

program of the University. The primary purpose of the library is to provide for the needs of students, faculty, employees, alumni, and other educators in the vicinity.

Every effort is made by Director T. L. Gunn and eight other library staff members to implement the objectives of the university by making available books and related materials to enrich the educational program and at the same time provide for the general reading of the academic community.

"Truth has nothing to fear from the fullest investigation. If an idea is true, the more it is investigated the better; for the more it is investigated, the more people will see that it is unquestionably true." — Gerald W. Johnson, *This American People* (1951).

CERAMICS LIBRARY BEGUN IN CHARLOTTE

by

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In April, 1968 Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art was host to the 13th annual Wedgwood International Seminar. Ceramicists from England, France, and Switzerland joined enthusiastic American Wedgwoodians for the formal opening of the Delhom Institute for Study and Research in Ceramics at the Mint Museum. The Institute was made possible by a gift of the ceramics collection of Miss Mellany Delhom, and a new wing was added to the Mint to house it. Sir John Wedgwood of London was in attendance both to address the seminar and to receive a memorial plaque in honor of his great-great-grandfather, Josiah Wedgwood. The opening of the Institute affords an admirable opportunity to those interested in ceramics.

The Institute is comprised of a gallery which contains the collection and a library for reference work. The library, in the view of Miss Delhom, is to be to the field of ceramics what the Corning Library is to the field of glass. It is a limited-access library and can be visited by written or telephoned appointment only. Books cannot be charged out. Legitimate queries by mail are answered, and more work will be done in this area as the staff is enlarged.

At present the library consists of 500 books and maintains a current subscription to approximately 20 journals in the field. In addition there are several other journals, proceedings and the like which are cataloged but not received currently. The collection boasts of quite a few rare or limited editions books. There are also complete runs of several of the periodicals, as *Connoisseur*, from their beginning publication date. The library is cataloged by the Library of Congress classification scheme and is not limited to books on ceramics *per se*. Books on certain historical periods or personages are included within the scope of the collection, as are others of a related nature.

A great wealth of material in the field of ceramics can be found within dealers' catalogs. The library has most of the current Sotheby's and Christie's catalogs as well as some from other companies. At present these materials have not been cataloged, but the plans are to begin the project as soon as possible. In order to make the information

more easily available, each catalog will be analyzed separately and have its own set of cards. The annual reviews of these companies have already been cataloged with the serials holdings.

Slides and Photo Collection

The library possesses the rudiments of its slide collection, but at present it is little more than a record of some of the pieces in the collection. However, this material will be greatly expanded in the future to encompass a much larger scope and variety of subjects. The slide collection will then be cataloged, and either a card will be placed in the catalog or a list will be printed of the slides. There will also be a photograph collection kept in the library. These pictures will not be only of pieces held by the Institute but also of valuable pieces in the field. As with the slide collection, either a card will be placed in the catalog for the photographs (under subject) or a list will be printed of the holdings.

As soon as the funding can be obtained, facilities will be provided for a photographic reproduction service. For a charge, articles will be reproduced and mailed to the inquirer. A vertical file containing reproductions of photographs of certain valuable pieces in the field will be maintained.

Of course, the objects themselves will also be cataloged. And, as they are, a card for each will be placed in the library's card catalog. Information as to the date of the piece, location of other similar pieces, and the number of the particular item still extant will be included on this card in addition to the important information regarding the piece.

As the work progresses on the organization of the library, many of these "future" plans will come to life and be expanded. Others will be begun. It is hoped that shortly the library can publish a catalog of its present holdings for sale to museums, libraries, and interested persons throughout the country.

The Institute itself is a unique contribution to the field of the arts, and especially to ceramics. Nowhere else can a person come and do research while examining the actual piece in his own hands! Each day that passes lessens the chances of either the existence of or the personal possession of many ceramic objects. Museums are constantly obtaining pieces for their collections. However, Miss Delhom wishes to share her love for this art by allowing the serious student to come and examine pieces at the Institute by himself. The Institute has definitely placed Charlotte and its Mint Museum on the map of art patrons throughout the world.

"Whenever I shall be asked my opinion on any crucial matter, and when I have an opinion that I feel deeply, I will express it and join others in expressing it." — Mark Van Doren, "If Anybody Wants to Know," *American Scholar* (Autumn, 1951).

"Books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." — A.L.A., *Library Bill of Rights* (1948).