American Association of Woodturners



A Gathering of Spoons

Selections from the collection of Norman D. Stevens

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Foreword

The wooden spoon is among the oldest of the world's essential functional objects. Though often mundane, it can also provide an opportunity for skilled wood artists to create elegant sculptural objects to be examined, handled, and admired. Using a variety of techniques, tools, skills, and wood species, contemporary amateur and professional spoon makers throughout the world continue to produce representations of this basic form, typically with inspired variations. Many spoon makers, even those in industrialized societies, often choose to live close to the land from which they gather their materials.

A Gathering of Spoons is an extraordinary collection of nine-inch wooden spoons assembled by Norman D. Stevens since 2006, which documents contemporary spoon making in the early twenty-first century. This selection of 100 teaspoons from a collection of more than 180 pieces is a feast for the eyes.

This important collection demonstrates the remarkable variety of form and decoration possible when an everyday object is interpreted with imagination and skill. It provides a benchmark of contemporary wood spoon making, primarily in the United States, but with examples from more than a dozen other countries as well.

Spoons in the exhibit range from those with a functional folk character to highly sophisticated pieces intended as decorative objects. The use of many wood species presents a grand array of color, texture and figure. The impressive number of participating spoon carvers reflects widespread interest by woodworkers in this traditional craft.

About Norman D. Stevens

Norman D. Stevens is Director Emeritus of the University of Connecticut Libraries. He and his wife Nora, also a librarian, appreciate and collect contemporary crafts, and are closely associated with the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. They live in Storrs, Connecticut.

Norman's creative and persistent collecting of wooden spoons has been conducted with dignity, enthusiasm, and affection. He has clearly enjoyed searching for and communicating with each participant. He and Nora have assembled many significant collections with respect and kindness, making numerous friends throughout the craft world. We spoon carvers are grateful to them for their patronage, their understanding of our work, and their willingness to give it prominent recognition.

~ Barry Gordon and Norm Sartorius



Washington Alder, 2006

Koa, 2009





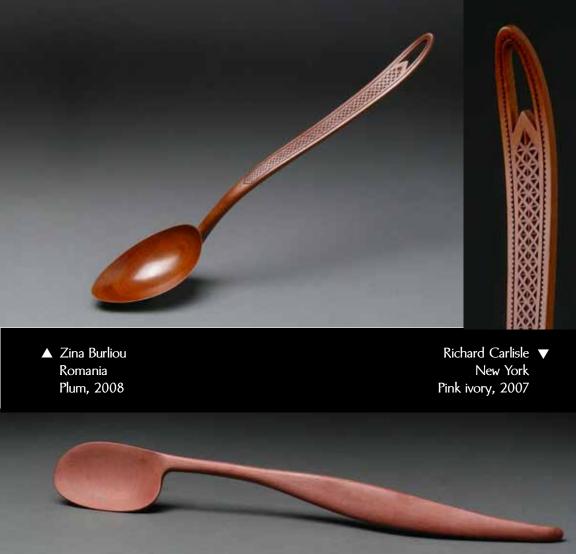
▲ Abram Barrett Maine Zircote, 2008 Jude Binder ▼ West Virginia Maple, 2008





▲ Elia Bizzarri North Carolina Dogwood, 2006 Paul Burke ▼ Massachusetts Teak, 2006







▲ William Chappelow California Mesquite, 2006 Dennis Chilcote ▼ Minnesota Pincherry, 2009





▲ Ray Cologon Australia Southern myrtle, silver ash, 2006

Ronald Cook ▼ California Flowering plum, 2006





▲ William Coperthwaite Maine Pine, 2006

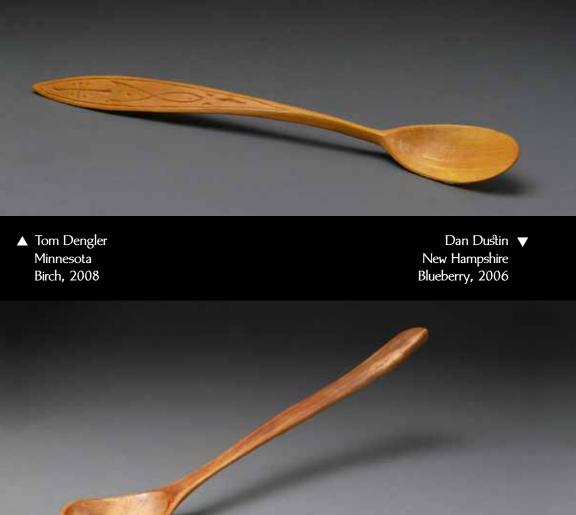
Martin Corbin ▼ Australia Western myall, 2007





▲ Jarrod Dahl Wisconsin Buckthorn, 2009 Jon Delp ▼ Virginia English boxwood, purpleheart, 2008







▲ Mark English West Virginia White oak, 2008

Deb Fanelli ▼ Vermont Danish elm, 2008





Virginia Boxwood, 2008

Buckthorn, 2006





Australia Red gum, 2006 Dewey Garrett ▼ California Walnut, 2010





▲ Barry Gordon New York American elm, 2007 Rick Gorman ▼ California Santa Rosa plum, 2006





▲ Connie Hardt Arkansas Madrone, 2006

Ray Helgager ▼ South Dakota Birch, 2006





▲ Louise Hibbert Virginia English sycamore, 2008 Jim Hill ▼ Montana Spalted birch, 2008





▲ Rodney Hopkins North Carolina American holly, 2009 Paul Jensen ▼ Wisconsin Pink ivory, brown ebony, 2007





▲ Vern Judkins Idaho Plum, walnut ebony, bone 2007 Rich Klein ▼ South Carolina Spalted dogwood, 2006





▲ Tom Latané Wisconsin Birch, 2008

Deborah Lively ▼ Massachusetts Beech, 2006





▲ Fred Livesay Minnesota Lilac, 2010 Barry Loewen ▼ Manitoba Apple, 2006





▲ Harry Mangalan California Ash, black epoxy, 2007 Ben Manns ▼ Pennsylvania Sumac, 2008





▲ Philip Marshall Alaska Black spruce, 2009

Paschal ▼ Minnesota Rock maple, 2007





▲ Peter Petrochko Connecticut Staghorn sumac, 2007 Ainslie Pyne ▼ Australia Huron pine, 2008





▲ Dale Randles
Washington
Madrone, 2006

Judy Ritger ▼ Minnesota Red cedar, 2006





▲ Sue Robishaw Michigan Wild pear, 2006 Dennis Ruane ▼ North Carolina Cherry, 2007





▲ Jamie Russell Saskatchewan Western curly maple, 2009 Amy Sabrina ▼ Minnesota Chinese elm, 2008





▲ Jim Sannerud Minnesota Birch, 2010 Norm Sartorius ▼ West Virginia Afzelia lay, 2006









▲ Steve Schmeck Michigan Buckthorn, 2006 Mike Schwing ▼ Maryland Mahogany, 2009





▲ Mark SfirriPennsylvaniaAlaskan yellow cedar, 2007

ebin St. John ▼ California Yew, 2007





Minnesota Almond, 2008 Jögge Sundqvist ▼ Sweden Lilac, 2007





▲ Wille Sundqvist Sweden Lilac, 2009 Erno Szentgyorgyi ▼ New York Jelutung, 2006





▲ Masonari Takeuchi Japan Chestnut, 2008 Holly Tornheim ▼ California Manzanita, 2006





▲ Judy Tripp Maine Cherry, 2005 Gerrit Van Ness ▼ Washington Boxwood, 2009





▲ Randy Van Oss Florida Walnut, 2006 Dick Veitch ▼ New Zealand Kauri, 2006





▲ Jacques Vesery Maine Honey Locust, gold leaf, 2010 Amanda Wall-Graf ▼ Oregon Holly, 2009





▲ David Western British Columbia Black walnut, 2006 Jay Whyte ▼
Tennessee
Cocobolo, 2007





▲ Terry Widner New Hampshire Teak, 2009

George Worthington ▼ New York Holly, 2009





Spoonmaking has been a respected craft and art form in many cultures for centuries, providing not just utilitarian tools for eating but also revered and powerful ceremonial and symbolic objects. Artists and craftspeople from many walks of life are exploring this ancient tool of daily life and coming up with designs that may hark back to centuries of tradition, but also speak to contemporary life.

A Gathering of Spoons celebrates the resurgence of spooncarving in recent years, showcasing pieces from the spoon collection of Norman D. Stevens, who has provided key support to the development and documentation of the spooncarving revival.