

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Peter H. Tillou

Class of 1957

With Pride, we present Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation to Peter Tillou in recognition of his exceptional career as an educator, collector and dealer of artwork, antiques, and furniture. A native of Buffalo, New York Peter Tillou began buying coins at the age of eight and developed a lifelong love and talent for collecting at an early age. Encouraged by his parents, by the age of 12 he was collecting antique guns and swords. As an Ohio Wesleyan student, he regularly ventured to Europe and beyond on antique buying trips, ran a classic-car and antique-weapons business as well as collecting and trading in pre-Columbian gold and Greek and Roman antiquities. A 1957 profile of Peter Tillou described him as an "art connoisseur, author and journalist, classic car collector, clothing expert, golf champion, historian, international traveler, lecturer, sportsman, and occasional Ohio Wesleyan student."

A famously unconventional student, Peter Tillou was notable amongst his classmates for his ability to negotiate with his professors to accommodate his demanding schedule. Looking back on his student days he noted, "I'd make a deal with my professors, I'd tell them I am leaving for Switzerland. May I do a paper?" He would often lecture on his travels after returning to Delaware; his classmates may recall how an article that he published in the Atlantic Monthly as a student saved his grade in a history course.

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan Peter Tillou turned his focus to Early American furniture and folk painting and opened a gallery in Buffalo, New York during his tenure in the U.S. Air Force. After over five decades in the business, he is widely recognized as one of the worlds' foremost dealers in early American artwork, antiques and furniture. A key to his professional and business success has been his lifelong love of learning and collecting. Peter Tillou has operated galleries in Connecticut, New York City, and London and has served as Trustee and Overseer of the Old Sturbridge Village Museum in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. He has exhibited his antique collections around the world and has been an exhibitor at the New York Park Avenue Winter Antique Show since the 1960's. Amongst his many accomplishments, Peter has served on the Board of the Maastricht International Art Fair which is considered by many the world's leading fine art fair. He is currently active in over 15 fields of specialty and his eclectic interests and expert knowledge continue to assist both museums and collectors worldwide. He is responsible for developing one of the world's greatest collections of 17th century still life paintings and now spends much of time collecting pieces for the National Gallery of Art. His outstanding reputation in his profession commands the respect of art professionals and art lovers worldwide.

We join his reunioning classmates in saluting Peter Tillou and recognizing his outstanding accomplishments through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

