



**PBS  
45 & 49**

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# *press release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Documentary About Metalworking Firm in Cleveland Airs on PBS 45 & 49 in December**

KENT, Ohio — Nov. 22, 2005 —A documentary featuring century-old Potter and Mellen, Inc., a metalworking and custom jewelry studio in Cleveland, airs Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49. **Transcending Time — The Story of Potter and Mellen** is a half-hour program produced by Lakewood-based Storytellers Media Group, LTD.

The visually rich story profiles the history of the company, established in 1899 as The Potter Studio by Cleveland-born Horace Ephriam Potter, a Cleveland School of Art graduate whose time in England inspired much of his work. Potter's decorative pieces incorporate modern design elements with historic artifacts and ornaments into exquisite brass and silver art objects. These and his exceptional jewelry pieces are considered emblematic of the 20th-century Arts and Crafts Movement.

Louis Mellen became a partner in the company in 1933, establishing the new corporation of Potter and Mellen, Inc. ~Potter died in 1948, and in 1967 Mellen sold the firm to Frederick Miller and Jack Schlundt, both of whom were renowned designers and silversmiths.~ Ellen Stirn Mavec, the present owner, bought Potter and Mellen in 1989. The company now specializes only in handcrafted jewelry.

Potter embraced the making of objects by hand as a desirable alternative to factory-made products. The works of his Potter Studio craftsmen continue to be exhibited in major art museums throughout the country, including an exhibit on the Arts and Crafts movement that runs through Jan. 8, 2006 at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Interviews for the documentary were conducted with master goldsmiths John Paul Miller and Jim Mazurkewicz, collecting authority Terry Kovel and curator Henry Hawley. Featured Potter Studio objects include jewelry held in private collections; a Depression Era chalice decorated with jewels donated by church families for St. James Parish in Lakewood, Ohio; and a 1923 bench menorah given to The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Cleveland in memory of Isaac Edward Rose.

Mark Wade Stone produces and edits **Transcending Time — The Story of Potter and Mellen**, David A. Brodowski is director of photography and Nina Freedlander Gibans is executive producer. Julie Henry serves as host for the program.

### **About Storytellers Media Group, LTD**

Storytellers Media Group, LTD, is based in Lakewood, Ohio, and produces documentaries on subjects ranging from true crime to art history. In September 2005, the company was awarded a regional Emmy for Carl Michel's score to its 2004 documentary **Dusk & Shadow — The Mystery of Beverly Potts**, which premiered exclusively on PBS 45 & 49. Its 2003 documentary, **The Fourteenth Victim — Eliot Ness and the Torso Murders**, earned two Emmy nominations. Projects in 2006 include a profile of students of Jack the Ripper, entitled **Ripperology**, as well as a cin ma v rit about modern-day fresco painting.

### **About PBS 45 & 49**

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

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