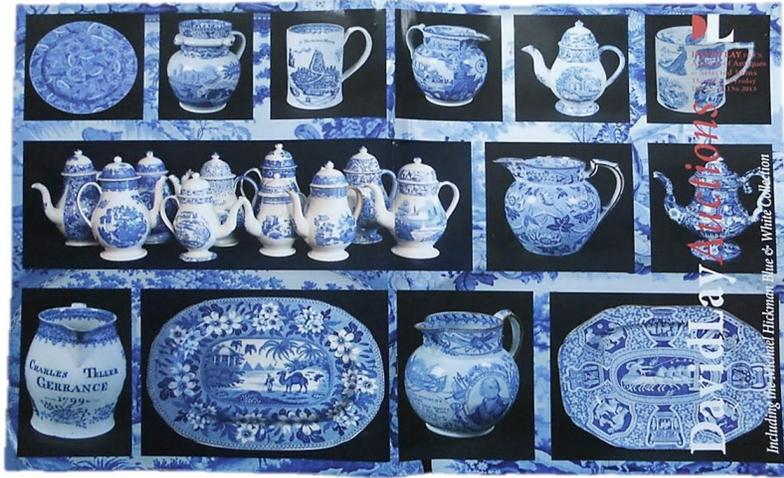


# Hickman Collection Auction Sale Report

By Sue Wagstaff



*Michael Hickman (1920-2004), on retirement from farming, found a fascination in a variety of antiques and acquired a few pieces of blue transferware. The few eventually grew to a collection of over 400 pieces and other than a dresser full of plates, most items did not find their way into the house. His interest was in the photography and meticulous cataloguing of his collection which was then stored in a barn.*

*After his death, a portion of this collection formed the major exhibit in the hugely successful Blue and White Show, held in Bath's Victoria Art Gallery, but the entire collection wasn't available for public view until 12th December 2013, when it was sold at David Lay's Penzance Auction House. Family members kept a few pieces but there were many rare items and the auction room looked spectacular with its sea of blue.*

*Thanks to his father's detailed records, Tom Hickman was able to construct a detailed sale catalogue, with a beautifully illustrated cover. I think we all know that prices for transferware are not what they were when this collection was formed and perhaps the reason for quite a lot not selling, especially large meat platters, was that reserves were set too high for today's market. However the rarer items fetched exceptionally good prices as is only to be expected, especially early pieces from the Welsh factories.*

*A Swansea barrel shaped jug inscribed with a name and the date 1799 sold for £3,500 with an estimate of £500-600, and a Swansea mug depicting a local landmark, St. Michaels Mount and Cornish mottos, sold for £820.*

*A large menagerie mug depicting four rural views, birds and animals, being so unusual and desirable, made £480 even though it was cracked in two places.*

*Popular patterns such as Grazing Rabbits, Beemaster, Ladies of Llangollan and Birds Nest, found buyers even though they were all quite badly damaged.*

*Overall there was something for everyone and a local resident went home happy with enough blue and white to fill his newly acquired dresser.*

*The Hickman sale didn't start until after lunch which enabled us to explore the quaint port of Mousehole, (pronounced Mousle), but this meant we missed witnessing Elvis Presley's record player being sold for £4,400 to, I believe, an overseas buyer.*