

## CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #46

From  
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As mentioned in our last Newsletter, we have been compiling a recap of our trip to the U.K. last winter. We flew from Calgary to London on Christmas evening, arriving there on Boxing Day 2008. Over the next 3½ months we put over 8,000 miles on our rental car, travelling to numerous antique shops, markets, fairs and charity shops, as well as visiting several Carlton Ware collectors and seeing their collections. This Newsletter will detail most of that and we will give you our opinion of the various places we shopped at, hopefully informing you of the best places to find Carlton Ware. We will also mention some of the good pubs, etc. that we stopped at for lunch!

We stayed with my sister, Lynda, in Maidenbower, a suburb of Crawley, West Sussex. We were only minutes from junction 10A on the M23 and three junctions away from the M25, which enabled us to reach most of our destinations pretty fast. There are a couple of things you need for a successful day out antiques in the U.K. – a satellite navigation system in your car and a copy of The Antique Trade Calendar. This is a quarterly publication of Britain's guide to antique fairs, markets and centres and costs only £1.50; extremely good value. This publication is available at many antique events and centres or can be bought by subscription. If you are visiting the U.K. and want a copy before you go, let us know and we will give you the subscription information.

We collect many things in addition to Carlton Ware so, although we were not able to find Carlton Ware on most days out, we usually came home with something. It didn't take us long to find our first venue as there was an Art Deco fair on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at the Woking Leisure Centre. There was some wonderful merchandise to be seen here, especially in the furniture line. However there was very little Carlton Ware for sale other than a lovely vase in the **Spangled Tree** pattern number **4163**. We didn't buy this piece; however we did run into it again later in our trip, when we saw it in a collection that we viewed.



Our next outing was the following Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, when we took the train up to London to visit the Portobello Road. Unfortunately, this market is a far cry from what it used to be. We saw very little Carlton Ware of any quality other than one dealer who had a good

display of Blush Ware and Flow Blue biscuit barrels. We made one purchase that day; an unusual piece of Carnival Glass in the Lion pattern.



The next day, Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, we paid our first visit this trip to the City of Arundel; a lovely historical town with a castle and a cathedral. Arundel has several antique shops and markets, although not as many as on previous trips. However, there is still a large amount of merchandise to be found here, including quite a good selection of Carlton Ware. Of note on this trip was a Carlton China part coffee set in the **DELPHINIUM** pattern for £49. We didn't buy this set, or anything else for that matter, but Arundel is well worth a visit.

On Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we attended the first big showground fair that was on during our trip. Ardingly is only about 15 minutes drive away from where we were staying. It was a bitterly cold day; the previous day we had the first of the snow that hit the U.K. during this winter. Consequently, quite a few of the dealers did not show up. However, DMG, the organizers, were aware of this and had reduced the usual £20 first day entry fee to £5. There were several dealers that had Carlton Ware on their stalls, even some very good pieces; however, their prices were totally unrealistic in today's market. On the whole, when the weather is decent, this is a worthwhile fair to visit. This time out though we only made one purchase; a piece of Beswick from one of the outside stalls.

The following week, on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, we visited West Street in Dorking, Surrey, a nearby town that has several antique shops. Dorking is well worth a visit as there is plenty of "pay & display" parking and there are shops on both sides of West Street to keep you busy poking around for a whole morning or afternoon. We returned to Dorking on two more occasions and came away with something each time. On this visit, we had good luck in one shop where we bought a Royal Doulton "Egyptian" sandstone jug, a pair of Bretby Corinthian candlesticks and a set of 6 Carlton Ware Blush Ware plates. They were individually priced so we were lucky that the set was still complete. They have the blue Crown mark and pattern number **1162/3**. Across the street we found a lovely art deco oak barometer that is now on the wall in our entryway.



The next day, Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, we visited **Derek & Jean** in Bexley Heath, London, to see their collection. **Derek & Jean** used to be dealers in ceramics and sold from a stall on the Portobello Road as well as at many fairs. However, they have retired from the rigors of packing and unpacking ceramics and are now just dealing in postcards. Their house contained collections from various factories including Doulton, Beswick, Moorcroft and, of course, Carlton Ware. This part of their collection contained some of the desirable patterns from the Best Ware range.



**Scimitar (3651) JAP BLUE** biscuit barrel and jug



**WAGON WHEELS (3812)** gloss green and **(3813)** mottled pink; **Rainbow Fan (3700)** mottled green

It was **Derek & Jean** who introduced us to The Antique Trade Calendar publication and, as they were leaving shortly for a 5 week trip to New Zealand, they kindly gave us their copy of the current edition. They also told us about the antique markets to be found at The Maltings in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, where there were 5 antique warehouses, all in one area.

So, the next day, Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, we made the drive from Sussex to Hertfordshire. This took us anti-clockwise around the M25 and took about 1½ hours. There certainly was a huge amount of merchandise for sale in the 5 warehouses, all within walking distance of each other, although it is preferred that you move your car as you go from one to the next as there is limited parking at each one. The merchandise ranged from low end to high end and with a reasonable amount of Carlton Ware. It took us most of the day to go through all the warehouses and, with travel and lunch involved, this was a full day's excursion. Unfortunately, this time out it was a disappointing day as we only made one purchase; another piece of Carnival Glass! Nevertheless, we would definitely recommend a visit here as there is so much stock to be seen.

On Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, we drove down to Somerset to attend another DMG showground fair at Shepton Mallet. It was a sunny morning and was a lovely drive through Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire and Somerset. Although that sounds like a long way, it was only a two hour drive and our route even took us past Stonehenge. The fair had opened the previous afternoon and the 600 dealers are located in four buildings plus a row of outside tents. On our arrival, we went into the nearest building and started our tour of the stalls. The quality of the merchandise was pretty good with lots of "collectibles" dealers and a few high-end booths. There was also a good selection of Carlton Ware from all areas of the factory's production. Unfortunately, there was nothing in the Carlton Ware line for us to buy; however, we did return to a booth before leaving where we purchased two pieces of Carnival Glass and a large Charlotte Rhead charger in the Arabian Scroll pattern. We would definitely recommend attending this fair; it is a pretty nice venue for a showground and there is a good amount of stock for sale. Also, it is in a beautiful part of the English countryside and well worth the drive.



The next day, Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, we visited an Art Deco fair at the Stoop Rugby Stadium in Twickenham, Middlesex; not to be confused with the world famous Twickenham Rugby Stadium. This venue was not easy to access by car as, for us, it was on the wrong side of a dual carriageway (divided hi-way) that necessitated taking a circuitous route out of our way, which thoroughly confused our Sat-Nav for a while! This fair is organized by the same people that put on the Woking Art Deco fair and a lot of the same dealers that we had seen less than a month ago were set up here with more or less the same stock.

On Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, we went to a fair at Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher, Surrey. This is a mid-week fair that we used to do ourselves when we were standing at shows. Back then, the fair was on two floors of the grandstand and accommodated about 600 dealers. However, it had now been reduced to one floor with about 300 dealers. The fair opens to the public at noon; however, for a premium, the trade is allowed in at 11 a.m. at the same time as the dealers are let in to set up. On this occasion we did not buy anything but on a future visit to this venue we found a lovely Gallé perfume bottle. We went for lunch in Esher.



This is a wealthy town and the local pubs are priced accordingly. After lunch we drove to Kingston to visit the antique centre there. Kingston is not a driver friendly town and parking is exorbitant. The antique centre is not easy to find; we eventually had to ask a taxi driver for help who kindly pointed us in the right direction. The centre is fairly large and comprises of two floors with many rooms. We did not find anything to buy here but we would still recommend searching out this place as there was a fair selection of Carlton Ware on display.



On Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, we drove to the town of Pulborough in Sussex. On the way, we passed through the village of Storrington, where there was antique market, Stable Antiques. When we got there, our initial impression was that this was a “junk shop”, as we went in to find two floors filled with various sized rooms totally filled with stuff. It took time to go through the clutter but our poking around paid off as we found four items to buy; a pair of T. G. Green Cornish Kitchen Ware storage jars (one for Sultanas and one for Raisins), a Carlton Ware toast rack and a Carlton Ware **LOBSTER** Salad Ware bowl. We have seen many **LOBSTER** bowls in the past, where three lobsters form the base of the bowl, but this bowl

was different and quite exceptional. It had a large lobster draped across the interior of the bowl and fin handles, adorned with salad leaves. There was no flaking to the paintwork and, overall, this was a very smart piece that we just had to buy. Everything in this place seemed to be priced as if it was a “junk shop” so all four items were excellent buys.





With our purchases back in the car, we carried on towards Pulborough. As we were trying to find the first market there, our Sat-Nav was telling us that we had arrived at our destination; however, we could not see it. So we quickly pulled off into a side road. We continued down this side road to find a suitable place to turn around and realized that it was a dead end. However, at the end were an old bridge and a pub. We needed to have lunch anyway, so we pulled into the pub's parking lot. Before going into the pub, we investigated the old bridge.

There was an information board at one end of the bridge that told us it was Stopham Bridge crossing the River Arun. An original wooden bridge on this site dated back to the early 1300s and a stone bridge was first built in 1442 and had been repaired and reconstructed many times over the years. In 1986, a new bridge was built along side the stone bridge; the road was redirected and the old road closed, leaving the pub with no passing trade.

We then went into the pub, The White Hart, for lunch and found an old world interior on several levels. The food here was excellent. We both had "crispy duck baguettes" which were large and delicious. In the 3½ months that we were in the U.K., we returned to this pub on two further occasions. Each time it was filled with locals who obviously knew its merits. It was just by luck that we found it and we highly recommend it! By the way, it has a large car park and a very large picnic garden area along side the river.



After lunch, we retraced our steps and found the Barn Antiques Market that we had previously missed. It was actually just across the main road, attached to a garden centre. This was a small market, just a couple of rooms, but was still pretty well stocked. However, we got the impression that this market might not be open much longer; the one staff member was complaining that she couldn't get enough help from the other dealers. We didn't find anything to buy here, although there were a few bits of Carlton Ware in the cabinets. Nevertheless, do check this place out; even if it is closed it is well worth coming this way just to have lunch at the pub. Back in Pulborough town centre, is another antique centre attached to a tea shop. This is a much larger market with many cabinets on the main floor and a second floor full of furniture. A few pieces of Carlton Ware were seen in the cabinets but there was nothing for us to buy. However, we did find 3 coffee cups and saucers for a Portmeirion set we collect. All in all, we were very pleased with our day out.

On Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we visited the famous spa town of Tunbridge Wells in Kent. This used to be a good spot for a day out antiques. However, although there are still a few shops to be found, they are scattered all over the town and driving here is no fun; it seems to be a constant traffic jam! We parked in the Pantiles area, a one time high end shopping area, where there was still a couple of antique shops. The first one we visited was a large shop with nice displays of Moorcroft, Doulton and Worcester. However, the owner was totally ignorant of Carlton Ware and thought that it was just not up to the quality of the pottery in her stock. How wrong she was. So, although we enjoyed looking at the pottery she did have on offer, we did not linger long in her premises!

The other shop was not far away and was much friendlier. This place was more of a market with an emphasis on furniture. However, there was a good assortment of small ware to be found and we ended up buying a beautiful piece of Carnival Glass in the Good Luck pattern. This wonderful piece of glass is about 100 years old and was made in Wheeling, West Virginia, U.S.A. by the Northwood Glass Company. Harry Northwood was an Englishman who emigrated to the U.S. in 1881. Carnival Glass was exported all over the world and the Good Luck pattern seems like one designed specifically for the English market. Note the iridescent effect used on this type of glass, giving it the blue and purple finish. It is interesting that glass manufacturers were using this technique at the same time as potteries such as Carlton Ware were producing lustre wares.



From Tunbridge Wells, we drove to the village of Rotherfield in East Sussex, where we had heard there were some antique shops worth a visit. Rotherfield turned out to be a lovely old village with narrow streets, a village green, a church, a pub and not much else. We parked the car in the pub parking lot, with the intention of going in for lunch later; but first we wanted to visit the antique shops. There were 3 shops in the village with one, Olinda House, calling itself an antique centre. It was a tightly packed shop, made up of several rooms on two floors. The owner was friendly and, after telling him what we were looking for, unpacked a pair of vases he had recently found. They were a pair of 11" vases in the **BASKET OF FLOWERS** pattern number **2184** on Powder Blue ground. They were not exactly what we were looking for so we thanked him and continued browsing.

When we left the shop we decided to have lunch before looking any further so returned to the pub, the Kings Arms. This turned out to be another excellent find. The pub served excellent food and the restaurant had a lovely roaring fire, very welcoming on this January afternoon.

On this occasion we both had lamb kebabs for lunch; however, we returned to this delightful village on two further days out during our trip, specifically to have lunch at the Kings Arms.



During lunch, we talked about the pair of vases we had seen and how beautifully enameled they were. We loved the shape of the vases as well and remarked on how there was a border pattern included at the half way point of the shape. In the end, we talked ourselves into going back to the shop and making an offer on the pair. Our offer was accepted and we left with our purchase, deciding that we would enjoy them in our collection for the time being but thought that we would eventually sell them on.

In one of the other shops we found a Royal Doulton "Egyptian" sandstone jug; a match to the one we had previously found in Dorking earlier in the trip. So that made a nice pair. The owner of this shop, as well as the owner of the third shop in the village, was again very friendly. All in all, we were very impressed with Rotherfield and this had turned out to be a good day of discovery, shopping and lunching!

On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, we attended a meeting of Carlton Ware World at **Derek & Jane Towns'** house in Crawley Down, only about 15 minutes drive from where we were staying. It is always a pleasure to visit their house as they have an outstanding collection covering many aspects of the Carlton Ware factory, ranging from early Blush Ware to Best Ware to Carlton China. The meeting was well attended and most of the discussion centered on the success of the October 2008 meeting in Stoke on Trent with Eric Knowles in attendance and plans for the 2009 meeting. **Jane** put on an excellent buffet lunch, at which time we also wandered around the house admiring their collection. Due to the many people in attendance and the rearranging of furniture to accommodate everyone, it was difficult to take pictures. So we arranged for a return visit later in our trip, when the following pictures were taken:



Various ground colours in the **Moonlight Cameo** pattern; **Lacecap Hydrangea (3966)** charger and **HERBACEOUS BORDER (3801)** charger; **GARDEN GATE (3863)** collection.



Three cabinets displaying Best Ware and Handcraft patterns plus a shelf of Carlton China Ladies and Dogs



Yes, the pair of Geisha Girls are indeed Carlton Ware; **Babylon (4125)** temple jar  
**VICTORIAN LADY (3451)** floating bowl; **Mandarins Chatting** candle lamp; Lady powder bowl



Carlton China cake plates, coffee pots, tea pots, cup & saucers, sugar bowls and milk jugs in a large variety of patterns. Check out **Derek & Jane's** web site, [www.carltonchina.info](http://www.carltonchina.info) for an extensive view of this interesting side of the Carlton Ware factory.



**Norwegian Lady (3668); WILD DUCKS (3922); Summer Medley (3663); and SKETCHING BIRD (3890) RIVER FISH (Shabunkin) (3971) jug** – the latest edition to **Derek & Jane's** collection

On Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, we visited Richmond in Surrey. This town brings back many memories for us. As a boy, I went to school here during the late 1950s and early 1960s. And then in the early 1970s we rented a flat here before we made the move to Canada. At least, I made the move, Jerry was just returning home after a two year visit to England. Much has changed since then. We parked the car underneath an office building, right where my school playground used to be. From there we walked to the house in which we had rented a flat. At least that was still there; a lovely old Victorian 3 story semi. Back in the 60s, we had worked in a pub down the road to earn extra money to go clothes shopping every Saturday down the Kings Road. Like many pubs in the U.K., it has long since gone. The building was still there but it was now a bank! That's enough reminiscing! The antique market we had come to visit, The Marryat, was just a short walk down the street. This turned out to be a clean and well presented market with two floors of very nicely displayed merchandise.



Most of it was Victorian and older but there was a smattering of Art Deco pieces to be found. We found a few pieces of satin glass, all individually priced, and realized that they were all part of a dressing table set. We asked if they could do a better price if we bought all the pieces and they were happy to oblige. The ticket listed them as being Bagley Glass, a company we had not heard of before. Later that evening we found out that Bagley Glass was an English glass manufacturer formed in 1894 in Knottingley, Yorkshire – almost the same time that Carlton Ware began.

While the market operator was packing up our purchase, he asked us if it was Art Deco that we were particularly looking for. We said that it was and that it was Carlton Ware Art Deco that most interested us and “do you have any?” Unfortunately he did not; however, he said that he was currently negotiating to buy a coffee set by Shelley that might be of interest to us. We agreed that it could be and so he went to his stock room and retrieved a box and proceeded to unwrap this beautiful set. He said that the owner received this set as a wedding present in the 1930s and that it had never been used. On inspecting it, we could agree with that as it was in immaculate condition. He said he would phone us when he had completed his negotiations with the seller and give us first refusal on it. A week later he phoned and quoted us a price. That day, we headed back to Richmond and came home with the set. We certainly look forward to checking out this market again to see what other pieces of Art Deco they may have found.





On Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, we drove across London to the highest point on the north side of the Thames, Muswell Hill, for the big show at Alexandra Palace. This is a beautiful spot with wonderful views of London on a clear day. The Palace was built in 1873 to compliment the great exhibition hall on the south side of the Thames, Crystal Palace. It was named after the wife of the future King, Edward VII and, like Crystal Palace, burnt down soon after opening. In fact, it has

suffered serious fire damage on three occasions, but has always been rebuilt. The antique show is held in the large exhibition hall and there are usually about 600 dealers in attendance and mostly their stock is of good quality. Soon after we entered, we found **Harvey Pettit** set up just to the left of the main doors. The show had already been open for a few hours and **Harvey** said that it had been a busy morning and the buyers were out! We started our tour of the hall and found it a slow process. It was a well attended show with lots of stock to see and examine. There was a good selection of Carlton Ware to be found and the best buy of the day that we saw was a small jug in the **TREE & COTTAGE (3563)** pattern. We didn't buy this piece but it



was quickly snapped up by **Derek & Jane Towns**, who had also driven up from Sussex. We did, however, have a pretty good day; although oddly enough everything we bought was made in the U.S.A. Soon after arriving, we found a pair of bookends by the Roseville, Ohio factory in the Snowberry pattern.



Once again, like Carnival Glass, Roseville has a British connection. The factory was founded in 1890 (familiar date) and in 1904 Frederick H. Rhead (son of Frederick A. Rhead and brother of Charlotte) became art director. For some reason, Roseville is rarely found in the U.K. and is therefore not well known or collected. However, it is very popular in the U.S. and Canada so we were delighted to find this pretty pair. Of course, we also found some more Carnival Glass, including this outstanding plate by Northwood in the Three Fruits pattern. Note again the iridescent effect used on this piece, giving it the gold, blue and purple finish. Finally, we found some Depression Glass; a cheap range of pressed glass made in the U.S. in the 1930s in an assortment of colours. It proved to be

extremely popular and continued to be made after the war in modern shapes and patterns. Once again, it is rarely seen in the U.K.; what is found was probably sent over as wedding presents, etc. Being introduced during the Depression, it is unlikely that it was ever made for the export market. We were pleased with our day out and highly recommend this show.

On Friday, February 13, we were invited for dinner to **Jan & Mike Langhorne's** house in Hampton, Middlesex. We had originally met **Jan** at one of the old Carlton Ware Collectors International meetings in Stoke. Last year, **Jan & Mike** visited us in Calgary when they were travelling across Canada and we enjoyed showing them our collection. Now it was our turn to see **Jan's** collection. **Jan** must have heard that our favourite meal was a good curry as that is what she served us; and most delicious it was too. Here we are, **Mike, Jerry** and **Ian**, plates full, waiting to eat!



**Jan's** favourite pattern is **Spangled Tree (4163)** and when we saw her collection in the cabinet on the left we recognized the vase we had seen at the Woking Art Deco fair back on December 28<sup>th</sup>. **Jan** had not bought it at that fair but at a local fair for her, Twickenham Art



Deco, on January 18. We hadn't found anything to buy at that show but **Jan** had done rather well, leaving the show with three very nice pieces: a **BLACKBERRY** biscuit barrel, a **BUTTERCUP** mug and cover (which doubles as a coaster), as well as the **Spangled Tree** vase.



Here are some more pictures from **Jan's** collection:



(left & right) taza and bowl in an unusual Swallow pattern (**2524**) and 3 **FLIES** pieces, all with lustre finish  
**MODERN CROCUS (3803)** Revo tray and jam pot



Two dressers with an assortment of patterns including **ANEMONE**, **HOVIS**, **BUTTERCUP** and **BLACKBERRY** together with 3 **HYDRANGEA** platters found in Portugal

On Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, we took the train up to Victoria to see what the London shops and markets had for sale. Our first stop was Camden Passage at the Angel, Islington, where there used to be several shops plus a street market on Wednesday's and Saturday's. However, the trip turned out to be extremely disappointing. The anchor to the street used to be The Mall (opposite), with its main floor and basement filled with higher end antique dealers. However, the building was now locked up and the dealers were all gone. We understand that they were all evicted in 2008 and the new owner of the building had applied to gut the interior and turn it into a single retail unit. However, this was



not approved by the local Islington Council. Subsequent applications were made to turn the building into an all-night club. At this time, we are not sure what the future holds for this historical Grade II listed building. Now, whilst we never found any Carlton Ware in the shops in The Mall, their presence was a big draw to the street and to the overall success of the other shops and weekly market. Several other buildings that had previously held antique shops had also been converted into other businesses. This has probably all come about due to the area becoming much sought after by house buyers and the resulting increase in property values. Antique dealers cannot afford high rents and landlords will have no sentimentality when it comes to increasing rents to trendier businesses. The section containing the street market was much reduced in size and the whole feel of the area was now completely lost. We remember coming here one Wednesday in the 1970s and seeing Rod Stewart, accompanied by Britt Eckland (wearing what looked like nothing but a fur coat), wandering around the stalls. In those days, Rod, Elton John and Paul McCartney were all collecting Chiparus bronze and ivory figures. Items like that were available on Camden Passage back then!



From Islington, we took the tube to the Edgware Road and walked the short distance to Alfies Antique Market on Church Street, NW8. Since our last visit a few years ago, this place has been extensively renovated. There are still antique dealers on 3 floors but the central area of each floor has been taken over by what is more or less an Italian department store selling expensive contemporary Italian furniture and lighting. The basement has been entirely taken over by a very high end mid-century modern show room of furniture mainly from South America. This large area is now more like a museum; it contains an

amazing collection of beautiful furniture in exotic woods, most of which have price tags starting at £10,000. The antique dealers that remain on the perimeter of the market have priced their merchandise to match. For those readers that know this market and street, we can inform you that Beverley is once again selling from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, having closed her shop across the street. Beth has a new location on the main floor and does have some Carlton Ware on her stall. They also have a store room in an empty lock up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with a lot of merchandise to view from the window.

From Church Street, NW8, we took the tube to High Street Kensington and Church Street, W8. Church Street Kensington is another high end shopping district that has several antique shops to visit as you make your way up to Notting Hill Gate. We didn't expect to find any Carlton Ware along this street but thought it was a good place to have lunch. We called into one shop that had a nice display of Arts & Crafts furniture and turn of the century pottery and, before we left, we asked the owner if he could recommend anywhere for lunch. He suggested The Churchill Arms, a pub further up the street that had a Thai kitchen. That sounded good to us so we



carried on our walk until we reached the pub. Without going into raptures about this place, we will just say that it was probably the best find of our trip. Just Google the name and check out the many testimonials. The food here was outstanding and everything on the lunch time menu was

£6.50. The address is 119 Kensington Church Street and it opens for lunch at noon. This is a good spot to go for lunch after a long morning down the Portobello Road; but get there close to noon as it fills up fast.



After lunch, our next stop was the Antiquarius Antique Centre on the Kings Road. Once again, this is a market that has seen better days. Back in the 1970s and 80s, this was an excellent place to find some of the best examples of art deco Carlton Ware. Unfortunately, those days are long past. However, we were in the area, so it was worth checking out. To our amazement, as we walked down one aisle, we spotted a piece of Carlton Ware in a cabinet that just swept us off our feet. This was the type of piece we had been hoping to find on this trip; one of our favourite patterns, **BELL**, on a beautiful yellow

ground, pattern number **3774**. We asked the stallholder if we could see the piece and we examined it carefully and couldn't find anything wrong with it. The stallholder was not the owner of the piece so she was not able to negotiate on the price with us. In the end, we didn't buy the vase



on that occasion but took the chance that it would not sell soon. We came back up to London a month later, spent the morning down the Portobello Road, had lunch at The Churchill Arms, and then met up with the owner of the vase in the afternoon and bought it. It's a lovely addition to our collection and definitely the best buy of our trip!



But back to our February day in London; we had pretty well exhausted all the usual antique spots so now it was down to a bit of sight seeing. We were staying up in London for dinner before heading back by train; therefore we had a few hours to fill. One of the things we wanted to do was to visit the Millenium Bridge, so we took the tube to St. Paul's and made our way down to the Thames and the bridge. It wasn't difficult to find, you basically just had to follow the tourists! The bridge was just full of people – no wonder it vibrated when it first opened to the public.

The bridge crosses the Thames from St. Paul's on the north side to the Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the south side. If 20<sup>th</sup> century art is your thing, the Tate Modern is well worth a visit. This is a disused power station that has been converted into an art gallery that has an excellent permanent collection as well as many exhibitions.



Like lunch, dinner was going to be curry, although Indian rather than Thai. We had rented a flat in Bloomsbury on a previous visit to London and had found an excellent Indian restaurant close by. After drinks in Soho, we wandered down to Tottenham Court Road to try and find this restaurant. After a few wrong turns, we eventually found it; Malabar Junction, 107 Great Russell Street and it was well worth the search! If you are going to a play in the West End, this is an excellent spot for dinner, before or after the show.

We are now about half way through our trip and, after such a busy and eventful day in London, this is probably a good point to end this installment and we will complete our trip in our next Newsletter. During the second half of our winter holiday, we didn't visit as many shops or markets but we got to visit with several more Carlton Ware collectors and enjoyed seeing their collections. In the mean time, here are a few more of the non Carlton Ware purchases that we made.



Beswick Ware "Palm Tree" wall pocket – Ardingly, January 2, 2009  
 Royal Doulton "Tut" sandstone jug with mask spout – Dorking, January 12, 2009  
 Bretby "Corinthian Column" candle sticks – Dorking, January 12, 2009

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