Welcome

Rather like the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, issues of this Recorder News seem to be due with increasingly frequency as we get older, and we must apologise that this one is a week or so later than planned. However, it does have a full house of new discoveries, so we hope you will enjoy it. We never know quite what will turn up for each issue, but we rarely seem to have too much to report, so would always welcome contributions. Anything new from the field of transferware is likely to be of interest so bear us in mind when you have that exciting new find. Also, keep a watch on Dick Henrywood’s facebook page, where transferware is often featured. Likes would always be welcome but brickbats should also be sent. We know how to duck!

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New Discovery

We mentioned Wood’s Floral Border series back in Issue Seventeen and we are pleased now to add a completely new view in the series. This one appears printed in brown on a small toddy plate and is identified as a view of the gateway to St. Augustine’s Priory at Canterbury in Kent. Following quite a search, the source has been identified as Virtue’s Picturesque Beauties of Great Britain (a first volume covering Kent). The plate is shown here alongside a detail from the original source print. As is common with the later examples from the series with gadrooned edges, there is no maker’s mark but the attribution to Enoch Wood & Sons is not in doubt.

New Discovery

Back in Issue Twelve we reported a couple of new discoveries in Griffiths, Beardmore & Birks’ Light Blue Rose Border series and we are pleased to be able to show another. This is an unrecorded view of “Sufton Court”, illustrated here on a large two-handled bowl. The view is derived from the same John Preston Neale print which was used by Ralph Stevenson in his Acorn and Oak Leaf Border series (see TR1 for both series). This bowl is a wonderful, albeit heavily restored piece, with prints of Jedburgh Abbey and Unidentified Scene A underneath the rim, and an impressive pair of marks virtually covering the base; both the view title and the large maker’s Royal Arms mark with their initials beneath. We must be grateful that someone found it attractive enough to restore rather than throw it away. Altogether a bit of a treat!
Mark Time

The Royal Arms mark found on the Elkins & Co. “Irish Scenery” series is well-known, so we were a bit surprised the other day to notice the mark shown here (courtesy of Richard Halliday). At first glance it seems to be the usual mark, although it is actually significantly modified. The ribbons are rearranged to remove the royal motto “Dieu et Mon Droit” and to replace the usual maker’s name “ELKINS & Co” with initials KEB. These refer to the succeeding Knight, Elkin & Bridgwood partnership. The dating of these firms is complex, with many name and partnership changes, but those beginning with the Knight name are later, the change probably taking place between 1830 and 1834.

New Discovery

The Elkins & Co. “Irish Scenery” series never ceases to surprise us. We reported a new item and one new view back in Issue Fourteen (a scene which remains unidentified despite subsequently turning up on another cover) and we have the new partnership mark recorded above. We can also show here (courtesy of Nigel Nicholson) yet another previously unrecorded view, this one identified as Fleurs in Roxburghshire, copied (with slight modifications), as is usual for most of these so-called “Irish” views, from John Preston Neale’s Views of the Seats. The view is illustrated here on a circular vegetable dish but it is also printed on the matching cover.

New Discovery

With any reference book, new information has a habit of appearing shortly after publication, and here we have a pair of jugs which reveal a maker and a series title previously unrecorded. At the end of TR4 we illustrated an unmarked teapot with two scenes from John Bunyan’s The Pilgrim’s Progress. We can now reveal both the maker, as Buckley Wood & Co. of Burslem, and the fact that they gave their wares the series title, perhaps not to be unexpected, as “Pilgrim’s Progress”. The pair of jugs illustrated here (courtesy of Noel Fowles) have the same two scenes as on the teapot, but one of them has a nice clear mark. Does anyone have examples with other scenes from the series?