



Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

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Virginia Decorative Arts Seminars

2012: Earthenware of the Old Dominion: *New Research and Discoveries*

Our second annual one-day colloquium, *Earthenware of the Old Dominion: Important New Research and Discoveries* was held on Saturday, June 16, 2012. The 2012 event featured expert presenters/authors who lectured on various aspects of Virginia earthenware. Speakers included Johanna Brown, Jeffrey S. Evans, Brenda Hornsby Heindl, Roddy Moore, Kurt Russ and Scott Suter. As in 2011, the 2012 seminar was preceded by an informal, hour-long tailgate sale in the JSE & Assoc. parking lot.



Slip-decorated, lead-glazed earthenware bowl, attributed to New Market, VA, 1815-1830; the shop of Christian and Jacob Adam or Andrew and John Coffman.

Program Schedule

8:30 AM	Informal Tailgate Sale in JSE & Associates Parking Lot
9:30 AM	Greetings / Introductions
9:45 AM	Brenda Hornsby Heindl: <i>In One Kiln: Evidence of Earthenware and Stoneware Kiln Firings in Virginia</i>
10:45 AM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
11:00 AM	Roddy Moore: <i>Earthenware Potters Along the Great Road in VA and TN</i>
12:00 PM	~~~ LUNCH ~~~
1:00 PM	Jeff Evans: <i>From New Market to Middlebrook: Earthenware of the upper Shenandoah Valley</i>
2:00 PM	~~~ BREAK ~~~ A series of current research presentations will follow the second break



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2:15 PM	Scott Suter: <i>What to Make of This Mud: The Variety of Emanuel Suter's Earthenware Forms</i>
2:35 PM	Johanna Brown: <i>Which of These Things is Not Like the Others? Beyond Moravian Earthenware</i>
2:55 PM	Kurt Russ: <i>Evolving Earthenware Traditions: Exploring Virginia-Tennessee Connections</i>
3:15 PM	Open Floor Discussion / Announcements / Show & Tell
3:45 PM	Closing Comments
4:00 PM	End of Program

Guest Speakers Included:

Johanna M. Brown: Curator of Moravian Decorative Arts and Director of Collections, Old Salem Museums and Gardens

Jeffrey S. Evans: President of JSE & Assoc., Auctioneer, Author, Independent Scholar and Curator

Brenda Hornsby Heindl: Independent Scholar and Potter

J. Roderick "Roddy" Moore: Director of the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum at Ferrum College, Historian, Folklorist, Author and Guest Curator

Kurt C. Russ: Independent Scholar and former Director, W&L University Anthropology Laboratory

Scott H. Suter: Associate Professor of English and American Studies at Bridgewater College

Speaker Bios:

Johanna M. Brown

Johanna Metzgar Brown is the director of collections and curator of Moravian Decorative Arts at Old Salem Museums and Gardens in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She has a BA in American Studies and Anthropology from Salem College and an MA in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Cooperstown, New York. In 1991, after completing her MA, Johanna began working at Old Salem where she has served in various curatorial positions. Although her primary research focus is the Moravian Decorative Arts collection at Historic Old Salem, Johanna also works with the collections the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA). She has written for a variety of publications including *Ceramics in America*, *The Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, *The Magazine Antiques*, and *Antiques and Fine Art* and lectures regularly on Moravian and southern material culture.

Johanna's recent focus has been *Art in Clay: Masterworks of North Carolina Earthenware*, an exhibition she co-curated with Luke Beckerdite and Robert Hunter cosponsored by Old Salem Museums and Gardens, the Chipstone Foundation, and the Caxambas Foundation.



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Jeffrey S. Evans

President of Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates, Inc. (2009 to present) and former president of Green Valley Auctions, Inc. (1979-2008), Jeff Evans is a respected expert and collector of early American glass and Shenandoah Valley decorative arts who has lectured and written extensively within the fields. He has acted as appraiser and consultant for multiple institutions and museums including the Corning Museum of Glass and MESDA and has served as guest curator on several museum exhibits. In November 2004 Jeff had the unique privilege of selling the now famous Johannes Spittler decorated hanging cupboard at public auction. An extraordinary example of Shenandoah Valley of Virginia folk art, the piece achieved \$962,500, still the world record auction price for a piece of American folk art painted furniture.

Museum exhibits for which Jeff has served as guest curator include a collaboration with Dr. Scott Suter on Rockingham County, Virginia folk pottery (2004; HRHS), a display of 18th to 20th century Shenandoah Valley vernacular chairs that was the culmination of thirty years of personal research (2010; Museum of the Shenandoah Valley) and a partnership with wife Beverley on Shenandoah Valley counterpanes and white work textiles (2012; Virginia Quilt Museum). The related catalogues that Jeff authored (Valley chairs, textiles) and co-wrote (folk pottery) include analytic essays and are considered authoritative references on the respective subjects. Currently in the works for Jeff is a 2010-2014 research project for which he has teamed with Kurt Russ to document early Shenandoah Valley punched tin pie/food safes. The findings of their multi-year study will culminate in a 2014 museum exhibition and accompanying treatise.

Brenda Hornsby Heindl

Brenda Hornsby Heindl is an independent scholar in Liberty, North Carolina. She is a graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture. She is also a functional potter working primarily with salt-glazed stoneware, having worked in the Ceramics Apprenticeship Program at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

Brenda's work at her studio, Liberty Stoneware, is focused on functional and reproduction salt-glazed stoneware, with designs and forms heavily influenced by her research and work with historic ceramics. During her recently completed apprenticeship with potter Joseph Sand in Randleman, North Carolina, Brenda learned the techniques of single firing with wood-fired kilns, glaze making for single-firing, and experimenting with slip-trailing and other decorative techniques. Recently, Brenda completed construction of her own wood-firing kiln and hopes to use it for experimental archaeology and production of her work.

Brenda's presentation is based in her current research on pre-1850 American salt-glazed and alkaline-glazed stoneware kilns and kiln furniture through a grant from the American Ceramic Circle. Though focusing on stoneware, through collections research the practice of firing earthenware and stoneware at the same production site has been encountered innumerable times.

Brenda's research and studio blog is online at <http://libertystoneware.blogspot.com>

J. Roderick Moore

J. Roderick "Roddy" Moore was born in Roanoke, Virginia and grew up in McDowell County, West Virginia. Roddy is the director of the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum at Ferrum College, where he oversees its living history farm museum, archival materials, gallery exhibits and educational programs.



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A noted historian, collector, folklorist, author and guest curator for numerous museum exhibits, Roddy is also the founder of two long-running Virginia festivals that are both held annually in October. The Home Craft Days Festival in Big Stone Gap, Virginia and The Blue Ridge Folklife Festival in Ferrum, Virginia were both established in the early 1970s and continue today, four decades later. More than 10,000 people attended the 2011 BRFF, described by the New York Times as “thoroughly authentic.”

Roddy is a frequent contributor to *The Magazine Antiques*, both as author and subject. He and his Great Road Pottery collection were featured in a September 1983 article (as well as a 1999 episode of PBS' Antiques Roadshow) and a May 2010 article written by renowned antiques dealer Sumpter Priddy focused on Roddy and Sally Moore's stellar collection of regional Southern material, which includes Virginia inlaid long-rifles, early southern face jugs, Shenandoah Valley Germanic frakturs, baskets, textiles, and of course, earthenware. In 2007 Roddy collaborated with preeminent Virginia collector, scholar and dealer H. Marshall Goodman on an article for *The Magazine Antiques* that focused on Shenandoah County, Virginia painted boxes and miniature chests. Over the years Roddy has authored several other articles for the same periodical with many being the first-ever treatments of the subject matter. Some of the topics covered include Wythe Co. pierced tin safes and decorated blanket chests, decorated grave markers and Santo Domingo Depression jewelry.

Kurt C. Russ

A former director of Washington and Lee University's Laboratory of Anthropology and independent scholar from Lexington, Virginia, Kurt Russ has more than 25 years of experience in archeology, material culture/decorative arts research and historic preservation. He is a board member and Vice Director of the Southern Shenandoah Valley Branch of Preservation Virginia and principal with the Virginia Heritage Resources Group.

Kurt has contributed articles to *The Magazine Antiques* and the annual journal *Ceramics in America* and also served with fellow ceramics experts Rob Hunter and H. Marshall Goodman as guest curators on the Virginia Historical Society's 2004-2005 exhibit, “*Stoneware Pottery of Eastern Virginia (1720-1865)*.” Although Kurt's ceramic-related research and publications have mainly focused on the Shenandoah Valley, he recently teamed with Rob Hunter to further study and document the work of early 19th century Richmond area potter, John P. Schermerhorn, one of Kurt's primary areas of focus over the past several years.

He is currently partnered with Jeff Evans on *The Virginia Safe Project*, a 2010-2014 research study committed to photographing and documenting early Virginia punched-tin paneled furniture in the Shenandoah Valley, with concentration chiefly directed at the ubiquitous pie/food safe. The multi-year team effort will ultimately result in a 2014 museum exhibit and accompanying publication. Kurt brings to the project not only his many years of collecting and study of Virginia safes, but a keen eye, unflinching interest and expertise in nineteenth-century material culture.

Scott H. Suter

Scott Hamilton Suter has dedicated his life to the study of Shenandoah Valley folklife and material culture. He received his Ph.D. in American Civilization from George Washington University in 1994. He also holds an M. A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B. A. in English from James Madison University.

Dr. Suter has lectured widely and served as consultant to a number of museums including the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, and the Blue Ridge Institute.



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He is currently Associate Professor of English & American Studies and Chair of the English Department at Bridgewater College.

He has authored numerous publications on the traditions and culture of the Shenandoah Valley including *Tradition & Fashion-Cabinetmaking in the Shenandoah Valley* (1996), *Shenandoah Valley Folklife* (1999) and *Harrisonburg* (2003). In 2004 Scott Suter and Jeff Evans were co-curators for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society's exhibition of Rockingham County, Virginia folk pottery titled *A Great Deal of Stone & Earthen Ware* as well as co-authors of the accompanying exhibit catalogue. Dr. Suter's essay, *The Valley Vernacular*, was included in Evans' 2010 book, *Come In and Have a Seat, Vernacular Chairs of the Shenandoah Valley*. He is currently putting the finishing touches on a book-length study of the pottery, career, and philosophy of Emanuel Suter.