

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #42

From
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A beautiful and unusual bowl was listed for sale on eBay during the month; a 12 inch footed fruit bowl in the rarely seen **Moonlight** pattern. This is a variation on the more commonly seen **Moonlight Cameo** pattern and shows a more detailed view of the fairy scene. The seller included a picture of the backstamp and pattern number, which can clearly be seen as **3075**.



There was a lot of interest shown in the bowl and it received 24 bids with a final selling price of US\$2,550 (£1,330). The winning bidder's identity was kept private but we are sure they will enjoy adding this piece to their collection.



Later in the month, another **FAIRY** came up for sale. Unfortunately, she was going through a spell of bad luck and had a couple of broken feet! The 9½ inch bowl was in the gloss orange colourway, pattern **3576**.

Nevertheless, there is always plenty of interest when a piece in the **FAIRY** pattern comes up for sale. Even in this condition, this rarity attracted 17 bids and sold for £870 (US \$1,625).

It just goes to show you, in contrast to the old music hall song, we do still love a **FAIRY** even when she's faulty! Groan if you like, but I just couldn't resist that. (see P.S. at end of Newsletter for further explanation!).



While on the subject of eBay, regular readers of this Newsletter will know that two areas in our collection are Card Holders and Exhibition Ware. In July on eBay, we were happy to find a Card Holder from the **1938 Empire Exhibition, Scotland**; so one piece covered two collecting fields. However, in which area to display it, becomes a problem!

The item came from Scotland and is in beautiful condition. Now all we need is the mate to it from the New Zealand Centennial of the same year.

If anyone is keeping count, we now have 23 Card Holders!

Also during the month we heard from some of our readers:

From **Margaret** in Christchurch, New Zealand: *"Thanks for your latest Newsletter. It was interesting looking at the Carlton Ware World site too. When looking at the "Teawares" section on the "Carlton China" site, I discovered a trio I had that had been labeled "This is the only piece of this pattern we've ever seen". My trio is in slightly different colours and has a different number **4610** instead of **4764** but is definitely the same pattern. Have you ever seen it? This is the joy of sharing photographs and information."*

We wrote back to **Margaret**: *"So glad you found the Carlton Ware World site to be*



useful. It's really interesting that you have a trio in a pattern that had previously only been recorded in a plate – and in a different colourway and pattern number. Have you been in touch with the Carlton China site to tell them of your piece?"



Here is a picture of the plate on the Carlton China site www.carltonchina.info operated by **Derek & Jane Towns**. This is a beautifully executed pattern and, as you can see, there is a difference in the colours of the flower enameling as well as the hanging branches, etc. Quite an art deco look to the pattern; reminiscent of some of the elaborate Best Ware designs by Violet Elmer. By the way, **Margaret** and her husband **Tony** run a B&B in Christchurch, New Zealand. So, if you want to see this trio and more of **Margaret's** collection, you can book a stay at www.stableford.co.nz.

From **Sandra in Ontario**: "I saw your Carlton Ware Newsletter on the collector's web site. I am trying to help my mother-in-law in Nova Scotia find out more information about the dog. Her late father won "Hank" at a fair in England in the 1930s for her late mother while they were courting. My mother-in-law doesn't know much more about the dog. He always sat in their front entrance and when she mentioned to her mother that she liked Hank, she was delighted to send him onto Canada with my mother-in-law and he now lives in their sunroom."



"I've checked the markings on the bottom and the time-frame and what I'm coming up with based on those marks is 1926 to 1936 which sounds right given what we do know about the piece but I can't find out anything else about this particular style. He definitely is Art Deco in influence and the colour is also indicative of the 1930s/40s but other than that, I'm coming up empty! I would appreciate any information that you may know about whimsy pieces such as this!"

We wrote back to **Sandra**: "Glad you came across our Carlton Ware Newsletter – hopefully we can be of help to you with information about "Hank". Actually, we happen to collect these delightful Dogs ourselves and currently have a litter of six:



"The first 3 are in varying shades of blue and the second 3 are black & white, brown and purple. They are all in a matt finish, other than the black & white which has a gloss finish. They are from a line developed by the factory called **OLD STONEWARE** and the Dogs are part of a large group of animals and birds. We only collect the Dogs but are aware of a Penguin and a Duck shape as well as a Rat shape. We know that might sound an odd choice of shape, but it is also modeled in a similar vein as the Dog and is really quite delightful. Unfortunately, we do not have a picture of this shape."



"The Dogs came in a wide range of colours. They were individually hand done and each one is slightly different. We usually buy them whenever we come across them, even if we already have a shade in that particular colourway. They are certainly not easy to find. We have been collecting for several years but still only have the 6. As you can see, we do not yet have a green one like "Hank". However, one will come along sooner or later – that is the fun of collecting! You are right about the date of production; this line was introduced in the 1930s and definitely has an Art Deco feel about it."



"Thank you for sharing "Hank" with us. It is most interesting to hear that he was originally won at a fair. Like a lot of things won at fairs over the years, some of them have gone on to be quite valuable collectibles. Our readers are always happy to hear about people's finds – and your story about your mother-in-law's father is really fascinating."



We found it really interesting to hear how "Hank" had started out in life. How many others in this series were also given away as fairground prizes? As we mentioned in our reply to **Sandra**, many such prizes have gone on to be very valuable collectibles. Probably the most famous of these is a line of glass now known as Carnival Glass. This was pressed glass manufactured during the same long period as Carlton Ware, with its "best ware" years being between 1900 and 1930. We have bought and sold a large amount of Carnival Glass over the years and still have one piece in our collection, this lovely 10" STAG & HOLLY bowl by the Fenton Glass Company. It is a great piece to use at Christmas time when we fill it with Mandarin oranges! This type of glass was cheap to produce and was originally

known by many names, including "poor man's Tiffany" because of its lustre finish and affordable price. Like "Hank", a lot of it was given away as prizes at fairgrounds and eventually became known as Carnival Glass. It was mainly produced in the U.S.A. but was copied by glass foundries all over the world, including the U.K. and Australia. Today, like Carlton Ware, some rare pieces of Carnival Glass can fetch many thousands of Dollars.

In late August **Mary** wrote: *"I have just returned from a trip to England and my brother-in-law showed me a Carlton Ware biscuit barrel that was his mother's. I tried to find it on the Carlton Ware web site but couldn't pinpoint it based on the information on the bottom which said **ROYAL MAY** with the number **1490**. On the website I could only find the numbers **508, 602 and 1229**. Could one of these be it? Nowhere could I find the number **1490**. Any information you might have would be great."*

We wrote back to **Mary**: *"Thanks for sending us the picture of your brother-in-law's biscuit barrel. This is an early piece dating from the 1890s and is part of a range that is referred to as **Blush Ware**. As you probably realize, the pattern name on this biscuit barrel is **ROYAL MAY**. The May tree, also known as the Hawthorn tree, is a late blooming tree with long lasting pink blossoms. It is a common tree in the U.K.; in fact I remember my junior school playground having a long row of them down one side of the yard. It is not at all common in western Canada, where we live but, coincidentally, the two houses to the west of us both have one in their front gardens. Perhaps the original developer of the land was from the old country and wanted to have a little bit of "home" in his garden. Anyway, back to the barrel. Some of the earlier patterns did include the pattern name as part of the backstamp, sometimes even incorporating part of the pattern. As for the pattern number, we are not sure why several different numbers were used; perhaps it is because of variations within the pattern, such as colourways, etc. We are going to write to one of the experts on **Blush Ware** and will hopefully be able to provide you with additional information in due course."*



So we wrote to **Mike Maunder** who no doubt has the largest collection of **Blush Ware** and asked him if he had any information on this pattern.



Mike replied: *“ROYAL MAY is an early transfer pattern incorporating just a couple of colours, green and brown, with hand painted white and red flowers. It was one of the very first patterns W&R produced No 405. However, I have a biscuit barrel with the number 1229 on it which has a pink blush band at the top. It's probable that later versions had slight variations and were re-numbered. The attached picture is one dish from a twin dish serving set in a plated stand with the Swallow Mark, pattern number 405 and name ROYAL MAY on it.”*

Thanks **Mike** for the information and picture of the interesting backstamp. **Mike** also sent us several other pictures of his large collection. We are sure he

will not mind us sharing them with you, so here is a mouth watering selection.

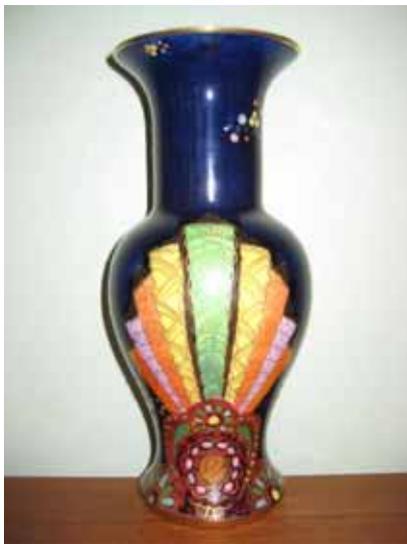


Finally, we heard from **Desmond Guilfoyle** in Australia. **Desmond** has contributed articles and information in the past to this Newsletter, with reference to his main area of research, Crown Devon. **Desmond** writes: *“I have bundled together all my articles on Crown Devon and Enoch Boulton and put them on a site for people to access at: <http://crown-devon.blogspot.com/>.”* We took a look at the blog spot and it is an excellent area of reference, not only for Crown Devon collectors but also for Carlton Ware collectors because of the time spent at both factories by Enoch Boulton. It is most interesting to read about this important contributor to the early days of Carlton Ware, and it is a great companion piece to the recent research done by **Barry & Elaine Girling** on Violet Elmer. Do take the time to check it out; you will not be disappointed.

Carlton Ware Vases

Whether it is due to a small budget, lack of display room or just the love of a particular pattern or shape, many collectors limit their collecting to a particular theme. Depending on the theme, it can of course still require a large budget and large display area. Most patterns can be found on all shapes and sizes of pots, so maybe by limiting a collection to a particular pattern in a particular shape could keep it to a manageable size. However, most collectors do not have the discipline to be so selective.

Probably the most popular shape to collect is the vase. Maybe the potteries realized that, not only would people buy vases to display the flowers grown in the English garden, but would also buy them as decorative items in themselves. Whatever the reason, the Carlton Ware potters came up with a large assortment of vase shapes over the many years of production. In the following list, we have identified 24 different shapes to which we can attach a particular shape number. We have seen several other vases that do not include an impressed shape number, so we have not included those in the list.



Shape 139



Shape 167



Shape 217



Shape 226



Shape 314



Shape 326



Shape 406



Shape 442



Shape 443



Shape 456



Shape 457



Shape 463



Shape 464



Shape 465



Shape 466



Shape 467



Shape 777



Shape 1039



Shape 1227



Shape 1234



Shape 1674



Shape 1692



Shape 1693



Shape 1695

As you can see from the last three shapes, most vases were made in a variety of sizes as well as patterns and colourways.

This is by no means a complete list of the vase shapes made by Carlton Ware, but only those that we have been able to confirm a shape number. If you have pictures of additional vase shapes with their impressed numbers, please send us copies and we will include them in a future Newsletter.

Following up on last month's Newsletter, as we mentioned in the article on lamps, we collect all sorts of lamps, not just Carlton Ware. So we thought we would end this Newsletter with a picture of a lamp we found this month in a local house estate sale. We got to the sale on the evening of the opening day. This was the only item we bought but we feel it was well worth the trip after work.



It has a metal tag on the reverse saying "Fabrication Francaise, Paris"; unfortunately, it does not have a signature.

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P.S. For those readers not familiar with the old music hall song, the actual title is "Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty", written by Arthur Le Clerq in 1934.