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RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY



VOL. 42 #3

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF COLLECTING



Convention Preview
4-5 & 7

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1952 Red Wing Art
Association Footage
10-11

RWCS CONTACTS

BUSINESS OFFICE

PO Box 50 • 240 Harrison St. • Unit #3
Red Wing, MN 55066-0050 • www.redwingcollectors.org
651-388-4004 or 800-977-7927 • Fax: 651-388-4042
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: STACY WEGNER
director@redwingcollectors.org
membership@redwingcollectors.org

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: RICK NATYNSKI
PO Box 198 • Pewaukee, WI 53072
414-416-WING (9464) • newsletter@redwingcollectors.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: PAUL WICHERT
W247S7000 Sugar Maple Dr. • Waukesha, WI 53189
414-731-0218 • vicepresident@redwingcollectors.org

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT: MIKE STENSTROM
6204 Shawna St. • Weston, WI 54476
715-218-8216 • vicepresident@redwingcollectors.org

SECRETARY: ANGELA SHEFVELAND
905 Hawthorn St. • Red Wing, MN 55066
816-456-2524 • secretary@redwingcollectors.org

TREASURER: DAN BECK
2215 Hill Place SW • Rochester, MN 55902
507-398-6358 • treasurer@redwingcollectors.org

HISTORIAN: NANCY LAMBERT
17 Newcastle Lane • Bella Vista, AR 72714
785-691-7213 • historian@redwingcollectors.org

REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE: RUSSA ROBINSON
1970 Bowman Rd. • Stockton, CA 95206
209-463-5179 • repatlargewest@redwingcollectors.org

INTERIM REP. AT LARGE: RICHARD NATYNSKI
N50 W25078 William Dr. • Pewaukee, WI 53072
608-617-7424 • repatlargeeast@redwingcollectors.org

AUCTION MANAGER: SCOTT HARDMAN
430 N Manley Rd. • Ripon, CA 95366-3405
209-602-1461 • auction@redwingcollectors.org

COMMEMORATIVE MANAGER: BOB MORAWSKI
2130 S. Ridgeway Dr. • New Berlin, WI 53146
262-853-8269 • commemorative@redwingcollectors.org

EDUCATION MANAGER: MICHELLE WEISEN
605 Bluff St. • Red Wing, MN 55066
507-254-2210 • education@redwingcollectors.org

EVENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL

PRE-REGISTRATION: JIM & KAREN KEYS, HEIDI HAHLÉN

SHOW & SALE: DALE ERICKSON
507-645-6771 • showandsale@redwingcollectors.org

DISPLAY ROOM: TYLER GREEN
display@redwingcollectors.org

KIDSVIEW & YOUNG COLLECTORS: VACANT
kidsview@redwingcollectors.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Nobody collects Red Wing stoneware and pottery because they despise the stuff. It's quite the opposite, of course. It's our release from the monotony of our daily work lives. It keeps us busy on the weekends. It takes us to places we otherwise might have never visited and introduces us to people we likely never would've met if it weren't for this common shared interest.



To me, that's what the July Convention is all about – catching up with old friends from across the country in a beautiful historic town at an event that just so happens to be centered around celebrating our love for old fired clay. Don't get me wrong – I'm just as excited as ever about adding to my collection, and I hope to find a few new prized possessions every time I attend an RWCS event. But I noticed back in February at the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether that I hadn't purchased anything substantial by the time the Show & Sale had arrived on Saturday afternoon, and I didn't really care. Usually I would've been a little miffed at that point, but I was having such a good time that it really didn't matter.

We're celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the RWCS at Convention this year, so if that isn't a good enough reason to pack up the vehicle and head up to your favorite Mississippi River town, then I don't know what is. Give me a few days of decent weather, some good food with friends at my favorite Red Wing hangouts and a few good story leads for future issues of the *RWCS Newsletter*, and I'll be happy. I won't even complain if I don't find a killer piece of salt glaze to bring home...well, at least not too much. Ha! 🍷

Rick Natynski, Editor

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Primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$35 annually; associate membership is \$15. There must be at least one primary member per household in order to have an associate membership. Members can pay for up to two years when renewing their membership. Contact the RWCS Business Office for additional details.

The Red Wing Collectors Society, Inc. Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Red Wing Collectors Society, Inc. 240 Harrison St. • Unit #3 • Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone: 651-388-4004 • Fax: 651-388-4042 • www.redwingcollectors.org

Postmaster: Send address change to: Red Wing Collectors Society, Inc. Newsletter
PO Box 50 • Red Wing, MN 55066. • USPS 015-791; ISSN 1096-1259.

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NEWS BRIEFS

SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM – ATTEND THE “WINE-ING” FOR RED WING 1950s SOCK HOP!

Come rock the jukebox at the RWCS Foundation's Annual “Wine-ing” for Red Wing Fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. This year's theme is a 1950s Sock Hop! Tickets are \$20 and can either be purchased in advance at the Pottery Museum Gift Store or at the event itself. Tickets include your choice of a wine or beer glass, two drink vouchers and hors d'oeuvres. Water will also be available. Extra drink vouchers can be purchased for \$5.

Donations for either the live or silent auction may be dropped off at the Pottery Museum in the days leading up to the event – call the museum for specific drop-off times. Be sure to fill out a donation form when dropping off your item. If you are interested in donating a piece for the live auction, or you have any questions regarding silent auction donations, please call me at the museum at 651-327-2220. All proceeds will benefit the Pottery Museum.

Nearly \$14,000 was raised during the 2016 “Wine-ing” for Red Wing. The continued support of RWCS donors makes the magic continue at the museum. An important goal of the Pottery Museum is to continually expand its educational programs. Funds raised from this annual event can help make that goal a reality. With your support, we can exceed our goal for 2017. Be sure to follow us on our Facebook page for more info as we add photos of auction items.

Be the coolest cat in town and tell your friends about “Wine-ing” for Red Wing! It's open to RWCS members and the public is also invited to attend. Please contact me with questions!

–Pottery Museum of Red Wing Manager Robin Wipperling

PARKING SHUTTLE FOR AUCTION, SHOW & SALE

This year the RWCS Convention Auction and Show & Sale events will be held at the Red Wing National Guard Armory at 885 E 7th St. in Red Wing. Parking there is limited, but we've got you covered! If the Armory lot is full and you can't find street parking, you can park in the Minnesota Correctional Facility's parking lot just down the street (see map on pg. 5) and take the shuttle that will run back and forth. The shuttle will run from 3 p.m. until after the auction ends on Thursday, July 6, and again from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 8. There's no cost, but the driver will be working for tips, so keep that in mind when you ride.

VISIT THE DISPLAY ROOM AT CONVENTION!

With all the changes at this year's Convention, don't forget to visit the Display Room and vote for your favorites. A number of members are setting up this year, so there will be lots to see! The Display Room will be open inside Red Wing's Minnesota State College Southeast from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 6 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, July 7.

Note to displayers: I've been really excited about this Convention, as it is my first as Display Chair. Unfortunately I was informed in mid-May that a summer college course I registered for has been delayed, conflicting with Convention. I am very disappointed that I won't be able to personally attend. However, I assure you that your displays will be in good hands. In addition to the security personnel that will be present, three very capable RWCS members will be in the room in my absence – my mom, Kristine Green, and my grandparents, Gaylord & Loretta Helmbrecht. Past Display Chair Laura Beall has also graciously offered to assist. I thank everyone for their understanding. I want to be Display Chair for years to come and help the Society grow and prosper, and I apologize for this brief “hiccup”. –RWCS Display Chair Tyler Green

HOUGHTON AUCTION AD CORRECTION

My apologies for any confusion over the typo that appeared in the Houghton's Auction Service advertisement in the April RWCS Newsletter. The days and times reported were correct, but the year should have read 2017 instead of 2016. As usual, the Houghtons will hold their two Convention Week auctions at The Bluffs Bar & Grill in Hager City – one at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4, 2017 and the other at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. Hope to see you there! 🍷

–RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski



Cover background image courtesy of RWCS Executive Director Stacy Wegner.

ABOUT THE COVER

I've always wondered who owns the iconic North Star jug on display in the Pottery Museum of Red Wing. Like many pieces in the museum, it grabs your attention and doesn't let go. But unlike any other piece, it's widely viewed as *the* most important item that North Star turned out during the company's short-lived existence. So when longtime RWCS Member Dan Barry shared a brief story on the RWCS Facebook Chapter page about how he discovered this stunning piece, I was pretty shocked. You will be, too, when you read his account on pgs. 8-9. It certainly isn't your typical yard sale find, but rather a story that started 47 years ago when Dan was only 12 years old. Enjoy! 🍷

–RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

THE RWCS FOUNDATION PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER



“Wine-ing for Red Wing”

6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2017
\$20 per person

See our Facebook page for a list of items up for auction!

A rockin' good time featuring:

- Wine, Beer and Hors d'oeuvres
- Live auction and silent auction to benefit the RWCS Foundation and the Pottery Museum

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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CONVENTION PREVIEW

This year's Red Wing Collectors Society Convention will be an exciting one, as we travel back in time for the Society's 40th Anniversary! Longtime members will remember spending many hours at two of our event's "new" venues this year, while new members will experience them for the first time. The passion and comradery of the membership is surely to make this a Convention like no other.



STACY WEGNER
Executive Director

The *RWCS Convention Supplement* will be the best resource for you to find out where and when Convention events are this year. Minnesota State College Southeast will be the main site for Convention activities, while the Thursday Convention Auction and Saturday Show & Sale will both be held at the Red Wing National Guard Armory. Check out the RWCS website for Convention information, too.

This exciting new Convention would not be possible without the support and time of so many volunteers this year. A special "shout out" goes to RWCS Member Todd Avery for working through and looking at a number of potential locations and the RWCS Board of Directors for taking time to come to Red Wing to make this Convention come together for the 40th Anniversary.

Finally, I would like to thank the generous support of so many businesses and organizations in Red Wing. Without their support and welcoming manner each year, the Convention would not be our group's best experience of the year. I hope to see everyone during Convention Week! Safe travels! 🍷

Last minute note: I just learned there will be a road construction detour on Pioneer Road near Red Wing's Twin Bluff Middle School during Convention. A lot of members would normally take this route from Pottery Place to the College, but I recommend taking Highway 58 this year.

Convention is just around the corner and we have a wide range of presentation topics slated for this year. The presenters and their topics are listed below, but be sure to check out the *RWCS Convention Supplement* or the "Education Seminars" page on the Convention section of the RWCS website for a more detailed description of where, when and what these speakers will talk about.



MICHELLE WEISEN
Education Manager

First, the history of the Red Wing Collectors Society will come alive with a very special 40th Anniversary Keynote Address at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 6. RWCS Historian Nancy Lambert has assembled a group of RWCS collectors representing the past 40 years. They will present insight into their passion for collecting and fond memories as member of the Society. The panel will begin with the late 1970s when the Society was formed and members

1977 BACK TO THE FUTURE 2017

Red Wing Collectors Society Inc.
Founded 1977

40TH ANNIVERSARY



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

larry's jugs
ANTIQUES



Early Bird Winner: Congratulations to RWCS Member Linda Stewart, who won the 2017 Special Commemorative in the Early Bird Drawing. Remember there are still other opportunities to win a Special Commemorative:

- Volunteer drawing
- Annual Business Meeting attendance
- Display winners
- Silent auction in Commemorative Room
- Banquet attendance

Convention Registration & Badge Pickup: Registration will held at the following times and locations during Convention Week. This is important, as you'll need your badge to drop off your auction items and attend Convention activities at the College and Armory.

- Wednesday, July 5: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum
- Thursday, July 6: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., College and 3 to 5:30 p.m., Armory
- Friday, July 7: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., College
- Saturday, July 8: 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Armory

40th Anniversary Celebration: This special event will be held after the Convention Keynote presentation (around noon) on Thursday, July 6. RWCS Charter Members will be recognized for their many years of membership. After that, we will move into the cafeteria for a special 40th Anniversary party and lunch, which will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

Shared Interest Groups move to Friday: These groups will be held at the College at 9 a.m. Friday, July 7. There will be general table markers for stoneware dinnerware and art pottery. Thanks to Kent Williamson for hosting on Bean Pots

from each of the four decades since its founding will share personal experiences and an abundance of historical information. The panel members are:

- Past KidsView Program Chair and Participant Aarika Floyd
- RWCS Facebook Chapter Secretary David "Yoshi" Hoffman
- Dave Hutchison, son of longtime Red Wing Potteries Mold Maker Teddy Hutchison
- RWCS Hall of Famer Ron Linde
- Current KidsView Participant Jack Mueller
- *RWCS Newsletter* Editor Rick Natynski
- RWCS Hall of Famer Gail Peck
- RWCS Hall of Famer Larry Peterson
- RWCS Hall of Famer Sandy Short
- Past RWCS President Sue Jones Tagliapietra
- RWCS Hall of Famers Gary & Bonnie Tefft

Here's a list of the topics and speakers we have lined up for the Friday, July 7 Education Seminars:

- The Journey of Collecting Red Wing by RWCS Hall of Famer Larry Peterson.
- Is That Right? Aftermarket Dinnerware & Art Pottery by Laura Beall.
- Stoneware Fruit Jars by Marv Juel.

Friday Evening Crock Hop: This event will be held in Potters Hall at the Pottery Museum from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Traditional root beer floats and refreshments will be served along with a visit from Doc and Marty. A "Back in Time Scavenger Hunt" in the museum along with door prizes at "Lou's Café" will be too fun to miss!

Facebook Chapter Social: Like last year, the Facebook Chapter will get together in the Red Wing Senior Center's room right after the Crock Hop from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come hang out with all your online friends that you rarely get to see in person!

Show & Sale Dealer Notes: Please bring your own carts/dollies for move in. And since parking is limited, we're asking sellers to move their vehicles to the shuttle lot so buyers have more spots to park and fill their vehicles with the pieces they buy from you.

Concessions at Auction and Show & Sale: The Goodhue County Historical Society will run a concessions stand at the Armory during the Auction and Show & Sale. The RWHS Girls Volleyball team will also serve concessions at the College from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Convention Supplement & Red Wing Chamber Guest Pass: The *Convention Supplement* will be your resource for all Convention news. Be sure to pick up yours at Registration. The Red Wing Chamber Guest Pass will be inserted into the *Supplement* as well with all kinds of discounts and promotions around town.

Volunteers Needed: There are still many opportunities to lend a hand at Convention! Member support is still needed for the Show & Sale, onsite registration, KidsView, Auction, Commemorative and Young Collectors. We also need help with clean up on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Please consider lending a hand. Check the "Get Involved – Volunteer Page" on the RWCS website. Not sure about your plans yet? Call Stacy on the RWCS cell phone during Convention Week at 651-388-4004.

Annual Crock Hunt: The 2017 Crock Hunt starts Friday, July 1 and entries can be turned in at the Show & Sale. There are 12 sites this year, and we will once again have two prize levels: those that visit more than half of the sites and those that complete less than half. Entry forms will be available for download on the RWCS website, e-mailed to attendees and printed in the *Convention Supplement*.

Convention First Timers: Two seminars will be held to help you get the most out of your Convention experience. They'll be held in room 314 at the College from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 6 and Friday, July 7.

There's Much to See and Do in Red Wing During Convention Week: Visit www.redwingcollectors.org/rwcs-calendar-of-events/things-to-do-in-red-wing to learn about all these great activities! 🍷

- Digging Historic Privies and Dumps by RWCS Hall of Famer Steve Showers and his wife, Phyllis.
- Dump Finds by Red Wing Dump Diggers Paul Boudin & Connie Mathison.
- Early Colfax Springs History and Stoneware by Mark C. Wiseman.
- Divided Minnesota, Divided Goodhue County: the WWI Years by Fred Johnson.
- 19th Century Base Ball History and Fun Facts by Doug Ernst.
- Ceramics Conservator by Jin Crimando, Pottery Museum of Red Wing Inventory Specialist.
- Back to the Futura and Dinnerware Odds & Ends, Mid 1950s to Mid 1960s (two different presentations) by RWCS Hall of Famers Terry Moe & Larry Roschen.
- Red Wing Cinema: A Video of Red Wing Designer Eva Zeisel's 2000 RWCS Convention Keynote Presentation.

Thanks in advance to everyone who signed up to give a presentation this year. Convention is a great opportunity to add to your knowledge base, so I truly hope everyone takes the opportunity to attend the sessions that interest them.

Again, more information on these speakers and their topics can be found in the *RWCS Convention Supplement*, on the RWCS website and in the materials that can be picked up with your registration packet. See you in Red Wing! 🍷

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Minnesota State College Southeast 308 Pioneer Road	Red Wing National Guard Armory 885 E 7 th Street	Pottery Museum of Red Wing 240 Harrison Street
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CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

View the entire Convention Schedule on erwcs.org with your smart phone.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5: RWCS Board Meeting: 7 a.m. to noon, COLLEGE
RWCS Foundation Wine-ing for Red Wing: 6 to 9 p.m., MUSEUM

THURSDAY, JULY 6:

Commemorative Pickup: 8-10 a.m. & 1-2 p.m. COLLEGE; 3-4 p.m. ARMORY
Young Collectors Field Trip: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., leave from COLLEGE
Richard Spiller Pottery Demonstration: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., COLLEGE
Welcome Session/Keynote Presentation: 10:30 a.m. to noon, COLLEGE
Display Room open: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., COLLEGE
40th Anniversary Member Celebration: Noon, COLLEGE (lunch available for purchase)
Auction: 4:30 p.m., ARMORY

FRIDAY, JULY 7:

Display Room open: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., COLLEGE
Commemorative Room open: 8-10:50 a.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m., COLLEGE
Shared Interest Groups: 9-10 a.m., COLLEGE
KidsView: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., COLLEGE (lunch provided)
Richard Spiller Pottery Demonstration: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., COLLEGE
Adult Educational Seminars: 10 a.m. to 2:50 p.m., COLLEGE
Show & Sale move in: 1:30-2:30 p.m., ARMORY
Annual Business Meeting: 3:15 p.m., COLLEGE
CROCK HOP: 5 to 6:30 p.m., MUSEUM
Facebook Chapter Social: 6:30-8 p.m., MUSEUM

SATURDAY, JULY 8:

Commemorative Room: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., ARMORY
Show & Sale: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., ARMORY
Banquet: 5:30 p.m., MOUNT FRONTENAC GOLF COURSE

YOUNG COLLECTORS & KIDSVIEW INFO

Young Collectors will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 6. First, Potter Richard Spiller will host a hands-on pottery class at the College. Then participants will be transported to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing for a number of activities before returning to the College around noon for the 40th Anniversary Party.

KidsView: Parents and kids need to be at the College at 9:45 a.m. on Friday, July 7 for a 15-minute intro. Then kids will participate in activities like a hands-on clay project, "Paint Your Own Plate", a Show & Sale and more. Lunch will be provided; we'll break for lunch at 11:30 and then we'll return to activities until closing at 2 p.m. KidsView is limited to 40 participants this year. so make sure you pre-register your children! 🍷

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Above (from left to right): Children enjoy watching Pottery Museum Resident Potter Richard Spiller spin on a wheel and participating in hands-on activities of their own; RWCS Member Steve Johnson talks to the children about the various lines of stoneware that Red Wing created. All photos courtesy of Pottery Museum Manager Robin Wipperling.

RED WING'S 2ND GRADERS VISIT MUSEUM

For the first time since the RWCS Foundation opened the Pottery Museum back in 2001, an entire grade level from the Red Wing School District took a field trip to the museum. During the first week of May, 240 local 2nd graders made pinch pots, painted on Red Wing pottery plates, learned what it was like to go to a general store in the early 1900s, and were educated about the clay industry while touring the museum.

The pottery industry obviously played an important role in Red Wing's history, so we're very pleased that a visit to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing will be engrained in the memories of our local youth at such an early age. We hope this translates into the community having a deeper appreciation of Red Wing's wares long into the future. Many volunteers dedicated their time to make it a fun *and* educational experience for the children, so a big thanks goes out to everyone who helped!



Above (from left to right): Two of the participants who modeled period clothing paired with period Red Wing dinnerware; guests of honor and former Red Wing Potteries employees Jane Struss (left) and Doris Gardas; and the Affair for Dinnerware event committee.

AFFAIR FOR DINNERWARE ATTENDEES TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME

We had a great turnout at the 2nd Annual Affair for Dinnerware, which took place at Red Wing's historic St. James Hotel on May 13. This year we held a vintage style show, with models wearing fashions from the 1940s, 50s and 60s paired with an original dinnerware pattern from the Red Wing Potteries.

Guests enjoyed being served their lunch on beautiful Red Wing dinnerware. Our guests of honor were Doris Gardas and Jane Struss, both of whom painted dinnerware at the Potteries. A big thank you to the committee that helped make the event a success and to the event's sponsors: Larry's Jugs & Antiques, Red Wing Construction Co. and RWCS Members Wayne & Jean Miller.



MEET INVENTORY SPECIALIST JIN CRIMANDO

Thanks to a legacy grant we received from the Minnesota Historical Society, the Pottery Museum of Red Wing is in the process of inventorying the entire museum collection. We have two very qualified inventory specialists working on this project for a year. We introduced you to David Nichols in the April *RWCS Newsletter*; now we'd like you to meet Jin Crimando. Pictured at left, Jin was one of the models in this year's Affair for Dinnerware.

As an inventory specialist, Jin is working on cataloging more than 6,000 pieces of pottery. She just recently finished cataloging the dinnerware collection. Her favorite lines in the museum are the Kermis and Spruce dinnerware patterns. She says it is a privilege to touch every piece in the collection and she is enjoying the beauty of pottery. Jin grew up in Seoul, South Korea and moved to Minnesota in 2015 to marry the love of her life. Jin has a Bachelor's degree in Art Conservation from Yong-In University. After a working in the archaeological field as a conservator for a couple of years, she decided to continue her study in restoration of ceramics. She received a post-graduate diploma from West Dean College in England on classical ceramic restoration techniques. Jin is using these techniques as a freelancer in the Minnesota area as well as on a few small projects at the Pottery Museum. If you see Jin in the gallery, please feel free to say "hi" and introduce yourself. She would love to meet you all! 🍷 -Pottery Museum of Red Wing Manager Robin Wipperling

CONVENTION AUCTION PREVIEW

Are you seeing what I'm seeing?! From stoneware to dinnerware to art pottery, we have several exceptional pieces up for sale at this year's Convention Auction! This is shaping up to be the best auction we've had since 2010. Catalogs are already for sale for \$5 at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing and Larry's Jugs.

I'd like to thank everyone who submitted pieces to this year's auction. So many photos were sent in that there was no way we could fit them all, so visit the members-only section of the RWCS website to see more. Remember, every piece in this auction has been submitted by either a member, a chapter or the museum, so by bidding on these items, you are directly showing your support for your fellow collectors and the RWCS as a whole!

Finally, remember that there are several changes lined up for this year. First the Convention Auction will be held in the *air conditioned* Red Wing National Guard Armory at 885 E 7th St. in Red Wing. Consignors can check-in their pieces from Noon to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5 or 8 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 6. The earlier you can be there to submit your pieces, the better.

Auction viewing has been condensed into a shorter time window, so make sure you get there early. The viewing will run from 3 to 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 6, and the event itself will begin at 4:30 p.m. Parking at the Armory is limited, but we'll have a shuttle running from overflow parking at the Minnesota State Correctional Facility at 1079 County 292 Blvd., which is just down the road past the neighboring Days Inn. As always, members must be registered for Convention in order to attend and bid. That means you'll need your Convention badge to drop off your items, too. See pg. 4 for the locations and times of badge pickup. I can't wait to see you all there. Don't forget your wallet! 🍷 -Scott Hardman, RWCS Auction Manager



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A CHILDHOOD DISCOVERY

THE STORY OF NORTH STAR'S MOST ICONIC PIECE

Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

When you think about the best piece in your collection, there's usually a good story about how you acquired it. Maybe it's a coveted family heirloom that's been handed down for generations, or perhaps you found it hiding in an old barn or cellar. Maybe you won it at a hard-fought auction, or perhaps you bought it at a yard sale for pennies on the dollar.

Regardless, the odds are pretty good that you didn't physically dig it out of the ground with a stick when you were 12 years old. That's unless you're longtime RWCS Member Dan Barry.

It was 47 years ago when Dan unearthed his 1 gallon Albany slip beehive jug, which is stenciled "NORTH STAR STONEWARE COMPANY" on the front around a star and some decorative squiggles. Widely known as *the* most important and desirable piece of North Star Stoneware in existence, it's the only piece known to display a company signature on the side. Many believe it was made as a promotional display piece for the 1894 Minnesota State Fair. Dan found it buried behind the old barn in the backyard of his childhood home in 1970, which was located in Red Wing's College Hill neighborhood.

"The barn was quite the hangout for us kids," Dan recalls. "My dad rented the downstairs and us kids would have sleep outs and adventure upstairs. There was an old dumping ground behind it and I used to find old bottles, stoneware shards and rusty cast iron toys in it as a kid."

But that day, young Dan found two brown jugs sitting side-by-side, positioned upside down in the soil. Brushing off what he could see at first, one had a plain, embossed star on the bottom, and the other had the Red Wing "bird" bottom signature.

"I was digging around a big tree with a stick and my hands behind the barn in this dump area," he says. "It took me maybe half a day to dig both of them out. If I would have had a shovel, I might not have the jug. Kids with shovels and other metal tools can be careless."

After pulling the jugs out of the ground and washing them off in the bathroom sink – which his mother couldn't have liked, he admits – Dan called his dad's cousin, Helen Bell, for some expert advice. He and the rest of his family were very close to Helen, who never married or had any children of her own. (In addition to becoming a Charter Member of the RWCS later that decade, Helen was inducted

into the RWCS Hall of Fame in 2001.)

"It was always so easy to talk with Helen and she was a historian when it came to stoneware and the like," Dan explains. "Her father worked at the Potteries and I was named after him. She had heard of North Star, but said it was only in business four years. So I decided to try sell the jug at our family's garage sale and Helen suggested pricing it at \$40 – a lot of money back then for a 12 year old."

Forty dollars was a good sum for anyone back in 1970...it had around the same buying power as \$255 has today.

"Thank God nobody bought it," he says. "Everyone thought it was too much money."

It's of little surprise that the jug didn't sell way back then, but if you think about it, it's remarkable that no one was able to talk Dan out of it when he was a teenager or in his early 20s. Put yourself in his shoes when you were that age and think about all the expenses you had and the things you wanted. From a shiny new bicycle to a first car to eventually renting an apartment or even paying for college education, most of us would have sold

The undated photo below, likely from the very early 1900s, shows Red Wing's College Hill. The structure with the large columns, which no longer stands, was the main building of the Red Wing Men's Seminary campus. Dan's childhood home at 820 West Ave. can be seen at the foot of the hill in the center of the photo and a close up of the home and barn is pictured at lower right. Although mostly bare at the time this photo was taken, the side of the hill was filled with trees by the time Dan played there with friends and dug up the North Star jug behind the barn in 1970. One can only wonder if the jug was in the ground when this image was captured. Thanks to Goodhue County Historical Society Archives & Library Manager Afton Esson and Director Dustin Heckman for assistance in dating and identifying the photo.



a small old jug had the opportunity presented itself. Of course, the RWCS was in its infancy back then and even a strong offer in the late 1970s or early 1980s probably wouldn't have been considered "life changing" money by a teen. Dan recalls RWCS Charter Member Dave Stagner came up from Rochester, MN on occasion in the early 80s and tried to buy it, but he never caved.

"I think the most he offered for it was \$200, and Mom would say if he offers that much, it's probably worth more," Dan recalls.

The now famous jug resided on a shelf in Dan's bedroom all the years he lived at home, and was written up and pictured in the December 1977 *RWCS Newsletter*. He joined the Society in 1980 and the jug survived unscathed the years when he lived in an apartment as a bachelor. Busy getting married to his wife, Karen, and raising their two sons, his membership went inactive in 1985, but he rejoined the RWCS in the early 1990s. His collecting tastes vary between Red Wing's main lines of stoneware, dinnerware and art pottery. Advertising bean pots are one of his main areas of focus, and he's recently started to collect old hi-fi stereo equipment, as well.

A longtime employee of the Red Wing Shoe Co., Dan had been a fixture at RWCS Conventions and MidWinters in recent years, and is often found doing something or saying something that gets a big laugh out of fellow members. (If you saw him at the Friday night social at MidWinter in Des Moines last February, you witnessed that first hand!)

RWCS Hall of Famer Diane Hallstrom, a member of the RWCS Foundation Board, eventually asked Dan if he'd be willing to put his jug on display in the museum. Giving it some thought, he decided the museum would be a safer place for it and he likes that people can see it whenever they visit.

Dan took his jug to be appraised when the PBS Antique Roadshow series was in Minneapolis in 2011. Unfortunately they missed out on an exceptional piece and a great story, because they didn't film him for the show.

"They never really gave me a value due to it being too local and not a national brand," he says. "It was fun to be there with my mom, though. We stood in line for hours."

We'll never know who discarded the revered North Star jug long ago, when they did it,

or how they came into its possession in the first place. Call it luck or call it fate, but the collecting world is fortunate that 12-year-old Dan Barry was digging in his backyard that day many years ago. He's served as an admirable caretaker of the jug since discovering it, and seeing that he has no desire to sell it, hopefully he will continue to do so long into the future.

Editor's note: Although most of us may never have the opportunity to own this special piece, at least two modern collectible versions of the North Star jug have been made over the years. One is a miniature version signed on the bottom by the new Red Wing Stoneware Co., and the other is a ½ gallon jug signed on the back by longtime potter and RWCS Member Wyn Painter.

Below, RWCS Member Dan Barry poses with his jug inside the Pottery Museum of Red Wing. Pictured on page 60 of Red Wing Potters & Their Wares, authors RWCS Hall of Famers Gary & Bonnie Tefft describe the North Star jug's signature as "stenciled in an impure cream colored compound, possibly white glaze adulterated by the brown beneath." Photo courtesy of Pottery Museum Manager Robin Wipperling.





C.L. "Lou" McGrew turning a jug at the 1952 Red Wing Art Association Open House. He started in the pottery trade at age 12 in Louisville, NE before moving to Sioux City, IA and then Red Wing in 1892 to be a turner at the new North Star Stoneware Co. He went to the Minnesota Stoneware Co. when North Star closed and became foreman for the Red Wing Union Stoneware Co. in 1918. He's pictured in the nameplate on the cover of the RWCS Newsletter.



Emil Shotola examining a salt-glazed cream pot bearing his signature and the date 1894. Emil and his parents immigrated to Kenosha, WI from Bohemia in 1865. He moved to Red Wing in 1883 at age 18, and started working at the Minnesota Stoneware Co. as a slipper. Part of his job during the salt glaze era was to apply the cobalt decorations, so if you collect salt glaze, you very likely have pieces that bear his artistic designs.



George E. Smith started in RWSCo's second year of operation at the age of 9 and began an apprenticeship to become a turner in 1885. He left the pottery in 1908 to run a clothing store under his own name until 1916, but returned to employment as a traveling salesman under Red Wing Union Stoneware Co. until retiring at age 70 in 1941.



Longtime mold maker and designer J. George Hehr examining a stoneware "Liberty Bell" Red Wing apparently produced under special order for a lamp manufacturer. George's father, Gottlieb Hehr, was Red Wing's first mold maker, coming to Red Wing from Canton, OH in 1883. George retired in 1941 at age 70.

The Red Wing Art Association's 1952 Open House Footage

Story by RWCS Hall of Famer Gary Tefft

Sometimes you discover something bit-by-bit; it's like the gift that keeps on giving. In 1982, a year after Bonnie and I published the 1st Edition of *Red Wing Potters & Their Wares*, I had the opportunity to speak with long time art instructor and advocate Marge Vogel, who was instrumental in founding the Red Wing Art Association in 1951. (An article relating to Marge & Arnold Vogel appeared in the February 2017 *RWCS Newsletter*.) The Art Association hosted several of the old-time Red Wing pottery workers at an open house in February of 1952.

When I asked whether any photos existed from that event, she informed me that a 16mm color film was on file at the Goodhue County Historical Society Museum. She also said that they received help from "the Shotola sisters" in gathering information for a brochure published in 1953 for the 75th Anniversary of the potteries and that one of them was living in the old family home next door to Sargent's Nursery in Red Wing.

I obtained a copy of the film and gasped at its time-machine view of people who all had departed three decades earlier. We recognized Lou McGrew, who was shown turning a jug on a potter's wheel; others identified mold maker George Hehr. The most startling image was of a man proudly holding a large cream pot shaped, salt-glazed piece with "E. Shotola 1894" hand-written on the front in cobalt blue! I was aware of a worker named Emil Shotola, but had never seen a photograph.

I met, spoke via telephone or corresponded with three of Emil's daughters. Mrs. Irene Zerahn showed us her father's stoneware collection still in the family home, and Erma Shotola told me about their father taking a job at Haldeman Pottery in Burbank while visiting her and sister Dorothea in California a few years after his retirement from Red Wing Potteries in 1936. I was able to thank Mrs. May Wright for teaching me to read and write, as I had been one of her students at Red Wing's Hancock Elementary School (1st Grade Class of '53). Emil's info and photos were included in *Red Wing Potters & Their Wares* beginning with our 2nd Edition (pg. 101).

The images of George Hehr show him holding a stoneware miniature of the Liberty Bell in the bronze-tan glaze seen on certain pieces in place of the more common green on brushed ware pieces. Since such a piece wasn't among known Red Wing products, the film provided provenance that Red Wing made the example that RWCS Charter Member Jewell Peterson found in the mid-1980s. Then, in 2006 at Memory Makers Antique shop in Red Wing, we discovered a side-table lamp, which used the bell as a shade over the bulb. More recently, I swear I found a "Liberty

Bell Lamp" included in a catalog for another pottery; suggesting that the bells were made on contract with the lamp manufacturer by at least one other pottery. Being unable to find it again in our collection of competitors' catalogs has me questioning whether my memory was created in a dream.

I had a digital copy made of the film footage and I've now added titles and captions describing the scenes in the silent film. It can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/RWPotters>.

One of the gentlemen shown in the film had remained unidentified until, in the course of creating the video, I searched Ancestry.com, a resource unavailable 25 years ago, for persons named in articles written about the Red Wing Art Association's Open House. To my delight, a relative of George E. Smith had created a family tree and included a photo that matched the fourth old-time potter in the film. Some gifts just keep on giving! 🍪

Below: The stoneware Liberty Bell we purchased at Jewell Peterson's auction in Red Wing in 1994 and the "Liberty Bell Lamp" we discovered in 2006 at Memory Makers Antique Shop in Red Wing. The open book beneath the bell has a historical essay about the famous Liberty Bell. The bells may also have been supplied by other potteries. A tableful of Uhl pieces was pictured on the RWCS Facebook Chapter page by an Uhl Pottery collector on March 28; it included an identical lamp.



Photo courtesy of Gary Tefft.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GIVE SOME LOVE TO RED WING'S STRING INSTRUMENTS

I joined the RWCS in 2006 and I've always enjoyed receiving the *RWCS Newsletter*. I don't remember ever seeing any Red Wing violins, mandolins or banjos in the newsletter though, so I wanted to share some photos from my collection.

I acquired my first piece of Red Wing back in 1954 when two friends and I drove across the country from where we lived in Montana. We happened to go to Red Wing, where we visited the Potteries' factory-second store. Over the years I always liked antiquing and adding to my collection whenever I found a piece I liked that I could afford. I have lots of dishes, crocks and chicken feeders, but my most unusual piece is a Red Wing crock with a cone-shaped bottom that was used as a water cooler at my husband's elementary school. Harlen remembered filling a bucket with water and dumping it inside the crock as a child at the beginning of the school day. It was attached to a fountain through a hose, but we never had the fountain part.

I'm moving in with my daughter now and a lot of my collection is packed away in boxes. But she's hung the violins and banjos in their music room, so I get to enjoy looking at them every day.

My husband and I used to go to a local weekly auction about 20 years ago where I acquired a lot of my collection. One week we didn't make it, and when we went to the preview the following week, one of the auction workers said she had something for me. The previous week, the Red Wing banjo came up for auction and she knew I'd want it. She got it for me for \$10! That one has a special place in my heart.

As a side note, I was always inspired by my cousin's Red Wing collection – "Buzzy" (Con) Short. He and Sandy sure had a lot of great stuff. I spent a lot of time at his father's ranch when we were growing up. Being the oldest of the cousins, I often babysat everyone. We spent weeks out there when my father helped build rooms onto the log cabin they had on their property. Anyway, keep up the good work! -RWCS Member Jeanne Wilhelm



FUN FLORIDA FLEA FIND

I was shopping the Webster Westside Flea Market in Florida in February when I came upon a piece I had never seen before. At first I walked past it, but something told me to give it a closer look.

As the photos show, this is a typical 5 gallon bail-handled Red Wing crock with a very untypical, custom-made locking metal enclosure wrapped around the original Red Wing bar-handled lid. I discussed it with a friend who was also at the flea market, fellow RWCS Member Ruth Grandbois, and she agreed it was certainly unique.

The dealer told me he bought it off the porch of a lady who was using it to store birdseed. Although he had a healthy price on it, I knew I couldn't leave it there. I offered \$200 and we settled on \$250. I would have paid more for it though...it was too neat to pass up.

Ruth posted photos on the RWCS Facebook Chapter page and no one who commented had seen anything like it before, either. I have no idea what it was used for, but one person thought it might have been made to securely store wine. Another suggested it could have been used for locking up sugar when it was rationed during WWI or WWII.

Since no else I've heard from has ever seen anything like it, I'm thinking it couldn't have been a mass produced item. However, it had to be fabricated in some type of metal shop, because it's really well done and had to require a lot of time. It's bolted and riveted and the original bail handles were swapped out for thicker, custom-made metal handles that have a decorative twist. The inside is made of copper. If anyone knows of a similar piece or has any ideas about its original intended purpose, I'd love to hear about it! Please e-mail Rick at newsletter@redwingcollectors.org and he'll pass the info along to me. Thanks!

-RWCS Member Bryan Drye





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AD RATES

Classified ads are 20¢ per word for members and 30¢ per word for non-members; \$4 minimum charge and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to appearing in the newsletter, classifieds and display ads are posted on the RWCS website.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	Ad Rate
Full page	\$500
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	275
1/4 page	150
1/8 page	85

Display ads purchased by non-members cost an additional 15%.

DISPLAY AD DIMENSIONS

Full Page	8 x 10.5
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	8 x 5.25
1/4 page	4 x 5.25
1/8 page	4 x 2.125

Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or PDF file. There is an additional 10 percent fee for design and makeup if needed (\$10 minimum).

DEADLINES

Issue	Ads	Editorial	Mail Date
February	Jan. 10	Jan. 1	Feb. 15
April	March 10	March 1	April 15
June	May 10	May 1	June 15
August	July 25	July 15	Aug. 31
October	Sept. 10	Sept. 1	Oct. 15
December	Nov. 10	Nov. 1	Dec. 15

EDITOR ADDRESS

E-mail your ad to newsletter@redwingcollectors.org and send your check to: Rick Natynski, P.O. Box 198, Pewaukee, WI 53072. If you don't have e-mail, you can mail your ad with your check or call Rick at 414-416-WING (9464).

CLASSIFIEDS

RED WING FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Entire crockery collection, which includes crocks, jugs, Mason jars, and bottles (all crockery). Most is Red Wing. 40+ items. X-large Red Wing crocks, too! Located in Washington State. Contact pagarrissoemaker@hotmail.com or 907-750-6278.

FOR SALE: RWCS Commemoratives 1989-2016 (includes all boxes); 4 salt glaze crocks with lids, including 20 gallon salt glaze front-stamped butterfly crock. Many other rare crocks, large variety of Birchleaf crocks, 5 wing churns, 3 Birchleaf churns, Safety valve jars and RW canoe. Located near Hannibal, MO. BEST OFFERS CONSIDERED! Call Billie at 573-231-6727. (6/17)

FOR SALE: Bob White dinnerware (28 pcs) and Tampico dinnerware (27 pcs). E-mail Kathy at swannpower@aol.com for info and pictures.

FOR SALE: Red Wing 1/8 pint "Merchants Hotel, St. Paul, Minn." advertising mini jug, no damage or repairs, \$750.00. Contact Rich at poorrichards@windstream.net.



FOR SALE: 2017 BARGAIN! – must sell all Red Wing Commemoratives years 1986 through 2011. Includes two versions (A and B) of 2009 Xmas "advertising bean pot". 26 Red Wing Commemoratives, all in boxes and never displayed; mint condition. In addition, included in sale is a "Minnesota/Michigan Who Will Win?" mini jug. Made in 1930 with "Minnesota/Michigan" on one side and "Who Will Win?" on the other in blue ink. Brown top with light brown bottom. No cork. Small chip on top rim, otherwise perfect

condition. Price for mini jug and all commemoratives is \$500.00. Delivery in St. Paul, MN, or at the July Convention in Red Wing. Call 651-484-2959 or e-mail bagnoli555@aol.com.

EVENTS

AUCTIONS: Houghton Auctions will hold two great stoneware & pottery auctions during Convention Week just across the bridge from Red Wing at The Bluffs Bar & Grill at N1833 785th St., Hager City, WI. The first will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 4, 2017 and the second will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2017. See photos for both auctions online at www.houghtonauctions.com. Printed catalogs will be available onsite for \$5 each.

RED WING SALE: Tom & Nancy's, 533 Frenn Ave., Red Wing. Two blocks from Tech College. Monday, July 3 to Friday, July 7 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Including salt glaze, mini jugs, water coolers, beehives, advertising jugs and crocks, art pottery, misc. RW and GREAT antiques. We also buy Red Wing. Thanks!

RED WING WANTED

WANTED: Green Iris Pitcher, any size. Also need 6 inch size Iris Pitcher in Burgundy and yellow. Contact Lee at Lee.elder47@gmail.com or 785-738-8363.

WANTED: Bob White 4 oz. juice tumblers, supper sets, marmites & cocktail trays; Roundup water cooler w/ stand; Delta Blue water cooler & coffee mugs; Tampico tumblers & tall beverage mugs. Contact Herb at hdaniels000@gmail.com or 417-876-7104. 12/17

WANTED: Hamm's Red Wing Banks, Brown Bears and Unique Hamm's Red Wing items. CASH PAID. Call Kirk RWCS member #917 at 612-618-3717 or 763-252-0114 (office). 8/17

WANTED: 155 vases, white/ivory, 9" & 12" tall. E-mail ralphryan@charter.net. 10/17

WANTED: Syracuse, NY glass or stoneware pieces – Geo. W. Halloway Drug Store. Contact Ed at lindy9122@gmail.com or 315-637-9747. 8/17

WANTED: Mini and salesman sample flower pots in all colors. Contact cobe142@cox.net or 402-598-1315.

WANTED: Looking for a Willow Wind pattern Spoon Rest – the last one I need to complete my collection of Red Wing spoon rests! Please call Margaret at 651-388-9729.

WANTED: NORTH DAKOTA! Looking for jugs, crocks, butter crocks and churns with advertising. Will pay top dollar for the right pieces. Contact 701-270-0242 or beehive@polarcomm.com.

WANTED: Will pay strong price for Red Wing bean pot with Westby, Wis. advertising. Contact Rich at repatlargeeast@redwingcollectors.org or 608-617-7424



WANTED: This jug! If you're the one who bought it, or you know who did, let's talk! I am a serious buyer! Contact Rick at newsletter@redwingcollectors.org or 414-416-9464.

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REGULAR HOURS:

June thru August: Tuesday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sept. thru December: Thursday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2017 CONVENTION HOURS:

Friday, June 30 thru Friday, July 7: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Mark your calendars! We'll be at the Stoneware & Antique Sale in downtown Walnut, IA on Sept. 16-17.

SHORT FAMILY AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The Short Family did it again! After holding a very successful 600-lot auction consisting of Red Wing and North Dakota pottery in spring of 2016, they held another epic sale of the same size in Fargo on April 8 of this year. The seats were packed once again, and while there were some deals to be had on the fairly common items, the most rare and desirable pieces pictured here brought strong prices.

A big thanks goes out to RWCS Members Lucas & Staci Beseke and Jim Sondeland for reporting sale prices and submitting photos during and after the auction. Here's a look at some of the best pieces to cross the block. 🍷

Auctioneer Dean Moos of North Star Auctions calls for bids for a rare 1 gallon Red Wing dome-top fruit jar. It sold for only \$600 due to being cracked down the side. A ½ gallon version in much better condition sold for \$4,300!



\$16,000



\$11,000



\$7,200



\$3,900



\$3,800



\$3,500



\$3,200



\$2,900



\$3,000



\$3,000



\$2,900



\$2,200



\$2,200



\$2,300



\$2,200



\$2,000



\$1,950



\$1,700

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

5 gal Red Wing Leaf Beehive, \$3,100
10 lb. Red Wing Rhame, ND Adv. Butter Crock: \$2,400

Rosemeade Indian God of Peace Ashtray: \$1,175
Rosemeade Alligator: \$1,000

COMING IN THE AUGUST ISSUE...



CONVENTION REVIEW



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