

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER No. 62

from

Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson

August 2013



We have been collecting Carlton Ware's **ENGINE TURNED** series for at least 20 years and in that time we have only found 20 pieces! One piece a year is not too bad, I suppose; just enough to keep a person on the hunt. It comes in a range of 6 colourways and enough different shapes and sizes that make for an interesting collection.

This month, our friends Scott & Lana came for dinner. Scott Cozens is one half of Scott & Sheldon, the two guys who host the TV show "Canadian Pickers" (which is known as "Cash Cowboys" in some countries). Scott collects many things but, up till now, Carlton Ware was not one of them. However, he has always had an appreciation for our **ENGINE TURNED** pieces, with their clean lines and more or less mid-century design, similar in style to the designs of Keith Murray for Wedgwood.

Scott likes to buy single items or large collections, so when I told him that we were thinking about selling most of our **ENGINE TURNED**, he said that he was interested. We came to a deal and the picture below is Scott's new display of 16 pieces of **ENGINE TURNED**; 13 vases and 3 lamp bases.



We decided to keep the yellow colourway and continue collecting those. In 20 years, our collection only consisted of 4 pieces of yellow; so that has really cleared some space for us.



The 6 colourways are:

- 3977 Gloss pink
- 3978 Gloss green
- 3979 Matt green
- 3980 Matt yellow
- 3981 Matt Blue
- 3982 Matt White

In Canada, "Canadian Pickers" is on the History Channel and the fourth season just started this month. During the filming of this season, Scott and the rest of the crew flew to the U.K. to film two episodes. The first episode has them picking some collections in Devon and Lythem St. Annes and the second episode is spent at the Village in Portmeirion, where they find some "Prisoner" collectibles.

Scott's family accompanied him to the U.K. and they stayed three extra nights at Portmeirion and want to go back again. The filming in the U.K. was done in July, right in the middle of Wimbledon, the expected Royal baby and the heat wave! The two episodes will be aired at the end of the current season.

---:---



There was an unusual colourway of a pattern seen on eBay during the month, a vase, shape **1693** in the **Spangled Tree** pattern on a sponged green colourway, instead of the usual yellow. As well as the different colourway, the handles on the vase had not been picked out as they usually were. The pattern number on the sponged green piece was **4163**, the same as for

the sponged yellow. It has been suggested that the vase could be an unfinished piece but the overglaze floral enameling would have been the last part of the vase to be applied, not the underglaze colour on the handles. The 4.5 inch vase sold for £88.



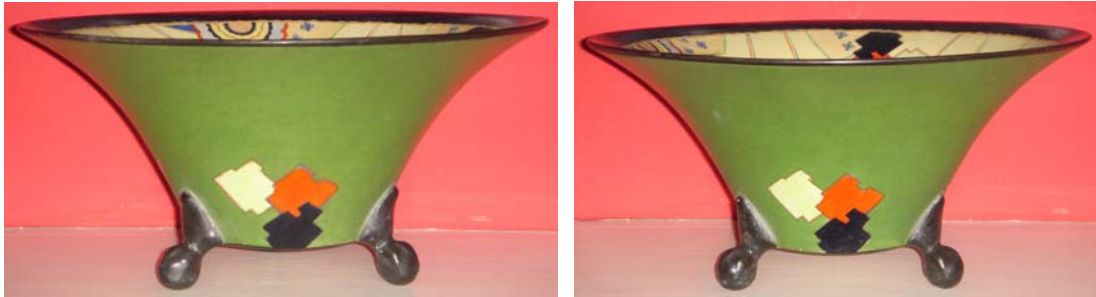
Late in the month we received an email from Joan in Yorkshire: *"I was interested to see your newsletter number 53, regarding a Carlton Ware 8" vase, shape 456, pattern 3431, Jigsaw. I have 2 of these in perfect condition but also have a rose bowl. I inherited these from my Grandma and have loved them from being a small child. They stood on an extremely shiny sideboard and looked bright and different to me. Do you know of any further information on the Rose bowl? They have a script backstamp and I was under the impression they were bought around 1928."*



We replied to Joan that the piece she was calling a rose bowl was actually called a **VELOX** bowl by the factory. And what a stunning piece it is!



On one part of the exterior is the floral design element, as above, and the **Jigsaw** element is used on two other parts of the exterior.



We have discussed this pattern with **Barry & Elaine Girling**, authors of **Cast Aside The Shadows**, in which they have a chapter on the patterns thought to be those of **Olive Kew**. According to their research work, they report that Olive was employed as a designer at the Copeland Street works from February 1930 to March 1931, when she was sadly let go as the company was facing receivership. The dateline would put the **Jigsaw** design a little later than when Joan thought her Grandma bought the three pieces but, by comparing the pattern with others attributed to Olive, we feel the case can be made that this is another of her designs. It is thought that the following patterns were some of the designs by Olive during her short tenure at the works:

Prickly Pansy



Pattern **3424** matt buff, **3449** gloss orange & **3455** Ruby Lustre



Jagged Bouquet
3439 Ruby Lustre
3457 matt green

Towering Castle
3458 matt brown



A case can also be made for **HANDCRAFT** patterns such as **Sagitta (3415)**, **Arrowhead (3416)**, **Holly (3418)**, **Metropolis (3420)** and **Peach Melba (3448)**.

The **Jigsaw** pattern, number **3431**, fits right into the middle of these pattern numbers. It is thought that **Jigsaw** might be a **HANDCRAFT** pattern; however, Joan's three pieces only have the Carlton Ware script mark with no additional **HANDCRAFT** mark. It is interesting to note that none of the patterns that could be attributed to **Olive Kew** have factory pattern names.

On receiving the new information on her inherited pieces, Joan writes that she is feeling herself



becoming a Carlton Ware freak now, never mind a fan! How well we all know that feeling! Joan says that she and her husband John have recently painted the wall red to set off the pieces! And don't they look splendid!

---:---

Thanks to Joan & John for their story and pictures and thanks to Nicholnack, Art in Pottery, <http://nicholnack.com.au/> for use of a picture from the Parnell Collection.

Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson
Calgary, Canada
jeromian@shaw.ca