IMPORTERS, RETAILERS, WHOLESALERS, and AUCTIONEERS OF EARTHENWARE AND SOUVENIR WARES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA - PART I

by
Arnold Kolwalsky

From the eighteenth to the twentieth century importers and/or retailers played an important role in distributing table and decorative wares throughout the United States and Canada. As in England, china and earthenware destined for sale and distribution was auctioned on U.S. and Canadian wharves during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. As towns and cities grew, so did an emerging network of importers, retailers and tradesmen who brought their wares to all areas of the expanding North American continent. Importers and retailers, as well as others, used china and earthenware as an advertising vehicle as is evident by the printed back stamps of the “American and Canadian Importer” listing.

An exception has been noted for the American importer, John Greenfield, importer of china and earthenware, at No. 77 Pearl Street, New York. His marking (the only one recorded to-date) is an impressed double circle (recorded in the FOB Bulletin No. 94, Winter ’96/’97, p. 8).

Canada’s rich history of china imports paralleled that of the United States. The major waterways of Canada not only helped move wares into the back country, but also served to move goods of the constantly expanding chinaware trade into the United States via the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio Rivers, etc. Later expansion was affected by rail and other avenues of ground transportation. Flow Blue chinaware was the predominant media used and ordered for advertising and special occasion pieces. In addition, military camps, steamship lines, hotels, taverns, etc. placed direct orders for their china/earthenware needs as well as orders for special and/or occasional pieces. Further, pattern and/or maker’s marks, back stamps often included advertising marks, as noted, but not limited to:

SAMPSON BRIDGWOOD & SON (LTD) “Made for Walker and Pratt Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts” marked “Crawford Cooking Ranges.” (Crawford Cooking Ranges has also been noted with a Rowland & Marsall marking.)

BURGESS & LEIGH, Burleigh pattern imprinted with the Harvard University Insignia. W.H. GRINDLEY & CO., Melbourne pattern marked “First Baptist Ladies Society, 1904”.

GEORGE JONES & SONS (LTD), Abbey Pattern - a “Shredded Wheat Dish” used as a promotional give-away.

WOOD & SON(s) (LTD), Triby Pattern marked “Compliments John A. Hedin & Co., Furniture & Carpets, East Cambridge, Mass.”

The late Victorian period ushered in the manufacture of English china “Souvenir” wares, predominantly in blue, another important export commodity to the United States. Many of these “Souvenir” wares are marked and identified by both the potter and importer. With the emergence of department stores, which now brought specialties under one roof, this late Victorian lad found new venues for reaching the market place.

I have attempted to organize this information into a cohesive, but nowhere complete, listing which is separated into four sections:

American Importers, Wholesalers, Retailers and Auctioneers, 18th-early 20th century. (1)

American Importers, Wholesalers, Retailers and Auctioneers, 18th-early 20th century. (2)

Canadian Importers, Wholesalers, Retailers and Auctioneers, 18th-early 20th century. (3)

American Importers, Wholesalers, Retailers of “Souvenir” Wares, late 19th-early 20th century. (4)

American and Canadian Importers, Wholesaler, Retailers and Auctioneers of the 18th-early 20th century which are listed below do not represent the total body of trades people nor manufacturers. In most cases addresses and dates recorded for retailers, importers and the like may not represent the actual addresses and dates of the company’s listed due, in part to conflicting material. This information has been recorded as it was found, and are vignettes gleaned from bills of lading, correspondence, newspaper ads, etc. Willow Ware Imports and Retailers have been recorded from ongoing research of back stamp markings.

This is an area that is ripe for further scrutiny. Such research and the resulting data would definitely provide invaluable insight into the dating of imported wares and their respective manufacturers.

For further reading, I would direct the researcher and collector to the following selected references (see bibliography for complete titles): David & Linda Arman, Edwin Atlee Barber, Blue Berry Notes, Arlene Burgess, Elizabeth Collard, Neil Ewins, Mary and Frank Gaston, Ellen Hill, Sam Laidacker, Ellouse Baker Larsen, Frank Stefano, Irand Petra Williams.

(1) This section records information taken from printed back stamp markings.
(2) This section is not recorded from back stamp markings but abstracted from sources noted above.
(3) This section records information gleaned from various printed and recorded sources as listed above as well as from the bibliography.
(4) This section records information gleaned from various printed and recorded sources as listed above as well as from the bibliography.

Ed. The following information is taken from Encyclopedia of American, English and European Earthenware, Ironstone, Stoneware (1790-1980) to be published in 1998. (Copyright pending).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importer</th>
<th>Potter Represented</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J.L. Allenbaugh</td>
<td>Anthony Shaw (and Son(s))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffin, Ohio</td>
<td>Thomas Goodfellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imported By</td>
<td>Jacob Furnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babcock Brothers</td>
<td>Wood &amp; Sons, Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evansville, Indiana</td>
<td>Minton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin, Pool &amp; Co.</td>
<td>J. &amp; G. Alcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woonsocket (RI)</td>
<td>Chamberlains &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Barth &amp; Son</td>
<td>Chamberlains/Worcester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York [NYC]</td>
<td>Man to the Royal Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c.1900)</td>
<td>STONE CHINA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.D. Bass</td>
<td>Wood &amp; Sons Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston (MA), America</td>
<td>J. Clementson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1810</td>
<td>J. &amp; G. Meakin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importer</td>
<td>R. Hall (and Son) (and Co.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburyport (MA)</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1840s</td>
<td>WT. Copeland &amp; Sons*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Billsland, Importer (4)</td>
<td>Manufacturing &amp; Imported by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>447 Broadway</td>
<td>Chauncy J. Filley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York (N.Y.C.)</td>
<td>St. Louis, M.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c.1840s-1852)</td>
<td>(c. 1854)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford Black &amp; Co.</td>
<td>Manufactured for &amp; Imported by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malden, Mass.</td>
<td>E.A. &amp; S.R. Filley,</td>
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<tr>
<td>F.J. Blair</td>
<td>St. Louis, M.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importer</td>
<td>(c. 1854)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corner of Wisconsin &amp; Water Sts.,</td>
<td>W.T. Copeland &amp; Sons*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukie, Wis.</td>
<td>W.B. Fuller Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing for / Bowman &amp; Bowles (1)</td>
<td>Mansfield [MA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1830s*</td>
<td>A.S. Gardner &amp; Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enos Briggs</td>
<td>Cleveland -O [OH]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importers of Earthenware</td>
<td>Wm. H. Glenny</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston (MA)</td>
<td>Importers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Briggs</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston (MA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1880s</td>
<td>J. Greenfield's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John W. Ball</td>
<td>China Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 70 State Street</td>
<td>No. 77 Pearl St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hartford (CT)</td>
<td>New York (N.Y.C.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1840s</td>
<td>c. 1824-1832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burley &amp; Co.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c. 1890s</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burgess &amp; Goddard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Importers</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. &amp; I. Chamberlain</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Importers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisville (KY)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark, Levering &amp; Co.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Importer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more [MD]</td>
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</tbody>
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*For a listing of importer names on back stamps of W.T. Copeland & Sons, 1860-1953, refer to Copeland, pp. 94-100.
IMPORTER
Townsend Harris
(Imported By)
Pearl St.
New York (N.Y.C.)
Harris & Clounesy
70 Wall St.
New York (N.Y.C.)
c. 1826-1829
Henderson & Gaines
Importers
45 Canal St.
New Orleans (LA)
1836-1866
Henderson, Walton & Co.
Importers
45 Canal St.
New Orleans (LA)
c. 1834-1836
Henshaw & Jarves
Importers of Earthen Ware
and Chinaware
Boston (MA)
c. 1815-1818
Hill & Henderson
Importers
New Orleans (LA)
c. 1822-1831
Geo. T. Horan
House Furnishers
Charleston (MA)
Huntington & Brooks
235 Main St.
Cincinnati (OH)
J.C. Huntington & Co.
162 Main St.
Cincinnati (OH)
Jennings & Muther
Detroit (MI)
c. 1830’s
80 Pearl Street
New York (NYC)
J. & A.ullie & Stratton
Importers
[Boston, MA]
c. 1890’s
Imported by
T.T. Kissam
145 Maiden Lane
New York, (NY)
c. 1840s
Robert Lawrence
[Pearl Street]
Cincinnati (OH)
Chas. Lovering & Co.
Importers
Baltimore (MD)
JNO. R. Ludlow & Co.
Charleston, o. Ca. (SC)
c. 1802-1828
H.P. Merrill
Sandusky, Ohio
c. 1840s – early 50s

POTTER REPRESENTED
T. Mayer
Enoch Wood & Sons
William Davenport & Co.
John Davenport
Wood & Caldwell
Neff, Warton & Co.
James & Ralph Clews
James & Ralph Clews
John Davenport
R. Stevenson & William
Enoch Wood & Sons
Wood & Sons Ltd.
Jacob Furnival
Jacob Furnival & Co.
T.J. & J. Mayer
W.T. Copeland & Sons* W.T. Copeland & Sons W.T. Copeland & Sons* W.T. Copeland & Sons
226 Greenwich St.
New York (N.Y.C.)

IMPORTER
Robert H. Miller
Alexandria, D.C.
c. 1822-1840s
Robert Miller
Alexandria, Virginia
c. 1840
Mitchell & Freeman
Champlain & Glass Warehouse
Chelsea St.
Boston (MA)
c. 1828-1832
James Mortlock
Peter Morton
68 Front Street
Hartford (CT)
c. 1823-1831

POTTER REPRESENTED
Win. Adams (as Sons)
R. Stevenson (as Son)
J. Furnival & Co
[c. 1845-1870]
Enoch Wood & Sons
James & Ralph Clews
WT. Copeland & Sons* Bellevue/Hull
Cauldon (Ltd.)
Burgess & Leigh
Charles Meigh (as Son)
Edward Clarke (as Co.)
(Turnbull)
J. & G. Alcock
Brown-Westhead Moore & Co.
WT. Copeland & Sons* Wood & Sons
pattern noted as “Chain of
States”
Sherman & Gillin
38 Pearl St.
New York (N.Y.C.)
Win. Adams & Son
T. & R. Boote Ltd.
F.H. Stevens & Co.
Hudson, NY
T. Sweeney & Son
Dealers in Queensware
and Manufacturers of Flint Glass
63 Main St.
Wheeling (VA)


**Duplicate Auction Catalogue For Sale**

1. Lorimer, Part II, Parke-Bernet, March 29,30,31, April 1, 1944. Includes Staff., Liverpool, Glass and Lustre....$75.00
2. Lorimer, Part II, Parke-Bernet, October 24-28, 1944. Same....$75.00
3. R.T. Haines Habey, Parke-Bernet, November 11/12, 1943. Staff. and Prints....$45.00
4. Frelinghuysen, Parke-Bernet, Jan. 24/25, 1964. Staff. figures, Toby jugs and lustre....$35.00
5. Susiel, Parke-Bernet, March 19-21, 1959. Early American Glass, export and historical prints....$35.00
6. Yegge, Parke-Bernet, March 17-20, 1943. Hist. Staff., English Ceramics....$75.00
7. Howe, Part I, Parke-Bernet, Nov. 7-8, 1940. Early American Glass...$75.00
8. Howe, Part II, Same, April 3/4, 1941. EAG.....$75.00
9. Wood, Parke-Bernet, Jan. 22/23, 1942. Early American Glass.$75.00
10. Fish, Parke-Bernet, Jan. 5/6, 1940. Early American Glass. $100.00
11. Maclay, American Art Assn., Dec. 5-7, 1935. Early American Glass. $75.00

David & Linda Arman, P.O. Box 39, Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-841-8403

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**Ted Gallagher**
1793 Riverside Dr. 4-C
New York, NY
10034
212-942-9064

WANTED: “Dutch Church at Albany” (with or without Eric Canal view insets) by Andrew Stevenson

“Old Blue” rarities sought, traded ~~~

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**IMPORTER**
James Tams & Co. of
Importers/Manufacturers
Philadelphia (PA)
1820s-1850s

Taylor & Wright Importers
62 Pearl Street
New York, (N.Y.C.)

H.P. & W.C. Taylor
Perfumers
Philadelphia (PA)
c. 1865

I M. Thompson & Co.
Wheeling, VA
1826-1845

Thompson & Parish
10 Pearl Street
or
79 Pearl Street
New York (N.Y.C.)

Tyndale and Mitchell
No. 219 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia (PA)
c. 1847-1861

L. Weidler & Co.
New York (N.Y.C.)
c. 1840-1860

R.M. Williams
183 Washington St.
New York (N.Y.C.)

Peter Wright (& Sons) Importers
Philadelphia (PA) U.S.A.
1840s+

Wright & Pike
Importers
North 3rd St.
Philadelphia (PA)

**POTTER REPRESENTED**
J. & G. Alcock
John Tams, et.al.
J. Wedg Wood
Podmore, Walker (& Co.)

Wright Tyndale
and Van Roden
(Chestnut Street)
Philadelphia (PA)
c. 1818-1960's

James & Ralph Clews

James & Ralph Clews

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(1) Golden notes in Mason, Mr. Bilsland as an importer of Masonware.

(2) See White Ironstone Notes, Vol 3, No 3, Winter 1997, p 12 for a copy of importer's marks. Also refer to G. Bowman, included in Souvenir Wares Section, as the company may have preceded Bowman & Bowls.

(3) See Arman Quarters, Vol. 1, 1997, p. 34 where two importer's marks are noted on one piece.


(5) See Eisner, pp. 85-86, FN #18-21

(6) See Eisner, p. 96, Plate 16

(7) Arman notes in Historical Staffordshire, Updated Supplement, “... Errors corrected... Change the attribution of the maker of both the Cities Series and the Don Quixote Series from Clews to Davenport.”

(8) Sam Layadder notes in the American Antiques Collector, Vol. 1, March 1940, No. 9, “...Peppard’s were in business and Callan became a lawyer and that... in any time from 1819 to 1848 these men could have had an importing business in addition to their regular work...”, p. 189

-Both Montgomery Ward and Sears & Roebuck were actively involved in the import of English Earthenware and China to the United States (1870s+). (Microfilm and catalogs are available at the New York Public Library System, and Montgomery Ward Catalogs are available on microfilm at the University of Wyoming Laramy.)

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