

## Talents we Lost in 2015

by Tina LeCoff

Siegfried Schreiber, Germany

Germany has given us many outstanding wood turners, but on May 18, 2015 a great one passed away. Schreiber was a consummate turner and master sculptor, and particularly enjoyed making objects that moved. Many of the things he made rocked, spun or turned at the slightest touch. In 2006, February 3 through May 20, the Center featured Siegfried in a solo exhibition, ***Art in Motion: Work by Siegfried Schreiber***, at the Center's original location at 501 Vine Street in Philadelphia. Dressed in starched shirts and a colorful cap, he loved telling audiences the story of his kinetic pieces as he demonstrated their motions, momentum and messages, often referring to inspiration from "the Big Boss."

Siegfried favored clear and quilted maple, almost luminously white, and pear wood, a warm medium brown. Each turned piece was typically on and off the lathe five or six times as the forms slowly dried, then reached the perfect state for the next work under his watchful eye. The results were thin, elegant forms, often thick on the bottom to create ballast for the delicate thin walls which rolled around the bottoms.

During the summer of 2007, Siegfried participated in the Center's Windgate ITE International Residency Program. As he experimented on new thicker pieces, it was a pleasure to see him turn wood like it was butter. He was frustrated and pleased with his experiments but returned to his signature work after he went home.

Siegfried's legacy is represented in the Center's Museum Collection by his work entitled *The Lovers*. After a gentle flick of the fingers with the cups set along the rim of the platter, the cups spin and dance around each other until they move gracefully around the diameter of the platter, finally stopping to rest in the center, just as "the Big Boss" has called Siegfried to his final rest.

