

Collectors

Southern pottery holds special interest for Zug

By PATTY MORGAN
Special to the DTH

There's a painting of a killer whale decorating Terry Zug's office wall.

Other walls display a painting of a raven, an Irish monk carved of wood and a painting of a fisherman.

Two pottery jugs serve as bookends on his desk, and the top of his filing cabinet harbors a face jug with buck teeth and bulging eyes.

"There are legends behind them (the paintings)," said Zug, a tall, slender 43-year-old man with short brown hair and an easy smile.

He explained that the paintings came from British Columbia in Canada and are part of the culture of the Haida Indians.

It's part of their mythology. The paintings are totemic representations of their tales. Actually, these paintings were done by an Englishman who lived with the Indians," Zug said.

The jugs came from a potter in Lincoln County, who uses "no modern equipment whatsoever" to create his pottery.

Zug, an associate professor in English at UNC who also teaches several classes in the curriculum in folklore, takes a special interest in North Carolina pottery. The dark green face jug in his office is an example of the Lincoln County potter's speciality.

"I go (to Lincoln County) about eight or 10 times a year," Zug said. "Sometimes I take students. When I first met him (the potter), he didn't have many customers. The last time I went, I brought back about 10 face jugs for friends who asked me to get them one."

"I've always liked primitive art," he said. "A friend from Georgia... brought me a face jug about eight years ago and I guess that's what got me going on pottery."

That face jug is now among about 150 pieces of pottery in Zug's collection, which includes dishes, jugs, and pots of different sizes, shapes and colors. Most of the pottery is from North Carolina.

"Northern pottery doesn't appeal to me anymore," said Zug, a Pennsylvania native who is married and has two children.

"The beauty of Southern pottery is in the strong, round forms," he said. "There's not much emphasis on surface decorations. Here, the potters just put the glaze on the jug and let nature take its course."

"Northern pots will have elaborate decorations, but the shapes aren't very interesting. I've seen people pay \$2,000 for a pot because it has an elaborate bird painted on the side. But the potter didn't even paint the bird. It's more like a factory situation up there."

Zug organized a North Carolina pottery exhibit at Ackland Art Museum during January and February of 1981.

"It was the biggest exhibit they've ever had. We brought in 12,000 people in five weeks," he said.

After the exhibit, Zug said he told the museum director to "take whatever he wanted" for the museum because "I was so happy to see such an interest in North Carolina folklore."

Zug said he became interested in folklore by accident.

He holds an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Yale, but "decided when I was in the Navy I didn't want to be an engineer," so he went to the University of Pittsburgh to get a master's degree in English.

"I was going through the course guide and I went from E to F and I saw all these folklore classes that looked interesting," he said. He now holds a doctorate in English and folklore from the University of Pennsylvania.

Zug, who came to UNC 14 years ago, is presently finishing a book about the history of North Carolina pottery. He has traded some pieces of his collection for the photography to illustrate the book. Zug said this bartering is in keeping with the tradition of North Carolina potters.

"They were mostly just farmers who had a craft on the side," he said. "They used the pottery as a cash crop. They could sell it or barter it for things they needed."

Despite his extensive collection, Zug said he doesn't think of himself as a collector.

"I just love the pottery," he said.



For UNC sophomore Hats reveal personalities

By LAWRENCE TURNER
DTH Staff Writer

If hats make the man, Kim Albrecht has many personalities.

"I always liked to wear hats," Albrecht said. He sat slouched in a chair in his room wearing a black-and-white Chicago Bears' (the professional football team) cap backwards.

Albrecht, a sophomore industrial relations major and soccer scholarship recipient has 14 hats in his room, most hung next to his desk and over a nearby bulletin board. The hats include eight caps, four sun visors, a paper hat and a cowboy hat.

Every few minutes as he talked, he stopped and leaned down to a green pot next to his seat and spit out the remainder of the chewing tobacco he took from a small green Skoal. A green cap on the top of a row of hats next to his desk has a patch with "Skoal" printed on it.

"A girl gave it to me because I like to chew Skoal," he said with a smile. Skoal is a brand of smokeless tobacco.

"I don't think I paid for one of those hats—they were given to me, not stolen," he said.

"When people see you have a hat collection, they think nothing of giving you one," Albrecht said. And that is how he received all of the hats in his

room. "There are stories to every hat almost," he said.

A couple of his favorites include the Chicago Bears' cap he wore and another also from a professional football team, the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I like them (the Eagles) as a team. And they have a player named Ted Albrecht, and that's my last name," he said. The Eagles cap was green and white and, unlike the other caps, looked old and dirty and sat on his dresser top instead of hanging from the wall.

Another favorite cap was a green and yellow one advertising a Canada beer. The beer company, Carlsberg, sponsors the Toronto Argonauts, of the Canadian Football League. The hat was a gift from Jimmy Streater, a player on the team and the brother of Steve Streater, who played football for UNC last season.

Many hats Albrecht received have a sports story connected to them as he played soccer, handball and hockey for several years.

"I played on the Ontario soccer team," he said. "It's like all-state. You guys have states, we have provinces," he said. He played in the youth division.

But his complete hat collection is not at Chapel Hill; he estimated he has as many as 11 others at his home in Canada.

Orange County has abundance of arrowheads

BY TODD WELLS
Special to the DTH

On Bill Ratliff's mantle are 19 museum-quality arrowheads, mounted on burlap, framed in oak. He found many of them in a cornfield a stone's throw from his front door.

"They're all over the place," he said. "After a rain, when the field has been harrowed, they've pretty near stand up and shout at you."

The arrowheads on the mantle mesh nicely with the decor in Ratliff's home, five miles south of Chapel Hill. The furnishings are elegantly rustic—limited-edition watercolors grace barnwood frames. Above an antique hutch with hammered tin panels hangs a portrait of Robert E. Lee.

Ratliff peeled potatoes and sipped beer while he talked. He is a big, deliberate man in his mid-40s unabashedly folksy, naturally hospitable.

"When I was in the surveying business, I was always in the woods." I picked up a lot of arrowheads then," he said. "Most are from Orange or Chatham county."

It's easy to forget that Orange County has a natural history, that the land hasn't always been duplexed and subdivided. Indian clans flourished here. The Eno, the Sissipahaw, the Shoccoree and Adshuer all lived on the rolling land between the Haw and Neuse rivers.

An astute observer like Ratliff finds relics in places where most people would neglect to look.

"I found several on the UNC campus," he said. "I picked up a couple from a grade cut when we were laying out the student union."

"When we were working on the faculty club, we dug up a petrified tree—the whole trunk. We found some good arrowheads, too," he said.

Besides the specimens over the fireplace, Ratliff has another 60 arrowheads framed and mounted in a thin glaze of Elmer's glue.

"There is a shoe box of shards and flakes in a shed out back. Some of these look like scrapers or crude knives; others are fragments of spearpoints and arrowheads."

The most striking piece of the collection is a broad spear point, 2½ inches across, four inches long. The edges taper roundly to a point. It is painstakingly symmetrical.

The small "bird points," some hardly larger than a nickel, have delicately serrated edges.

"I tried carving them once," Ratliff said. "A buddy and I made a deer antler chisel and started chipping away."

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