

Jean Higgs as Potter

Oct 1963 Jean wrote an article for “Pottery in Australia” which provides a glimpse into Jean and Arthur’s life at the time.

They undertook an extended (by modern standards) trip through the US, Europe and east Asia for several months. Travel was largely but not exclusively by plane, with train and some ship travel as well. It is believed that Arthur spent some time on this trip visiting related astronomy groups, but no detail is available.

Jean met with many renowned potters on this trip, as well as visiting many museums and galleries. A hint as to her standing in the community are the frequent references to her meetings with curators of various exhibits at many museums spread along the trip. While the era was also one that was more amenable to individual contacts and visits, nonetheless the level and number of these visits is indicative of how well known she was even in the early 1960’s.

The trip started in the US, with visits to California, Nevada, New York and Washington. They met with individual potters, university Ceramics professors and curators, such as Mrs Freeman from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Their travels then took them across the UK, France, Spain and Greece, before crossing through Turkey into Israel. These were moderately stressful times along much of their travel route, with significant border and international tensions in several countries. I can well picture Jean attempting to access locations and facilities under difficult language and border tensions and processes, and trying to convince them that her intentions in the art world rose above local disputes.

The article is well worth reading.

Arthur wrote an article in the same volume on design and construction of an electric kiln. It reflects the transition that was occurring between older gas fired kilns and electricity. It is written in typical Arthur fashion, with great clarity and attention to detail.



For more on Jean Higgs pottery, see:

https://www.australianpotteryatbemboka.com.au/shop/index.php?manufacturers_id=153

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/austpots/discuss/72157629640191833/>