

Traditional American Folk Art in Maine

*An All Day Symposium at Olin Arts Center, Bates College,
Lewiston, Maine, 28 September 2008*

**Speakers will give an overview of the general history and techniques of
their subject followed by discussion of Maine examples**

9:15 Welcome – William Low, Assistant Curator, Bates College Museum of Art

Dr. Charles E. Burden will introduce morning speakers

**9:25 Elizabeth V. Warren – *Maine, Birthplace of American Folk Art Collecting* followed by
*Glorious Quilts***

**10:05 Suzanne Rudnick Payne, Ph.D. and Michael R. Payne, Ph.D. – *Maine Folk Portrait
Painters***

10:45 Break

11:00 William Gemmill – *Schoolgirl Art*

11:40 Leonard Brooks - *The Human and the Eternal: Shaker Art in its Many Forms*

12:10 Lunch

Raymond C. Egan, co-director of Maine Folk Art Trail, will introduce afternoon speakers

1:20 Mildred C. Peladeau – *A Century of Rug Hooking in Maine*

2:00 Dr. Stuart Frank – “*More Than Ordinary Merit*”, *Scrimshaw by Sailors from Maine*

2:40 Break

2:55 Dr. Brian Mills – *Glaze Decorated Redware*

3:35 Deane VanDusen – *Maine Painted Furniture: A New State, A Spirited Style*

**4:15 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. - *Folk Art Depictions of Maine Towns*, followed by
Overview of Symposium**

4:40 Wine and Cheese Reception, courtesy of Bates College Museum of Art

5:40 Adjourn

Symposium Speakers

Leonard Brooks is Director of the Shaker Museum and Shaker Library, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, New Gloucester, Maine, a position he has held for 20 years.

Deane Van Dusen has been collecting folk art since age 14, when he became smitten with the décor in the home of serious collectors for whom he was babysitting. Later he became employed at Fruitland's Museum, where he helped catalogue the Sears collection. Since 1979 he has focused on 19th century painted furniture, with an emphasis on Maine examples.

Dr. Stuart Frank is Senior Curator of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, Director Emeritus of the Kendall Whaling Museum and Director of the Scrimshaw Forensics Laboratory. He is author of dozens of articles and books on scrimshaw and other aspects of maritime art, history, literature and music, including a forthcoming *Scrimshaw Encyclopedia*.

William Gemmill and his wife, Sally, have been collecting the works of New England schoolgirls dating from 1790 to 1840 for many years. Their collection includes examples on silk, linen, and paper and consists of memorials, family records, maps, and depictions of historical and allegorical events. Through careful research they have been able to relate each to a particular school and pupil.

Dr. Brian Mills has been collecting folk art for 25 years, with particular emphasis on redware and paintings. He has been able to make use of his extensive collection of redware to make new attributions, based on similarities in shape or decoration. He will share his enthusiasm for Maine potters with the symposium audience.

Michael and Suzanne Payne are avid folk art collectors, specializing in early American portraits. Based on their research, they have produced six scholarly, yet eminently readable articles, piecing together for the first time many interesting aspects of the lives of four heretofore obscure itinerant artists. They also have a book in preparation surveying American folk art paintings.

Mildred Cole Peladeau is a scholar and author of the recently released *Rug Hooking in Maine* (Schiffer.) She has been consultant and/or guest curator and/ or speaker at American Textile History Museum, Maine State Museum, American Museum of Folk Art and Maine Historical Society, as well as author of several articles on hooked rugs.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. was appointed in 1971 to serve on the first board of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, for which he became architectural historian in 1973 and director in 1976. He has lectured and written extensively on Maine history, architecture and art, his most recent publication being *Victorian Augusta* (Arcadia). In 2004 he was appointed State Historian, as well, by the Governor of Maine.

Elizabeth V. Warren is a former Curator and currently Consulting Curator and Trustee at the American Folk Art Museum in New York. She is an author of several books, including *Five Star Folk Art*, *Glorious American Quilts*, and *Young America: A Folk Art History*, as well as several published articles. She has been the curator for over a dozen exhibitions and is a popular lecturer on folk art topics.