



# RELIEF PITCHER

When ceramic jugs emblazoned with wheat, a symbol of abundance, were plunked down on tables in 19th-century farmhouses, you knew it was time to party. Every fall, families would break them out for a harvest dinner, where friends and neighbors gathered to toast what was hopefully a bumper crop. The vessels were cast in clay and fired at high temperatures for durability, and the stippled texture gave them a practical no-slip grip. Some authentic ones have screws near the rim; in days of yore, they secured lids, which kept beverages—usually freshly brewed beer and cider—effervescent all evening. (Those caps often contained lead, so they're long gone.) Search for “antique wheat jug” online to find a field’s worth of sheaf motifs in a wash of creamy colors, many for under \$100 apiece. Then fill one with flowers, and give it pride of place on your own autumn table.

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