Welcome
A warm welcome to Issue Seventeen of the Recorder News, the first for 2019. May the New Year be happy and successful for you all. We hope you find these notes of interest and would welcome any feedback.

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European Views
One possible subject for Volume Five of The Transferware Recorder could be views of continental Europe. As just a small teaser, here’s an attractive green-printed dessert dish from William Ridgway’s “Italian” series showing “The Borghese Palace” (courtesy Lodge & Thomas of Truro). There are at least thirteen views in this series. Can anyone help with suitable images of these, or indeed any other European views. Contact as usual, by email to: recorder@transferprintedpottery.com

New Discovery
The potters’ investment in dinner services was considerable, requiring a number of moulds and copper plates. While moulds could be used with various different patterns, a dinner service required a significant number of new copper plates to be engraved, and the cost was a major expense. It is not surprising that they tried to economise wherever possible, and one of the most common ways was to use an engraving intended primarily for a platter on a deep dish (or baking dish) of the same size. Here we have a good example in the form of a deep dish in Enoch Wood’s “London Views” series (covered in detail in TR2). This dish is printed with the view of “Clarence Terrace, Regent’s Park” normally found on a small platter. The item has not previously been noted and is shown here courtesy of Ian Lawler.

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Colour Variant
Anyone who has scoured fairs, markets and auctions for blue and white for a few years is likely to have come across toy wares by William Hackwood, printed with the Institution (or Monastery Hill) pattern. Almost invariably found in blue, here we have a nice colour variant in red. One interesting thing about the two plates shown here is that they bear an impressed mark “C & H / LATE / HACKWOOD” showing that they were made by Cockson & Harding, successors to William Hackwood from about 1856. The red plate is shown courtesy of Nancy Barshter. It is quite unusual for toy wares to be made in more than one colour, but we also have records of this pattern in purple and black.

New Discovery
Following the publication of TR4 covering patterns from literature, it was fairly inevitable that further patterns related to Shakespeare would emerge. Here’s an interesting jug printed with a view titled “Shakspeare Memorial Hall, Stratford” (shown courtesy of Wendy Catharine). The Hall was opened in 1879 and the jug was almost certainly made to commemorate the event. The matching source print, shown below, is from a contemporary magazine. The hall wasn’t to last – it was burned down on 16 March 1926, eventually being replaced by the current Memorial Theatre which opened in 1932. The jug is unmarked, and maker unknown.
The Transferware Recorder

All four volumes of The Transferware Recorder are currently available, although stocks of Volume One are getting low. The contents of each volume together with downloadable copies of all issues of this Recorder News can be found on the website:

www.transferprintedpottery.com

Wood’s Floral Border Series

Wood’s Floral Border series was covered in detail in TR3, previously virtually unrecorded. It must have been introduced by Enoch Wood & Sons in the 1820s but the views were not titled and relatively few examples are known with the impressed mark “WOOD”. Just one example is known with a more detailed spread eagle impressed mark with the maker’s full name and a trade name “Semi-China”. It appears that the firm discontinued impressed marks around 1830 in favour of printed marks featuring initials EW & S. Since there were no printed marks for this series, later examples have no maker’s mark, hence the previous difficulty in cataloguing examples. The later wares were also issued with gadrooned rims, and here we have two previously unrecorded platters printed in blue and red. The series consists predominantly of British views (ten of which have been identified) but this particular view seems much more continental in character. It was illustrated in TR3 but has still not been identified so any suggestions would be welcome. The only remaining problem is the size of these platters, reported as 42cm (red) but 45cm (blue). Such size variations are not unknown but are usually obvious with extra white space making the transfer fit the larger size. We suspect the smaller size is correct but would be grateful for confirmation.

Mark Time

Retailers, importers, and other similar special order marks are always of interest and we can unreservedly recommend John A. Walthall’s excellent work on American importers (Queensware Direct from the Potteries, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, revised 2015). We would love to see similar work on marks from elsewhere and here we have a couple of interesting examples. These feature initials DW and TP. We know that TP relates to the importer Trachtenberg & Panthes of Odessa but DW remains a mystery. It is found on wares from Davenport but is not unique to them. Has anyone managed to identify the firm involved?

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 7 July 2019: Friends of Blue AGM, Location to be confirmed. www.fob.org.uk


Made to Measure?

Miniature transferware plates were occasionally made as advertisements for various companies. Here’s one good example for the Manchester Tailoring Depot at Wigan (also found with Bolton). You can find Dick Henrywood’s article on these charming small pieces at www.reynardine.co.uk.