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For immediate release

## **POTTERY AND PERCELAIN RESTORATION CLASSES FOR COLLECTORS**

Explore the craft of porcelain and pottery restoration.

Years ago the only answer for broken porcelain or pottery was to throw it out, or hide it in a back corner of the china cabinet. But now a third way is to make objects whole and beautiful again, by careful restoration. That means to reassemble the broken pieces with utmost care, no changes, no adding or taking off.

After several years studying with English restorers, Morla Tjossem came home to find that American restoration, unless it was fine work done in museums, meant something else. Secret materials and grinding off parts did violence to the potter's original intent.

Twenty-Nine years ago she began teaching "China Mending and Restoration"; a one-week intensive course for people who cherish the beauty of fine and antique pieces and wish to preserve their original integrity by careful restoration. Today, the course is still popular and still held on the campus of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. This course, offered each summer, is the only one of its kind. Because of its commitment to improving the quality of restoration and providing instruction at low cost, it has brought men and women from all over the United States since 1978. Ages ranged from 18 to 80.

Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, the course covers all aspects of repair and restoration of antique pottery and porcelain. Its method combines the best of American and English practices. Its purpose is to recapture as closely as possible the original appearance – the potter's intent. Only careful, ethical restoration without destructive alterations can preserve all values – historic, aesthetic and monetary.

Course content includes removing stains and old repairs, bonding single and multiple breaks, filling chips, plain and fancy, modeling and casting replacement parts, and painting to obscure the damage. Central to the course is the identification of all materials by common or generic name to avoid the high cost of proprietary secret substances. Most materials are inexpensive and locally available; a good supply comes with the course.

Restoration taught as a craft makes it accessible to the adult learner without art training. Craftsmanship requires only patience and persistence. Techniques which are difficult to learn from books are demonstrated and practiced in class. Many of the principles which apply to all pottery, stoneware and porcelain, including dolls, are applicable also to glass. Enrollment is limited to assure personal attention. Participants may expect to learn in one intensive week all they need to know for the practice that can lead to competence.

A fee of \$1500 covers all costs: tuition, board and room, beginning tools, printed materials and all supplies – both for class and to take home. Registration, part of that total, is \$500. Accommodations are available for spouses and friends not taking the course.

Instructor Gerlinde Kornmesser, practicing restorer, Associate of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. She succeeds Morla Tjossem, founder and developer of the course.

For details and registration form, send SASE to:

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[www.gkrestoration.com](http://www.gkrestoration.com)