

Trading Post Times

River Trading Post

FUNCTIONAL, BEAUTIFUL BEADWORK OF THE PLAINS. A COLLECTOR'S TREASURE.

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Following European contact in the early 17th century, glass beads were introduced by the French traders to Native Groups.



Native artisans initially believed that European beads

contained special properties, giving them a spirit-helper status.

The glass bead (European trade beads) became the common denominator of the Indian fur trade, and were avidly incorporated into the Native aesthetic.

Ultimately the glass bead replaced the porcupine-quill wrapping and organic seed beads as the favored decorative

item.

By the mid 19th century, the bead art was at its finest, with elaborate, complex designs adorning vests, and leggings; purses and bible bags; belts and saddles and moccasins.

Today, a piece of great beadwork is one of the most prized and most beautiful treasures of the American Indian art collector.



Great examples of the old beadwork can be found in each of our River Trading Post galleries, and on our website.



This Sioux child's vest dates back to the 1880s. The elaborate Sioux design, and the American flags, are sewn onto a very soft brain-tanned hide vest (that also is fully lined.) This vest currently is on display at River Trading Post, Scottsdale.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- River Trading Post and Silver Sun Jewelry show. April 4. 5-7pm. Santa Fe, NM
- Gathering of Nations Powwow April 28 - 30, Albuquerque, NM
- IACA Artist of the Year Award Banquet. April 5, Santa Fe, NM
- IACA Collector's Market. April 7, Santa Fe, NM
- Eiteljorg Museum Indian Market. June 25 - 26. Indianapolis, In.
- Traditional Pueblo Arts Ongoing at River Trading Post, Scottsdale, AZ www.puebloarts.com

RIVER TRADING POST POD NETWORK INFORMS AND ENTERTAINS COLLECTORS

Did you know that the River Trading Post Pod Network contains 29 features and over 24 hours of programming for you to enjoy?

You can listen to top artists discuss their culture and their art through programs featuring

Mark Fischer (Oneida), Amelia Joe-Chandler (Navajo), Ryon Polequaptewa (Hopi), Cliff Fragua (Jemez Pueblo) and other top artists.

You also will find a good selection of music created by American Indian artists.

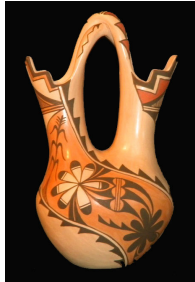
If you haven't tried this special River Trading Post service, you should take a break from TV to check it out.

You can tune in through a link on our website, or go directly to www.rivertradingpost.com/podcast.xml. Enjoy!





The Fragua Family: Gathering around Matriarch Juanita are (left to right) Tablita, Cliff, Glendora, Star and Betty Jean. Also Marcus Wall.



A Classic Juanita Fragua Wedding Vase

GENERATIONS OF GREAT ART FROM THE FRAGUA FAMILY

From the Walatowa Pueblo comes a most talented family.

Mother, and matriarch of the family, Juanita Fragua is a member of the corn clan and was instrumental in the pottery revival at Jemez Pueblo. Juanita has made a major contribution to revitalizing and promoting Jemez Pueblo art.

Daughters Betty Jean and Glendora learned the art of pottery at the hands of their mother, and both have become highly accomplished artists, each with their own distinctive style and approach to the pottery art.

Son, Cliff, has become a renowned and very important American Indian sculptor. Cliff's work is on permanent display at many important venues, including the U.S. Capitol Building showcase of his Popé sculpture .

Grandchildren Star, in collaboration with Marcus Wall, and Tablita also have taken to pottery creation, and the future promises to be bright as their work develops.

Visit River Trading Post to enjoy the work of the Fragua generations.



B.J. Fragua Pottery



Cliff Fragua Sculpture



Glendora Fragua Pottery



Star Fragua and Marcus Wall collaboration



Tablita Fragua Pottery

J.B. MOORE: THE CATALOG TRADER



Above: J.B. Moore with weaver outside Hogan. (Credit: Navajo-arts.com)

Right: From River Trading Post Collection of J.B. Moore Crystal weavings

Right top: Variant of Plate XIII, The Navajo, 1911

Right bottom: Classic J.B. Moore Crystal weaving. Not in catalogs.

Far right: Variant of Plate II, The Navajo, 1903.



In 1896, John B. Moore purchased a trading post at Washington Pass, New Mexico and promptly named it "Crystal" after the sparkling mountain spring that ran by his place. He built a rugged log post and house that would enable him to survive the harsh winters at the 8,000 feet elevation at rugged Washington Pass.

During the 1890's, there was little food for the Navajos and virtually no market for their wool. Moore figured that if they couldn't sell wool, perhaps they could sell the wool as blankets, especially to the wealthy folks in the East.

Working with the finest weavers in the Crystal area, Moore was highly visionary. The traditional Navajo weaving was a wearing blanket. Moore encouraged the weavers toward heavier weavings that could be used as a floor rug.

Moore also was influential in developing a style with oriental motifs, that included multiple borders, large center medallions, hooks and other unique design elements. His thinking is that this style would appeal to the folks "back east."

In 1903, Moore lifted an idea from Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward and the mail-order merchandising technique. He published his first catalog, carefully noting that there might be variations from the pictures in his catalog since each weaving was hand made.

Moore had great respect for the weavers, and was the first Anglo ever to mention the weavers by name and even to show their pictures.

In 1911, Moore abruptly left the Navajo reservation without a trace, (some say because of a scandal that was not his fault.)

Today, J.B. Moore's classic weavings are prized possessions and his legacy lives on.

FAVORITE PLACES: NAVAJO TRADING POSTS

A century or so ago, Navajo territory was dotted with 158 trading posts, that we know of. (You can find a map of all of these old places on our website library.)

These were places where people not only came to trade wool, cattle and sheep for food and other goods, but they served as social centers as well.

In those days, the trading posts served as sort of convenience stores for the Navajo people, including a place where the people could get cold, hard cash using jewelry or other items as collateral.

During the 1980's the true convenience store appeared in Navajo and Hopi country. They didn't really trade anything, but they did sell gasoline, and the most amazing array of junk food that you every have seen.

For the most part, the classic old trading post just had to close the doors.

Some of them, such as the Cameron Trading Post, near Flagstaff, (pictured upper right) survived in grand style including fabulous lodging for people visiting Navajo country.

Others like Tohatchi (Tohatchi, New Mexico) and

Cow Canyon (Bluff, Utah) have seen the end of the trail. (Pictured to the right.)

When you travel Navajo country, you will see the historic remains of these great old places.

They are constant reminders of a cleaner, simpler time. And somehow, they always refresh the spirit.

That is why we include them among our favorite places.

(The historic Toadlena Trading Post still continues under the wing of trader Mark Winter. Today it supports over 100 Navajo weavers.)



IACA COLLECTOR'S GUILD DEBUTS

Now you can be a "card carrying" American Indian art collector and enjoy some great benefits.

The *Indian Arts and Crafts Association* is comprised of American Indian Artists, Galleries and American Indian Art collectors.

The annual *IACA Collector's Guild* membership fee of just

\$50.00 brings with it a number of enjoyable benefits to members, including:

- A membership card that entitles members to a 10% discount at many leading American Indian Art Galleries (Including River Trading Post.)
- A one-year subscription to *Native Peoples Magazine*

- A subscription to the *IACA Newsletter*, and membership directory
- Free admission to IACA Collector's Markets and Seminars.

For more information, visit the River Trading Post website, www.rivertradingpost.com, or visit the IACA website, www.IACA.com



Scottsdale



Santa Fe

FOUR GREAT COLLECTOR EXPERIENCES

Whether you are decorating your home or are an avid collector of fine American Indian art, you will find River Trading Post has a great mix of historic and contemporary art from over 50 tribal nations.

Come visit. Enjoy!

River Trading Post

314 N. River Street
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RTP On-Line



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Arts of Native America

When it comes to collecting American Indian Art, I prefer:

- Contemporary work by top artists - 19%
- The old stuff, antiques - 17%
- As long as it is good, I go for either - 64%

The American Indian Art that I love most to collect is:

- Pueblo Pottery - 28%
- Jewelry - 27%
- Navajo Weavings - 15%
- Hopi Kachina Dolls - 15%
- Plains Indian Art/Beadwork - 15%

My favorite source for information is:

- American Indian Art Magazine - 34%
- Native People's Magazine - 22%
- NMAI (Smithsonian Magazine) - 10%
- Cowboys and Indians Magazine - 10%

AMERICAN INDIAN ART COLLECTOR'S FAVORITES

As an American Indian Art collector, we thought you would be interested in the thoughts and favorites of other collectors.

We conduct our own on-going poll among collectors so that we can even better for you. (See left for our 2-year poll highlights.)

Here is what we have discovered.

People Love A Mix of Old and New

Most collectors love a blend of great vintage and antique pieces along with fine contemporary work because this kind of a collection makes a connection between today's art and the

work from years past. (We also happen to love the old and the new, and that is why we are one of the few galleries to feature the great old pieces along side top contemporary work.)

Pottery and Jewelry Top Collector Favorites

Ease of display, and wear ability make pottery and jewelry the top choices of collectors in our poll. It doesn't take a lot of space to create a great collection in either of these categories.

Collectors Look To Media for Information

American Indian Art leads the way for collectors to become informed, particularly with

respect to the great old pieces.

Native People's Magazine is a distant second, but provides information about contemporary art and artists that is of great value to collectors.

Be Informed, Collect What You Love

Loving what you collect, and being informed about what you collect are the two most important ingredients to your successful collection of American Indian art.

And, let us know what you love by participating in the ongoing poll on our website. You will see instant, updated results based on your choices.

