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**Visiting RFTC, Vintage in the City among the D.M. Register's "Top Things To Do in March"**

The [Des Moines Register](#) recently listed [Vintage In The City](#) as one of the "Top Things To Do in March." Raccoon Forks Trading Company is participating in the one-day shop-hop event for the first time.

Vintage in the City will be held on March 25, from 10 am to 5 pm, and feature multiple

stores in addition to RFTC. Vintage in the City is an annual event to support brick and mortar shop owners who have fantastic Mid-Century, retro, industrial, architectural salvage, re-purposed, primitives and vintage items. Participating stores will have various in-store specials, promotions and one-of-a-kind items.

Make sure to put a stop at RFTC on your Vintage in the City itinerary!



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## **Newsletter subscriber special: 20% off toy display items**

Raccoon Forks Trading Co. is offering its newsletter subscribers an exclusive discount on RFTC items in the toy display, including games, models and children's books. To claim the discount, please show a printed or e-version of the newsletter to the cashier, or tell the cashier the password, which is the name of RFTC's founder (it's Emile Dobby).



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## **Video tour: RFTC's Mid-Century Modern room**

Raccoon Forks Trading Company likes Mid-Century Modern stuff and has a growing collection of Mid-Century Modern items, big and small. Please click the image below

to take a short video tour of RFTC's Mid-Century Modern trading room.



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## **Wapello Jim's pick of the month: Minton(s)**

*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.*

Minton china and pottery was started by Thomas Minton (1765-1836) and has been made in the Staffordshire region of England from 1793 to present. Over the years, the company has been known as both Minton and Mintons and has traded under several names, such as Minton and Poulson, Thomas Minton and Sons, and more.



Minton is partially known for the unique and regularly changing marks on its products. The marks can be used to date and authenticate Minton items, with some marks showing a symbol and others also impressed with the date of manufacture. Many of the talented and famous ceramic artists and designers who have worked at Minton were also allowed to sign their work.

The earliest Minton markings were a blue enamel overglaze featuring two intersecting curving lines with the letter M between them at the bottom and, below it, a pattern number. This marking was reserved for gilded pieces. During the 1820s, the marking was simply two crossed swords. This design was replaced by various markings bearing the letter "M" or the letters "M" and "B." From 1830 to 1860, the marking was an arrow pointing up or up and slightly left to three dots. Around the 1860s, the company also began imprinting its emblem, which has evolved over time but typically involves a grid globe flanked by laurel with the company name across it.

When Minton's son Herbert (1793-1858) took over, he developed new production techniques and moved the business into new fields, such as making decorative encaustic tile. Herbert entered into partnership with Michael Hollins in 1845 (the above pictured tile has Minton and Hollins spelled out across the back, and appears to feature the crossed swords marking) and formed the tile-making firm Minton, Hollins & Company, which became suppliers of durable decorative finishes for walls and floors in public buildings (the U.S. Capitol among them), grand palaces and simple domestic houses. Examples of the work have been showcased at the Smithsonian Institute.

RFTC has a large selection Minton and other porcelain tiles in stock.

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**New inventory: Detecto scale, Folk Art windmill, Mid-Mod tables**



**Detecto-Gram Scale** — Detecto Scale Company was started in 1900 in New York City by three immigrant brothers (The Jacobs Brothers) in the butcher supply business. The company produced bakers' dough scales, butchers' scales, doctor scales, hanging scales and portion scales.

The company was acquired in 1981 by Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Company, which is based in Webb City, Mo., where it's corporate offices and manufacturing facilities are located today.



**Folk Art windmill** — Folk art is a catch-all term used to describe paintings, sculptures, and textiles produced by artisans and craftspeople with little or no formal training. In contrast to fine art, folk art is primarily utilitarian and decorative rather than purely aesthetic. Antique folk art, while collected today based mostly on its artistic merit, was never intended to be 'art for art's sake' at the time of its creation.

Examples of folk art include: old store signs and carved figures, itinerant portraits, carousel horses, fire buckets, painted game boards, cast iron doorstops and many other similar lines of highly collectible "whimsical" antiques. Other examples of folk art include carved wood or painted tin weathervanes, some featuring complicated and fanciful whirligigs.



**Mid-Century Modern end tables** — Recently added to RFTC's growing collection of Mid-Century Modern furniture, these end tables can function as an accent piece or independent of a theme. The tables can be purchased individually or as a set.

*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.optimalifeservices.com/our-services/raccoon-forks-businesses/>

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 Forward

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