Those of us lucky enough to attend the 13th Annual Meeting of the TCC in Seattle, were thoroughly spoilt by our generous hosts, Marcia and Klaus Zech. Of the 80 attendees, several were first timers, three of them having travelled from England and another from Portugal. Members who went on a pre-meeting trip to Victoria B.C. enthused about the visit when they arrived at the Mayflower Park Hotel, Seattle, to join the other participants for the optional day activities.
This day began with coffee and muffins at the delightful home of Suzanne and John Price in Seattle, where we were able to admire their eclectic collection of wonderful ceramics, as well as their English style garden. Whilst humming birds might not be classed as exotic in the USA, one appeared at a window to the delight of overseas visitors.

Leaving the city, we travelled by coach and ferry to Whidbey Island and the Zechs' beach home. Everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch followed by a hunt for buried blue and white treasure on the beach. An added attraction was the unusual, for the time of year, view of snow capped Mount Rainier across the bay.
Members were full of praise for the Zechs' collection of animal and botanical themed blue transferware and ironstone.
After dinner, the first lecture, on British views, was given by Dick Henrywood and not a nodding head was to be seen although many must have been suffering from travel induced sleep deprivation.

Friday Excursions & Special Collections, Nov. 19th

The following day, the Monorail, built for the 1962 World Fair, took us the short distance to Seattle Centre, where close by the famous Space Needle, we toured the Chihuly Garden and Glass, an exhibition by the artist Dale Chihuly, of his colorful glass installations.
A coach then took us to the apartment home of Flora and Seymour Rabinovitch to view Flora's collection of blue printed transferware. This visit proved that it is possible to display a very large quantity of beautiful ceramics, in quite a small space. Flora confessed that she didn't cook as even her oven was full of pots. A notice pinned to a cupboard door, only slightly misquoted Oscar Wilde, when it said "my goal in life is to live up to my blue and white china".

After lunch, the TCC Board returned to the hotel for a meeting, whilst the lucky majority went to the Seattle Art Museum to see their porcelain collection.

Dinner that night was at Anthony’s Pier 66 Restaurant. Those who had the excellent large prawns, with a strongly flavored garlic butter, were probably avoided the next day, by those who didn’t.
Saturday: A Very Full Day!

Saturday was mainly dedicated to lectures, starting with Pat Halfpenny and "From Copper Plate to Dinner Plate" or else "Do you know a bat print from a hot press print?"

Dick's second talk, titled "Sources, Pickles, Salads, Berries and Potatoes – A Pot-Pourri" reviewed some unusual shapes and addressed American and British terminology for the same shape of ware.

Peggy Sutor's talk was entitled "Major Architects of the Early Nineteenth Century and How They Relate to Blue Transferware".

This being the day that the Spode Museum Exhibition opened at the old Spode factory site at Stoke on Trent, it was appropriate that Paul and Kath Holdway were with us and Paul was able to share news of this event and encourage everyone to give the project their support.

At the Annual Business Meeting, we were pleased to hear that everything is progressing well, membership is increasing, the database will soon have 10,000 entries and future plans include a joint online exhibition, with the Northern Ceramic Society, of Printed British Pottery and Porcelain.

Annual Business Meeting

Treasurer Klaus Zech delivers the club’s financial report
Membership Chair Judie Siddall reports record setting numbers

Congratulations to TCC raffle winners:
Gary Drummond, Phillip Roberston, Suzy Van Massenhove, Barbara Drummond, Kurt Ohare, Paula Geary, and Elizabeth Drury.

President Zeller & Debby Dearborn congratulate first timer Phillip Robertson for winning the raffle prize—the Halliday’s new book “Extraordinary Transferware”

Dick Henrywood announced that he had just had word that one of the founders and the present President of the Friends of Blue, Robin Gurnett, had died.
The evening saw us transported to Marcia and Klaus' home on Mercer Island and here we were again treated to another feast of ceramics, displayed in beautifully decorated rooms. Janice Paull spoke to groups in turn, on the Mason's factory and its wares and Peter Scott and Fergus Downey were on hand to answer questions as we toured the house."
A delicious dinner was served in a lighted, heated and enclosed marquee in the garden! The wonderful floral table decorations reflected Marcia's love of flowers as seen on much of her china and the garden full of day lily plants that we had seen on Whidbey Island.

Members enjoy a delicious dinner & musical entertainment
Sunday, November 21st

On Sunday morning, Diane Brooks spoke on how she displays her collections and Loren Zeller gave a fascinating talk entitled “Animals on Printed Pots: Understanding the Role Animals Played in Early British Wares c. 1790-1820.” This illustrated talk is to be published in the next Northern Ceramic Society’s Journal.

Show & Sale

The meeting closed with the afternoon Show and Sale which was the usual feast of transferware, this time allowing West Coast dealers to show larger quantities of their stock than usual, although tables were also taken by dealer members from the East Coast and England.
Marcia and Klaus generously invited those remaining in Seattle Sunday evening to join them for dinner on Mercer Island and, arriving in daylight, we could only marvel at the lakeside setting of their home before partaking of yet another delicious meal.

Thanks must be given to John and Suzanne Price and Flora and Seymour Rabinovitch for opening their homes to us, but especially to Marcia and Klaus. None of us can say thank you enough times to the Zechs, their family and friends, for making this meeting such a memorable one.

Next year the indefatigable Peggy Sutor will, once again, be organising the meeting, this time in the Boston area. Do come.

www.transferwarecollectorsclub.org

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