



PATRIOTIC AMERICA

BLUE PRINTED POTTERY
CELEBRATING A NEW NATION

PRESS RELEASE

The Transferware Collectors Club, Historic New England and Winterthur join together to launch Patriotic America, an online exhibition

www.americanhistoricalstaffordshire.com

The Transferware Collectors Club (TCC) announces the launch of a free, interactive online exhibition titled *Patriotic America: Blue Printed Pottery Celebrating a New Nation*. The TCC has teamed with Winterthur and Historic New England to develop this new online exhibition which will be launched on October 23, 2011.

Patriotic America will serve as a definitive database of images of English printed pottery with 19th-century images celebrating the new United States. Made between 1818 and 1830, these dark blue printed wares have captivated collectors for nearly two centuries. They are revered because they illustrate important places and commemorate historical events of the early republic. The advent of the online exhibition offers a fascinating look into early America and will be accessible to a wide and varied audience.

“Winterthur’s collection is uniquely relevant to this exhibition. We have partnered with other great living collectors, whose collections of rare and seldom seen examples of printed dark blue historical Staffordshire make this an event of significant proportion,” says Pat Halfpenny, one of the leaders of the project and former Director of Collections at Winterthur. “By putting the exhibition in an online forum, we are able to share scholarly insight and connect with people, regardless of geographical boundaries. The friendliness of the content covers all levels of interest and expertise.”

Patriotic America offers a comprehensive set of images of America in the 1820s documenting a time of great celebration in history. In 1815, after trade between America and England resumed, following the War of 1812, Staffordshire potters were relieved to regain access to one of their most lucrative markets. It brings together in one virtual exhibit the production of more than twelve British potters who were savvy in creating an aesthetic that would be attractive and desirable to Americans eager to purchase objects which featured images of their growing nation. Many of these images were inspired by paintings and engravings depicting the new nation’s remarkable setting and notable architecture. Succeeding generations have treasured these wares, and they survive as a testament to the skills of the Staffordshire potter and the Patriotism of his American consumer.

Both the pottery and the source prints that inspired them are certain to be of interest to a broad range of ceramic enthusiasts, historians, and archaeologists.

To view the exhibition, visit www.americanhistoricalstaffordshire.com.

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