



NEWS RELEASE

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSEUM TO FEATURE DRYDEN POTTERY IN TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

TOPEKA, Kan.—The Kansas Historical Society announced that the Kansas Museum of History recently received a donation of over 50 pieces of Dryden pottery. A sample of the pieces will be displayed in a temporary exhibit called “A Melody in Glaze: Dryden Pottery.” The exhibit will run through the end of September.

After World War II Ellsworth native James Dryden used his G.I. Bill benefits to fund his education and learn about making pottery. In 1946 he borrowed money to start Dryden Pottery, using the clay and volcanic ash in the Ellsworth area to create his works of art. Because of the war, no one had made pottery for four years and stores were ready for stock. As more Americans took to the road for family travel, Dryden found a market in shops selling souvenirs and household items. He looked to relocate in an area with a thriving tourism trade and in 1956 Dryden moved his pottery factory to Hot Springs, Ark.

Among the items in the Museum’s exhibit are the Grecian pitcher (Dryden’s signature piece), an ashtray made for the Isis Temple in Salina, a Dryden mold recovered from the Ellsworth plant, and volcanic ash from Ellsworth. Visit kshs.org/exhibits/current/newexhibits.htm to see some of the Dryden pottery items.

The Dryden pieces in the museum’s collection were donated by G.L. Dybwad and Joy V. Bliss, authors of the book *Dryden Pottery*, available for purchase in the Museum Store.

The Kansas Museum of History is located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue. Hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday and 1 – 5 p.m. Sunday. The Museum is closed on New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Admission is \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$3 students. Kansas residents receive \$1 discount. Group rates are available with prior notice. KSHS, Inc., members, current military, and children five and under admitted free. More information online at kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.