

Thank You!

Randolph County- NCPC is very grateful for the continuing support of the Randolph County Commissioners with the approval of the \$23,700 annual appropriation for 2007.

First Bank- The handsome new NCPC promotional brochures were designed and printed courtesy of First Bank. The brochures have received rave reviews from Welcome Centers across the state.

North Carolina Arts Council- NCPC has been awarded \$6,500 to continue a second year of the Traditional Arts Program at Seagrove School. The Center was also awarded \$24,000 Creative Economies grant toward enhancement of the current parking area and for developing a computer kiosk information program on area potters for visitors.

Fran Irvin- Board of Directors member Fran Irvin very generously provided \$6,000 in funding to replace computers and add a computer back-up system after a recent computer crisis.

Highwater Clays- Brian and Gail McCarthy continue their long-time tradition of donating clay for use in our educational programs, workshops, and by our artist-in-residence, a significant subsidy for NCPC.

Pottery Donations- A five gallon salt glazed churn was donated by **Tommy Cranford**. The piece appears to be incised "S.R. Richards, Seagrove, NC, order al kind". If you have further information on the maker or the incising, let us know! **Julia and Don Golding** donated a 21" double-dipped Robin's Egg blue, two-handled Seagrove Pottery Rebecca urn which they purchased from Dorothy Auman in 1965. **Dean and Linda Brooks** donated a stoneware rooster by Catawba Valley folk potter Tammy Leigh Brooks. **Dr. and Mrs. Robert Wetmore** donated a salt glazed buttermilk pitcher circa late 1800s.

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The Hilton family pottery tradition dates back several generations and their collective body of work is so extensive and diverse, this exhibit focuses only on the decorated wares created by Ernest Auburn Hilton (1878-1948) and his wife, Clara Maude Hilton (1885-1969).

Auby and Maude were among the very few potters in the Valley tradition to make the transition from undecorated and strictly utilitarian wares to beautifully executed and highly creative artistic pieces – many with sculptural elements.

Most of the pieces you will see in this exhibit were made in the 1930's and 1940's in the Asheville area.

- Tim Blackburn

Raised in the community that bears his family's name, Tim Blackburn is the grandson, great grandson and great nephew of Catawba Valley potters.

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different clays, which resulted in more aesthetically pleasing wares.

This new type pottery caught the eye of Ms. Rebecca Palmer Cooper, a resident of the Carabonton community just west of Sanford, North Carolina. Ms. Cooper was so impressed by the local pottery wares being produced, established her own pottery shop in 1924, naming it The North State Pottery Company, and hired Jonah Owen as it's first potter and designer. Ms. Cooper's husband, Henry, would soon join the enterprise and with the exposure received from it's very successful exhibit and sales at the North Carolina State Fair in 1925, and later winning a silver medal for their "Old-Fashioned Pottery", at the 1926 Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, The North State Pottery Company had established a solid foundation that led to 35 years of successful operation. This success for so many years would not have been possible had it not been for the accomplished potters employed including Jonah Owen, Walter Owen, Charles Craven, Elvin Owen, M. L. Owens, Emmitt Albright, and others.

The NC Pottery Center is honored and privileged to be the recipient and custodian of a major portion of the W.D. Morton collection of North State pottery, and is pleased to share select pieces in this exhibition. W.D. was a passionate collector, scholar, and friend to many in the North Carolina pottery community, and documented a wealth of information in his text *Handmade: A History of North State Pottery*.

- Bragg Cox

Bragg Cox has been a collector of southern antiques for over twenty five years. He is on the Board of Directors of the NC Pottery Collectors Guild and is the current President of the Board of Directors of the NC Pottery Center.