

TOOLS of the TRADES

FUNK HERITAGE CENTER



On the Campus of Reinhardt College
Waleska, Georgia



We hope you will visit the Funk Heritage Center to experience and enjoy this remarkable collection.

While many of these crafts exist today only for collectors and antiquarians, others are enjoyed or even practiced by hobbyists, craftsmen, collectors and historical re-enactors. represent hundreds of trades and crafts.

The Sellars Collection is drawn mainly from those crafts that used wood and other natural materials to make and to build. The names of Chippendale, Revere and Stradivarius are synonymous with great craftsmanship, but behind these few are regions of men and women who crafted our material world. Tools of their trades along with many others make up the collection. More than a hundred panels

What Makes Up the Collection?

Spanning more than three centuries, the collection's tools enrich our sense of the past and give wings to our imagination. a work of art itself.

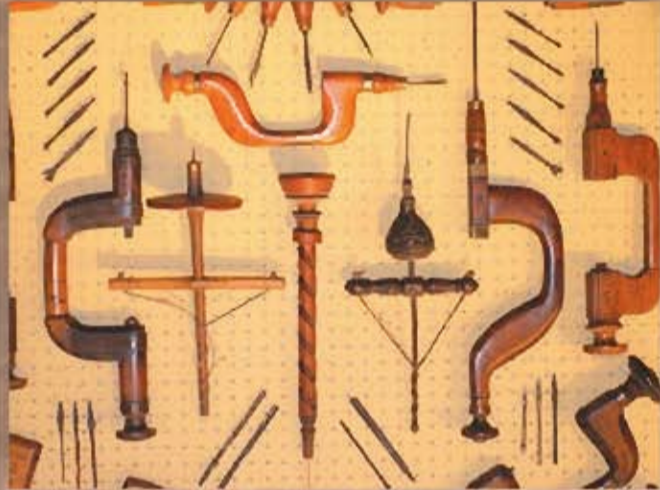
Forged by the blacksmith, form and function often dictate the design of a tool or its continued modification until like the object being created, the tool becomes expressions of art, even conveying through form, an idea of beauty.

Tools empower the individual to improvise, create and make life easier. They tell the story of the rise of craft and technology. The artist and artisan are often confused, for the wielding of tools produces art and the artisan often inspires

Why Collect and Study Tools?

Visitors are encouraged to experience the Funk Heritage Center's Sellars Collection entitled "Tools of the Trades" with its artistically displayed panels of form and function. Sometimes ingeniously made, and often beautiful in their own right, the exhibit explores how tools have turned design into utility and imparted elegance to the useful.

A Permanent Collection of Tools



A Passion for Tools

The Sellars Collection of "Tools of the Trades" honors Marietta businessman and collector Joseph Alan Sellars. Born in Atlanta, Alan married Louise Smith and in the 1950's and moved to Marietta where he opened a hardware business and gift shop. Antiques became the Sellars' weekend passion as they collected many things, especially fine paintings and old tools.

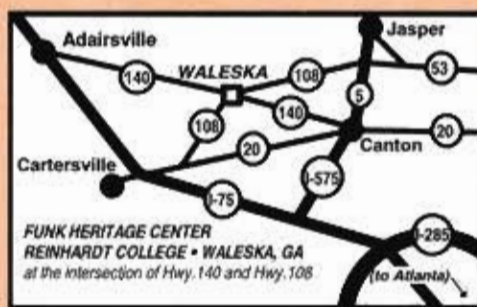
Their friendship with author and collector Eric Sloan and a visit to see Sloan's museum displayed collection encouraged Alan to begin creating displays of his own tools. The collection was so large that only a few of the tools could be displayed. Those selected were organized by type and craft making it possible to show them at schools and fairs.

In 1978, Alan began building panels for the tools. Eventually, more than a hundred were assembled and hung back-to-back above the counters in the hardware store. The collection had its first gallery exhibit in 1988, and Alan carried on the process of creating new panels until his death in 1991.

In 1998, Louise was asked by Reinhardt College to donate the collection to its new Bennett History Museum, then under construction. When the museum was completed in 1999, Don Dougan, longtime friend and employee of the Sellars, was given the task of organizing the exhibit. Don is an artist. His success is evident in the beautiful displays.

"Tools of the Trades" is a tribute to the passionate collecting of Joseph Alan Sellars now preserved for all to enjoy.

Portions of the collection are rotated for special displays at the Mall of Georgia, where they are part of the North Georgia Mountains regional exhibit.



FUNK HERITAGE CENTER

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