



The “Uva” Mystery – Continued

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Ace detectives, such as Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, are always attuned to the surfacing of clues and new information, even when a mystery, supposedly, has been solved.

This TCC database editor and detective shares that mindset, and was delighted when new evidence came to light regarding "The Uva Mystery." Previously, a blue transfer-printed earthenware tankard, with a blurry mark appearing to be the pattern name “Uva,” was closely examined and researched (Figures 1 & 2). After much investigation, all of the clues pointed squarely to the mysterious pattern being properly named "Alva" rather than "Uva." The pattern was thusly entered into the TCC Database of Patterns and Sources and the case was closed!



Fig. 1 (left): “Alva?” tankard.

Fig. 2 (above): “Alva?” tankard, printed mark.

However a recent Ebay posting featured a beautiful 5.25 inch jug, transfer-printed in blue, with the same lovely abundant floral pattern with baskets and fruit, and a wide border of intertwined flowers, shells, and scrolls (Figure 3).



Fig. 3: "Uva" jug, handle left.



Fig. 4: "Uva" jug, printed mark.

On this jug, the pattern name was not blurry, but was very clearly printed with the pattern name "Uva" (Figure 4). Although there was a variation in the printed identification of the maker (John Hulme and Son), the printed pattern name was an exact match to the one on the previously examined tankard.

This solid new evidence warranted a review of the case, which could only lead to a different solution: that this pattern is indeed named "Uva", rather than "Alva." Our always vigilant TCC

Database General Editor Connie Rogers quickly corrected pattern #15088, to reflect this latest discovery. Thus “The Uva Mystery” was “solved”, yet again!

However, one good mystery often begets another, leading this sleuth to question the origin of the pattern name. As a large bunch of grapes is featured prominently in the pattern design, as shown in Figure 5, and "uva" is the word for "grape" in Latin, might this be the inspiration for the pattern name? Alas, we may never know. That mystery might only be solved by the maker (or engraver) himself and, regrettably, neither is available to give us an answer.



Fig. 5: “Uva” jug, spout side.

Credits

Content reviewed by Connie Rogers and document compiled by David Hoexter.
Images provided by the author, Leslie Bouterie.

If you have a suggestion for or would like to contribute to the TCC Database Discoveries series, please contact us at webadmin@transcollectorsclub.org.



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