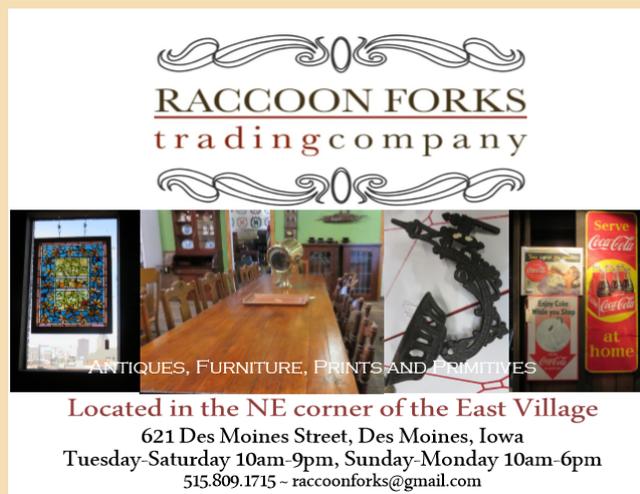


RACCOON FORKS TRADING CO. NEWSLETTER: FEB. 2017



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RFTC's new retail space layout

Raccoon Forks Trading Company has spent the winter months rearranging. The project is not quite finished, due in part to interior remodeling by RFTC's new next door neighbor Railroad Bill's Dining Car (an excellent breakfast and lunch spot!) and our historic facade rehabilitation project. But RFTC's retail space has an almost entirely new look. The new layout makes our inventory easy to find, and showcases furniture with future interior design in mind. The new layout also groups together particular collections, styles and eras. Finding exactly what you are looking for in our carefully curated inventory, or stumbling across that one-of-a-kind surprise, has never been more convenient!



Oscar Sunday party: 20% off movie memorabilia



The 2017 Academy Awards are set for Feb. 26, and Raccoon Forks Trading Co. can help get you in the spirit and prepare for your Oscar Sunday watch party.

Raccoon Forks Trading Company is offering newsletter subscribers 20% off of its selection of movie memorabilia. This includes books (great selections on old Hollywood) and prints, and human-sized replicas of the actual Oscar award!

To receive the discount, please present a printed or e-version of this edition of the newsletter to the cashier, or tell the cashier your favorite to win the Best Picture award.

Each month, RFTC offers its newsletter subscribers a special discount to reward subscribers for their loyal readership.

Introducing RFTC's new trader: the Bottle Aficionado

We are pleased to announce that RFTC has recently added the collection of a new

trader, an authority on antique bottles, to its inventory.

Tom Southard has been working on compiling his antique bottle collection for more than 40 years. He focuses on Iowa bottles, pontil medicines, bitters, historical flasks, Iowa salt glaze and advertising stoneware.

Mr. Southard's expertise on antique bottles is well known and well documented. In fact, he co-authored a 676-page tome on the subject titled "The Antique Bottles of Iowa, 1846-1915." Mr. Southard is also active in the Iowa Antique Bottlers club, which seeks to promote, foster and encourage exhibiting, displaying, trading, collecting and researching of bottles and related vessels.

RFTC is thrilled to have Mr. Southard's sophisticated selection of antique bottles and other items on its shelves.



Wapello Jim's pick of the month: Cloisonné

Wapello Jim ("The Agent"), a direct descendant of the Indian Agent Joseph Street, who traded with the Winnebago Indians of Wapello County, specializes in select "smalls" glassware, pottery and china. Each month, Wapello Jim highlights an intriguing item in Raccoon Forks Trading Company's carefully curated inventory.

Cloisonné is an ancient technique for decorating metalwork objects. In older periods this included inlays of cut gemstones, glass and other materials, and eventually use of enamel. The resulting objects can also be called *cloisonné*.

The decoration is formed by adding compartments to the metal object by soldering or affixing gold, silver or brass wires, or thin strips on their edges. The decoration remains visible in the finished piece, separating the different

compartments of the often multi-colored enamel or inlays. Cloisonné enamel objects are worked on with enamel powder made into a paste then fired in a kiln.



The technique was used in ancient times mostly for jewelry and other similar small objects with thick cloison walls. In the Byzantine Empire (330 to 1453 A.D.), techniques began to incorporate use of enamel and thinner wires to allow for production of more picturesque images, mostly for jewelry and religious imagery. By the 14th century, the enamel technique had spread to China, where it was soon used for larger objects like bowls and vases. Cloisonné enamel objects featuring Chinese styles were produced in the West starting in the 18th century.

Cloisonné today mostly comes from China or Japan and are designed for tourists. Cloisonné is still widely collectible and comes in many different styles, although most of what is seen today is in the form of plates or vases.

New inventory: Paw Foot sewing table, cut glass, prints



American Transitional Federal to Empire Paw Foot Sewing Table (C. 1830) — This sewing table bridges two eras in U.S. furniture making: Federal (1790-1815), like the Federal architectural style where balance and symmetry were important, to Empire (1805-1830), with emphasis on classical influences from Greece, Egypt and ancient Europe. Note the fine carved base resembling animal paws.

Cut glass — Catfish Bill's trading room features an array of cut glass pieces, including new individual pieces and sets: an ice cream tray, a cylindrical vase, a bowl, and a set of 6 champagne glasses. Among the reasons cut glass became a desirable item in the late



19th century was the way cut glass items reflect light across a dinner table. Cut glass was a very popular wedding gift in its heyday, and still makes for a great wedding



Prints, prints and more prints! — One of RFTC's specialties is antique and vintage prints. Among the prints pictured here: "Scenes in Wall Street During the Panic", "High Water in the Mississippi", "Les Modes Parisiennes" and "Siege of Vicksburg - Attack on the Confederate Works".

Founded in 1812 by Emile Dobby (a French Canadian-Scots Irish fur trader) at the forks of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, our mission for over 200 years has been to bring choice goods in from the wilderness to trade with the local population for whatever valuables they possess (including cash, checks, and credit/debit cards).

Emile immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1800s after being driven out of Scotland for his rogue and wile ways, which had led to charges that included horse thievery. After spending many years fur trapping in the American West, he started the original RFTC near our current location, at 621 Des Moines Street (in the northeast corner of the East Village).

In our present incarnation we pledge to provide our loyal customers with high quality, carefully researched and curated antique and vintage furniture, furnishings, art, prints, etc., etc., etc.



Raccoon Forks Trading Co. is an Optima LifeServices small business. Optima creates jobs for individuals with disabilities and mental illness by developing and

operating small businesses that provide high quality goods, services and economic benefits to communities. For more information, please click here:

<http://www.optimaelifeservices.com/our-services/raccoon-forks-businesses/>



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Forward

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