



This photo, from the Pewabic Pottery archives, was taken when Mary Chase Stratton was creating decorative vases in the Art Nouveau style. Pewabic is an American Indian word meaning 'clay with a copper color.'

# OWL speaker

## Creator of Pewabic Pottery

Dr. Grace Stewart, the foremost authority on the woman who founded Pewabic Pottery, is the speaker for the spring luncheon hosted by the Farmington Chapter of Older Women's League (OWL).

The life and the work of the ceramist, Mary Chase Stratton, will be told at the event which begins at noon Saturday, March 11, in Farmington Hills Branch Library, on 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road. Luncheon will be served by caterer Judy Antishin.

Reservations, at \$12.50 each, must be made on or before March 5, with Virginia Nicoll, 474-3094.

Stewart is director of "Focus on Women" at Henry Ford Community College. She is the author of "A New Mythos: The Novel of the Artist as Heroine" and among her many publications is the heavily researched "The Entrepreneurial Artist: Mary Chase Perry Stratton." The paper was written as a contribution to the book "Historic Women of Michigan," published in observance of the Michigan Bicentennial.

Much of Stewart's writings on Stratton centers around her struggle to find the proper balance between being a creative artist on one hand and an entrepreneurial businesswoman on the other. The struggle between serving the creative self or serving the client is as real for artists today as it was for Stratton in 1893 when she moved to Detroit and with four other women established a studio called Ceramic Art Colony.

STRAITON'S first kiln was one developed by a dentist for firing dental work. When it was subsequently modified to fire glazes on ceramic and glass, much of her income came from being a sales representative for that kiln.

Her artistic self experimented with colors for glazes — shimmering

coppers, reds, blues and greens, as she turned out primarily vases in the Art Nouveau style.

Her entrepreneurial self turned out cold cream jars, which turned into a nightmare when the cold cream dried out because the covers were not airtight.

The struggle of putting a price on a piece of art continued throughout her life, long after her work was highly prized and highly sought after, notably with architects in conferences concerning her handmade tiles used for fireplaces, fountains and countertops.

The tiles were made for the business venture she called Pewabic Pottery, chosen for its Indian and American flavor, and appealing to her mystical nature.

Pewabic Pottery grew alongside the arts and craft movement in Detroit.

Stratton helped found the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts in 1906, which is now known as the Center for Creative Studies and she served as trustee for Detroit Museum of Art.

Through these contacts Stratton's work was shown throughout the country and in Europe, and Pewabic Pottery was hailed as the most significant manifestation of the international arts and crafts movement in ceramics in Michigan.

BUILDINGS which now contain the shimmering blue and green tiles — which stamp the tiles as Pewabic — are the Detroit Institute of Arts, Christ Church Cranbrook, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the Guardian Building, Meadowbrook, the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and numerous private homes in Grosse Pointe and Detroit.

The Pewabic Society has renovated the original Pewabic Pottery studios where the fine pieces continue

to be created and site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mary Chase Stratton died in 1961 and was admitted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

Farmington Chapter of OWL's spring luncheon program is given in observance of Women's History Month.

The organization is the only one in the country which works exclusively to make life better for mid-life and older women.

## Nominees are sought for awards

The Farmington Area Arts Commission is accepting nominations for 1989 Artist-in-Residence, for the individual and for the organization to receive this year's Service to Arts award.

An artist can nominate him or herself, or nominees can be made by an individual or an organization. Candidates are selected from the fields of art, dance, drama, literature and music.

The Artist-in-Residence Award recognizes the talent and accomplishment of an individual who lives in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

The Service to Arts award recognizes outstanding service to the community in the creative arts.

Nominations must include the major area of work, professional credits, performances or exhibitions, awards and slides or photos when applicable. It must also include a statement of why the nominee is worthy of the award.

Nomination deadline is Feb. 28. Nominations are to be sent to Farmington Area Arts Commission, 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018.

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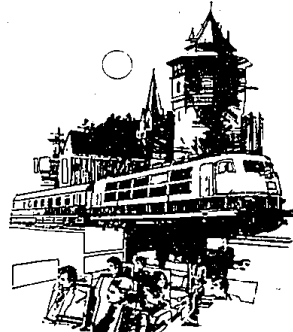
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