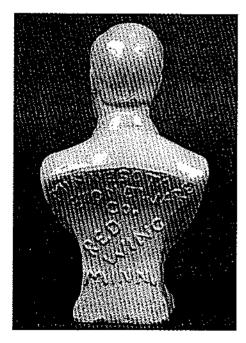


Red Wing Online! Convention Forms News Anonymous Artist

COVERS

THE FRONT Speaking of presidents, William McKinley had his problems too. Before he was president, he was a representative to Congress from Ohio. He introduced (in 1890) what was known as the McKinley Bill, legislation that reduced revenues with its prohibitively high duties on foreign goods. Goods from Germany, France, Italy and Belgium were excepted, a reciprocity agreement that made other European countries unhappy, to say the least. The Panic of 1893 is said to be responsible for the repeal of the McKinley Bill.

He lost his congressional seat in the 1890 elections, but was soon after elected Governor of Ohio. In 1896 he ran for president and won. During his first term he was largely occupied by the continuing tarriff and revenue



issues, the gold standard *vs.* the silver standard debate, and the Spanish American War. He was reelected in 1900.

On September 5, 1901, he visited the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo, New York, where he made a speech. At a large reception on the following day, he was shot twice in the abdomen by an anarchist named

Continued on page 12

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

IMCE February	Text / Eurosau January 1	ADVERTIGAÇ January 10		
April	March 1	March 10		
June	May I	May 10		
August	July 1	July 10		
October	September 1	September 10		
December	November 1	November 10		

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING Classified

Classified ads are 156 per word; \$3 minimum charge. Ads are divided into Red Wing For Sale, Red Wing Wanted, Other Pottery For Sale, Other Pottery Wanted, Events, Clubs, Publications & Web Sites and Announcements sections, so you do not need to include those words in your ad. You may want to run ads for a year at a time: run up to 25 words six times for \$15, run up to 35 words six times for \$20. Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission. Send all ads with payment to the Editor at the address above.

Display

ad sizo	Ix	ax		
1/8 page (includes typesetting)	\$ 60	\$ 45		
1/4 page	100	90		
1/2 page horizontal / vertical	200	180		
full page	100	360		

DISPLAY ADS are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The publisher reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason. *The Neurletter is produced on a Maximtosh in Quark XPress, Ads must be supplied electronically as EPS or THP files for Mae. Be sure to include necessary fonts. If you are unsure about acceptability inquire with the Editor. *Quotes supplied for design and makeup if needed; there is a \$50 minimum. *Gamera-ready advance to longer accepted. *Unformatted or unreserved ads will be treated as classified.

CLUB NEWS

Information and forms for the 1998 RWCS Convention, its commemorative and the Auction will be mailed to members by the end of February. If you do not receive your forms by March 7, 1998 please contact the Business Manager, Kay Wilshusen, at either 800-977-7927 or 612-388-4004.





THEF & PAULETTE FLOYD

Please mail your form as soon as possible to avoid any problems with the Post Office. The deadline is the same as last year: all Registration Forms must be postmarked by

May 1, 1998, Remember, only one Registration Form may be used per address, no matter how many memberships are at that address.

All guidelines will be the same as 1997. We will use the lottery system again for selecting items for Convention Auction.

The commission will be the same as last year (12%) with a \$12 minimum charge per piece.

Here are a few things to keep in mind before you fill out your Registration Form. The Auction Committee cannot transport your item to Convention. You must bring your piece with you or have another member deliver it. You cannot ship it to the RWCS Business Office or anywhere

Once your item has been drawn, there are no additions or substitutions. If your Registration Form lists a

5-gallon beehive jug and you bring a 5-gallon shoulder jug, it will not be accepted. Mulitple items allowed include RWCS commemoratives or items originally sold as a set, such as Bob White dinnerware. No altered pieces may be submitted. All items must be in their original form. Acceptable items include Art Pottery, stoneware, dinnerware or items that relate to the pottery history of Red Wing (memorabilia). Modern-day reproductions may not be submitted.

Auction checks will be mailed out by the Treasurer right after Convention. Remember to bring your SASE envelope with you when you drop off your Auction item.

Please refrain from submitting a common or severely damaged piece -we do not want the Auction to be a bump, scratch, or dent sale.

Only 15 RWCS Commemoratives will be chosen. No 1997 Commemoratives will be allowed. Chapter Commemoratives may be submitted by Chapter Presidents only and must be the most recent year. These Chapter Commemoratives will be subject to the lottery.

If you submit an Auction Registration Form, you will receive a postcard notifying you that the form has been received. The lottery will be conducted in mid-May. If your item is selected, you will receive notification via a first-class letter. The letter will include the number your piece has been assigned in the Auction catalog. If your item was not drawn in the lottery, you will receive a postcard so advising you.

Remember, you are sending a Registration Form far in advance of the July Auction. Be prepared to hold your piece until you are notified in May that it has or has not been selected. Please be careful before you submit your entry. If your item is confirmed for the Auction, but does not show up at Convention, you will forfeit your Auction privileges for 1999 and further.

Continued on page 4

You can register at the door for the MidWinter GetTogether to be held in Rochester February 20-22. Registration tables will be set up on the second floor of the Kahler Plaza beginning at 2pm on Friday, February 20. The weekend festivities begin at 7pm with a Social Gathering in the Kahler Plaza Courtyard (located on the third floor), and room sales will undoubtedly continue on through the evening. Additional activities include a Saturday general meeting, special interest groups and an afternoon Show and Sale. The weekend concludes with a Sunday continental breakfast. Registration is \$25 per member; children under 15 are admitted free.

You can make room reservations at the Kahler Plaza by calling 800-533-1655. Make sure you mention you're coming for MidWinter to take advantage of the special room rates.



CLUB NEWS

Auction continued from page 3

We strive to prevent no-shows. If you are in any doubt about whether or not your item has been selected in the lottery, please call us directly (not the 800 number)—we would rather have phone calls than no-shows. Our phone number is on page 2.

We hope to see you in July!





JEFF & RUBY BENSON

Yes, it's hard to think of a July Convention when it's still wintery cold, but believe us, it will be here before you know it! So, why don't you take some time now to really

look at all your treasures and imagine how great they would look set up as a display at the Convention? We have lots of room available for displays this year. There are four categories to choose from: Art Pottery, Dinnerware, Stoneware, and Memorabilia. Plus there is also room for that great one-of-a-kind item on the Rare Items table. Look things over and give us a call (see p. 2) We'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Contact the RWCS office (during regular business hours) by calling

To contact board members directly, see the listing on page 2.





KAY WILSHUSEN

It's beginning to feel like home! The furniture is in place, and the telephone lines are working! Much to my dismay, it took about three weeks for the telephone lines to be completely func-

tional. Aside from the desk and chair, the most important piece to arrive was the computer! The printer will arrive shortly, and Tom Halls has been diligently attempting to program the computer to enable me to register members for the *MidWinter GetTogether*. During the interim, Kim and John Key have provided me with a hard copy of the membership list. Eventually the membership list will be integrated onto my computer.

Little-by-little, more activities will be generated from my office. I am delighted to receive correspondance and telephone calls from throughout the U.S. This will be an exciting year for me, and I look forward to the challenge!

1998
Commemorative,
Convention
&
Auction forms
will be mailed
late February!

EDITORIAL

You'll notice a slightly different look for the Newsletter in 1998. The design has been modified to, hopefully, match the reality of producing the Newsletter. When I took over as Editor more than two years ago, I was really just guessing what kind of material was out there. So the prototype design did not entirely accurately reflect what the content has come to be, and what it should be.

The board wanted to see more editorial content, versus club news. A decision was made to cut committee reports and to condense board meeting minutes, for example. Me personally, I always enjoyed reading the minutes. It was nice to take 15 minutes to read about my 12-hour experience. Confess: didn't you enjoy reading between the lines, looking for those little nuggets that suggested flared tempers and frayed nerves?

Anywho, we're trying to compact club news into a more telegraphic style—presenting it more like advertising. That's because we know the members prefer to read advertising over club news.

I've also added to my list of editorial advisors. Dave Johnson, Dave Kuffel, and Gail Peck are the new victims. I wonder how long it will be before they stop answering my letters, Larry?

All-in-all, over the last two years, I feel we've seen a tremendous increase in membership participation in the Newsletter. I get numerous post cards with recent finds-and please, keep sending them in! We get a fair amount of questions, but we can always use more. There has been a serious lag time between the time questions have been submitted and the answer printed. I'm going to try to make up that gap so there will be a little bit faster response time. Some of the advisors take it upon themselves to contact the writer directly, in addition to sending the response to the Newsletter. I think this is wonderful, but obviously, few of them have the time to do that.

AAPDSHOW

THE ALL-AMERICAN POTTERY & DINNERWARE SHOW

SAT**APRIL**18

ST. MAGDALEN'S CHURCH 105 MINE STREET (CORNER SHIELDS) FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY

10AM-4PM

"THE PREMIERE POTTERY SHOW IN THE NORTHEAST

Under the auspices of Harvey Duke and Bob Perzel, the show features thousands of beautiful items in all price ranges. Collectors, dealers and gift-givers will appreciate the choices of art pottery, artwares, cookie jars, dinnerware, figurines, kitchenware, planters, shakers, tiles and more. •Among the potteries represented will be Abingdon, American Bisque, Bauer, Brush, Brush-McCoy, Cardinal, Ceramic Arts Studio, Cowan, Florence, Gladding-McBean (Franciscan), Frankoma, Fulper, Haeger, Hall, Harker, Hull, E.M. Knowles, Homer Laughlin, McCoy, Metlox, Pennsbury, Pfaltzgraff, Porcelier, Purinton, Red Wing, Rookwood, Roseville, Royal, Royal Copley, Shawnee, Southern (Blue Ridge), Stangl, Taylor, Smith & Taylor, Treasure Craft, Trenton Art Pottery, Twin Winton, Universal, Van Briggle, Vernon Kilns, Watt, Weller, Ben Seibel, Russel Wright and Eva Zeisel. Steve and Martha Sanford, nationally-recognized authors on McCoy Pottery, are special guests at the show. •Also on hand to greet collectors will be Harvey Duke, author of Official Price Guide to Pottery and Porcelain (8th Edition), Stangl Pottery and Superior · Quality Hall China.

St. Magdalen's Catholic Church in historic Flemington, is conveniently close to antique shops and fine dining. Catered food service will be on premises. The site is wheelchair accessible and there is free parking. For additional information call 908-782-9631 from 11am to 5pm Tuesday to Sunday. ● Visit our web site at http://members.aol.com/AAPDshow for further information and late-breaking news.

New! Limited Edition Print by LARRY VEEDER



"STONEWARE V"

350 Prints, s/n 12" x 22" \$60 retail

Reproduced from a watercolor by Larry Veeder, well-known Red Wing artist. Also, still available are the previously published prints as listed below.

To order, please clip this ad and mail with payment.

Prints at \$60 (Stoneware V)

Prints at \$30 (Stoneware IV)

Prints at \$30 (Cookie Jar)

__ Prints at \$50 (Stoneware III)

Prints at \$50 (Stoneware II)

Prints at \$85 (Stoneware I)

Minn, Residents add 6-1/2% sales tax Shipping, add \$10 per order

Total

LARRY VEEDER

905 Hawthorn • Red Wing, MN 55066 • 612-388-3270

The Newsletter has a new 1/8 page ad format (see sample below). The charge is \$60 for one issue or \$270 for six issues (\$45 each); charges includes typesetting. Limited space is available (especially for the June issue that precedes Convention), so reserve now! Editor, 608-846-8939.

Business name

Street Address City, State, Zip Phone, Fax, Email Days & Hours

Directions or other information, maximum of 2 lines, 60 characters each.

Description or other information, maximum of 2 lines 60 characters each.

(expiration date)

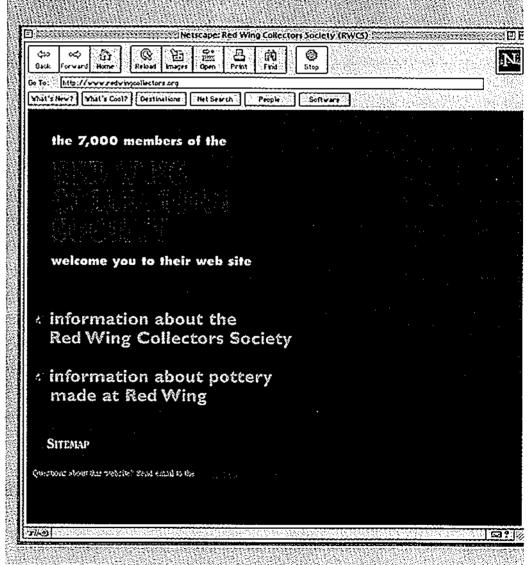
Red Wing Online!

Sue Gillmer Internet Subcommittee Chair

Wow! What an incredible amount of work! When we first made the decision to launch a web site for the Society, none of us realized how difficult it would be when those working on it were not all in the same location. In fact, none of us realized how difficult it would be in all.

Sure, I had done a few sites for fun. Of course, when I did those, the only person that I had to please was myself. Then I worked on a site for my employer with a committee of four. That was a completely different thing. We got together to do the first tasks such as identify the purpose of the site, deciding who our audience should be, etc. That process took a long time and had to remain quite fluid during the complete site "construction." Then we worked for hours-and I mean hours-completing our individual parts. We decided that the most crucial part, as far as the layout was concerned, was the home (or first) page. What was it going to look like? How fast would it load? What design elements could we carry from page-to-page so the whole thing would hold together? That task alone took about four full days of work!

So what? Why would you care about that site? Well, you probably wouldn't. I mention it only so you can see that this process of web site construction is tons of work. Then you can add the fact that our RWCS Subcommittee worked long distance. Every little conversation took about a week because we had to pass visuals and ideas back and forth electronically. Say what you



The RWCS home page, as seen on a Netscape 3.0 browser.

will about the convenience of email, it takes a lot longer to complete a conversation over the net—sentence-by-sentence and idea-by-idea.

The Internet Subcommittee initially consisted of myself, Jeff Floyd, Nicol Knappen and Corrinne Reed. (Jeff and Corrinne later dropped out.) The very first thing that we had to decide was who our audience would be and why we would have a site. We also had to consider how much time or money the board would want to spend to have the site continually changing or if we would want most of the site to stay the same.

On advice from the Subcommittee, the board decided, first of all, that we wanted to appeal to new members—people who had heard about the Society but didn't know much about it, as well as to people who might stumble on the site while looking for information about Red Wing. For those people, we needed to provide background information about the pottery companies as well as the Society. We needed to give them some information about what the activities of the society are.

The other group of people that will very likely check out the page is the current membership. Exactly what information will be of interest to members and the full extent of the site will have to be determined by the board. Naturally information on past and future events would be relevant. Many people like to know on what day the *Newsletter* has been mailed, for example. This type of timely information is very appropriate to the site.

Overall, we believe that the site should be used for education. And toward that end we have asked various members to submit brief articles about different subjects. For example, Gary Tefft has written a few paragraphs giving an overview of stoneware. Ron Linde has written about brushed and early glazed ware. Etcetera. Each of these brief essays are signed by the author, each of whom gives their RWCS membership number. This format is meant to communicate that the RWCS is composed of individuals who participate in the group and its activities!

Pictures from back issues of the *Newsletter* have been supplied by Nicol to illustrate some articles; other photographs are being donated. Ray Reiss is giving us a photo series that will enable us to view a Murphy figurine as it rotates 360 degrees!

Alas, the Murphy series hasn't been installed yet. Although we have part of the site up, we aren't done with the basics yet, not by a long shot. We still haven't received all of the information that we have asked for. That's okay. We understand that everyone is busy—we're all working on a volunteer basis, so we do the best we can. Please understand that when you visit the site; keep checking back to see if we've added anything more.

There is virtually no limit to what this site could be for members and newcomers. For example, members may like classifieds to become a part of the site someday. This is totally possible. [We have discussed placing the Newsletter classifieds on the site approximately two weeks after they are published in the Newsletter, but this has not been firmed up.] There

are many such opportunities for the site—the bottom line will be the board's decision about how ambitious the site should be ("ambitious" translates to how much money or time should be spent).

Naturally the site will include information about how to join as well a listing of the toll-free number so people can call with questions. We hope to add an email connection with the RWCS office. There will be one for myself and the webmaster, naturally.

If the site does become more interactive, it will be a lot of work to triage all the messages and route all the information—a potentially huge job! We do have a temporary webmaster: Adam Steinberg of AdamArt in Waunakee, Wisconsin. Adam has dutifully constructed our site (along the design guidelines provided by Nicol) and obtained our domain name for us. We have found his work to be timely and accurate. Some people have complained about the delay in getting the site up. Please note that the delays are not the fault of the webmaster.

Continued on page 12

<u>INTERNET ALERT</u>

Is that 5-gallon birchleaf beehive authentic?

ANN BUSSE NELSON

As I was browsing through ebay, the auction house of the internet, I came across a unique and rare piece of Red Wing stoneware, and the current bid was incredibly low. Could I possibly bid on this gem and own such a rare piece? A 5 gallon beehive jug with elephant ears! For only \$250? As I called up the item and read the description my heart sank. It wasn't real. It was

indeed an actual Red Wing beehive jug, but with only the numeral 5 and the oval. Someone "Professionally stenciled" the elephant ear. The "forger"—I would not credit them as an artist—did not date the addition. The picture certainly looked as if it were an original factory jug. Evidently, however, the elephant ears were fairly

Continued on page 12

Tell us about the price received for a Red Wing product. Briefly describe item, where sold, date, venue (store, auction, etc.)

and price received. Send in on a post card (the post office ones are fine) as often as you like. Multiple submissions mean

TTEM	LOCATION	DATE SOLD	VENUE	PRICE RE	CEIVED
1-gal Mason Jar, blue label	Mason City, IA	2/97	auction	\$	525
20-lb butter crock w/ large wing	Mason City, IA	2/97	auction	\$	750
2-gal water cooler w/ small wing and handles	Rock Falls, IA	2/97	auction	\$1	,500
6-gal salt glaze water cooler w/ leaf & hex bung hole	Rock Falls, IA	2/97	auction	\$4	,000
6-gal ice water w/ small wing & oval	Rock Falls, IA	2/97	auction	\$1	,100
5-gal bechive jug w/ birchleaves & hex bung hole	Rock Falls, IA	2/97	auction	\$	800
Blue & White shaded 7" Casserole w/ lid,				•	
Grayline mold	Rock Falls, IA	2/97	auction	\$	550
Grayline cookie jar	Rock Falls, IA	2/97	auction	\$	950
Sleepy Eye vase, mint ·	Osmond, NE	3/97	auction	\$	240
2-gal jar, oval over 4" wing, mint	Onawa, IA	3/97	auction	\$	72.50
6-gal salt glaze churn w/8" cobalt leaf & orig. lid,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
churn mint, lid had chips	Wausau, WI	8/97	private sale	\$	450
Large Grayline pitcher w/ Woodstock, IL adv	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	\$	400
1-qt Mason fruit jar, black label	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	Ş	220
4-gal churn w/ 4" wing, lid	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	Ş	320
4-gal crock, 4" wing, w/ steel handles	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	\$	110
2-gal crock, 4" wing and large oval	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	S	85
20-gal crock, 6" wing	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	\$	165
Grayline beater jar, fine condition	George, IA	9/97	auction	\$	150
7" ribbed sponge bowl, bottom-marked, mint	Wausau, WI	9/97	antique mall	\$	107.50
20-gal salt glaze crock w/ double P ribcage in					
triplicate crock, mint	Iowa City, IA	10/97	auction	\$	440
8" Sweet Shot Jolly Jar	Micancopy, FL	9/97	antique shop	\$	395
7" Sweet Shot Jolly Jar	Micancopy, FL	9/97	antique shop	\$	295
Cowboy & Cowgirl, #B1415, #B1414, pair	Micancopy, FL	9/97	antique shop	\$	695
Dog figurine, #1342	Melbank, SD	10/97	auction	\$	30
Vase, #M5003	Melbank, SD	10/97	auction	S	12.50
Vase, #2309	Melbank, SD	10/97	auction	\$	12.50
Console bowl, #526	Melbank, SD	10/97	auction	\$	3
9" sponge panel bowl w/ Parkston, SD adv., ex. cond.	Des Moines, IA	10/97	antique mall	\$	137
3-lb crock w/ A.H. Anderson, Storden, Mn adv,	Windom, MN	10/97	auction	\$	210
20-gal salt glaze crock, primitive butterfly, hairline	IL	9/97	auction	\$	80
20-gal bail handle crock lid	Beloit, WI	10/97	auction	\$	270
3-gal wing beehive jug	WI	11/97	antique mall	\$	400
10-gal wing crock, double-stamped	Winterset, IA	10/97	auction	\$	225
20-gal salt glaze crock w/ leaf	Kewaskum, WI	10/97	auction	\$	900
4-gal elephant ear beehive jug, Minn. oval, no handle,				p.,	
no spout	Kewaskum, WI	10/97	auction	\$	360
1-gal Stone Mason Jar, blue print, crack along					
back half of base	Lost Nation, IA	8/97	auction	\$	625
3-gal birch leaf jar w/ lid, excellent cond.	Fulton, II.	6/97	auction	Ş	150

multiple entries in Newsletter Special Commemorative Lottery at the 1998 Convention. Send to the Editor at the

address on inside front cover. All entries received between July '97 and June '98 eligible whether published or not.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE SOLD	VENUE	PRICE RE	CEIVED
5-gal birch leaf beehive jug, excellent cond	Fulton, IL	6/97	auction	\$	425
1-gal brown top jug w/ Minnesota Drug Co. adv, small chip on base	Mechanichsville, IA	5/97	auction	\$	170
5-gal water cooler, small wing, no cover, w/ bubbler	Pine River, WI	10/97	auction	\$	490
Bean pot w/ adv., chip on lid	Pine River, WI	10/97	auction	\$	95
Eastern stoneware jug	Pine River, WI	10/97	auction	\$	460
2-gal crock w/ large wing	Pine River, WI	10/97	auction	\$	47.50
4-gal crock w/ large wing	Pine River, WI	10/97	auction	\$	65
50-gal crock w/ wing and oval, excellent cond.	Springbrook WI	8/97	auction	\$1	1,350
4-gal churn w/ small wing, bailed handle and upside down oval	Elkhorn, WI	8/97	flea market	\$	95
5" sponge bowl, mint	Cedarburg, WI	9/97	flea market	\$	375
3-gal elephant car churn w/lid	Hartley, IA	6/97	auction	\$	275
Tall blue sponge butter, no lid	Cherokee, IA	5/97	auction	\$	65
2-gal churn lid	Pocahontas, IA	6/97	- auction	\$	20
Large baskerweave lid	Pocahontas, IA	6/97	auction	\$	12.50
6-gal salt glaze crock	Abbottsford, WI	8/97	auction	\$	180
Grayline butter pail w/out cover, low grade clay, poor color	Abbottsford,WI	8/97	auction	\$	300
3-gal birch leaf churn cover w/ numerous reglued large cracks	Abbottsford, WI	8/97	auction	\$	230
12-gal salt glaze cock w/9" blue leaf, mint	Fredonia, WI	9/97	auction	\$	220
5-lb crock w/out lid, Hazel Extra Creamery Butter adv	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	\$	200
3-gal water cooler w/ lid, small wing, block letters	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	\$	600
Medium Grayline pitcher w/ adv. McHenry County Dry Cleaners / Hans Nielsen / Phone 447 /	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	s	400
Woodstock, Ill.	Maquoketa, IA	9/97	auction	S	220
Mason jar	maquonem, m				

Prices Received is to let us know what kind of money Red Wing is bringing. When Red Wing is purchased way below its Prices Received have been transferred here.

LOCATION	DATE SOLD	VENUE	PRICE PAID
Joliet, IL	6/97	flea market	\$ 3
Marshalltown, IA	8/97	auction	\$55
Houston, MN	8/97	flea market	\$3
Oronco, MN	8/97	flea market	\$65
	8/97	garage sale	\$ 5
	. 6/97	antique market	\$ 5.75
Prior Lake, MN	10/97	garage sale	\$45
	Joliet, IL Marshalltown, IA Houston, MN Oronco, MN Butterfield, MN Allegan, MI	Joliet, IL 6/97 Marshalltown, IA 8/97 Houston, MN 8/97 Oronco, MN 8/97 Butterfield, MN 8/97 Allegan, MI 6/97	Joliet, IL 6/97 flea market Marshalltown, IA 8/97 auction Houston, MN 8/97 flea market Oronco, MN 8/97 flea market Butterfield, MN 8/97 garage sale Allegan, MI 6/97 antique market

A Deadly Virus

SUSAN COX

Believe it or not, you probably have some pottery that has an insidious "virus" attacking it right now, even as you're reading this. It destroys the interior of stoneware; it infests by seeping beneath the glaze via minute crazing, hairlines, cracks and chips. It reacts to the natural chemicals in the very clay we love so much. You have seen the damage it does, it is irreversible, it will destroy.

How can you identify the presence of the virus? It's actually very simple, and you won't need a microscope or special equipment. All you need is your eyes, fingers and nose. You can see it, feel it, and, occasionally, smell it. The virus is bleach—common household bleach.

In ever-increasing and epidemic proportions, people use household bleach to clean, restore and climinate stains on pottery. They have heard that it does a miraculous job—the pottery looks like new—completely transformed! I will admit that in the past I used this method to "clean" cherished pottery—but I plead ignorance. Indeed, I did believe my pottery would be transformed. It was, but not in the way I intended. I learned the cruel truth when I took a course on china and pottery restoration.

Most likely you have seen the damage resulting from bleach. You have seen pottery where the glaze has come off and the surface looks pockmarked, like mini-craters. Yellowware seems to be especially prone to the virus due to its soft, porous nature, but no stoneware is immune.

Imagine your excitement when you find a stunning *Gray Line* Salt, beautiful color, first-off the mold, *mint!* Even though you have been searching for just this piece for 15

years, if it has a tell-tale, faint smell of bleach—leave it!

Okay, you say, so I smell bleach—so what? Think about those 15 years, you say. So you pick it up to admire the fine detail of the mold, but you note that it feels a little funny. When you look at your fingers they have a white powder on them. I'm telling you—leave it, please!

If you continue to examine it further you'll notice the white powder (actually fine crystals) on the base and the interior. Why is this? Because the virus is already doing its dirty work. The chemical reaction between the bleach and the minerals in the clay will eventually lift off *all* the glaze, and the pottery may actually crumble.

If people continue to bleach pottery, we will leave a bleak legacy for future pottery and stoneware collectors. As more and more pieces are bleached, we will have fewer and fewer perfect pieces. Remember no piece that has been bleached is immune: a chemical reaction has taken place and any damage that has already occurred cannot be restored.

However, because it is a chemical reaction, there is one ray of hope for infected pottery. Try soaking the patient in one-part white vinegar, two-parts distilled water. This may neutralize the reaction. Soak from one to twenty-four hours, rinse with clear water, air dry at least twentyfour hours and repeat (using the same solution) as needed. This is a slow process that requires patienceit may take many soakings, but try two to begin. If the crystals reappear (this may take months to happen), soak it again. Take it slowly, see what happens. If no more crystals develop, congratulations! You have probably saved your pottery!

I have heard of a man who carefully packed his wonderful, cherished pottery in a box only to open the box, unwrap the pottery and find it literally in pieces-much of the glaze at the bottom of the bubble wrap, covered with a white crystal powder. I have also heard of people who have been bleaching their pieces for 15 years with no apparent damage. The difference is probably the bleach concentration and the amount of time a piece is soaked. Obviously the longer the soaking and the higher the concentration of bleach the more potential damage.

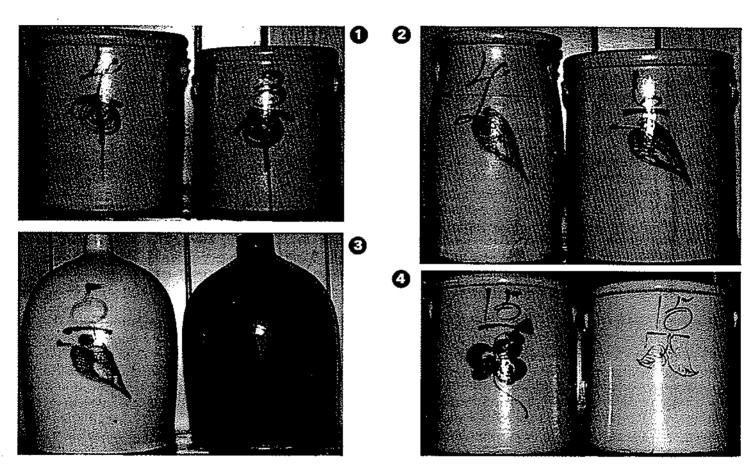
Even with the knowledge you now have you can be fooled! I purchased a beautiful blue and white sponge pitcher last year. It went right on my mantel, I dusted around it and over it but I did not move it until I hung the Christmas wreath. When I took the pitcher off the mantel, the interior was covered with the tell-tale white powder. I have the knowledge and I was still fooled. Please be careful with your purchases. And, if you have used bleach to "clean" your pottery, you now know the damage you will cause.

Among the excellent new books on the market full of beautiful pictures and wonderful information, two advocate bleach to clean your pottery. It is my firm opinion that you should disregard this advice. Of course, there will be people who will disagree about the danger of bleach, but I believe it will be better for the future of our collections to err on the side of conservation.

A slightly different version of this article originally appeared in the Blue and White Pottery Club Newsletter.

Anonymous Artist

GAIL PECK



Having always admired these particular pieces in my collection for their beauty, I only recently took notice of their similarities. It's obvious that they were all decorated by the same potter, as his cobalt designs and numbers are very distinctive.

In Figure 1, the "targets" are almost identical. The cobalt glaze was thickly and boldly applied-trailing to a thinner line at the bottom.

Even though the two pieces in Figure 2 are decorated with a "leaf" rather than a "target," the "looped" numeral four is obviously drawn by the same potter as the one who made the 4-gal crock. This potter's leaves show veins painted at random with

an oval-shaped open space toward the leaf tip. His leaves are different from those of another artist who used straight lines to represent veins going around the inside perimeter with the two central veins in the middle. Take a look at the two crocks pictured on page 45 of Red Wing Stoneware for examples.

The leaf decoration on the 5-gal beehive pictured in Figure 3 is identical to those in Figure 2. The Albany slip-glazed beehive on the right, though undecorated, displays the same hand-drawn numeral five as its mate on the left.

The same numeral five appears on the two 15-gal crocks in Figure 4. The fancy butterfly design can, therefore, be tied to the same potter/artist who drew the other designs shown.

All of the pieces shown here are either incised RED Wing Stoneware COMPANY OF RWSCo (with the exception of the two 15-gal crocks-they are unsigned.) However, the 2-gal target crock shown on page 48 of Red Wing Stoneware (bottom right) had to have been made by the same potter. But it is signed Minn Stoneware Co. I wonder how that worked?

At any rate, once hand decorating ended with the transitional pieces, it's impossible to identify an individual potter's wares. The artist becomes a mere production worker.

Covers continued from page 2

Leon Czolgosz. The country was told that McKinley was doing well and would recover, so when McKinley up and died on the 14th, it was something of a shock. The country went into heartfelt mourning, and the expression of its grief manifested in many ways. Minnesota Stoneware commemorated the late president with this 6½° bust. Examples are to be found both signed and unsigned.

THE BACK Presidents and clowns—that goes together, right? This Tik Tok the Clown clock was marketed in 1947 by the Mursen company, an outfit formed by the partnership of Charles Murphy and Red Wing businessman George Jurgesen. The short-lived firm sold five clocks styles that were produced at Red Wing Potteries. The others were the Chef, Manny, Gretel and the Polo Player. All are between 10" and 11" tall.

Editorial continued from page 4

All of the people who contribute to the *Newsletter* are entered into the lottery for the special commemorative (presented at the Convention Auction). By sending in questions or postcards for the Prices Received features, people are entered into the lottery. As are, naturally, people who contribute articles or photographs.

I'd like to expand the category, however, and include those people who send in an *idea* for an article. Now, you can't send me a postcard that says "How about an article on *stoneware*?" You'll have to be a little more specific than that. This way, all you have to do is *think*, send a postcard, and you'll be able to get into the *Newsletter* special commemorative lottery. What could be easier?

I would also like to hear from people, preferably within 25 miles of so of Red Wing, who have collections they'd like professionally photographed for the *Newsletter*. If your collection is photographed, we give you a set of prints, and a handshake. I'd like to photograph collections of things we don't see that often, like salt shakers or cuspidors, something a little bit unusual. And, if you're handly with a

camera, by all means, please take the pictures yourself and send them in. You might want to check with me first, however, and make sure I haven't already got some of the same. . . .

Media sighting. While channel surfing a couple of weeks ago, I thought I saw a light blue Egyptian vase (it was either a #154 or #155) on a new sitcom called Style & Substance (CBS, Monday night). I kept watching for them to return to that set so I could verify it, but they never did. I've watched the dumb show for a couple of weeks now, just to try to catch a glimpse of that vase. Unfortunately, the minute a commercial comes on, I start surfing, and I don't always get back before the program starts again. So maybe I've missed it. Help! Has anyone else see it?

Red Wing Online!

continued from page 7

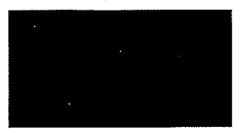
Anyway, you should check us out at this address:

http://www.redwingcollectors.org When you do, please keep in mind that it's only the skeleton of the site's potential. There are lots of content decisions that have yet to be made.

Also, please keep in mind that the Internet isn't everything. It can't be all things to all people. And it simply isn't the appropriate place for some things. Remember that anything that is put on the "Net" is out there all over the world for anyone to see. We definitely believe that the site should not attempt to take on the functions of the *Newsletter* or any of the Society chapters. It should be a supplement to those things.

As you look at our site, please feel free to provide us with *constructive* criticism and suggestions. We want the site to mean something to you and to the future of the Society.

Happy surfing!



Is that 5-gal Birchleaf Beehive Authentic? continued from page 7

recently. The seller clearly mentioned the alteration in his description. And I admire him for doing so. My concern, however, is what happens when this jug is sold again. The next seller might not be so honest, and an eager, untrained eye—mine included—might pay thousands of dollars for what looks like a rare piece. Imagine your state of mind when your rare piece turns out to be worth perhaps only a hundred!

A few years ago someone was stamping red wings on jugs and an end was put to that. Or at least we learned how to detect and check for such dishonesty. But now I'm beginning to wonder where the deception end. . . . Incidents like this must serve as a reminder to all of us not to take anything for granted.

Fortunately, the seller of this piece did point out the addition of the elephant ears. I only hope it is this one piece, and not others.

After I submitted this to the Newsletter, we inquired of the auction piece lister about its origin, pointing out the potential problems. We asked if we could print the picture of the piece, and if any details about the person who modified the jug were available. We received this reponse:

I clearly stated that it was stenciled on. Any Red Wing collector would know that it is not a glazed over marking. It is purely something to look at since a real one would be several thousand dollars. These are not mass produced and the artist who did the work would not like any publicity about [it] nor do you have permission to reprint the picture of it. A person who has an expensive piece of Red Wing stoneware repaired and then passes it on as mint are the people you should alert others about. I hope you don't take this straight forward answer personally but I feel I clearly described the piece and was trying to deceive nobody. Thanks for your concern.

Scott Laughlin

staught@shenessex.heartland.net This is Ann speaking: pay attention everybody—and buyer beware!

ART POTTERY SHOW

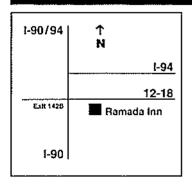
MADISPH, WISCPHSIN

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 1998 9 AM - 3 PM



More than 75 dealers selling all types of pottery and dinnerware! Admission is \$4 (\$3 with this card) and includes entrance to **Haeger: the Early and the Extraordinary,** a special exhibit of 200+ pieces made by the northern Illinois firm that began Art Pottery production in 1914. The Show is held at the Ramada Inn, 1-90 at Hwy. 12-18 (exit 142B, then one-half mile east on 12-18). For more information call 608-251-1306 or write WPA, PO box 46, Madison, WI 53701-0046. Dealers interested in exhibiting may contact the show manager at 608-251-5752.

FEATURING ABINGDON = BRUSH = COWAN CERAMIC ARTS STUDIO = FIESTA = FULPER HAEGER = HALL = HULL = MCCOY = NILOAK RED WING = ROOKWOOD = ROSEVILLE WATT = WELLER = VAN BRIGGLE = ETC. = ETC.



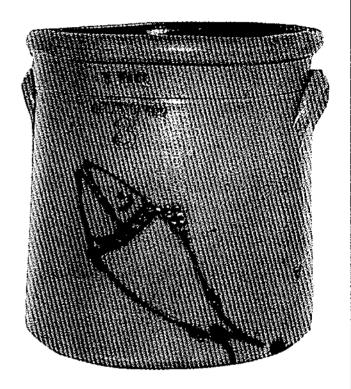


Art Pottery Show and Special Exhibit Sponsored by Wisconsin Pottery Association and held in conjunction with the Ceramic Arts Studio Collectors Convention WISCONSIN POTTERY ASSN. PO 80X 46 MADISON, WI 53701-0046 TEL 608-241-9138 FAX 608-241-8770 EMAIL CERAMICS@EXECPC.COM

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W. Hart Odgensburgh 3 gal. crock with fish
Absentee Auction Catalog with over 250 pieces
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Auction Close Date: MARCH 22, 1998 Visit us on the WEB at

http://www.antiques-stoneware.com e-mail waasdorp@antiques-stoneware.com

The next deadline is March 10

Classified ads are 15¢ per word; \$3 minimum. Ads are divided into Red Wing For Sale, Red Wing Wanted, Other Pottery for Sale, Other Pottery Wanted, Events, Clubs & Publications, Internet Web Sites, Announcements, and Services sections, so you do not need to include those words in your ad. You may want to run ads for a year at a time: run up

to 25 words six times for \$15, run up to 35 words six times for \$20. [Note: the small number at the end of an ad tells when the ad expires, e.g., 1197. Ads without dates are one-time ads.] Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission. Send all ads with payment to the Editor, RWCS Newsletter, 6662 Fairway Circle, Windsor, WI 53598.

Red Wing For Sale

All kinds of handles for stoneware crocks, pails, jars, jugs, rolling pins, etc., just like originals. Send SASE for catalog. Andy Hebenstreit, 607 Carrington St., Waupun, WI 53963. 920-324-2525. 698

Clay Giants w/ 1977-78 price guide, \$100; Red Wing Dinnerware, autographed, w/ 1980-81 & 1990-91 price guides, \$45. Commemoratives: 1983, \$465; 1984, \$275; 1985, \$250; 1986, \$150; 1987, \$75; 1988, \$80; 1989, \$300; 1990, \$165; 1991, \$125; 1992, \$125; 1993, \$100; 1994, \$100; 1995, \$100, 1996, \$100. V. Hanson, 20975 Geo. Hunt Cr., #610, Waukesha, WI 53186. 414-798-9877. 4%

Tampico dinnerware: approx. 60 pieces: 18 serving pieces including water cooler w/ lid and stand. Will not sell separately. \$2,200 obo. 406-756-1731. 898

First Edition: numbered Red Wing Sturgis Rally Stein. Only 1,000 made each year. Order now to have your same number recorded to year 2000. \$39.95 + \$5 s&h. Blueberry Hill Collectibles, 605-342-1009. 204 400 pcs collection just purchased. Coolers, churns, crocks, jugs, bowls, pitchers, etc. Pantry jars to 4-gal, commemoratives. Some of everything. Call or write for complete listing. Bud's Barn, Rt. 3, Box 55, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361. Tel 218-338-6166.

Bulldog, brown, unmarked, \$750; salt, from Hart, MN, \$800; brown unmarked cows (cow & calf), NM, \$950. R.P., 6910 State Rt. 163, Millstadt, IL 62260. 618-476-7178.

30-oz cherryband pitcher w/ adv BOOTH ENTERPRISE / MAPS / MANINE THIELEN – OWNER / HARIAN, IOWA. Not old but beautiful. Bluegrey accents. Only \$35 ppd. 712-755-5425. Galen Sorensen, Box 464, Harlan, IOWA 51537. 8/98

Birchleaf crock collection, 2-gal thru 25-gal, also 4-gal churn, \$1250. Red Wing

crocks, 15-gal thru 30 gal, \$500; will separate. Red Wing jugs, 3-, 4-, 5-gal; also 3- and 5-gal jugs w/ missing ovals, \$270; will separate. Waukesha, WI 414-422-1759, evenings.

10-gal RW Ice Water Cooler, 6" wing, black print, good condition. To inquire, call 605-882-6027.

Complete set of RWCS commemoratives, 1977 thru 1997. 701-763-6447.

Xmas tree stand, \$695; German spittoon, \$695; cookie jars—call; Hamm's Bear bank, \$450; Chevron cocktail shaker and 6 cups, \$350. Orville Holm, 360-794-4746.

5-gal birchleaf beehive, \$450; 5-gal Waconda jug, \$350; 5-gal birchleaf churn w/lid, \$350; sponge butter w/lid, \$275; 1-qt canning jar, \$235; Tan *Iris* pitcher, \$165. Large chicken casseroles: pink, \$65; turquoise, \$210. *Round Up*: plates, \$65; 13" platter, \$110; creamer, \$65; sugar, 65; warmer/cooler base, \$325. Plus shipping or free delivery to MidWinter. 612-955-3699.

Two 2-qt Round Up casseroles w/ iron candle warmer stand. New in original Red Wing box, \$400. Large Saffron pitcher w/ TAPPEN, ND 1939 advertising, \$325. Large Grayline pitcher, small chip, \$175. Please call 208-357-7632.

Green Monk cookie jar, outstanding condition, \$275. Bob White dinnerware pieces for sale: creamers, \$15 ea.; sugar w/top, \$25; 7¹/2" salad plates, \$7 ea; cereal bowls, \$15 ea.; cups w/saucers, \$5 set, cups, \$2.50 ea. All pieces in mint condition and guaranteed. Buyer pays shipping. Al Kohlman, Madison, W1. 608-244-6526. email: kohlman@itis.com.

Monkey jug, adv. Orange Ale, Bunnell W. Detrort, Minn., blue, mint, \$1250. 20-gal salt glaze double cobalt leaf crock, mint, \$1,200. 6-gal birch leaf Ice Water cooler, Union, blue, mint, \$975. 5-gal salt glaze crock, target/lazy 8, super front9 stamp Ren Wing, mint, \$975. 1-qt. reverse adv. Griesel.

JUG, WINONA, MN, mint, \$875. Hamm's pitcher, mint, \$750. 10-gal water cooler lid, mint, \$750. Grayline shakers, 2, mint, \$695 each. 10-gal salt glaze crock, double-rib/ target, chip on handle, \$675. Ovoid RW moose mini-jug, mint, \$575. Ovoid RW Elks mini-jug, mint, \$575. Ovoid souvenir of RW mini-jug, mint, \$575. 10-gal crock, large elephant ears, union, transition, blue & black, spider, \$450. 5-gal salt glaze button lid, mint, \$350. 6" sponge panel bowl, adv, Youngs, mint, \$295. 1/2-gal Mason Jar, blue, mint, \$250. 1-qt Mason Jar, blue, mint, \$250. Cobalt blue vase, ink stamp Union, 182, mint, \$140. RW beater jar, mint, \$100. 1-gal size crock lid, mint, \$75. Prices firm. Tom, 612-388-5842.

46 pieces of *Round Up*, Send SASE for list. Phil Shurley, 4127 E. 48th Pl., Tulsa, OK 74135, 918-743-6317, 1298

Grayline cookie jar, Reamer, large refri. jar, w/lid, 3# butter pail w/adv.; Red Wing 20# butter w/Hruska & Co. adv.; Western 20# butter w/United Darry adv.; 1# pantry jar, Call 715-258-0813. 859

Red Wing Wanted

Mixing bowls and any other advertising items from "Bang's Market, Ada, Minn." Mary & Otto Bang, 612-941-4754.

RumRill Pottery with paper stickers indicating shape and finish numbers. Finish number must be legible. Also, RumRill catalogs and sales information from Mt. Giliad, Ohio. Write: RumRill Collector, Box 643, Oshtemo, MI 49077-0643.

Will pay top prices for salt glaze butterfly crocks, jugs, and coolers. We are collectors not dealers—we pay full value. Steve and Diane Winkey, 319-351-6730. 496

Any stoneware w/ advertising from Greene, Iowa, Osage, Iowa or Clear Lake, Iowa, call Kevin or Laura at 515-424-9481.

A pair, any size, of white pudding pans or nappies. Please leave message for Kent at 612-429-4068.

Red Wing elephant planter #236 wanted, any color. Can trade nude vases for above. Gerald Smith, 22833 Aspen Rd., Sarcoxie, MO 64862-9608, 417-325-5479, 476

Ash receivers, any color, mint condition only. Win Twins ashtray, any color, mint condition only. Days 612-339-7401 x 218. Eves., 612-263-3434. Ask for Greg. 498

RWCS commemoratives-will buy full set: Minnesota ovals, transitionals, signed salt glaze, rare or unusual items, advertising. 218-338-6166, 698

Flat lid for "cream cheese" jar, lid for saffron casserole, 218-681-4261, 298

Red Wing clown clock. James Estlund, 1001 2 E, Hastings, MN 55233. 612-437-3632. am

3-gal or smaller RW jue w/ Watkins advertising. Excellent to mint. Steve 612-447-8459.

Blue birchleaf: 60-gal crock, 10-gal churn, 15-gal Ice Water, button lids, Albany slip 20# butter, Elephant ear 20# butter, 402-379-3396, 298

"Lily" wash basin. 612-437-8060. 898

Dinnerware, Flight pattern: 8 fruit or saucer bowls, 4 A.D. cups, 5 A.D. saucers, 1 casserole, 1 beverage server, 1 teapot. George Heide, H.C. 67, Box 7, Circle, MT 59215, 406-485-3537.

Other Pottery For Sale

M. A. Hadley water cooler w/ 6 mugs, all w/ stunning cobalt horse design, cooler has horse front and back, all signed. Pix available, \$650, s/h included, 760-244-

Other Pottery Wanted

Early Midwestern stoneware beer bottles wanted. Must be stamped or stenciled with potter, brewer, or bottler name. Quality glass bottles (bitters, flasks, barbers, figurals, etc.) also wanted. Steve Ketcham, Box 24114, Mpls., MN 55424. 612-920-1205. 498

Rolling pin James & Peacock, Hebron, Itt. Beater jars, rolling pins, mini-jugs, pitchers w/ Illinois advertising, cherryband white pitcher Balsters, Scotch Grove, Iowa. If not for sale would like a picture of pitcher, Tony Peacock, 815-747-2712. 298

Rockingham/Bennington pitchers wanted. Would also like to contact other Rockingham collectors. George Eck, 408-942-8697. 428

Missouri and Illinois stoneware, crocks, jugs, churns, w/ towns, also adv. crocks, mini-jugs, Anna Pottery, sewer tile art, pottery animals, R. P. 6910 State Rt. 163, Millstadt, IL 62260, 618-476-7178, 1298

Frankoma Buffalo figurine and other Franckoma figurines, 515-847-2772, 1999

Looking for Mathew Adams, Ceramic Arts Studio, Howard Pierce, Gort, Gustavasberg and California pottery. Terence Gilles, 901 Columbia Road, Madison, WI 53705, 608-238-6790.

Peters & Reed, UND, Pine Ridge Sioux, Fulper, Zaneware, Marblehead pottery; Catalina dinnerware, P. Flaherty, 608-256-7986, Leave message.

Clubs, Publications

Subscribe to the original Red Wing Collectors Newsletter, first published in 1977 by David A. Newkirk. Six issues per year, \$12. Red Wing Collectors Newsletter, 2246 95th Street, N.W., Maple Lake, MN 55358, 612-878-2595, 298

1997 Revised Price Guide to Red Wing Potters & Their Wares, \$2.60 ppd.; 3rd Edition Red Wing Potters & Their Wares \$20.95 ppd.; Guide to Locust Souvenirs \$3.60 ppd. Bonnie Tefft, W174 N9422 Devonwood Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-1302. Phone: 414-251-1415 or email at LocustEnt@aol.com.

Two great books: Red Wing Stoneware and Red Wing Collectibles, both w/ 1997 updated values, \$9.95 each or \$17.95 for both plus \$1.25/\$1.75 postage, respectively, Quantity discounts available. Gail Peck, 2119 W. 1st, Grand Island, NE 68803. 308-382-5792. 298

Ceramic Arts Studio of Madison Newsletter. Six issues a year for \$18. Free ads to subscribers seeking or selling CAS works. CAS Collector, PO Box 46, Madison, WI 53701. 608-241-9138

The Blue & White Pottery Club (founded 1981) sponsors an annual convention each June in various locations in the Midwest; activities include a Blue & White show and auction; room sales; a banquet; and various educational workshops. Other membership benefits include an annual membership directory and a quarterly newsletter featuring free member advertising. For more information, write to Blue & White Pottery Club, 224-12th Street NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405, or call 303-690-8649.

Haeger fan? Subscribe to The HPCA News, the Newsletter of Haeger Pottery Collectors, Annual membership is \$20; the newsletter is published six times a year. HPCA, 5021 Toyon Way, Antioch, CA 94509. 510-776-7784.

The Wisconsin Pottery Association invites you to attend its meetings in Madison, WI on the third Tuesday of each month (except in July and August). Members bring in new finds and mystery pieces for discussion, and there is a presentation. March 17, Chicago dealer Dennis Hopp speaks about and shows a collection of Sacha Bristoff, Call 608-241-9138 for more information.

Internet Web Sites

WEB SITE-Red Wing stoneware, artware, dinnerware, ads, references, shopping tips and much more. Visit our site at: www.RedWingNet.com on the internet. Byron Bush 281-489-300 598

The Golden State Red Wingers have their web site up and running now, the address is: www.msr.net/gsrw. It is still under construction, so be patient, and tolerant!

The Red Wing Collectors Society web site is now under construction. If you would like your site linked, please contact RWCS subcomittee chairperson Sue Gillmer at sgillmer@win.bright.net.

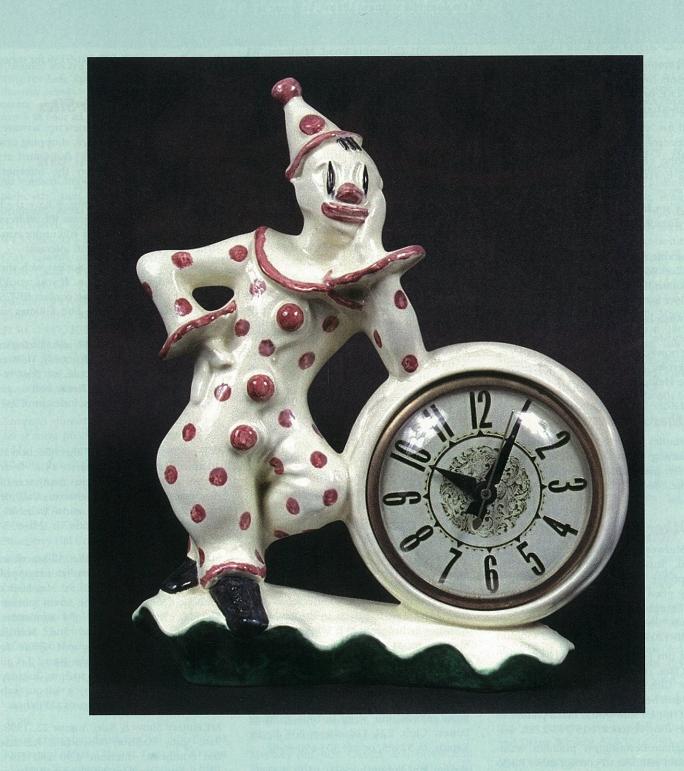
The Teacherage is a web site specializing in Red Wing and RumRill art pottery. Visitors may buy, list pieces for sale, or post requests for wanted items. Please visit us at: members.aol.com/tcherage/index.html 1299

Events

Will sell most of my Red Wing collection at auction. Possible date March 14th. Over 200 vases and planters, plus many sets of dinnerware, some stoneware. Call or write for information. Joanne Walz, R1, Box 134, Sebeka, MN 56477. 218-837-5511.

Harvey Duke presents the All-American Pottery & Dinnerware Show, Saturday, April 18, 1998, 10am to 4 pm. St. Magdalen's Catholic Church, 105 Mine Street (corner Shields), Flemington, NJ. \$4 admission. Featured Guests: Steve and Martha Sanford, authors of Sanfords Guide to Brush-McCoy Pottery, Books 1 and 2. Call 908-782-9631 (from 11am to 5pm, Tuesday thru Sunday) for more info, or visit our web site at http://members.aol.com/AAPDshow

Art Pottery Show & Sale, August 22, 1998, 9am-3pm, Madison Wisconsin. Ramada Inn Southeast, Interstate 1-90 and Hwy. 12-18. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Pottery Association (and held in conjunction with the Ceramic Arts Studio Convention), \$3 admission includes entrance to a special one-day exhibit entitled Haeger: The Early and The Extraordinary.



Acceptable and American Committee of the Committee of the