

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF COWAN POTTERY MUSEUM



Library employee Sharon Leonard assists John Brodbeck with unpacking the collection (1977)

**2018 marks 40 years of Cowan Pottery Museum at the Library!** The Museum opened on February 26, 1978. The Museum's collection began with a few early donations to the Library from Rocky River residents and the Rocky River Historical Society followed by a major acquisition of Cowan Pottery in 1976. A generous private bequest from former Library trustee Maude W. Michael in memory of her husband E. Earl Michael made possible the purchase of the John Brodbeck collection of 800 pieces in December 1976. Today the Museum holds nearly 1300 pieces. At a given time, roughly 40% of the collection is on display. Through the interest and advocacy of Rocky River Public Library's first director, Katherine E. Wilder, and later the leadership and promotional efforts of the second director, George W. Scherma, the dream of the Cowan Pottery Museum became a reality. Since Cowan Pottery had its most successful and productive period in Rocky River, it appeared logical to establish the Cowan Pottery Museum as part of this community's public library. The next time you stop in, take a moment to have a look at some of the stunning pieces on display - or even contact the curator at (440) 895-3763 to schedule a guided tour!

## 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COWAN POTTERY SYMPOSIUM

**Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**



The Symposium is open to all who are interested in Cowan Pottery, local history, antiques and collecting, and the arts in general. This all-day event is presented by the Library, the Museum, and the Cowan Pottery Museum Associates (CPMA) for the purpose of providing networking opportunities and stimulating interest in Cowan Pottery, a significant part of Northeast Ohio's cultural heritage. There will be three speakers' presentations addressing topics centered on Cowan Pottery, American art pottery, and regional art and history.

The Symposium also includes a "Show and Share" session, a catered lunch, and the Cowan Pottery Associates' scholarship presentation to a Cleveland Institute of Art ceramics student. Cost for the Symposium is only \$22. An evening dinner off-site will be an extra charge. The reservation deadline is Friday, April 27, 2018. For further information, watch for flyers at the library later this winter or contact the curator at (440) 895-3763. You can also visit the Museum's page on the Library website ([www.rrpl.org/cowan](http://www.rrpl.org/cowan)), the Cowan Pottery Museum Associates' website ([www.cowanpottery.org](http://www.cowanpottery.org)), or visit the CPMA on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CowanPottery](http://www.facebook.com/CowanPottery)).