

Pot(ter) the Year 2010 - 2011

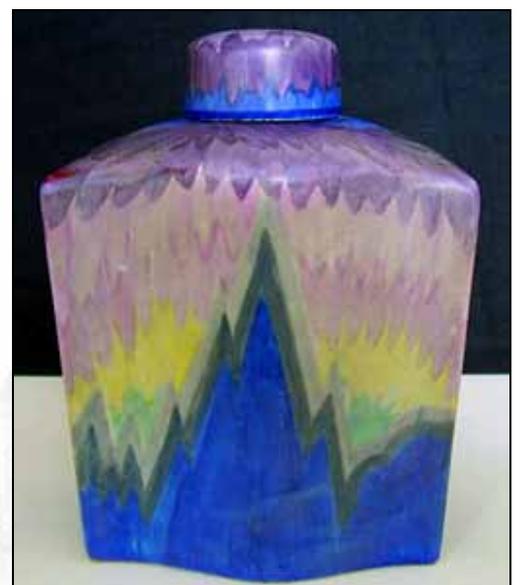
In the (otherwise decidedly un-magical) year that aficionados of the young wizard finally got to see their hero stick it to Lord Voldemort and give him the green bolt right up the Khyber Pass what can I offer to rival that mighty conflict? Plenty!!!

Not all the items I have chosen were ultra expensive, but regrettably most of them were well outside my range. Thinking about it... it's a shame that slimming down the fatness of one's wallet with the grievous affliction of Carlton Ware addiction doesn't have a similar effect on one's waistline at the same time! I would weigh 5 stone tops!

My blog began back in October 2010 with a complete boxed coffee set in **Fantasia** 3388. What a set! I know the lucky buyer, and as we Northerners say, he is a right jammy sod.



Unsurprisingly November and December were a little quieter for blockbuster items, but in January the eBay sellers woke up again, put down their sherry glasses and turkey drumsticks, wiped the grease off their chins and offered a beautiful **Rainbow Fans** 3700 inkwell and a **Metropolis** 3420 tea caddy (I lusted after that one, I can tell you, but hey ho).



Then in February there was a staggering VELOX bowl in **Scimitar** 3652. In some ways it was lucky it sold for over £2k, because if it had been on the edge of my radar I would have gone silly trying to buy it. There was a "Big Bang" in February as well, as a couple of **Explosions** pieces came up. One of these was a 6" vase in pattern number 3447 in grey, a colour which works surprisingly well in this pattern.



March arrived and dispatched our abysmal winter weather bringing instead a **Devil's Copse** 3787 vase in the most iconic deco shape. I keep trying to get a piece in this shape, but hey, everybody else must want one too. Darn it.



In April I loved the **Floral Comets** 3387 charger. Unfortunately somebody wanted it a lot more than me (curses). I have seen this piece in the flesh since and if only I could have distracted the owner for a couple of minutes it would be on my wall now. April also brought a large **CHINALAND** vase 3105 to eBay in the ruby ground. Easily my favourite colour in what is said to be the most complex pattern Carlton Ware ever produced, requiring a large number of firings to fully execute! One of my own most prized pieces is in this colour and pattern (not as big as this one though).



If you want a bit more subtlety, what about May's two beauties? Firstly there was a **Rosetta** 3505 jug. This had been restored to the rim, but I still love it. The colours are lovely. Lastly, but not least in my mind, was a 7" conical bowl in **Lacecap Hydrangea** 3969. What makes this one special for me is the gradual transition in shade from pale blue to pale pink. I prefer it a hundred fold to the version on the ruby ground, but that's only my opinion.



Another lusting job for me came to market the following month, a stupendous 12" **Persian Garden** 3893 diamond dish. I was so sad to see it depart un-purchased that I bought an 8½" bowl in the same black gloss ground at the CWW Stoke meeting in October. Both are absolute jaw droppers. In the same month we saw another iconic shape in **Heron & Magical Tree** 4160. It's so deco you just think of Poirot, as I said in my article at the time.



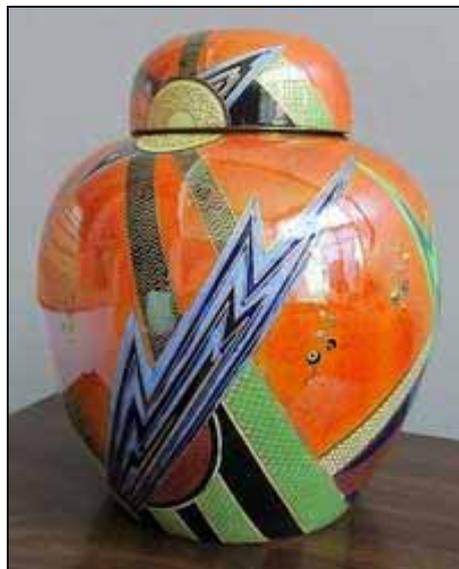
In August there was a piece in a quintessential deco pattern placed on eBay. It appeared as a REVO dish/tray in **Zigzag** 3356. Not a high priced item, but I have no idea why not. This and its sister pattern **Lightning** 3692 are really striking. Visitors to my home usually make a beeline straight for my two pieces of **Lightning**. A much higher priced item competed for my attention soon after, however. A **Mandarins Chatting** 3653 ginger jar was certainly wonderful, but waaaay too hot for little old me.



September brought both triumph and tragedy. The triumph was a rare **WAGON WHEELS** 3813 jug vase. One reader called it “the real deal”. Couldn’t have put it better myself. The tragedy was the tall gondola in **Nightingale** 3562. It got broken in the post. Horrendous. ‘Nuff said.



Who could forget the **JAZZ** 3353 ginger jar which made over £5k in October? The buyer is a lucky lad readers, isn't he?



In November a little 4½” conical trefoil dish in the pale blue colourway of **SKETCHING BIRD** 3907 fluttered into our lives. It rose to a remarkable £170.00, not surprising really as it is really pretty. Another piece I was really keen on was the 10” **MERIDIAN** fruit dish in **GUM FLOWER** 3790. How could such a fragile pot survive? Other ebayers obviously loved it too, because they appreciated enough to bid up to £250.00.



Finally, we reach December and Christmas approaches. Bah humbug – I'm spent up, so a dozen 32" tall, **DEVIL** 3767 ginger jars could turn up at 50 pence each and I would have to sit on my hands, damn it. I do know I have already missed out on a set of 6 figural napkin rings which went for £285.00. Not only that, but I have also been unable to wave my Elder Wand at a lovely 10½" oval dish in one of my favourite patterns **Secretary Bird** 4018 on the ruby ground. Only one bid was made, but it was for a chunky £450.00 (might as well have been £1mill at the moment as far as I was concerned).



Lastly, at the time of writing, as yet still live on ebay is a 12" tall **CHINESE BIRD & CLOUD** 3275 Lidded vase which is really striking.



What a year and a bit it has been readers and no mistake. I have enjoyed it and I hope you have too.

Mad (Eye)tem of the Year (Sorry another Harry Potter reference sneaked in there by accident)

I suppose I should nominate the mad item of the year as well. How about the first of my mad items Paul Daniels' wig? Perhaps you prefer the alien on an operating table or the little "amazing" stone? If that is your view readers I could certainly understand your vote for any of them, but my own choice is the Polaroid photo (for its seller's blend of sheer naked effrontery of asking for such a price, the weirdness of it and valueless nature of the item itself).



Well, that's it readers. Another year older and deeper in debt! About 40 pieces have entered my collection via all channels this last 12 months. Nearly divorced twice, currently in the doghouse for buying too much CW and every day more treasures pass me by. Grrrrr! The world is an unfair place, as ever.

As always I welcome all posts to this page, so if you want to comment on my choices, or even add your own into the mix feel free to do so. Outraged that I missed out your favourite piece? Stupefied (another quick Potter reference) that I included a piece you thought was rubbish? Drop me a line.

My thanks to my readers for bearing with my inane nonsense all year and to those of you who have contributed responses. I hope I answered you all to your satisfaction.

Here's to another year of blogging.

But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? I hear the gentle mystical sound of 2 siren voices faintly drifting on the ether. What are they whispering on the wind? Can I just make it out if I strain every sinew of my being? "Yesssssss, but what is your favourite ebay pot(ter) of all this year, oh masterspy?" and " 'Ang on a flippin' minute. Yer can't leave us bloomin' 'angin' on like that, mate if yer know wot's good fer yer!"

Oh, ok, ok, if you must know it's the..... hummmmm..... This programme is not responding and has to close.

Ha ha, only kidding. My personal favourite is..... Well it would be obvious to pick the **JAZZ** ginger jar or the **Scimitar VELOX** bowl, but I am nothing if not egalitarian, so my choice is the much lower priced **PERSIAN GARDEN** diamond tray.

Happy eBaying.

Best wishes,

EBay masterspy.