The Dr. William J. and Norma Reals
Native American Art Collection

in loving memory of leader, educator, physician, and
alumnus of the Creighton University School of Medicine,
Dr. William J. Reals, BSM ’44, MD ’45, MSM ’49

The Reals Collection consists of Native American objects of pottery, kachina dolls, textiles, basketry, and paintings. It includes pottery by the famous San Ildefonso potter, Maria Martinez, and examples that were made by Maria and her daughter-in-law, Santana, and her son, Popovi Da. The San Ildefonso Pueblo's reputation for fine black-ware pottery is a direct result of Maria's craftsmanship. The objects in their collection that were created by other Native American cultures such as Hopi, Navajo, and Tohono O'odham were collected on many trips the Reals made to New Mexico and Arizona over a 40-year period. Most purchases were directly from the Native American artists living on reservations. The Reals' major interest was to meet and visit with the actual artists who made the pieces they collected. The collection is located in the Reinert-Alumni Library and available for viewing outside the Reference Department and in the Rare Book Room, beginning June 25, 2011.