

# Treasured Pieces



## PATSY NEUSTADT

of Ardmore, Okla., was faced with the challenge of securing a permanent location to display her cherished collection of rose medallion china pieces. Museums across the country were eager to exhibit the collection, but only for a few weeks at a time. When plans came about for construction of the OSU Foundation building in 2001, Patsy was pleased to donate over 100 pieces of her collection to establish a gift-in-kind to name the Jean and Patsy Neustadt China Room.

Patsy and her husband, Jean ('48 agricultural economics), received the first piece of china as a wedding gift in 1949. They started collecting pieces from around the world, a tradition they carried on throughout their marriage.

"I fell in love with rose medallion. The patterns and colors are so beautiful. Collecting became a true hobby of ours," Patsy says.

Rose medallion china became a status symbol in the early 1900s when royals and superiors received the pieces as gifts. The most popular wedding gifts at that time were gold, rose famille or rose medallion pieces that were made into lamps and typically placed by a grand piano as the only light source. The earlier pieces are

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called rose famille and can easily be spotted due to the dominant use of orange. Later pieces were marked with ‘Made in China’ to protect the brand and legacy.

Richard Liles, the Neustadts’ china appraiser, has been intricately involved in putting together a large part of the collection.

“I met the Neustadts when I was only 6 years old while my father was working with Jean,” Liles says. “I’ve basically been involved with collecting since then. I’m constantly on the hunt for additional pieces for Patsy.”

“I’ve got some prize pieces in my home that I just can’t give up yet,” says Patsy, who plans to donate the remaining pieces to the Foundation when she passes.

She fell in love with the university through her husband, who was laid to rest in 1995.

“I enjoy donating to OSU in any way that I can,” Patsy says. “Jean’s love for the university was immeasurable. There was no other school in the world like it to him. He was a true fan.”

The Neustadts have generously supported a number of areas at OSU, including facilities, scholarships, the library, athletics and the establishment of the Doris Neustadt Professorship of Library Services.

Having their prized rose medallion collection on display year-round is yet another testament of their appreciation for OSU.

“What’s not to like? The people are friendly, they’ve acquired top-rated professors, campus is marvelous and encompasses a homey atmosphere. There’s no other place like OSU,” Patsy says.

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**BRITTANIE DOUGLAS**

