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### **More Southern Folk Pottery**

Folk potters clustered in areas of good clay deposits, and several of these areas came to be called Jugtown. Four of these are best known: two in North Carolina, one in South Carolina and one in Georgia. There was much pottery activity in North Carolina due to the wealth of clays. Potters set up shop primarily in the Catawba Valley and eastern Piedmont areas and could be distinguished by their preferred shapes and glazes—and also, to a degree, by their names. Most in the Catawba Valley were of German descent, while those in the eastern Piedmont had their roots in England.

The Bybee Pottery of Kentucky is on the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest functioning traditional pottery in the U.S. Its modern production is recognized by “Bybee blue” glaze and by its use of sponging—a northern influence not in general use elsewhere in the South. Walter Lee Cornelison, a fifth-generation potter at Bybee, produced molded and jigger-turned ware, but also continued to work at the wheel in the old log pot shop. A few folk potteries survived in Alabama and Mississippi, as well.

In North Carolina, Dorothy and Walter Auman—both potters and both knowledgeable members of pottery families—began collecting old pots and pottery tools in the early 1950s when no one else was interested, and in 1969 established the Seagrove Potters Museum, which also gave small exhibitions to contemporary potters. They made a guide to area shops, helped promote the first Seagrove Pottery Festival in 1982, organized the first North Carolina Pottery Conference in 1987 and were among the founders of the North Carolina Pottery Center.<sup>1</sup> They sold their collection of 2,000 mostly annotated pots to Charlotte’s Mint Museum in 1983.