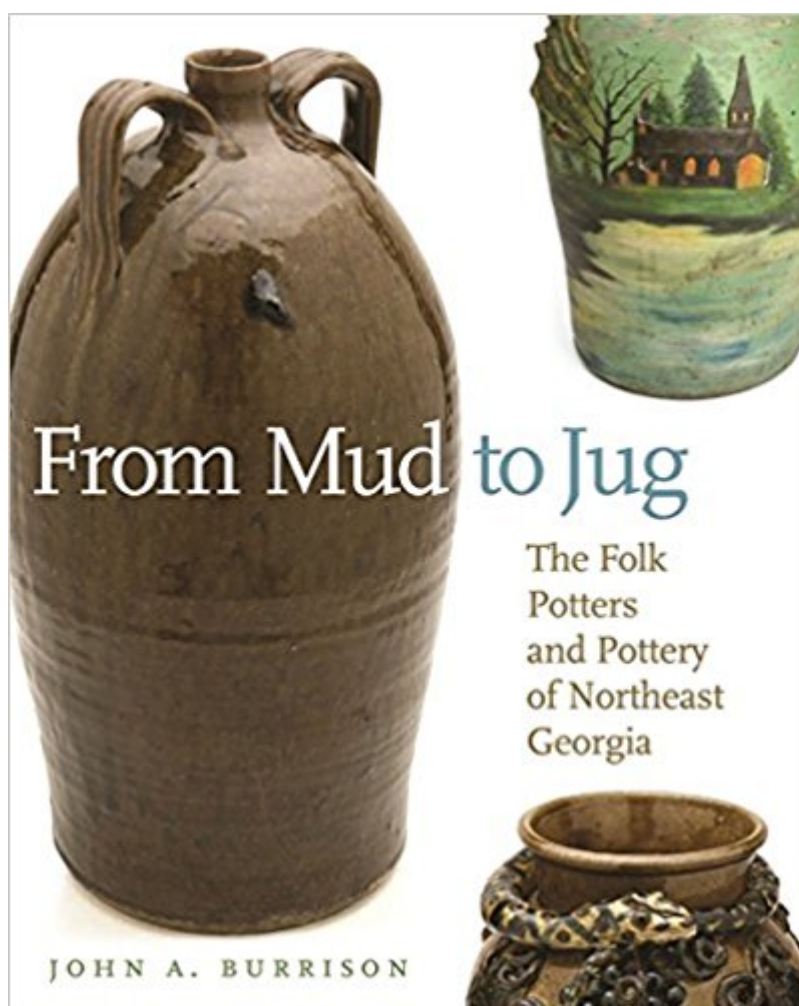


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From Mud To Jug: The Folk Potters And Pottery Of Northeast Georgia (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.)



Synopsis

John Michael Vlach called *Brothers in Clay* “not only the best study of American stoneware pottery now available but also a fine model for the presentation and analysis of hand-based technologies.” The anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss noted, “Mr. Burrison has brought to this undertaking a sensitivity, a finesse, and a flair for description and analysis that entitle the book to a place among the classics of this type.” From *Mud to Jug* is both a companion and sequel to *Brothers in Clay* and deepens and enriches Burrison’s earlier study by focusing on the northeast corner of Georgia, which has maintained a continuous tradition of pottery making since the early nineteenth century. Through interviews, a census of active potters trained at the centers of Cleveland (White County) and Gillsville (Hall County), and more than one hundred color photographs of pots, potters, and their work spaces, Burrison captures the living tradition of one of the last areas of the United States where Euro-American folk pottery is still being made. The book also explores the roots and historical development of north Georgia’s stoneware tradition and includes rare historic photos that have not been previously published. The Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia, which opened in 2006 at Sautee Nacoochee Center in White County, is also acknowledged and described.

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Customer Reviews

The book is visually stunning, with color photographs of pieces that jump off the page. Newly found historic photographs are wonderful additions. All told, this is a book that can beautifully stand on its

own. (Choice)Anyone with a serious mud-love must read this comprehensive chronicle of one of America's most vital and venerable pottery traditions. Each page bursts with beauty and insight, describing a tradition that relentlessly rejuvenates itself and brims with potential at every turn of the wheel. (Mark Hewitt coauthor of *The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery*)This is a neat little volume, one that is needed, given the current trends in Georgia pottery. The north Georgia region has now become the center of folk pottery for the state; the Meaders and Hewell families have national reputations; the Hewells' Turning and Burning Festival draws more and more people; and the new Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia will attract newcomers and educate them into the local traditions. And of course, no one better understands Southern folk pottery than John Burrison. (Charles G. Zug III author of *Turners and Burners: The Folk Potters of North Carolina*)From Mud to Jug is a handsome book sure to grace any coffee table and stand with pride on the bookshelf with other scholarly volumes of pottery and material culture. . . . I expect both potters and scholars will value this work as I do. (Moriah Hart *Western Folklore*)The book walks the reader through northeast Georgia folk pottery as much with stunning visuals as with text, with a layout that complements the hundreds of beautiful, full-color photos of pots and potters. . . . The text skips along easily, pulling together the hard-earned conclusions that Burrison has made over the course of his four decades studying folk pottery in northern Georgia. (Tom Mould *Journal of Folklore Research*)

John A. Burrison is a professor of English and director of the folklore curriculum at Georgia State University. In addition to "Brothers in Clay," he is the editor of "Storytellers: Folktales and Legends from the South" and the author of "Shaping Traditions: Folk Arts in a Changing South."

What a stunningly beautiful book FROM MUD TO JUGS is! Professor John Burrison's sequel to BROTHERS IN CLAY is printed on fine glossy paper and contains dozens of exquisite color photographs of pottery, many of them taken by the author himself. Although Burrison says in his "Preface" that the book is a companion and sequel to his previous book, his latest certainly stands on its own and contains information piled on information about the folk pottery tradition in Northeast Georgia around Cleveland and Gillsville. He says that he is writing for the non-specialist audience, new readers to the subject, and that his goal is to both "introduce readers to one of the last places in the United States where traditional pottery still flourishes" and to support the Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia with all the royalties from the sale of this book going to that museum. (Burrison devotes chapter 9, "A Home for North Georgia Folk Pottery," to a discussion of the

museum). The author certainly achieves his goals and then some. Professor Burrison-- not to worry as there is not a pedantic sentence in this wondrous book-- defines folk pottery and gives a brief history of the craft in Northeast, Georgia, along with the genealogies of the Meaders, Ferguson and Hewell Families. What is most exciting about this book, however, are the verbatim interviews with many of the contemporary potters: Stanley Ferguson, Jamie Ferguson, Dwayne Crocker, Lin Craven, Henry Hewell, Harold Hewell, Grace Nell Hewell-- who worked the day her son Chester was born and went back to work throwing pots three weeks later-- Nathaniel Hewell, Chester Hewell, Cleater Meaders III et al. A common thread runs through many of their stories. Making pots is generational, they may have had other jobs-- driving a truck, working in a factory-- but they return to what they love if only part-time, the making of folk pottery. In the words of Stanley Ferguson: "You can be having a bad day and come in and go to turning, and you just feel better. It's just relaxing; it's good therapy." Lin Craven says something similar: "It's a release for me. . . I'm in my pottery and I can lose the whole world." This book is a wonderful resource on the subject of Northeast Georgia pottery and one that you will return to again and again. As I reread the text and look at the fantastic photographs, I keep thinking of that village of potters in northern Chihuahua in Mexico who are singlehandedly keeping alive another type of pottery just as beautiful, Mata Ortiz pottery. My only complaint about FROM MUD TO JUGS is that it is only published in a paperback edition. Something so beautiful and informative deserves a hardback printing.

This author is a good authority on this subject. In 1986 I purchased "Brothers in Clay" and thought this book would be a good companion book. So far this book has not disappointed. Very please with this book.

If you're someone who's ever looked at a North Georgia functional or fanciful piece of pottery and wondered why or how it was made or who made it, this book is for you. It includes maps, genealogy tables and many color illustrations of the people, pots and environment. It's by John A. Burrison ([...]), whose earlier book, Brothers in Clay, was the definitive text on the subject until now. It's easy to read and very informative.

Great book!

The best book ever written on Georgia Folk Pottery. Probably one of the best books ever written about folk art in general and this topic. It has great color photographs of the artist/potters and their

family trees.A++++Great resource if you are a collector.Ted O.

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