



TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF HOPI TRADITIONAL CRAFTS, MRS. COLTON HAD WOVEN FABRIC MADE INTO UPHOLSTERY AND PILLOWS AND USED IN NON-HOPI WAYS. A CHAIR AND A THREE-SEAT SOFA FEATURED HOPI-WOVEN FABRIC; A COFFEE TABLE WAS INLAID WITH HOPI TILES, AND CERAMIC JARS WERE MADE INTO LAMP BASES. PHOTO BY KATHARINE BARTLETT. (MNA COLLECTIONS N8A.18)



MRS. COLTON, NED DANSON, BILL LIFE, CLAY LOCKETT, AND BARTON WRIGHT JUDGING ENTRIES FOR THE 1956 NAVAJO CRAFTSMAN EXHIBITION. PHOTO BY CHRISTY G. TURNER II. (MNA COLLECTIONS C200.13)

annual Hopi Craftsman Exhibition. This participation by demonstrators continues as an important part of MNA visitors' ongoing fascination with MNA's successors to the Craftsman Exhibition.

Mrs. Colton believed the quality of Hopi silverwork could be greatly improved, and in 1938, initiated an idea to instruct smiths on a technique more distinctly related to Hopi culture. Competent Hopi smiths were employed in curio shops to make "Navajo style" jewelry, which left few skilled smiths on the reservation. MNA staff member Virgil Hubert sketched designs that were related to Hopi patterns and Mrs. Colton wrote and sent photos to all the silversmiths she could find, offering to buy a piece from each smith who would try the suggested designs in an overlay technique. Several pieces arrived over the next few years. At the onset of World War II, many young Hopi men went into the military or worked in war plants and the project stopped. After the war, the Indian Arts and Crafts Board gave funds for a class in silversmithing to be taught by Hopi artist Fred Kabotie and Paul Saufkie, a fine silversmith. These two men considered the new style of silver design excellent and

taught three classes of nine months each to about sixty young Hopi veterans. They formed the Hopi Silver Craft Guild, and sent many superior pieces of silverwork to the Hopi Craftsman Shows. They sold so well that soon MNA discovered Navajo smiths were using the designs and overlay techniques. The techniques are still used today.

### NAVAJO CRAFTSMAN EXHIBITION

The Navajo Craftsman Exhibition was initially begun in June, 1936, by Sallie Brewer and her husband, Jim, while they lived at Wupatki National Monument. Nearby Navajos were invited to sell their goods to Flagstaff people who traveled to Wupatki to shop and mingle with the Navajo. MNA helped organize this endeavor, as close ties were maintained between the two organizations' personnel. Mrs. Colton and Navajo Peshlakai Etsedi judged the entries and MNA provided prize money. A hogan was constructed and furnished with typical Navajo household items for the visitors to see, and several ramadas shaded demonstrators, visitors, and crafts from the sun. Although originally designed as an annual event at Wupatki,