

Notes From the Farms

THE JOURNAL OF THE STICKLEY MUSEUM AT CRAFTSMAN FARMS



From the Director's Chair

—Vonda K. Givens

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

To borrow a catchphrase from the '80s TV show *The A-Team*, "I love it when a plan comes together." Perhaps you've had this experience too. You're part of a conversation when an idea is hatched—just a seed of a plan—and that idea grows, is slowly nurtured, and over time you realize that this small seed has grown into a fully blossoming flower. It's a thrilling experience!

I've had this experience twice in the past year: first, with our popular *Live, Play, Eat* exhibition, that revived our on-site exhibitions program, helped us break a monthly attendance record, and as I write, has been extended two more weeks. I've also had this experience with our upcoming exhibition: *Early Newcomb Pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection*.

Inspired by the exhibition Women, Art, and Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise, which has toured North America since late 2014 and will soon be hosted by the nearby Princeton University Art Museum, our Early Newcomb

Continued on page 2

ONE NEWCOMB POTTERY: Two Complementary Exhibitions

Early Newcomb Pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms May 7–November 6, 2016

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Women, Art & Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise Princeton University Art Museum May 7–July 10, 2016

The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Princeton University Art Museum in bringing two complementary exhibitions featuring the distinctive ceramics and handicrafts of Newcomb Pottery to New Jersey. These two exhibitions, both opening on Saturday, May 7, provide an opportunity to see a range of objects produced by this important southern pottery. The Princeton University Art Museum will host the nationally traveling exhibition organized by the Newcomb Art Gallery of Tulane University and circulated by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms will present a selection of early Newcomb pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection.

Stickley Museum Exhibition

The exhibition at the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms will feature a private collection of 28 examples



Vase with thistles, 1903. Newcomb Pottery, unknown decorator, Fuldner Collection.

of early Newcomb pottery amassed over the past three decades by Barbara Fuldner, a great-granddaughter of Gustav Stickley, and her late husband, Henry Fuldner. The dining room of the Log House will be the setting for the exhibition, affording a rare opportunity to see Newcomb pottery in an authentic period Arts and Crafts setting. Stickley's Craftsman furniture and the home's interior will serve as the backdrop for the pottery, and examples of textile work from both enterprises will provide a rich, visual context.

Continued on page 2



Director's Chair continued from page 1

Pottery exhibition began with a phone call on a late Friday afternoon in the summer—not a typical time for launching groundbreaking ideas! But that phone call led to an email, which led to a lot more phone calls and emails, until we had more than an idea. We had an exhibition.

A passionate and dedicated team has been planning this exhibition and its accompanying catalogue. Our museum is partnering with Princeton University Art Museum on programs, including a lecture at Princeton by Martin Eidelberg on June 18 (watch our website for updates), and planning our own exciting events, from a Farms Afield day-trip to special Girl Scout workshops. I'm most excited about a full-blown celebration planned for Saturday, June 4. In honor of Newcomb Pottery, its rich history and origination in New Orleans, we're hosting a "NOLA Night" at Craftsman Farms, bringing a little of the Big Easy to Stickley's Garden of Eden. Mark your calendar now!

I generally open this column with a phrase more sober than the Cajun expression so often associated with New Orleans, but "let the good times roll," is how I'm feeling. Although all I did was take a phone call on a late Friday afternoon, I'm proud of helping to nurture the seed of a good idea into full bloom.

I hope you'll be inspired to see the *Early Newcomb Pottery* exhibition at the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. I also hope you'll make a day of it by visiting the Princeton University Art Museum for the *Women, Art, and Social Change* exhibition too (but make plans now, both exhibitions open on the same day, May 7, but the Princeton exhibition closes on July 10). I hope you'll attend any or all of our associated special programs and events. In short, I hope you'll celebrate with us! I love it when a plan comes together. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Newcomb Pottery continued from page 1

The exhibition may be viewed during all regular tours (Thursday to Sunday, hourly from 12:15-3:15 p.m.). Special-interest tours allowing an opportunity for photography and in-depth exploration will be offered twice each month on Saturdays (see page 5). In addition, a variety of programs and events in conjunction with the exhibition have been scheduled, including a Farms Afield day trip to Princeton, a festive on-site celebration on June 4, and a lecture in partnership with the Princeton University Art Museum on June 18. Please see the calendar below for more information.

Princeton University Art Museum Exhibition

The exhibition at Princeton is devoted to Newcomb College's handicraft programs from the years between 1890 and 1940. While the major focus will be on Newcomb pottery, examples of embroidered textiles, metal ware, jewelry, bookbinding, and graphic arts will be included. More than half of the exhibition's 100 objects on view will be ceramics, and they will cover the full range of the enterprise's history, from the familiar, beautifully crafted works in the Arts and Crafts mode to the less familiar Art Deco and Modernist works that Newcomb produced in its later years.

For further details on the exhibition and upcoming programs at the Princeton University Art Museum, visit artmuseum.princeton.edu.

EVENTS CALENDAR

All events at the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, unless otherwise noted. Please visit StickleyMuseum.org for further information or to register.

Saturday, May 7, 5-7 p.m.

Opening Reception: Early Newcomb

Pottery from the Barbara and Henry
Fuldner Collection (See page 1.)

Saturday, May 14 at 10:30 & 11:15 a.m. Live Animal Show with Animal Experiences! (See page 4.)

Saturday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m. Special Interest Tour: *Early New-comb Pottery Exhibition* (See page 5.)

Friday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Farms Afield: Princeton (See page 4.)

May 28 at 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Live Animal Show with Animal Experiences! (See page 4.)

Saturday, May 28 at 11:30 a.m. Special Interest Tour: *Early New-comb Pottery Exhibition* (See page 5.) Saturday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. Special Interest Tour: *Early New-comb Pottery Exhibition* (See page 5.)

Saturday, June 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Crafted Evenings "NOLA Night" (See page 5.)

June 11 at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Paper Moon Puppet Theater! (See page 4.)

Saturday, June 18, 3:00 p.m., Presented in Partnership with Princeton University Art Museum at Princeton University Art Museum Lecture by Dr. Martin Eidelberg: "Newcomb Pottery: Myths of Regionalism and Gender"

Saturday, June 25 at 11:30 a.m. Special Interest Tour: *Early New-comb Pottery Exhibition* (See page 5.)



Photos courtesy of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau and MFA, Boston

FARMS AFIELD: BOSTON!

Please join us for our upcoming Farms Afield: Boston, Wednesday-Friday, July 27-30. Showcasing Boston's key early role in the American Arts and Crafts movement, this trip combines favorite activities from past trips with exciting "uniquely Boston" experiences.

Explore the American Arts and Crafts movement in Boston, from a custom walking tour of the historic North End neighborhood, home to the Revere and Saturday Evening Girls potteries, to a private curator's tour of the Arts and Crafts collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Farms Afield: Boston's can't-miss experiences include an exclusive cocktail party in the exquisite home of a Stickley descendant and Arts and Crafts collector and a catered dinner at Stonehurst, the magnificent 1886 Robert Treat Paine estate, the domestic masterpiece and collaboration of visionaries H. H. Richardson and Frederick Law Olmstead.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at the Union Oyster House, America's oldest restaurant and a National Historic Landmark, and accommodations at The Boxer Hotel, a newly renovated boutique hotel in Boston's historic (1904) Flatiron Building.



Historic Beacon Hill



MFA, Boston



Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Farms Afield fees: \$1350 per person based on double occupancy; \$300 supplement for a single room. Fees include 3-night accommodations, 5 meals (daily breakfast and 2 dinners), and all planned activities. Farms Afield: Boston is a Member Exclusive. Space is limited. Early registration is encouraged. By prior arrangement, attendees are welcome to pay trip fees in installments.

Please note that transportation is not provided to Boston.

Visit <u>theboxerboston.com</u>, for information on getting to The Boxer Hotel by cab, train, subway, or car, and a neighborhood parking guide.

Farms Afield: Boston begins in the late afternoon on 7/27 and ends in the late morning on 7/30. An itinerary will be provided in advance.

Trip activities require moderate walking, include two walking tours and a lengthy museum tour. Please plan accordingly. Full refunds are available through 7/6/16; after this date only 50% refunds are available. No refunds after the trip begins.



Petting a hedgehog.

SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE STICKLEY MUSEUM

Skip the cartoons and spend Saturday Mornings at the Stickley Museum! We're excited to announce a new series of quality children's programs designed to educate and entertain young audiences about values Gustav Stickley held dear, like the value of home and our place in the natural world.

Live Animal Show with Animal Experiences!

Get up close and personal with animals in a fun and safe environment. This 30-minute show introduces children to wild, exotic and farm animals. Kids will learn about each animal, their natural habitat, and what we can do to protect their homes—they'll even get to pet some of the animals! Each animal was rescued by Happy Tales Animal Sanctuary, given a loving, permanent home and has an amazing story that is sure to leave you with an ear-to-ear smile!

May 14 and May 28 at 10:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Paper Moon Puppet Theater

The Touring Company of the Paper Moon Puppet Theater brings us Punch and Judy and the Three Little Lambs, a classic puppet show production sure to delight young spectators. Share the fun as the three little lambs foil their old nemesis Mr. BBW Wolf. This 50-minute show begins with an interactive session as puppeteers stroll through the audience with marionettes.

June 11 at 12:30 and 2:30p.m.

\$8 children \$8 adults

Advanced registration is required. For more information and to register, visit StickleyMuseum.org.



Princeton University Art Museum

We're going to Princeton — for a day!

Meet us at the Princeton University Art Museum where we'll tour *Women, Art, and Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise.* The inspiration for our own concurrent exhibition, Princeton's exhibition brings together works created during the entire 45-year lifespan of the Newcomb enterprise.

Then we'll walk through charming downtown Princeton to the historic Nassau Inn and enjoy a buffet lunch in the famous Yankee Doodle Tap Room with its massive 18th century stone hearth and 13-foot wide Norman Rockwell mural.

We'll take in some of the area's distinctive historic sites, like Bainbridge House, Nassau Hall, the University Chapel and Palmer Square on a private Historical Society of Princeton Walking tour. The early history of Princeton, the founding of the University and Princeton's role in the American Revolution are just some of the stories that we'll hear on tour.

This trip is a benefit of membership. You must be a member to attend.

Farms Afield: Princeton

Friday, May 20, 2016, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (approx.) Meet at Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ \$55 Members

Advanced registration is required.

Visit StickleyMuseum.org or call 974.540.0311 to register.

Space is limited. Transportation to Princeton is not provided. Rain or shine. Comfortable footwear and weather-appropriate clothing is recommended. Attendees will walk from the museum to the Nassau Inn. The Princeton Walking Tour covers approximately 2 miles on foot.





A selection of Newcomb pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection

Special Interest Tours: Early Newcomb Pottery Exhibition

Por an in-depth look at the Early Newcomb Pottery exhibition, make plans to attend a Special Interest Tour, offered Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. (see below for dates). Set in the context of Gustav Stickley's own Log House dining room, Early Newcomb Pottery features 28 unique pieces produced pre-1915. We'll delve into the rich history of Newcomb Pottery and examine the relationship between Newcomb Pottery and Stickley's own Arts and Crafts endeavors through an exploration of specific pieces on view.

Photography (for personal use) will be permitted during Special Interest Tours.

Special Interest Tour: Early Newcomb
Pottery Exhibition
Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.
May 14 and 28; June 4 and 25;
July 9 and 23; Aug. 13 and 20;
Sept. 10 and 24; Oct 8 and 22
\$5 Members
\$10 Non Members
\$15 Non Member Combo Ticket (Includes
Special Interest Tour and Essential Tour
admission; must be used on the same day)



"NOLA MIGHT" WILL CELEBRATE THE NEWCOMB POTTERY EXHIBITION

Please join us as we bring a little of the Big Easy to Stickley's Garden of Eden! In honor of the rich history of Newcomb Pottery, which originated at Tulane University in New Orleans, the Stickley Museum will host NOLA Night on Saturday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a party celebrating the singular tastes and sounds of the Big Easy. The evening will feature live jazz, Cajun-style heavy hors d'oeuvres, signature NOLA cocktails, and the museum's special exhibition: Early Newcomb Pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection. Masks and beads will be provided!

Before the party starts, guests who upgrade to the VIP package will be treated to an exclusive **Inside the Exhibition** panel discussion, featuring Barbara Fuldner, Marilee Meyer and Adrienne Spinozzi. Fuldner, a great-granddaughter of Gustav Stickley, together with her late husband Henry Fuldner, assembled the beautiful collection of early Newcomb pottery on view. In addition to being an independent consultant, researcher, appraiser, and broker, Meyer helped the Fuldners build their collection and curated the exhibition. Spinozzi, whose research provided a central focus for the exhibition and catalog, is a Research Associate at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The panel will provide an in-depth look into the development of the collection, the genesis of the exhibition, and the history and legacy of Newcomb Pottery. The VIP package also includes a complimentary exhibition catalogue.

Crafted Evenings: NOLA Night Saturday, June 4, 5:30-7:30p.m. \$40 (Party only)

VIP Package (NOLA Night Party + Panel Discussion & Catalogue) 4:30-7:30 p.m. \$65



Inspired by Nature: Designs for

rt Pottery—pottery created first and foremost as objects of artistic expression—captivated the nation in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The overwhelmingly positive response to decorative ceramics on view at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition made a lasting impact on many. In addition to encouraging the public to collect beautiful things, it also spurred the creation of decorated pottery on a scale never seen before or since in this country. This phenomenon gave rise to the dozens of art potteries that developed around the turn of the century, and by and large, the most common source of inspiration for decorating pottery was the natural world.



Figure 1.

This was certainly the case for Newcomb Pottery, where southern plants, flowers, small creatures, and landscapes dominated the subject matter. Early in the pottery's production, it was decided that the designs should derive from indigenous flora and fauna, underscoring its locale in New Orleans, Louisiana. Drawing directly from nature was an essential skill for the decorators at Newcomb. As evidenced in a large collection of floral studies by Harri-

et Coulter Joor (1875–1965), one of Newcomb's most celebrated artists, the decorators not only drew the motif from different perspectives, but often annotated their sketches with the plant's various names, notes about when they bloomed, and even literary allusions. As seen in her "Rain-lilies" study from 1899,



Figure 2.

Ioor indicated the months in which the lilies bloomed, the range of colors, and even the various widths of the foliage (Fig. 1). She also noted that it "blooms profusely after rain," all a part of her meticulous observation of her subject. While some of her studies are cursory sketches, others are more finished watercolors, such as "Spiderwort" (Fig. 2). In this work, Joor carefully noted the proper Latin name, Tradescantia, alongside "Spiderwort" and "Job's Tears," the plant's more common names. Joor's asymmetrical composition reflects a familiarity with Japanese design. This cache of Joor drawings provides invaluable insight into this important aspect of the design process at Newcomb. One can reasonably assume that many of the other decorators had their own portfolios of such plant studies. Both of these studies relate to pottery decorated by Joor and demonstrate that these works served as guides for the designers (Figs. 3, 4). Two examples of pottery by Joor—one of lilies, the other of spiderwort—are in the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection and will be on view in the upcoming exhibition *Early Newcomb Pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection* opening May 7, 2016 at the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms.

While drawing from nature was a critical skill, the decorators did not simply copy their studies onto their blank vessels. The next step in the process was to create a pattern from their drawings, a skill that required understanding of conventionalization, patterning, and spacing on three-dimensional forms. The Newcomb decorators were especially adept at adapting their plant studies into conventionalized designs—abstracted, flattened, and as a repeated motif. Another early Newcomb



Figure 3.

Pottery vase exhibiting mastery of an abstracted tulip converted into a repeat pattern is one in the collection of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms (Fig. 5). Its cur-

Photo by Tom Gleason

NEWCOMB POTTERY — ADRIENNE SPINOZZI

vilinear design of tulips is defined by the strong, sweeping lines of the stems which morph into the lower border in the Art Nouveau manner. This design represents the type of instruction presented in the pages of Keramic Studio, an important manual essential to potters and ceramic artists of the day. This vase was among almost thirty examples by Newcomb Pottery illustrated in the April 1903 issue of *The Art* Interchange (Fig. 6). The article, like those in many other magazines, featured work from the most prominent art potteries and potters of the period, and brought attention to the diverse ceramic work being produced throughout the country.



Figure 4.

As these few examples illustrate, the Newcomb decorators were very knowledgeable of their surrounding environment and took great interest in learning about the local plant life that thrived in the South. The range of decorative motifs employed by the pottery attest to how serious the decorators were about the study of the natural world and how skilled they were at adapting their drawings into designs appropriate for ceramics.

Figures:

Fig. 1: Graphite drawing of "Rain-lilies," 1899, Harriet Coulter Joor (1875–1965). Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2008.05.116.a)

Fig. 2: Watercolor of "Spiderwort," undated, Harriet Coulter Joor (1875–1965), Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2008.05.06)

Fig. 3: Pitcher decorated with lilies, 1905. Newcomb Pottery, designed by Harriet Coulter Joor (1875–1965), Fuldner Collection (22)

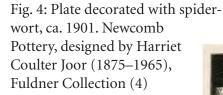


Fig. 5: Vase decorated with tulips, 1902. Newcomb Pottery, decorated by Sara Bloom Levy (1884–1955). Collection of The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms

Fig. 6: Photograph of Newcomb Pottery, ca. 1902-03, from *The Art Interchange* (April 1903), 89.

Excerpted from:

Adrienne Spinozzi, "That which is simple and familiar": Newcomb Pottery, Gustav Stickley, and the Arts and Crafts Movement" in the exhibition catalogue *Early Newcomb Pottery from the Barbara and Henry Fuldner Collection*.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

About the Author:

Adrienne Spinozzi is a Research Associate in the American Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her current projects include research for a publication on the Robert A. Ellison Jr. Collection of American Art Pottery. She is a graduate of Hartwick College and the Bard Graduate Center.



THE CRAFTSMAN GUILD

January 1 to December 31, 2015

We are extremely grateful to the members of the 2015 Craftsman Guild Donor Circle whose generous support had a significant impact on the preservation and operations of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. The name Craftsman Guild was chosen because Gustav Stickley deeply admired the medieval practice in which artisans worked cooperatively within a guild. Our Guild is an alliance of advocates working together to further the mission of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms.

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Our Ruth Cruess Glesmann Memorial Walkway proudly greets visitors as they arrive for educational programs and events. We invite you to partner with us on the walkway, make a meaningful donation to the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms and be a part of the permanent landscape at Craftsman Farms.

Permanently engrave your name or the name of a loved one in the walkway. A limited number of 12" square paving stones are available (\$1,000/each) and 4 x 8 brick size pavers are also available for engraving (\$500/each). This naming opportunity is the perfect way to com-



memorate an important birthday or anniversary, remember a loved one, or to declare your support for the mission of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. You'll be in good company with other Museum supporters when you take your place on the walkway! To learn more, including information on payment plans, call us at 973.540.0311 or visit StickleyMuseum.org.

BRING HOME A TREASURE

The Museum Shop at The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms is mission-driven and features a selection of Arts-and-Crafts style home décor, textiles, art prints, pottery and tiles, books, museum-branded merchandise, and more. We feature many

products from local artists and small and family-owned companies, and many items made in the USA.

Purchases made in the Museum Shop directly support the operations of the Stickley Museum and the care of this National Historic Landmark. So why not plan a trip this spring to see the magnolia trees in bloom, peruse our Newcomb Pottery exhibition, and find a special treat for yourself or a loved one in the Shop!

For those who are unable to visit the Museum Shop in person, we offer a limited selection of items for sale online at StickleyMuseum.org/Shop.





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Daniel Lebenstein

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VISITING CRAFTSMAN FARMS

Craftsman Farms is located at 2352 Route 10 West Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

The entrance is located on Route 10 West at Manor Lane, about 3 miles west of I-287 in Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey (mailing address is Morris Plains). Driving directions are available at StickleyMuseum.org.

Free to members and children under 2 Adults: \$10; Seniors & Students \$5

Closed on Major Holidays.

Museum Tour Schedule Hours:

Thursday through Sunday, year-round Tours depart hourly 12:15 to 3:15 p.m.

Group Tours available by reservation. Call 973.540.0311

MUSEUM SHOP HOURS
Thursday through Sunday Noon to 4 p.m.

CONTACT US
Offices: 973.540.0311
Museum Shop: 973.540.1165
Email: info@StickleyMuseum.org
Web: StickleyMuseum.org



The Stickley Museum at Craftsman

Farms is committed to assuring that all individuals can participate in our programs. If you require the use of assistive listening devices or other special assistance please call at least two weeks in advance.

Craftsman Farms, the former home of noted designer Gustav Stickley, is owned by the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills and is operated by The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, Inc., ("SMCF") (formerly known as The Craftsman Farms Foundation, Inc.). SMCF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New Jersey. Restoration of the National Historic Landmark, Craftsman Farms, is made possible, in part, by a Save America's Treasures Grant administered by the National Parks Service, Department of the Interior, and by support from Morris County Preservation Trust, The New Jersey Historic Trust, and individual members. SMCF received an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. SMCF gratefully acknowledges a grant from the New Jersey Cultural Trust. Educational programs are funded, in part, by grants from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund.





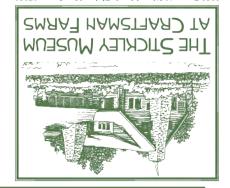


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Return Service Requested

StickleyMuseum.org

2352 Route 10 West, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950 voice: 973.540.0311 email: info@stickleymuseum.org



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