



## Peter C. Welsh

Peter Corbett Welsh (1926-2010) was a historian of pre-industrial technology and American material culture in addition to being a respected museum curator and administrator. He came to the Adirondack Experience in 1986 as curator with primary responsibility for the museum's logging exhibition "Work in the Woods: Logging the Adirondacks." Research for the exhibition served as the foundation for his book *Jacks, Jobbers, and Kings: Logging in the Adirondacks, 1850-1950*, a regional history of logging with a focus on the Emporium Forestry Company near Tupper Lake.

Prior to relocating to the Adirondacks, Peter had a distinguished career in museums. He was the first Hagley Fellow at the University of Delaware, and was named the first coordinator of the program. He served as a curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, and was later promoted to the Assistant Director General of Museums. He was also editor of the *Smithsonian Journal of History*. In 1971, he was appointed the director of the New York State Historical Association and the Cooperstown Graduate Programs, and subsequently headed the Bureau of Museums at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg.

In addition to his work on Adirondack logging history, he wrote numerous articles, reviews and several books, among them a study of woodworking tools, a history of tanning, and a work on early flour milling. He also published studies on the cultural significance of American folk art and popular lithography.

Peter was a dedicated supporter of the museum's library. This memorial fellowship fund was established by Peter's widow Caroline M. Welsh, director emerita of the Adirondack Experience, in celebration of Peter's career-long facilitation of scholarship.