Onondaga Historical Association offering Christmas gifts with historical backgrounds

by Mary Kielar

If you're stuck trying to find the perfect gift for that notoriously hard-to-buy-for family member and want something that screams Syracuse, you still have time to shop at the Onondaga Historical Association where their gifts connect people to the past.

Tonight, we asked what the most unique items are inside.

Original maps of Syracuse and towns nearby and old photos, that's just the beginning at the Onondaga Historical Association gift shop.

"The history adds value to each of the products that we have here. For most of the products that you buy here, you also are provided with the history behind that product. So, it's a nice unique gift that for the most part you can't get anywhere else. " says Onondaga Historical Society Executive Director Gregg Tripoli.

We asked about the best bang for your buck in the store, and Tripoli says they've transformed the classic Syracuse China into a wearable piece of history.

"When OHA took in the Syracuse China collection there was a lot of pieces that were broken. But we don't throw anything out, we make..."
use of everything. So we actually make jewelry from Syracuse China,” said Tripoli.

He says you can also find plenty of affordable books about Syracuse, and you can even wear an old key from a typewriter that was made right here in the salt city.

For a bit of a splurge, Betty Monroe Watercolor paintings are sold exclusively at OHA.

"She has a tremendous style with bright colors and strong brush marks that you could almost see motion through her paintings," he added.

Whether it’s big or small, expensive or not Gregg says giving something from this shop is continuing the celebration of Syracuse’s rich past.

The Onondaga Historical Association is open every Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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