred.



Anonymous American blue and white transfer ware PITCHER, ca. 1830, titled "Erie Canal Views" or "DelWet Clinton, Late Governor Eulogy" pattern, H. 17.8 c.m., Gift of Everett Clair in memory of Elizabeth Latimer Clair (AU '20), Acc. No. 1992.34.

Closing Reception During Reunion Weekend

The Charles Fergus Binns exhibition opening reception on Thursday January 30, was attended by several hundred individuals including four of Binns' 15 surviving grandchildren (see photo) and several great- and great-great-grandchildren. After excellent exhibit attendance by students, researchers, and casual visitors, the exhibit is closing on Sunday, June 14. A closing recep-

tion will be held during Alumni Weekend on Saturday June 6 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Museum. A gallery talk will be given at that time by ceramics professor, Val Cushing. Refreshments will be served. We welcome everyone to attend this event, but remind College of Ceramics alumni that this is a great opportunity to become reacquainted with your friends and fellow gradu-

ates from years gone by and see what the Museum is all about.

The exhibition catalogue *Charles Fergus Binns Stonewares: A Chair Must Invite the Sitter*, is available for purchase through the mail by sending a check in the amount of \$20 to the Museum at the address listed on the back of this issue. In addition, a ten-minute videotape titled *Charles Fergus Binns: The Father of American Studio Ceramics*, showing Binns throwing and glazing, made from original 1920's film footage, and narrated by Val Cushing, is available by sending a check to the Museum in the amount of \$20 + \$3 to cover postage and handling. No phone orders will be accepted.



Binns grandchildren attending the exhibition opening reception January 30th. They are, from left, Daniel Binns Remsen, Ann Remsen Voss, Elizabeth Binns Linville, and Penelope Fraser Weiss.

Charles Fergus Binns Stonewares:

*A Chair Must Invite
the Sitter*

...

ALUMNI RECEPTION

Saturday, June 6, 1992

3-5 pm with Gallery talk
by Val Cushing

Upcoming Exhibitions

As part of the Alfred University focus on the "Asian Experience" in 1992-93, the Museum is sponsoring an exhibition of Asian ceramics in Alfred area collections. This special exhibition scheduled January 28 -

collecting Asian ceramics, both by educational institutions such as ours, and private collectors.

This exhibition will be the inaugural exhibition for the collection of sixteen ancient Chinese

ceramics dating from the Neolithic through the Yuan

dynasty, recently gifted to the Museum from the collection of Chaoling and Fong Chow (BFA '52, MFA '54). The Museum additionally owns a collection of more than 225 Korean ceramics dating from the Silla, Koryo and Yi dynasties which

were donated by Colonel John R. Fox between 1960 and 1967. Other loaned objects will include ancient Chinese tomb figurines and vessels which have never before been exhibited to the public. Watch for the autumn newsletter containing more details.

Asian Ceramics in Alfred Collections

June 11, 1993, will feature examples of ceramics from China, Japan and Korea from the permanent collection of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, and from several private collections in the community. Emphasized will be the rationale for

Korean, Silla Dynasty, probably 4th to 6th century A.D., untitled JAR, incised earthenware, Ht. 37.0 cm., Gift of Colonel John R. Fox, Acc. No. 1960.24.



The Satisfaction of Knowing

Of course the reward for a membership contribution to the Museum continues to be receiving the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to make a difference in guaranteeing the future of the Museum. However, if we can, we'd like to entice you to receive even greater satisfaction from making an increased contribution to the Museum.

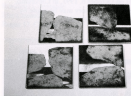
For a limited time, if you enroll as a new or renewed member of the Friends of the Museum, you will receive the ceramic membership

premiums illustrated here. For a membership contribution of \$1,500, you may receive one 6-1/4" square tile by Wayne Higby (only four left!) or one of four teapots created by John Gill. For a membership contribution of \$500 you will receive a set of 12 tiles by Anne Currier measuring (as a group) approximately 11-3/4 x 15-3/4". These tiles are part of an installation created for the new Scholes Library of Ceramics. Only seven sets are available. For flexibility the tiles may be installed by the recipient, and have

not been framed or permanently grouped. And last, but not least, for a membership contribution of \$250, you will receive a unique signed teabowl created by ceramist Jeff Oestreich.

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to your favorite Museum devoted to ceramics AND receive a unique ceramic membership premium by one of these well-known clay artists. To reserve your gift, call the Museum today at 607-871-2421.

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Clockwise from above:
Anne Currier installation in
new Scholes Library
Anne Currier tiles
John Gill teapots
Wayne Higby tiles
Jeff Oestreich teabowls

The Future of the Museum

Alfred University's Board of Trustees has determined that the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred will be part of the University's capital campaign, with a minimum goal of \$100,000. This is intended to support the Museum's current level of operations and programming by the income generated from the endowment, with the flexibility of the fund being switched to a

construction fund at the appropriate time.

The first significant contribution to this fund, in the amount of \$10,000, was presented to Museum Director Dr. Margaret Carney Xie during the opening reception for the Binns exhibit by William D. Parry and Elizabeth M. Sibley Parry. In a letter to Dr. Xie dated January 30, 1992, the Parrys wrote:

"Congratulations on your giving

flesh and bones to a dream: The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred. The enclosed check for ten thousand dollars is in memory of our spouses Nellie Bond Parry (1915-84) '38, and Myron Knight Sibley (1912-86) H'79, and of their lives dedicated to the beauty each found as they lived out their days."

We thank Bill and Pat for their generosity and for the significance of their gift.

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You're Invited...

To a special exhibition of
Charles Fergus Binns
stonewares from the Museum
of Ceramic Art at Alfred

Chicago International New
Art Forms Exposition
Navy Pier, September 17-20

In support of the Museum of Ceramic Art at
Alfred, New York State College of Ceramics
at Alfred University

A panel discussion featuring Alfred ceramic
faculty and graduates, Saturday Sept. 19,
1992 at 4 pm to be followed by an alumni
reception at 5 pm

For further information call
Dean Collins at 607-871-2412
or Margaret Xie, Museum Director,
at 607-871-2421

Nancy Laura Bien Fund Established

The Museum has established an acquisition fund toward the purchase of a ceramic piece for the permanent collection in memory of Nancy Laura Bien, who studied ceramics at New York State College of Ceramics in the mid-1970's. Nan died in an automobile accident on October 8, 1991, in Cleveland, Ohio. Contributions in her memory may be made by contacting the Museum at 607-871-2421.



The Charles Fergus Binns Exhibition closes June 14, 1992.

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 October 1, 1991 to April 1, 1992. It is not too late for you to join and help provide a broader funding base for the Museum. Your membership helps fund our changing exhibitions program, care of the permanent collection, and special educational events. Membership information is located on the back of this issue.

Diane Arthur
Henry Bauer
Rogie Bender
Stephen Bien
Elizabeth Krevolin Cairns
J. Sheldon Carey
Fong Chow
Lynne Chytalo
Everett Clair
Herbert Cohen
Rosalind Constable
Zoe Coombs
Roger D. Corsaw

Louise Cort
Barbara Cowles
Paul and Cynthia Culley
Catherine Deardorf
Gary del Regno
Rhonda Friedman
Susan Gallagher
John and Susie Symons Glick
Hangzhou Porcelain Factory/
X. Wang
Jane Hartsook
Andree M. Hay
Curtis Heuer
Caroline Hirsch
Larry Jainchill
James Jansma and Shirley Koehler
Karen Karnes
Sue Katz
Eun-sook Kim
Mrs. John Klock
Diana and Larry Kulisek
Charles Lakofsky
Amy LeFevre
Isabel Levitt
Mrs. John McMahon
Anne Mercogliano
Aaron Milrad
Martin Moskof
Carla Narrett
Minnie Negoro
Michael Nordstrom and
Donna Harding

Jeff Oestreich
John and Kathy Ritter Olenick
Pamela Riley Osborn
Terry Palmer
William and Elizabeth Sibley Parry
Elvira L. Peake
Suzanne Petrucci
Jane Pleak
Mario and Peg Prisco
Pucker Saffai Gallery
William L. Pulos
Thomas Randall
The Randall Family
James and Carol Reed
Carol Roorbach
Anna Beth Rosen
Helene Rosenbloom
(in honor of Andrea Gill)
Judith Salomon and Jerry Weiss
Martha Schneider/Schneider-
Bluhm-Loeb Gallery
Ann and Dave Shaner
Chris Congdon Sheridan
Allen M. Siegel
Robert Silberberg/The Clay Pot
Ivan and Agnes Silverthorn
Susanne and John Stephenson
Lynn and Jennifer Taylor
Susan Tunick/Friends of
Terra Cotta
Robert and Sue Turner
Anne Winslow Wright
Roy and Betsy Zimmerman

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The Alfred Art Collection, amassed by Dr. William Pulos over 40 years, was presented to the Museum of Ceramic Art by Dr. Pulos. At the presentation were, from left, Carole Colt, AU President Edward G. Colt, Jr.; Museum Director Margaret Xie; Dr. Pulos; Professor of Ceramics Val Cushing and Dean of the School of Art & Design Kathleen Collins.

Extended Tax Benefits

The temporary change in the tax laws which "restores the alternative minimum tax deduction for gifts of art...to the fair market value of the donated object" has been extended until June 30, 1992. The bill was designed to encourage the donation of property with "unique cultural or educational value" for the public's benefit. For further information contact your tax consultant or the Museum at 607-871-2421. The Museum is grateful to those who have already taken advantage of this "tax window" and have generously donated to the Museum this past year.

The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred
New York State College of Ceramics
at Alfred University
Harder Hall, Fifth Floor
Alfred, New York 14802

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**The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred
Membership Information
Friends of the 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
— \$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 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 Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred*

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

Information

Directions: From Route 17 (Southern
Tier Expressway), Exit 33 in Almond,
follow the signs for Alfred University to
Route 21 South, to Route 244, and then
into Alfred. Turn left at the traffic light
onto Pine Street. Harder Hall is the large
brick building on the right and the main
entrance is on the uphill (east) side. The
fifth (top) floor of Harder Hall houses part
of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred.

Handicapped Entrance: Use ramp on
southwest side of building in parking area;
turn right and take elevator to 3rd floor.
From elevator go straight to the old Scholes
Library and take elevator to 5th floor.

Admission: FREE

Telephone: 607-871-2421

Public Hours: Spring semester --
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
and Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. or by appoint-
ment. Summer and Fall of 1992 hours to
be announced due to the rehab of Harder
Hall.

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.

Smoking: No Smoking is allowed in the
fifth floor Harder Hall exhibit area.

Checkroom: All umbrellas, purses and
bags must be left in the racks available in
the Museum foyer.

Memberships: Benefits to members
include subscription to the Museum
newsletter, Ceramophilic, invitations to
celebrate special exhibitions and educa-
tional programs; discount on Museum
exhibition catalogues; invitations to
participate in Museum sponsored trips; and
the Annual Report publication.

**The Museum of Ceramic Art
at Alfred**

Governing Authority

Dr. James W. McCaskey, Dean
The New York State College of Ceramics
at Alfred University

Kathleen Collins, Dean
School of Art and Design

Advisory Committee

Carole H. Coll
Val Cushing
Wayne Higby
Lewis Kaevoila
Mark Lyman
Edward P. Lyon
William Perry
Susan Strong
Robert Turner
Margaret Carney Xie

Staff

Margaret Carney Xie, Director
Anne Currier, Adjunct Curator
Val Cushing, Adjunct Curator
Andrea Gill, Adjunct Curator
John Gill, Adjunct Curator
Wayne Higby, Adjunct Curator
Museum Assistant: Denise Woodward
Museum Aides: Grace Kane, Sara Caspi,
Sara Brezern, Constance Pennisi, and Alisa
Johnson