



## *Bernard Verlingue, Director Quimper Museum*

Jeff M. Verlingue, would you like to tell us a little about your museum?

M. Verlingue Yeah, the museum is, in a way is a museum that tried to explain 3 hundred years of pottery making in Quimper. So the factory has belonged to my family 'til 1914 and we have been obliged to sell to an American company in 1984 but we have kept all the collection which are all the models of the three main factories of Quimper. And instead of keeping all this collection just for us, we had the idea to create this museum and to show it to everybody.

Jeff So before that there wasn't a museum.

M. Verlingue There was a small museum which was inside of the factory.

Jeff So... and it's been in you family for many, many years then.

M. Verlingue To my family, you know, make pottery, 'til 1761 and my grandfather has a factory in Boulogne, in the north of France. He sold this factory in 1913 and bought the HB factory in Quimper, which is the oldest factory of Quimper created in 1699.

Jeff And you've always made the same sorts of pottery here?

M. Verlingue Oh no, it... production of Quimper is, is very rich, and I, I can say that everybody will find in the museum something that will interest him more than other things. Something which is very important. The first man that came in Quimper was coming from the south of France so, in Quimper pottery you will find, by the very beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the production, which is exactly the same as the one down in Marseilles. So you have got the technique of Marseilles, you have got the style of Marseilles. After he married his daughter to ceramist that came from Nevers, so, centre of France. You can find the same thing. You have Nevers decoration, Nevers technique. Then the man from Nevers married his daughter to a man coming from Rouen so we have

Rouen style in production of Quimper. And the mixed of all those techniques and style that give the Quimper pottery as we know it today. But something which is very important today is Quimper is still alive but Marseilles not, Naverre, no Rouen, no. So Quimper's keep this inheritance of all designs and technique which is very important and is a reason why everybody can find something very interesting during visiting the museum.

Jeff                    Because the museum has the complete history of that.

M. Verlingue        Yes that's right. You know the, the total collection of the museum is 3184 pieces so we have got roughly 25 person in show and we change, every year nearly 30% of the cases. So can come every year and you will see different things.

Jeff                    And this year, for instance, have you any special events?

M. Verlingue        Yes, this year we have got, um, uh, an exhibition concerning Paul Fouillen which is a ceramist that came in Quimper in 1922 that work at the HB factory and then made meubles (?) and in 1945 created his own factory. This exhibition is, um....., can be seen 'til September 26<sup>th</sup>. But it's some... somebody which is very artistic that create a lot of thing that are very, very different from all that has been made in Quimper before. You have got a sample here, for example, with cubist decoration, and is the only one that has paint this kind of thing in Qumper. I'm ceramist view, I became a curator just by accident but, uh, some accident are very happy accident.

Jeff                    Thank you very much.

M. Verlingue        Thank you.

