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Sidebar: Newcomb Names

Two figures in the ceramics field known for their association with Newcomb are Paul Cox and Frederick E. Walrath. Cox is remembered more for his services to the field than for his pots. He was the son of a superintendent of a stoneware plant in Indiana and was the second graduate of the Alfred program. His career included working as a technician in several artware businesses, designing kilns, writing for technical journals, serving as a trustee of the American Ceramic Society and developing the ceramics program at Iowa State College. Cox developed a portable demo: he made a breakdown wheel that packed inside itself and made a package of about 350 pounds together with clay and simple tools; among other venues he regularly demonstrated and showed lantern slides to the vast membership of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. His fee was expenses.

Walrath also studied at Alfred, 1902-03. While still a student he taught pottery at the Chautauqua Arts & Crafts School in the summer. He was briefly employed at Grueby Pottery and his work won a bronze medal at St. Louis in 1904. In 1908 he was hired by Theodore Hanford Pond to teach in the Department of Decorative Arts and Crafts at the Mechanics Institute in Rochester (now the Rochester Institute of Technology). He stayed until 1918, establishing his own pottery in Rochester and making vases in graceful shapes featuring mat glazes and muted tones. He had a sure touch for Arts and Crafts style, setting colored patterns within clearly defined geometric areas. In 1918 he followed Cox as chief ceramist at Newcomb. But he returned to western New York, ill, in 1921 and died soon thereafter. His work fell into undeserved obscurity.