

## GREEN THUMB GNOME PRESS RELEASE



Dr. Thomas F. Clark, the original creator of *Gnome Sculptures*, and the Sculptor who “breathes life into clay” is presently creating an exciting new line of *Indoor/Outdoor Plant and Garden “Green Thumb Gnome” artworks*. Dr. Clark has spent his life entertaining, delighting and enlightening literally millions of people, first as a kindly, sought-after professor of Theology, at Davidson College, then as American Artist extraordinaire, creating over thirteen hundred sculptures and hosting hundreds of artist appearances around the world. Irresistibly human expressions are Tom Clark’s trademark and the first four artworks in this unique series are a testimony to his extensive training in portraiture. “Bulb,” “LilyPon,” “Wingnut,” and “Barrow” are now being offered at selected Lowe’s Home Improvement stores. Later this year “Azalea,” “Dr. Greenjeans,” “Mr. Green Thumb Junior,” “Sergeant,” and “Woods” as well as a few other surprises will be offered through selected Cairn retailers.

Dr. Thomas F. Clark, a professor of theology for over twenty-five years, was deemed to be **“Already bigger than Norman Rockwell - an American treasure.”**

Dr. Thomas F. Clark, ordained minister, former theology professor at prestigious Davidson College, writer, musician, philanthropist, consummate artist and sculptor ministers to his followers through his sculptured artworks. Awarded *Distinguished Alumnus* by Davidson College, this Tom Brokaw generation professor of religious ethics embodies in his works all the best qualities of his generation. Dr. Clark’s *Green Thumb Gnomes* radiate the characteristics of hard work, integrity, spiritual awareness and a special devotion to their fellow man.

Tom Clark’s creations reflect an extensive training in both theology and sculpture. Dr. Clark imbues every creation with his personal philosophy that “the universe is basically friendly.” “I try and present each statue with a dignity that comes from a life of worth,” says Tom, a former professor of religious art at Davidson College. “My *Green Thumb Gnomes* show concern for their fellow man, a sense of duty and an inner peace.”

Tom Clark's announcement of his new line of *Green Thumb Gnomes* is of special importance to his over three million collector following who reside in every county in every state in America. The *Green Thumb Gnome* series is a unique limited-edition indoor/outdoor artwork collection. Dr. Thomas F. Clark a.k.a. Tom Clark is the most well-known sculptor in his field today.

Dr. Clark is an avid plant and garden enthusiast. "My own ancestors were all farmers, originating in Scotland and immigrating to southeastern North Carolina a few centuries ago. The soil and what it grows is central to my heritage. So the gnomes and I work together as horticulturists. It is not coincidence that my plants do best when I place a gnome statue nearby. The sizes of my little people vary so that each arrangement, no matter what the height or hue, has a gnome caretaker that complements its color palette. Azaleas like a large gnome to find shade under their extended branches. My pansies like a colorful little fellow to sit amongst them."

Dr. Clark's insistence of using a special blend of resins and wheat flour for the *Green Thumb Gnomes* further attunes these special *Indoor/Outdoor Plant and Garden* creations to nature. In addition, all original sculpture designs, as well as all master casts, master epoxies, painting, staining, highlighting and UV coated samples are **all** created in North Carolina.

All *Green Thumb Gnome* reproductions follow Cairn's time honored reproduction formula, as well as a detailed quality assurance program. Cairn Studio has been designing and implementing molding, casting, painting, antiquing, highlighting and other finishing processes for over a quarter of a century. Cairn has been an innovator of new and improved reproduction techniques as well as new and improved raw material components and has passed these same techniques, procedures, and formulas to select facilities for reproduction of their original artwork designs. All Cairn artwork reproductions are controlled by Dr. Clark, the Cairn reproduction process formulas, and the Cairn quality control standards.

Unlike any other lawn and garden artwork collection, Tom Clark's *Green Thumb Gnomes* are *guaranteed to change and age* year by year if left outside and exposed to the natural elements. "I've often placed my gnomes along my driveway to not only protect the plants, but to welcome the guests as well. Visitors have enjoyed seeing how the statues age year by year, changing tone and mellowing from the sun and weather. I also have lots of gnome photos with snow on their noses and birds sitting on their caps. I sometimes 'turn them' after a year or so and let the weather nurture their backs for awhile. When they look a little more mature, I bring them inside to 'hide' beneath an arrangement of dried golden rod and iris seed pods."

The *Green Thumb Gnomes* subtle tones complement any indoor/outdoor environment. "My gnomes like to sit near Kansas Sunflowers and Texas Bluebells. They can hide

beneath a Carolina Dogwood or a Connecticut Oak. Some gnomes have a leaf visor for shade in the Arizona sun and for rain protection in Oregon and Washington. They can kneel down in a patch of California poppies and stretch up in a setting next to Ohio corn. Even Christmas Cactus, Poinsettias and other holiday plants are happier with a gnome dressed for the season.”

Dr. Clark feels that his creations are successful if they make you smile. Dr. Clark endows his *Green Thumb Gnomes* with, not only mood, but a whole personal history. Often coins are incorporated into the sculpture as symbols of the character’s “heritage.”

Dr. Clark’s enthusiasm for his “family” of Cairn creations doesn’t stop with their sculpting. To share his stories and demonstrate his art, Tom spends many weekends a year with his collectors, traveling from promotion to promotion around the country.

“The pace is 99 percent enjoyment, “ he says. “Besides, if I’m as gnomelike as many collectors say, then I have about 350 more years before my own retirement!”

All of Dr. Clark’s *Green Thumb Gnome* creations will retire over time with new artworks offered periodically. Once retired, *Green Thumb Gnomes* will only be available on the secondary market. The official retirement schedules of all artworks in this special series will be announced in forthcoming issues of Cairn’s Artist and Collector publications.

## **ABBREVIATED TOM CLARK PRESS RELEASE FACT SHEET**

- Dr. Clark has created over thirteen hundred original artworks.
- Tom Clark has been featured along with Michael Jordan, Elizabeth Dole, the Reverend Billy Graham, Andy Griffith and others in *Carolina Preserves*, by William Mangum, a very special book saluting the 50 most influential North Carolinians. Years ago *Giftware News*, one of the most prestigious publications in the gift industry at the time, pronounced Tom Clark **“ALREADY BIGGER THAN NORMAN ROCKWELL - AN AMERICAN TREASURE”**.
- Notable collectors include Barbara Bush, Bob Newhart, Stephen King, William Manchester, Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, Alan Alda, Ed Harris, Senator Jesse Helms, Senator Lauch Faircloth, Governor Jim Hunt, Governor Jim Martin, Candice Bergen, Dean Smith, Arnold Palmer, Ben Hogan, Willie Shoemaker, Joe Garagiola, Charlie Daniels, the members of “Alabama,” Bill Elliott, Jeff Gordon, the late Lucille Ball, Lloyd Bridges, Jimmy Stewart, Jim Henson, Bo Schembechler, and Bear Bryant. It is not unusual to find individual collections that number in the hundreds, and there are some Collectors who have over one thousand of Dr. Clark’s statues.

- Over the years, Dr. Clark has averaged traveling 47 weekends a year to personally greet collectors and sign his artworks. Many weekends (sometimes Thursday to the following Monday) entailed hosting four promotions with as many as eight retail dealers sponsoring each event. Many of these individual events necessitate the pre-signing of thousands of artworks while Dr. Clark personally greets thousands of collectors.
- Dr. Clark received a B.A. from Davidson College, a B.D. from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and his Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. In addition, Dr. Clark has attended art schools around the globe, most notably: Richmond Polytechnical Institute; Roberts School of Art in Aberdeen, Scotland; San Michel de Allende in Mexico; Boston Museum of Fine Arts School of Art; and the London City and Guilds School of Art.
- Tom Clark has appeared in hundreds of newspaper and magazine feature articles around the country, as well as local news and variety show broadcasts.

#### **ADDITIONAL PRESS RELEASE AND INTERVIEW INFORMATION**

- \* To schedule an interview with Tom Clark, simply call 704-892-3581 or email Cairn Studio at [info@cairnstudio.com](mailto:info@cairnstudio.com) and someone on our staff will contact you with a convenient interview time and date.
- \* To receive pictures of both Tom Clark and members of his *Green Thumb Gnome* family, please provide your email address and we will send you a jpg file.
- \* Detailed biographical material on Dr. Clark and his career as lead artist for Cairn Studio, Ltd. is available upon request.