Welcome
A warm welcome to Issue Fifteen of the Recorder News. We have one New Discovery and an interesting mark to whet the appetite. The subject for Volume Five is still undecided, so we print opposite a note about one of the current suggestions, views of Europe. Tell us what you think. In the meantime, with little obvious activity to report on the Recorder front (still paddling like mad beneath the surface), we hope you will enjoy our new “Feature” article. We will use this occasionally when space permits to look at interesting aspects of transferware, starting here with ornate jugs of the 1830s, a subject inspired in part by the jugs on this page. We hope you enjoy it and would welcome your feedback.

New Discovery
Newly discovered is this small deep dish printed with “Parisina” from the maker unknown “Byron Gallery” series (courtesy Ba Penney). A larger dish was recorded in TR4 but it is clear that the same copper plate was used to print this new dish, although it was too big to fit the smaller size so the scroll-framing around the scene has been cropped off. No need for an expensive new copper plate – the Staffordshire potters could be cheap-skates at times! Incidentally, this series is not common and news of other items would always be welcome.

The Transferware Recorder, Volume Five
No decision has yet been made about the subject for Volume Five so if anyone has suggestions we would love to hear from you. One of the current possibilities is views of Europe and the two jugs shown here may be a bit of a teaser. They are both by Machin & Potts in the “Continental Views” series decorated with a view of the “Bay of Naples” but are noticeably different shapes. The one on the left is slightly shorter at 28cm and is in the National Museum of Ceramics and Decorative Arts in Valencia, Spain. The one on the right is taller at 33.5cm and is in the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut (TCC attendees at the meeting later this month might like to look out for it). The latter must qualify as one of the most ornate, even ugliest, shapes from the 1830s!

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Mark Time
We enjoy our pots but the struggles of the workers who made them usually pass us by. Working conditions in the Potteries were atrocious and led to early attempts to form unions, strenuously opposed by the owners. Some potters emigrated but at least one pottery owned and run by its workforce was set up. Here is a small jug made by the “Operatives Manufactory” in Burslem. There is insufficient space here to ponder social history but both the mark and the jug are interesting. We love the fact that the clasped-hands emblem of workers’ unity on the front of the jug has been printed upside down!
The Transferware Recorder

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**Feature: Ornate Jugs from the 1830s**

Transfer-printing was used to decorate a vast range of wares, predominantly utilitarian, and it is not surprising that a large number of jugs are to be found. There was a huge market for jugs in the 19th century, long before we had containers in glass, plastic (and its associated pollution problems), waxed cardboard, etc. The earlier jugs tend to be of simple shape, with the so-called Dutch shape predominating up to the 1820s, but thereafter there was a fashion for more ornate shapes, and a wide variety were made by potters in the 1830s. Here are six typical examples: (top row, left to right) “Chinese Pagoda” by Elkin, Knight & Bridgwood; “Eastern Scenery” by Enoch Wood & Sons; “Brunswick” by Machin & Thomas; (bottom row, left to right) “Royal Sports” by Benjamin Godwin; “British Lakes / Elterwater” by C.J. Mason & Co.; “Corcassian” by Hopkin & Vernon. If anyone has images of similar marked jugs they would be prepared to share, please get in touch.