

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER No. 63

from

Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson

October 2013



Earlier this month, a seldom seen piece of Carlton Ware was listed for sale on eBay, a vase in **GLACIELLE** ware. Unusual in both finish and subject matter, with a green Lizard wrapped around the vase. This piece is Carlton Ware shape number **1438**, listed as “**Lizard vase without neck**” by the works. There is always a lot of interest when a piece of **GLACIELLE** comes up for sale and the vase attracted 10 bids and sold for £317.



The factory produced two versions of the Lizard vase; on the right is shape number **1437**, “**Lizard vase with neck**”.

Last August, an outstanding piece of **GLACIELLE** was sold at Durrants Auction Rooms in Suffolk; shape number **1451** “**Seagulls**”, selling for £220.



In a 1938 trade journal advertisement, the factory shows a picture of this model with the following detail: *“Seagulls rising from the crest of a wave. Surely an impossibly difficult subject for any artist to ‘capture’. This charming example of Carlton Glacielle Ware will show you how our craftsmen have responded to the challenge. Note, in particular, the unusual beauty of texture.”*



There has not been a lot of information published regarding Carlton Ware's **GLACIELLE** series; what we have found was back in Volume 5 of The Carlton Times, the last issue published by Jules & Pita in New Zealand. Here is what they write:

“Glacielle was a series of ornamental wares introduced by Wiltshaw & Robinson in 1937. The range featured animal studies, either as single figurines or groups, designed in the main purely as ornaments although some decorator vases were included in the range. The matt glaze effect was variously described as “resembling melting snow” and “reminiscent of ice” as the name indicates. The texture of the glaze was not unlike that of salt glazed pottery. Despite the unusual glaze treatment, the pieces were very realistic in their execution.

“Whilst Wiltshaw & Robinson’s “Carlton Ware” trademark gave them a reputation for quality at a low price, they also produced wares on an important scale, demonstrating “exceptional prowess in the art of potting”. The October 1938 Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review described the Glacielle series as “noble” and “the technique, from the modeling down to the last finishing process” as “exceptional”. Work of such quality bore a premium price and wasn’t expected to compete with the cheap matt glazed ornaments available from some of the other Staffordshire potteries.

“At the 1937 British Industries Fair, Queen Mary purchased three pieces of Glacielle; a vase, a dog and a mouse. The Duchess of Gloucester also purchased a piece. At the Fair the following year Glacielle was again on display. This time the Queen bought two more pieces. Her mother, Queen Mary, was reported to have commented on the attractiveness of the Glacielle ware on display. Such approval was certainly a recommendation of the highest order for the times.” Jules & Pita.



The **GLACIELLE** series came with its own unique label. Models were finished on the base with green felt baize and a paper label was attached, as shown on the left above. Larger pieces came with a black wooden stand, shaped especially for the individual model. Affixed to the front of the stand was a metal name plate, above right. Unfortunately, some of the stands have been lost over the years.

In the book "Carlton Ware, The Complete Guide" by Dr. Czes & Yvonne Kosniowski, they give a listing of some 30 pieces in the **GLACIELLE** range. Here are pictures of some of them:



1424 Sea Lion



1425 Polar Bear



1426 Lioness



1427 Lion Cubs lying down



1441 Scottish Terrier sitting



1442 Fox Terrier



1445 Spaniel Dog



1447 Stag



1466 Lizard on rock



1467 Blue Tits



1469 Alsatian Dogs



1470 Group of Sheep



1475 Greyhounds

As well as those pictured above, other models are listed below. If anyone has any of these models, we would appreciate you sending us pictures so that we can complete our library and share them with our readers.

1423 Lion Cubs sitting

1450 Mouse on nest

1507 Kangaroo

1430 Lion

1468 Fish on stand

1508 Borzois Dog

1440 Scotch Terrier standing

1471 Heron in flight

1509 Leopard

1446 Lamb

1480 Crab

1448 Fox

1481 Snake Charmer

1449 Mouse on log

1506 Giraffe



Listed for sale in an auction in September at Gerrards in St. Annes, Lancashire was an 8 inch vase in the **Bird & Chequered Border** pattern, number **2218**, in a gloss yellow ground with black cartouches, seen here on the left. The more common ground for this pattern is matt black with yellow cartouches,



pattern number **2221**. However, it looked like this piece did not sell as we could not find a selling price in the auction results.



Thanks & apologies to **Nicholnack art in pottery** for a poor addition to his **Bird & Chequered Border** icon.

<http://nicholnack.com.au/w-r-best-ware/w-r-bird-chequered-border-2221-circa-1918.html>



Sold in September on eBay was this **MODERN WARE** box, shape number **923**, in an unusual **Powder Blue** ground in the **HOLLYHOCKS** pattern. The seller included a picture of the base of the box with the original paper label. The pattern number was hard to read but was either 3814 or 3854. If you have an example of this colourway that clearly shows the pattern number, please let us know.

The **HOLLYHOCKS** pattern comes in several colourways:

- 3818 sponged yellow
- 3819 sponged blue
- 3820 gloss black
- 3972 orange lustre
- 3973 green lustre
- ???? Powder Blue



HOLLYHOCKS box lids, Gloss Black & Powder Blue

Unfortunately, this unusual box had several chipped corners; a fate suffered by many pieces in this shape. Due to this, although the piece attracted 10 bids, it sold for only £18.



A pattern similar to **HOLLYHOCKS** is **GARDEN**, which can be found in both Carlton Best Ware and Carlton China. It can be found in several

colourways in both Best Ware and China and the Powder Blue colourway in Carlton China is **pattern number 4880**, shown above. This version of the pattern features



four flower sprigs on the cups and saucers. However, in September, another version in this colourway was sold on eBay. This one not only featured six flower sprigs on the saucer but also had a gilded interior to the cup and to the centre of the saucer. There was only one bidder on this piece which sold for £15.



In our last Newsletter, we featured a wonderful **Velox** bowl in the **Jigsaw pattern, number 3431**. This pattern had not previously been identified as belonging to any particular designer and we had speculated that it was a pattern similar in design to those of Olive Kew. Since then, we heard from Harvey Petit with the following:

*“It was interesting to read your thoughts on which patterns might have been by Olive Kew. When Peter Cochrane and I visited Olive at her home in Northampton, showing her the shape and pattern books, which Anthony Wood had allowed us to take off the works, she couldn’t identify any as by her, despite her excellent memory. Olive did however remember some of Miss Elmer’s work. **Jigsaw** was by Violet Elmer, which Miss Elmer confirmed when we went through the pattern books with her. Attribution is difficult and challenging, but fun.”*

We understand that the interviews with Miss Elmer, Miss Kew and other ex-employees, were carried out by Harvey and Peter in the 1980’s, some 20 or 30 years ago now. So far, only snippets of information have been released from these interviews and we can only speculate as to what information has yet to be revealed! Might we suggest that the tapes be played at next year’s annual meeting in Stoke?

Finally, on the internet site Worthpoint (for whatever it’s worth), we found a reference to **GLACIELLE** ware. The site says that **GLACIELLE** ware was introduced by the factory in the 1920’s (which is incorrect) when a potter from Sevres in France was brought in to model the range. There is some basis to part of that story as Sevres did produce **GLACIELLE** figures of their own, including this Polar Bear attributed to Francois Pompon (1855-1933).



Acknowledgments: Thanks to Mike & Carol Kiernan, Derek & Jane Towns, Carole Moore, and Denise & Reg Burningham for pictures of **GLACIELLE** ware from their collections. Thanks also to Jules & Pita and Dr. Czes & Yvonne Kosniowski for information used from their publications. Thanks also to www.carltonchina.info and www.nicholnack.com.au for pictures used from their websites.

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