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Editor's Introduction V49

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Editor's Introduction

Volume 46 continues *Northeast Historical Archaeology's* contributions to the study of material culture by bringing you 10 articles on ceramics. The first nine articles cover the same theme; American made queensware. The last article by Christopher P. Barton and Kyle Somerville discusses tea wares with the Faith, Hope and Charity decorative motif.

The series of nine articles on queensware provide a valuable research resource. Contributors discuss the technical attributes of this ceramic, chronology, distribution, manufacturers, and social contexts. American attempts to manufacture queensware produced vessels that are similar to yellow ware in some attributes. It is likely that more queensware vessels that have been incorrectly identified as yellow ware exist in collections. The researchers in this volume have given historical archaeologists the tools to identify further examples of queensware and insight into the contexts through which it was given social significance and meaning.

We have created the most comprehensive overview of queensware possible within the hard cover journal format. Illustrations in *Northeast Historical Archaeology* are typically printed in black and white format. The authors felt that color illustrations were crucial to supply useful information on identification. AECOM generously agreed to donate funds for the reproduction of color images in the hard copy of the journal. The authors, editorial staff, and Executive Board of the Council for *Northeast Historical Archaeology* wish to express our gratitude for this donation.

The volume concludes with a discussion of 19th century ceramics from a rural hotel and commercial farm site in Upstate New York. Barton and Somerville explore the social and ideological aspects of a tea set recovered from the site. They trace the associations of the tea set, which features the Faith, Hope and Charity decorative motif, with Christianity, gentility, and capitalism. These associations are connected to issues of performance and

intersecting identities. Barton and Somerville provide a nuanced look at how singular items of material culture can be used to interpret past identities.

Finally, I would like to thank our editorial staff – Richard Schaefer, Jesse Pagels, and Katherine Seeber – for their work on Volume 46 and all the authors for their efforts. We hope that you find the research presented in this issue of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* informative. This is your journal and we want your input. We are always happy to receive comments and ideas from our members and even happier to get articles for publication.

Maria O'Donovan, Editor