

# PRIMITIVE PIECES

The Newsletter of The Museum of Primitive Art and Culture

1058 Kingstown Road, Room 5

Peace Dale, R.I. 02879 ♦ (401) 783-5711 ♦ [www.primitiveartmuseum.org](http://www.primitiveartmuseum.org)

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## Pueblo Pottery: A Collector's Journey

Joe and Kathy Gallichio were on a ski vacation in Aspen, Colorado in 1988 when they wandered into a shop and saw a piece of Pueblo pottery they liked.

They bought it, not aware that they were beginning a hobby that would span decades and take them from their home in New York back to the Southwest more than two dozen times.

"One day we looked around and said, 'How did we get all this stuff?' Joe says. That's when they realized they had accidentally become collectors.

Now retired from the financial industry and living in North Kingstown, Joe is passionate about pottery made by the Puebloan peoples, a large group of Native American clans found mostly in New Mexico and Arizona.

The Puebloan peoples are diverse, spanning several language groups and including

both matrilineal and patrilineal kinship systems. The Taos, Acoma, Zuni, and Hopi are the best-known. At the time of Spanish invasion in the 16th century, they lived in villages the Spanish called "pueblos," or towns.



A jar from Joe and Kathy's collection

On Friday, November 21, Joe will visit the Museum Gallery to talk about the many pueblos he has visited and the characteristic pottery of each one.

He will also talk about how the

pottery is made, from collecting the clay to coiling, shaping, and firing.

Joe and Kathy's collection is diverse. It includes contemporary artists, family lines and several of the major historic artists. Some pieces are more than a century old.

Collecting has provided Joe and Kathy with an excellent reason to take vacations— and it has also enabled them to see what Joe calls "some of the most beautiful places in America."

When they began to collect Pueblo pottery, Joe and Kathy would stop at every "Pottery" sign.

Now, they travel to the Southwest to visit with friends they have made over their years of collecting, as well as to selectively add to their collection.

Joe's presentation will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum Gallery.

Our Fall Lecture Series begins on Thursday, October 9th

Thursday, October 9th

## Pioneers of the China Trade

After the Treaty of Paris freed American trade from the control of the British in 1783, Americans began to arrive in the Chinese port of Canton (now Guangzhou), eager to take part in the profitable China Trade. Opium, ginseng, and furs were among the most lucrative commodities to trade. Among the most successful traders were the members of the Forbes and Perkins families.

The Forbes House Museum, in Milton, Mass., chronicles the history of this entrepreneurial family. On Thursday, October 9, Robin Tagliaferri, Forbes House director, will discuss the China Trade and the role family members played in it, especially Captain Robert Bennet Forbes (1804-1889) and his uncle, Thomas Handasyd Perkins (1764-1854). She will illustrate her talk with photographs of Forbes family members and the Forbes House Museum, and scenes from 19th century Canton, and will offer first-hand accounts taken from Forbes family memoirs.



Robert Bennet Forbes

The program is on Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum Gallery.

*Ms. Tagliaferri, who spoke here last Spring on Chinese Porcelain, holds two degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and has worked at the Worcester Art Museum, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, the RISD Museum, and AS220 Center for the Arts in Providence.*



## Thursday, October 23rd Adventures in Sound

Most of us enjoy music, but have you ever really thought about the nature of sound itself? Join musician Ruth Shilling for an evening of exploration as she talks about marvels of sound.

Ruth will describe, and also demonstrate, the overtones (harmonics) and "difference tones" on her viola. She will also give us a taste of what is called overtone chanting.

A journey through the different timbres of some primitive instruments, including a flute, Tibetan bells, a rain stick, a frame drum, and a shruti box, will entice us to experience sound in a new and richer way. The world around us sings with many voices!

The program is on Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum Gallery.

*We are delighted to welcome back Ruth Shilling. Her previous talks about Egypt and the Egyptian gods and goddesses were very popular, but this time she will put on her musician hat. Ruth teaches violin, viola and chamber music at the University of Connecticut, and was the principal viola of New London's Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra.*

Each program in our Fall Lecture Series begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum Gallery on the second floor of the Peace Dale Office Building, 1058 Kingstown Road, across from the Peace Dale Library. Refreshments will be served.

Admission is free for Museum members. A donation by non-members is appreciated.

# The Museum of Primitive Art and Culture

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**Beth Hogan, Museum Administrator**

**Louise Weaver, Administrative Assistant**

**Mary Brown, Educator**

The Museum Gallery is open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment.

## *Save the Date!*

Our Annual

## "Trash or Treasure" Fundraiser

is on Sunday, October 5th

at The Dunes Club in Narragansett

Once again, we'll offer professional appraisals

by **Stuart Whitehurst**

of Marvin & Whitehurst Appraisal Group, Inc.,

a 28-year veteran of the auction industry

and a familiar face on the popular PBS television series

"Antiques Roadshow."

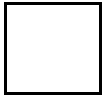
Cocktails and open forum appraisals at 5:00 p.m.,

buffet supper at 6:00 p.m.

*Your invitation is enclosed.*

*See you there!*

Museum of Primitive Art and Culture  
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Return Service Requested

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'Indian Women Making Pottery,' ca. 1924, Catherine C. Critcher (1868-1964)  
Oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum