COWAN POTTERY MUSEUM ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP

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Cowan Pottery Museum Associates P.O. Box 16765 Rocky River, Ohio, 44116

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COWAN POTTERY MUSEUM ASSOCIATES

COWAN POTTERY

Cowan Pottery Studio was founded in Lakewood, Ohio in 1912 by R. Guy Cowan who was a Ceramic Engineer, Artist and Educator. In 1920 Cowan Pottery relocated to new premises in Rocky River where it operated until closing in 1931 as a casualty of the Depression.

In its short history Cowan Pottery gained a reputation for artistic excellence and innovative designs. Production ranged from Limited Edition art pottery to decorative and functional items for the modern homes of the era. All of its production, from pioneering ceramic sculptural editions to elegant vases or tableware was characterized by brilliant design and unique glazes.

R. Guy Cowan was responsible for much of Cowan Pottery design but the Studio also engaged a large number of established and emerging design artists to contribute to its wide range of production. Established artists who designed for Cowan included Paul Manship, Margaret Postgate, A Drexler Jacobson and Walter Sinz. Emerging artists included Viktor Schreckengost, Waylande Gregory, Thelma Frazier and Edris Eckhardt. A number of the Cowan artists were students, new graduates and faculty of Cleveland School of Art. Most went on to distinguished careers after their time at Cowan.

More than 80 years after Cowan Pottery closed, its output is widely collected and appreciated. From such iconic pieces as Viktor Schreckengost's famous "Jazz Bowl" to simple vases, bookends, lamps or candlesticks, the legacy of Cowan Pottery lives on in Museums and in private collections.

COWAN POTTERY MUSEUM

The Cowan Pottery Museum is located within Rocky River Public Library at 1600 Hampton Road Rocky River, Ohio 44116.

The Museum was founded in 1978 as a result of a generous bequest and its display area was expanded and improved in 2006-7 during Library renovations. It now holds over 1200 examples of Cowan pottery, the largest publicly owned collection in the world. At any one time approximately 40% of the collection is on view.

In addition to acquisition, preservation and display of Cowan pieces, the Museum has assembled extensive historical archives and undertakes research on Cowan Pottery and its associated artists. The legacy of Cowan Pottery is further promoted through community outreach projects, interaction with educational programs and with the presentation of the annual Cowan Pottery Symposium which brings together Cowan Pottery experts and enthusiasts from across North America.



COWAN POTTERY MUSEUM ASSOCIATES

Cowan Pottery Museum Associates (CPMA) is an independent non-profit organization affiliated with the Cowan Pottery Museum. CPMA offers support to the Museum and its activities in addition to itself promoting the importance of Cowan Pottery in its historical and artistic conexts.

The CPMA Mission is to maintain and enhance the heritage of Cowan Pottery by targeting activities related to the Museum and via outreach to other organizations with common interests.

CPMA activities include:

- 1. Promoting national awareness of the work of R. Guy Cowan and the other artists that worked at Cowan Pottery.
- 2. Assisting and complementing the work of the Museum, its collection and activities, including financial support for acquisitions.
- 3. Organizing public events to commemorate Cowan Pottery history.
- 4. Sponsoring activities of interest to Cowan pottery collectors, including auctions and other sales of Cowan pottery.
- 5. Social gatherings and fundraisers for CPMA members and the public.
- 6. Creation and funding of a Scholarship honoring R. Guy Cowan.
- 7. External communications through the CPMA website (cowanpottery.org) and an active social media (Facebook page) presence.
- 8. Additional Member communication through regular Newsletters and Event mailings