



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1979

Dear Friends,

This is the busy season at Renfrew. Why not make it even busier by visiting the Museum? We would really like to see you and talk about the many exciting "finds" in the collection.

"FINDS"?????????Yes!! That's Right! We haven't found any new artifacts, but are making some very exciting discoveries in researching what we have in the collection.

I'll give you just one example. In the Renfrew Collection is a small ceramic cat. The Director of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts suggested that this rather unassuming purple cat might be a significant piece of pottery. After several hours of research I was able to attribute the cat to John Bell. An identical cat appears in a photograph of the (now famous) Bell Pottery Exhibit of 1927 held at the local Waynesboro bank. The purple glaze on the cat has an unusual appearance, so I contacted Arlene Palmer at the Winterthur Museum and discussed the cat. Ms. Palmer made arrangements to have the cat chemically analyzed (at no cost to Renfrew).

This is where the story gets exciting. Upon analysis, the glaze turned out to be tin-in-the-glaze or tin glazed. This is only the second documented piece of American pottery with tin glazing.

NOW that's what I call EXCITING.

As I said, we have made many exciting discoveries. Speaking of exciting finds.... We are pleased to announce that Letitia D. Allen has been hired as the fulltime



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Page two.....

Associate Curator.

"Tish" is a native of nearby Charles Town, W. Va. and is well trained to assume the duties of Associate Curator. "Tish" has nearly five years experience in Museum work and has completed one year of graduate training in Museum Science at the University of South Carolina. She plans to complete her degree in the near future on a part-time basis.

Yours truly (the C. C.) will now slide back into the obscure role of Consultant to the Museum and Park. Ms. Allen is now the day-to-day manager to the Museum. I now check in once every so often to make sure things are running smoothly. Any questions, requests, etc. should be directed to Tish. Her normal working hours are Wednesday through Sunday 9 to 5. She is eager to meet all of Renfrew's "friends".

Don't forget to renew your membership to the "Friends of Renfrew" if you haven't already done so, you will want to be able to take advantage of our new schedule of films to be shown to members only. Coming in August will be: "Flower Arrangements of Williamsburg", "A Williamsburg Sampler" and there will be many more to come in the next few months.


Sincerely,