

Trading Post Times

River Trading Post

WINTER TIME HEATS UP AT RIVER TRADING POST SCOTTSDALE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ArtFeast at River Trading Post Friday, February 24. 5 to 8pm Santa Fe, NM
- 9th Annual Arts of Native America Show and Sale. March 1 through 4 River Trading Post, Scottsdale, AZ
- Heard Museum Indian Art Market. March 3 and 4. Phoenix, AZ
- St Joseph Feast Day and Harvest Dance. March 19. Old Laguna Pueblo, NM
- Traditional Pueblo Arts. Ongoing. www.puebloarts.com River Trading Post Scottsdale, AZ

River Trading Post, Scottsdale has a solid line-up of special events for the winter months, especially for visitors to the Valley of the Sun.

Scottsdale's Largest Antique Indian Jewelry Show: February 2 - 4

Visitors will enjoy Arizona's largest antique Indian jewelry show, featuring thousands of great old pieces from Mule Creek Trading Company. Opening reception is Thursday, February 2 from 6 to 9pm.

Historic Navajo Weaving Show: February 23 - 29

Aficionados of fine Navajo weavings will not want to miss this dazzling display of historic Navajo weavings. Opening reception is Thursday, February

23 from 6pm to 9pm.

9th Annual Arts of Native America Show and Sale. March 1 - 4

In what has become Scottsdale's very top event of the season, visitors will enjoy great food, music and meeting with today's very top American Indian artists prior to the Heard Museum Indian market. Opening reception is March 1. 6-9pm.

Mark Winter "The Making of The Master Weavers" lecture and book signing. March 17. 11 am

From Toadlena Trading Post, author Mark Winter tells of his journey in creating a master work. (See Page 2 for story).

For additional information call us at 480-444-0001



Wearing blanket with Spider Woman crosses will be part of the Historic Navajo Weaving Show at River Trading Post Scottsdale. February 23 -29.

ARTFEAST AT RIVER TRADING POST, CANYON ROAD

Fifteen years ago a group of Santa Fe gallery dealers proclaimed that a city known for the fine arts must ensure that its schoolchildren have access to visual arts education. Today, ARTfeast Santa Fe has grown into the city's premier winter celebration with a weekend of

fabulous food and art events, the proceeds from which are donated to arts materials, projects, mentors, and scholarships for the youth of Santa Fe.

River Trading Post and The Ranch House Restaurant have teamed up for the event to provide a kaleidoscope of great

American Indian art, and some delectable treats from one of Santa Fe's top eateries.

If you are in our neighborhood, drop by and enjoy!

Friday, February 24. 5 to 8pm.

Call us for details. 505-982-2805





THE WAMPUM WARRIOR

Wampum are traditional, sacred shell beads of the Eastern Woodlands tribes. The term “wampum” is a shortened version of the earlier word “wampumpeag” which is derived from the Narragansett wording meaning “white strings”

White and purple beads, frequently created from the quahog clam, were used to create woven wampum belts that commemorated treaties or historical events, and for exchange in personal social transactions, such as marriage.

Wampum also was used for

storytelling. The symbols used told a story in the oral tradition since there was no written language. Wampum became a very important way to keep records and pass stories along to future generations. Wampum also was “Americas first currency.”

During the 1700s, Europeans introduced that glass bead, and the glass bead was incorporated into wampum belts.

Today, Métis artist Don Standing Bear Forest is one of a very few to keep the wampum art and tradition alive.

Standing Bear creates quahog

shell wampum jewelry of his own design, as well as replicas of original wampum belts. He also weaves wampum belts using glass beads that are imported from Czechoslovakia, as they were since the early 1700s.

Of his work, he says, “It is a labor of spiritual significance. It allows people to know that our people are still alive, proud and doing well, living in both worlds.”

Today, you can enjoy Don Standing Bear’s work at River Trading Post.

Picture Lower Left: Unity of Clans wampum belt by Don Standing Bear Forest

River Trading Post
American Indian Art
Evaluation Services

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JUST HOW MUCH IS MY FAVORITE PIECE WORTH?

This is the question we get from dozens of collectors each and every week.

And, we try our best to help them find an answer to the question.

If you have the same question, might we suggest that you visit our website where you can find some guidance. Our on-line library includes a great little

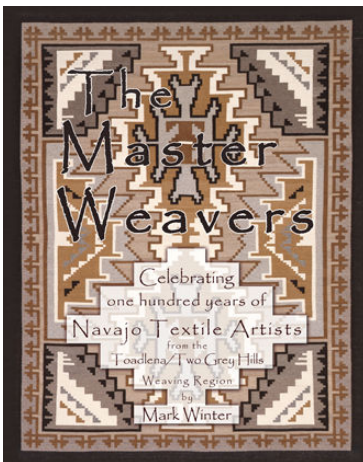
document that will help to guide you in evaluating either a special piece from your collection, or your entire collection.

The guide will take you through a step-by-step process, from valuation to appraisal to authentication of your piece, or collection.

Whether you are just curious, perhaps need a valuation for

insurance purposes, or a full blown appraisal for charitable donation purposes, you will find this a handy reference piece.

You can find the guide by clicking the *Library and Collector’s Tips* on our homepage at www.rivertradingpost.com.



AFTER 23 YEARS IN THE MAKING, A BOOK IS BORN

Indian Trader Mark Winter’s *The Master Weavers* was 23 years of sweat and research in its creation. The result is the definitive work on the textiles of the Toadlena/Two Grey Hills weaving region.

Mark spent hundreds of hours interviewing Navajo weavers and their families, many requir-

ing Navajo translators. The result is a look at the lives of these extraordinary artists with greater depth than any author has achieved. Indeed, Mark details the lives and work of 90 Master Weavers.

The 608 page volume contains hundreds of photographs, genealogies of all of the Master

Weavers, and much more.

The cover price of \$125 brings sticker shock to some. But this volume is an essential part of any great American Indian Art library.

FAVORITE PLACES: AZTEC RUINS

For an easy stroll, and a close-up look at an 11th century village, Aztec Ruins provides the visitor with both.

Set in the dry sandy washes near the Animas river, Aztec Ruins today is a walled village consisting of nearly 400 rooms and over a dozen kivas.

Here you can explore an ancestral Pueblo great house. Look up in the rooms and see original timbers holding up the roof. You will even find fingerprints of ancient workers in the mortar.

Early explorers mistakenly believed that the site was related to the Aztec civilization of Mexico. In actuality, the people of the village were more likely part of the Mesa Verde group.

Construction of this settlement began in the late 11th century, and ended around 1300 as the people scattered to neighboring pueblos due to drought or over-farmed and dead land.

Walking through the place, one can only imagine the chatter of people, the laughter of children

and the sacred ceremonies that were conducted here. As you explore, listen for an echo of the ritual drums of long ago.

Today, Aztec Ruins is a National Monument that is very visitor friendly. The site is located just a couple of miles outside the town of Aztec, Colorado.

Aztec Ruins. One of our favorite places.



WHAT EXACTLY IS A FETISH?

American Indians have used fetishes throughout recorded history, especially the Indians of the Southwest.

A fetish is an object which is believed to have a spiritual power. They may be of any form or material, but they all have one purpose - to assist man against any real or potential problems.

The problems can be those of

the mind, body or universe.

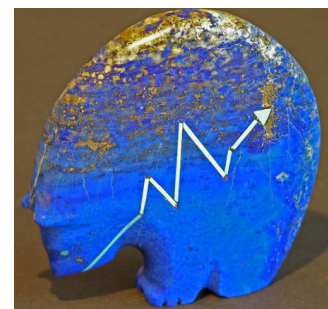
Fetishes can be owned by an individual, family, clan, kiva society or an entire tribe. They are believed to feed on corn meal while kept in a special pot or pouch. Ground turquoise is often mixed with the corn meal.

Fetishes often are decorated with turquoise, arrowheads, coral, etc. as a means of adornment, thereby showing affec-

tion and appreciation by the maker and/or owner.

The better treatment a fetish receives, the better performance it is likely to provide.

Most fetishes relate to animals, usually animals of prey, which are acknowledged as the most powerful providers in life, having great powers and strong hearts.



The Zuni people believe in six cardinal guardian fetishes. North (yellow) is the mountain lion, South (red) is the badger, West (blue) is the bear, East (white) is the wolf. Additionally the mole is guardian of the nadir (inner earth - black) and Zepath (sky - any color) is the eagle.



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 80 American Indian nations.

Come visit. Enjoy!

River Trading Post

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Arts of Native America

AUGUSTINE MOWA III: "OLD STYLE" REVIVALIST



Augustine Mowa III puts the finishing touches on an Old Style doll at River Trading Post in Scottsdale.

His work is found in the permanent collections of the Heard Museum and the Museum of Northern Arizona, and he is one of the "first twelve" to revive the "Old Style" dolls.

Auggie is a descendant of the Bear Clan, an extended leadership family, on his mother's side. His father's family includes important medicine people.

As a youngster, Auggie grew up surrounded by a family of carvers, basketmakers and jewelers.

Because of the fine quality of carving, painting and feather work, Auggie's kachina dolls are highly sought after by col-

lectors. Each piece is created with great attention to detail, and Auggie uses only traditional paints in finishing each piece.

Mowa says that he loves to carve, because it is a part of the Hopi culture and religion.

You can see an extensive collection of Augustine Mowa III's work in our River Trading Post galleries, and on our website.

And, if you visit our Scottsdale gallery, you just might find this exceptional carver hard at work, doing what he loves best.



Piki Eater, by Augustine Mowa III, is a great example of the colors, the detail and the exceptional use of feathers in his Old Style carvings.

