

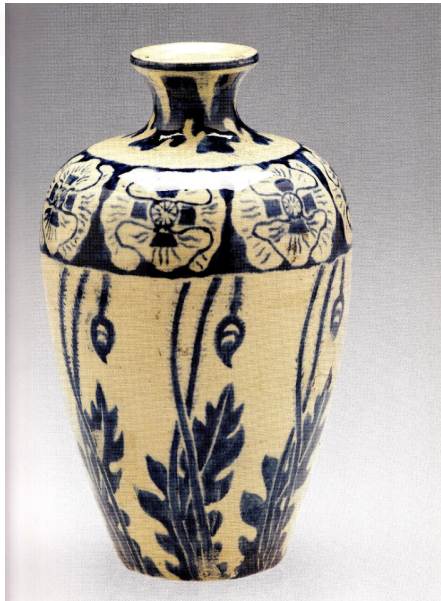


CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

NEWSLETTER VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 4 JANUARY 2017

Women, Art & Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise

**By Martin Eidelberg, Professor
Emeritus of Art History, Rutgers
University, New Brunswick, New
Jersey**



Vase with a design of poppies,
Emelie de Hoa LeBlanc, 1896,
h. 6 1/2 in., Newcomb Art
Collection, Tulane University,
New Orleans.

The ceramics of Newcomb College Pottery are reborn for their adherence to the Arts and Crafts credo of uniting beauty and utility. Created by the students at the women's college in New Orleans and decorated with motifs drawn from local flora and fauna, they were praised for being a "southern product, made of southern clays, by southern artists, decorated with southern subjects."

Despite being lauded as an exemplary southern enterprise, the Newcomb Pottery shared more universal values, especially with educators and potteries in New England, the Midwest, and even the Far West. Newcomb's emphasis on regional subjects was part of a national movement to find a domestic, American style. Likewise, the emphasis on empowering women through careers in art, a laudable idea which proved impractical. Newcomb College's publicity was effective but overly optimistic.



Vase with a design of jonquils,
Harriet Coulter Joor, 1903, h.
18 1/4 in. Newcomb Art
Collection, Tulane University,
New Orleans.

Martin Eidelberg, a graduate of Columbia and Princeton Universities, was a professor of art history at Rutgers University for 38 years. His two fields of specialization are Watteau and French painting of the 18th century; and modern decorative arts, and it is this latter interest which brings him to the CCSC. Although he has published on postwar design, Dr. Eidelberg is more passionately interested in the decorative arts of the early 20th century, and he has lectured and written extensively on both Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts.

Dr. Eidelberg has written about such luminaries as William Grueby, Artus Van Briggle, Adelaide Alsop Robineau, and Leza McVey. He has published widely on Louis Comfort Tiffany, including books on Tiffany's glass, lamps, and pottery. Dr. Eidelberg was one of the essayists in a recently published volume on Newcomb College Pottery. He is a co-author of the catalogue presently being prepared on the Robert Ellison collection of American pottery at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut, with tea to follow.

Do You Have A Chocolate Lover Among Your Friends?

Valentine's Day is coming up, and, as a Valentine's gift to you from the CCSC, you have the opportunity to invite a friend to the February 13 meeting, "Food of the Gods: A Delicious History of Chocolate and Chocolate-Related Ceramics" -- and the guest fee is waived! You and your friend will enjoy hearing our speaker, Amanda Lange, Director of the Curatorial Department and Curator of Historic Interiors at Historic Deerfield, Massachusetts, and indulging at the tea following in chocolate delicacies to satisfy cravings awakened by her lecture.

Reminders!

Please bring to the January 9 meeting any items (ceramics, glass, jewelry and books) you wish to donate for the CCSC Treasure Sale, which will take place at the March 13 meeting.

Jane Connochie and Natalie Robinson will happily receive them from you on January 9 and on February 13, as well. Scour those closets and shelves and deaccession for a good cause!

The fall activity in the ceramics world continues into winter with exhibits at New York museums. It culminates with the 2017 Ceramics and Glass Fair from January 18 - 22. Mark your calendars! Continuing museum exhibits of interest include those at the Museum of Arts and Design of ceramists Peter Voulkos (to March 15), and Chris Antemann and Coille Hooven (to February 5); an exhibit of Renaissance Maiolica at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (until March 26); and an exhibit at the Frick Collection, until February 19, of the 18th century bronze chasing and gilding art of Pierre Gouthière, and exhibit that received extensive coverage from the New York Times on December 23.

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

January 9: "Women, Art & Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise." Lecture: Martin Eidelberg, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Rutgers University, New Jersey. Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle at 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. Information at ctcsc.org or at 203.912.7226.

January 19-22: New York Ceramic and Glass Fair, Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street, New York City, New York. Information at www.nyceramicsandglass.com. In case of last-minute changes, please check the website to confirm the lecture schedule below:

Lectures on January 19:

Noon, "Inside the Head of a Collector," Shirley M. Mueller.

2:00 p.m., "Eureka! A Discovery of 18th Century True Porcelain in Philadelphia and Other Tales of Ceramic Intrigue," Robert Hunter.

4:00 p.m., "Pictures Worth a Thousand Pots: Tracing Ceramics in Art," Angelika Kuettner.

Lectures on January 20:

Noon, "The Feminine Clay," Shannon Stratton.

2:00 p.m., "Just for Fun: Ceramics, Glass & Humor," Leslie Grigsby.

4:00 p.m., "Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery," Glen Adamson.

Lectures on January 21:

Noon, "Lighting in the 19th Century American Home," Jeffrey Evans.

2:00 p.m., "Buy, Sell or Give? What Happens When the Kids Don't Want It?", Leslie Ferrin and Panelists Martha Vida Founding Director, The Marks Project; Daniel Farrell, Fine Art Appraiser and Consulting Producer of The Antiques Road Show; Ulysses Grant Dietz, Chief Curator, Newark Museum; Lark Mason, iGavel Auctions and Lark Mason Associates.

4:00 p.m., "What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been: American Ceramics from Functional to Funk," Jeannine Falino.

January 26: "American Art Pottery and the MFA." Lecture: Nonie Gadsden, Katherine Lane Seems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Ceramic Study Club of Boston at 1:00 p.m. at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, MA. Information at ceramicsstudyclub.org.

February 6: "Killer Heels: The Art and History of the High-Heeled Shoe." Lecture: Lisa Small, Curator of Exhibitions, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, New York. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society at 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. Reservations: greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com.

February 13: "Food of the Gods: A Delicious History of Chocolate and Chocolate-Related Ceramics." Lecture: Amanda Lange, Curatorial Department Director and Curator of Historic Interiors, Historic Deerfield, Massachusetts. Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle at 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich.

February 16: "Adoption, Assimilation, and Transformation: Korean Ceramics and the Continuing Influence of Chinese Ceramics." Lecture: Robert D. Mowry, Retired Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art, Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Providence at 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, 20 North Main Street, Providence, RI. Information at potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com.

February 24-28: "Early American Craftsmanship: Influences and Innovation." The Colonial Williamsburg Antique Forum, with lectures focusing on exploration of influence of home cultures on immigrant artisans and consumers over generations. Lecturers: Estill Curtis Pennington and Lisa Minardi, scholars and Colonial Williamsburg curators. Also included: private tours of historic homes of the region and a hands-on workshop with collections. Information at 800-603-0948 or www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/conted.



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