Welcome

Doesn’t time fly? It seems only yesterday that we sent out the first issue of this Recorder News but already we are up to number five. We now realise that the previous four issues appeared in June, August, October and December of last year, but we never intended it to be more than an occasional publication. We are managing to keep up a two-monthly schedule with this issue, but can’t guarantee what the future might hold. This time we have the promised news of Stevenson’s “Castles” series, another sauceboat, and further auction and mark columns. Contributions, particularly anything not found in the Recorder would be very welcome, with relevant detail and an image if at all possible.

Join the Mailing List

This newsletter will be sent out by email occasionally to any collector who is interested in keeping in touch with Recorder developments. If you are reading this and would like to be added to the circulation list, just send your details, including email address of course, to: recorder@transferprintedpottery.com

Facebook

Just a quick note to let you all know that Dick Henrywood now has a page set up on Facebook. All you social media enthusiasts might like to have a look. None of that personal stuff though, just interesting pots, mostly transferware. New friends welcome, of course!

Confirmation

In putting together the chapter covering the “British History” series for TR1, the only item to prove completely elusive was the sauceboat, listed with the scene “Elizabeth Addressing the Troops”. This had been recorded in the Dictionary by Bill Coysh but was not illustrated and the title was not confirmed. Recently, Dick was leafing through some material he inherited after Bill had passed away and he came across an image of the missing sauceboat, illustrated here. Only a black and white print but readers may like to see it. We can now confirm that the scene is indeed taken from the Hume & Smollet engraving illustrated in TR1, as expected, but the title remains unconfirmed. Can anyone help? Yet again this emphasises the paucity of sauceboats which certainly rank as uncommon survivors. Any offers of images of other interesting examples?

As promised in the previous Recorder News, we are delighted to offer some new information about Ralph Stevenson’s “Castles” series. In TR3 the entry for Unidentified Scene B mentioned its similarity to Caerlaverock Castle, and we are now able to confirm that identification. The plate is shown here along with the newly discovered source print. As a bonus, we can also reveal that Unidentified Scene A comes from the same source and is now known to show Aberbrothwick Abbey. Again plate and source print are shown here. Both prints are dated 1821.

Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfriesshire
(plate and source print)

Aberbrothwick Abbey, Arbroath
(plate and source print)
Mark Time

There was a fashion in the pottery industry of the 19th century to use the maker’s initials in marks rather than their full name. The reason for this has never really been explained, but it does leave us some nice puzzles. A single initial, B or D for example, is very difficult to attribute with any certainty, while others are less of a challenge. Here we have a nice floral plate (courtesy of Richard Collier) which is typical of the 1830s, titled “Amaranthine Flowers” and bearing the initials J & W. These would relate to Jones & Walley of Cobridge, successors to Elijah Jones and soon succeeded by Edward Walley. The firms are better known for their relief-moulded jugs rather than transferwares.

Some lots which appear at auction are of interest, but not necessarily purely due to the price achieved. A good example is this footbath which was offered recently by Thomas Watson Auctioneers of Darlington. It is decorated with an Indian style scene beneath a broad open floral border. The scene itself, or a variant of it, can be seen in Michael Sack’s fine book India on Transferware where it appears on a large platter in the so-called Flower Panel Border series (plate 8.12). The various elements – the building, the figures in a boat, and the sailing boat – have been rearranged on the footbath but it remains essentially the same scene. Michael illustrates a possible source print which shows a very similar building, a ruin on the River Jumna above Delhi. Does anyone recognise this wide floral border? Is this part of another, as yet unidentified series, or is it a one-off? Footbaths are normally in great demand by decorators but this one failed to sell against an apparently fairly conservative estimate of £300-400, although it is not known what condition problems may have existed. It is certainly a visually impressive piece.

The auctioneers can be contacted through their website: www.thomaswatson.com

Auction Watch

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