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## News Release



NORTH CAROLINA  
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

A Smithsonian Affiliate

## 100 YEARS OF JUGTOWN POTTERY: FROM NECESSITY TO NORTH CAROLINA'S DESIRED COLLECTABLES



RALEIGH, N.C. — Would you believe the concept for Jugtown came after seeing a farmer's entry of apples displayed in a "dirt dish" at the Davidson County fair in 1915? Jacques and Juliana Busbee, both from Raleigh, had a vision inspired by that "dirt dish" that initiated an industry devoted to preserving North Carolina's pottery traditions from 1917 until today.

On **Saturday, January 21**, the **North Carolina Museum of History** is celebrating the Busbees' achievements with a new lobby case exhibit, ***Collecting Carolina: 100 Years of Jugtown Pottery***. This exhibit is **free** to the public and will be on display through **Monday, May 29, 2017**.

### **Exhibition Details**

**Michael A. Ausbon**, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts, was **assisted by Jugtown and Stephen C. Compton** in developing this case exhibit. Compton is the author of an upcoming book, *Jugtown Pottery 1917–2017: A Century of Art and Craft in Clay*. The selected pieces have been chosen to celebrate the evolution from utilitarian pottery to art pottery, recognized and purchased both nationally and internationally today.

**Jugtown pottery is known for its distinctive clay** found within the Seagrove community. This clay has been the catalyst for many wares created by potters over the **four eras that comprise the history of Jugtown** that includes:

1. **BUSBEE ERA**, 1917–1958. The Busbees realized that in order to expand Jugtown's reach, they needed to adapt traditional potting techniques while blending and developing new innovations to their glazes and forms.
2. **JOHN MARÉ ERA**, 1959–1968. John Maré, concerned for Juliana Busbee's declining health, began the process of acquiring Jugtown from her in 1959. Both Juliana and Maré died in 1962. Vernon Owens rented Jugtown Pottery in Seagrove from the Maré estate until 1968.
3. **COUNTRY ROADS ERA**, 1968–1983. Country Roads Inc., a nonprofit, purchased Jugtown Pottery from the Maré estate. The nonprofit revitalized, updated and improved the declining Jugtown Pottery while maintaining the "Jugtown aesthetic."

4. **OWENS FAMILY ERA**, 1983–present. Vernon Owens purchased Jugtown in 1983. He and his family—wife Pam, son Travis, daughter Bayle and brother Bobby—reinterpret Jugtown wares with a renewed freshness that continues to attract collectors around the world.

**Jugtown potters today continue to honor tradition and “the Busbee vision.”** As exhibit curator Michael A. Ausbon has said, “Pottery speaks to each of us as a physical manifestation of the potter’s mind.” **The Museum of History welcomes you** to experience the handicraft of Jugtown’s potters as seen through the four distinctive eras side-by-side, each reflecting the evolution and artistic pottery that have made Jugtown a national success that has endured for 100 years!

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/DNCR/Events/Jugtown>

**Jugtown 1 file:** Interior of Mrs. Jacques Busbee home, Jugtown; Credit: N.C. Museum of History

**Jugtown 2 file:** Display room at Jugtown pottery; Credit: N.C. Museum of History

### **SCHEDULED PROGRAMS**

**Wednesday, February 1, 10–11 a.m.** **History Corner: Clay Critters**

Ages 6–9 (with adult) \$3 plus tax per child; \$1 plus tax for Associates/museum members  
To register, visit [NCMOH-programs.com](http://NCMOH-programs.com). For information, call 919-807-7988.

Visit ***Collecting Carolina: 100 Years of Jugtown Pottery*** in the museum lobby, and see how people form pots from clay. Then do some clay creating of your own!

**Wednesday, February 1, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.** **History Hunters: Create in Clay**

Ages 10–13 \$3 plus tax per child; \$1 plus tax for Associates/museum members  
To register, visit [NCMOH-programs.com](http://NCMOH-programs.com). For information, call 919-807-7988.

Can you imagine doing something for 100 years? Jugtown Pottery has! See what makes them special, and make a clay critter to take home.

**Friday, February 3, 5–9 p.m.** **First Fridays at the Museum**

Join us for the “official” opening of *Collecting Carolina: 100 Years of Jugtown Pottery* during our monthly First Friday open house. In addition to our other lobby-level exhibits, enjoy samples of beer from the Neuse River Brewing Company (while they last) before seeing a **short Jugtown film clip produced by Craft in America, and then listen to a panel discussion with the Owens family at 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 12, noon–1 p.m.** **History à la Carte**

Register at [NCMOH-programs.com](http://NCMOH-programs.com) and purchase a boxed lunch, bring your own or just come. Beverages provided. For information, call 919-807-7986.

A recognized expert in N.C. pottery, researcher and collector Stephen C. Compton has organized exhibits and authored books on N.C. pottery. He will discuss his latest book, *Jugtown Pottery 1917–2017: A Century of Art and Craft in Clay*, scheduled for release this spring. Join Compton at Jugtown Pottery in Seagrove on April 22 to celebrate the book’s release and signing.

**Saturday, May 6 (drop-in program)** **Artist at Work: Bayle Owens**

Visit between 12 noon and 3 p.m., and watch Bayle, a new generation potter, demonstrate how she forms clay into sheep figurines and then felts wool to make their coats.

**For information about the N.C. Museum of History**, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-807-7900 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

### **About the N.C. Museum of History**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

### **About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development. NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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