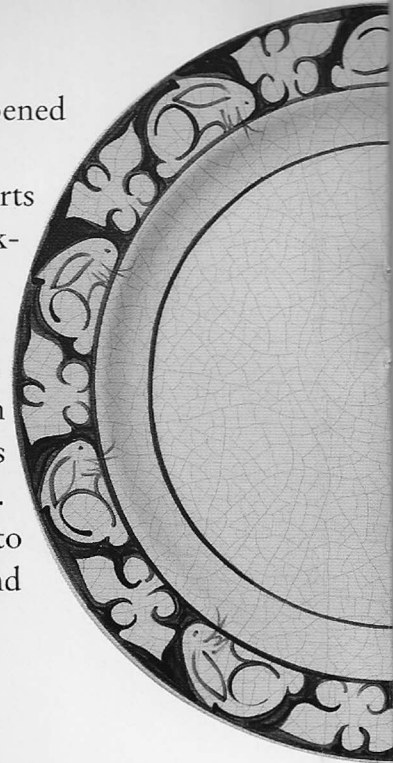


## *The Dedham Tradition*



Hugh Robertson, a fifth generation potter, opened The Dedham Pottery Company in 1896 in Dedham, Massachusetts during the American arts and crafts movement. The company was a working pottery until 1943. During that span of time, the pottery's artisans created over fifty designs for their dinnerware and serving pieces.

The most popular design was the endearing little bunny now known as "the Dedham rabbit." This rabbit became the identifying signature of Dedham pottery and remains so today. Through the years, the Dedham rabbit has won an international following. Pieces of original Dedham pottery are highly prized by collectors, from individuals to prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



## *Preserving A Priceless American Heritage*

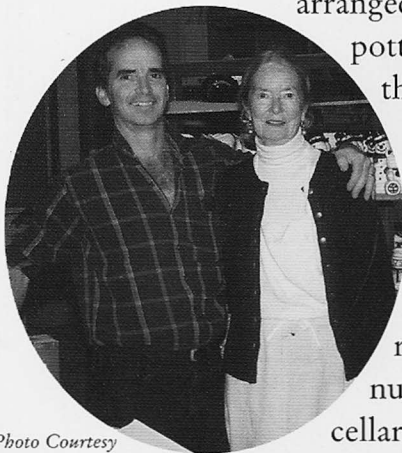
In 1973, Chotsie Starr, who was already enjoying her ceramics hobby, decided to supplement her collection of original Dedham pottery with self-made reproductions. Chotsie's originality and craftsmanship - to her pleasant surprise - won acclaim from all who saw it. She soon found herself so preoccupied with filling special orders from family and friends that she forgot about her own collection!

The more Chotsie's work was seen, the more her reputation for fine craftsmanship grew. In 1975, Chotsie arranged to sell her reproductions through two local retail shops. The demand for her pottery increased dramatically. For Chotsie, this confirmed her secret suspicion that the appeal of Dedham pottery was not only timeless, but also broad-based.

By 1977, Chotsie knew she was on to something bigger than her small cellar-based hobby could sustain. So, with her sons Chris and Rob and several local artisans, Chotsie founded The Potting Shed.

Since starting her adventure over 25 years ago, Chotsie has seen her hobby transformed, first into a small fledgling company, then into a viable, nationally respected enterprise. The customer base that began with two retailers now numbers nearly two thousand! Of course, The Potting Shed outgrew the Starrs' cellar and moved to a roomy old New England factory building in Concord, Massachusetts. The product line has grown from its original selection to over two hundred items, each designed to provide lasting value and enjoyment for its owner. Every year new pieces and new patterns are introduced to keep up with our customers' demands.

Chotsie is still active in the Company and involved in product development. Her son Rob Starr, now President, continues her original objective - making superbly crafted reproductions in the tradition of The Dedham Pottery Company.



*Photo Courtesy  
of The Concord Journal*