2017 TCC Annual Meeting Report

Returning to the Valley of the Sun

In 2005, the TCC Annual Meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona and, twelve years later, the Meeting returned to the Valley of the Sun. Looking back at the report on the first Phoenix Meeting, it was good to see so many familiar faces also attending the second.

New Leadership Announced

It is customary to start a story at the beginning, but sometimes that is not always the case and, in this instance, something of note happened which deserves mention first. In 2005, on our first visit to Phoenix, Loren Zeller became President of the TCC and since then, has lead it to become the successful organization that it is today. It was announced that he has now decided to relinquish this post but fortunately will remain on the Board, so the Club will continue to benefit from his expertise. On Sunday, Loren was given a standing ovation, a TCC Lifetime Membership, and cards with thanks and best wishes from board members and meeting attendees.

A warm welcome was extended to the new president, Scott Hanson, who we know will do a fine job and who has many "old" hands to guide him on his way. You can learn more about Scott’s background and interest in transferware by reading his article “Nineteenth Century Ceramics at Whitten House, Becoming a Collector of Transferware” in the latest Bulletin.

Meeting Theme: A Kaleidoscope of British Transferware Patterns, Sources, Shapes, & Sherds!

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Day One: Opening Reception, Dinner and Round Table

On day one, after registration and dinner, a Roundtable Discussion started off the proceedings, with the subject "How to Liquidate a Collection". Moderator Nick Routson asked pertinent questions on the subject to: Brenda Hornsby Heindl, Head of the Ceramics Department at Virginia-based Jeffrey S. Evans and Associates Auctions, Miranda Goodby, senior Curator of Ceramics at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent, and the well-known New Hampshire dealer, Dennis Berard of Dennis and Dad Antiques. Many of us have seen prices of antiques in our collections plummet in recent years and perhaps found comfort in Dennis’ remark that we should look at the losses as rent paid for owning such beautiful pieces.

Day Two: Visits to the Zeller Home & Wrigley Mansion

Day two started with a visit to the home of Anne and Loren Zeller. There are not enough words to describe Loren's wonderful collection of Chinoiserie, so beautifully displayed, other than to say it was extremely comprehensive. The pictures say it much better. Anne had decorated the house with her collection of Halloween items, often interspersed among transferware items, adding to everyone’s look of wide-eyed wonderment at their surroundings. Subsequently, lunch and a tour were taken at the historic Wrigley Mansion, built in 1932 by William Wrigley Jr. of the chewing gum company, as a present for his wife.
Day Two: Lectures, Show & Discuss Session

Returning to our hotel the first lecture was given by Hans van Lemmen from Leeds, England, on the subject of the “Production of British Transfer-printed Tiles, 1756-1851”. This was a new subject for the TCC and a timely one as many tiles have now been recorded in our Database. The talk that followed was entitled “The Importance of Transfer-printed Ceramics for Interpreting and Connecting with Our Past”, given by archaeologist and professor Terry Majewski from the University of Arizona. Following a buffet dinner, several members brought items to be admired, handled and discussed during the popular “Show and Discuss” session.

Lunch at the Historic Wrigley Mansion

Loren & Anne Zeller’s Transferware & Halloween Collections
Day Three: Lectures & Workshops

The next day began with a beautifully illustrated talk by Patricia Knight on “Botanical Prints as Sources for Floral Transferware patterns”. The Annual General Meeting followed during which attendees were brought up to date on TCC business, finances, and initiatives. A series of workshops followed. Attendees were divided into three groups: one led by Michael Sack discussing tips for optimizing searches using the TCC Database, one in which Diane Brooks spoke about integrating a transferware collection into an overall decorating scheme and a third in which Sherri Conn from Scotland gave a demonstration on ceramic restoration. Patricia Fournier then spoke on “English Transferwares in 19th Century Mexico”, based on archaeological findings.

Day Three: Visit to the Routson Home & Collection & Dinner in the Desert Botanical Gardens

After lunch at the hotel, participants visited the home of Nick Routson to see not only his amazing transferware collection, focused on American views, but also his other outstanding collections of decorative arts. As at Loren’s house, pictures will record this event far better than we could ever describe it. Needless to say, we were made very welcome and once again our eyes popped out on stalks. Participants enjoyed a delicious dinner, while sitting in the open air at Gertrude’s Restaurant at the Phoenix Desert Botanical Gardens.
The last day dawned and naturally it was blue skies and very warm sunshine which many of us shall miss. Three lectures were given, starting with Judie Siddall and David Hoexter on “Advertising Wares Designed to Sell and Promote”. Miranda Goodby spoke on “Birds, Blossoms & Fans: British Transfer Printed Ceramics and the Aesthetic Market” and finally Hans van Lemmen, following his earlier talk, on “Printed Tiles Galore: The Mass Production and Varied Applications of British Transfer-printed tiles between 1851 and 1901”. This year’s raffle and jumble table sales raised $1651. The six items on offer went to delighted recipients. The Annual Meeting ended as it always does with the much anticipated Transferware Sale.

Thanks are extended to hosts Nick Routson and Loren Zeller, who with Leslie Bouterie planned the Meeting, to meeting coordinator Meg MacDonald of Travel Muse, Inc., and to photographer Larry Bouterie. The full complement of Larry’s photographs of the 2017 Annual Meeting may be found at: https://larryb.smugmug.com/TCC2017/n-fTHnNs/

The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held in Providence-Warwick, Rhode Island October 18-21 when we shall all meet again for a weekend of instruction and friendship. Save the dates!