

**California Regional Meeting
May 21, 2011**

David Hoexter and Judie Siddall

It's 3 to 0 California vs. the remainder of the US, as the third annual California regional meeting has come and gone. The most recent meeting was held May 21, 2011 at the home of member Diane Brooks. Attendance was 29, and the meeting was a huge success. Judie Siddall assisted Diane in arranging the meeting. Plans are already underway for the 2012 meeting; we already have at least one volunteer host.

The meeting brought together West Coast members from San Diego to the south to Chico in the north, as well as members from Delaware and England (past meetings have attracted members from additional locales). Thanks to Diane, the group was treated to wonderful refreshments and thoroughly enjoyed her beautiful home and themed transferware collection. **See the accompanying photos.**

After a brief greeting and introductions, we convened for an informal lecture and tour. Diane explained her approach to displaying her varied collection, which features the Sporting Series as well as children's themes, horses on transferware, and much more. Diane displays her collection as vignettes, which she often rearranges because she has space to display only a portion of her collection at one time. She combines and varies subject themes, colors, and shapes, often taking into account the location of each tableau and the season of the year.

Diane expresses her philosophy as follows:

Our love for transferware takes on many forms. We delight in the color, the shape, the maker, the composition and the variety of each piece. Because incurable collectors of transferware vary, it is always a delight to take an excursion into the world of another collector. How do they show off their long sought after items? How are these items displayed? Is there a common thread to their collecting addiction? Many collectors, like myself, are incurably curious and find their collections taking on many different facets.

As I display my transferware, I find myself looking at each piece separately and as a whole. Many of my items started out as 1's that slowly became 2, 3, 4 and more of the same pattern, views of like, color or shape consistency. My displays can take on a life of children's items that fit together in an eye pleasing fashion, perhaps done in small sizes or with like borders or colors. My Sporting Series by Enoch Wood has been a delight as it grew from a wonderful compote, replete with beaver and camel views and other pieces with dogs, hunters, rabbits, llamas and the like. My group of horse related platters, dishes, bowls and jugs nicely tie in with other collectible items with horses. Transferware becomes an exciting compilation of like items grouped together, around a room or as a single item. They can become part of a display with other collectibles, flowers, furniture and accessories that have been collected with equal passion. Also, the amount in one grouping needs to fit the space and again, be pleasing to view.

The creativity is in the eye of the beholder and should always reflect what is pleasant and exciting for YOU. Starting out, always be willing to try something new, stand back and reflect and most importantly, judge how it makes you feel.

We walked around the house with Diane as she described her thought process in arranging each grouping. For us, it was a new and very fresh approach, and although I had enjoyed Diane's collection on previous occasions, I now see it in an entirely new light.

After a break for refreshments, David Hoexter began the next segment of the day ("show and tell") with the statement that the plates he was about to discuss were not transferware; were 20th and not 19th

century; and were not of English origin, but that he was going to present them, anyway! He then went on to describe his most recent interest, American advertising calendar plates from the year 1910. He discussed how he tracks all such offerings on eBay (about 250 since October 2010), and that virtually all of the plates, which were complimentary giveaways from merchants, were produced during the years 1909 – 1911, peaking in 1910. The plates are printed from decals commonly made in Germany but with the plates and decal transfer occurring in the US. The plates overwhelmingly were distributed by small merchants located in very small towns, with a number of largely rural areas dominating. He showed an example from a town of only 100 residents in 1910 (as well as 2010) located along the railroad in North Dakota near the Canadian border. He described how the railroads influenced the settlement of much of the Plains and Midwest states, and showed several maps and statistical plots to illustrate his points. The group was fascinated.

Susan Walter, an archeologist practicing in San Diego, brought a number of transferware shards, and described the projects and sites where the shards were excavated. She asked for and received assistance in identifying the shards, and stated that the Database was quite helpful to her in her work.

Pat Knight brought an Adams sugar box with eagle handles, and described how she had used Michael Sack's India on Transferware to identify the pattern and source prints. She also displayed a serving dish which she thought was intended for asparagus but which, according to Peter Scott, was a "root" dish (others suggest it was for radishes). Well, maybe same difference.

Pat Halfpenny, in town to present a lecture to the San Francisco Ceramics Circle, discussed the current work formulating the new TCC/Winterthur/Potteries Museum on-line exhibit, featuring "Patriotic America: Blue Printed Pottery Celebrating a New Nation". The new exhibit will be introduced at the October TCC meeting in Baltimore. Pat also discussed the attribution of a pattern to Ralph Wedgwood of Burslem & Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, and has provided us with the following summary of her discussion: Ralph was the son of "useful" Thomas Wedgwood, Josiah's partner in the Burslem manufactory specializing in the production of useful wares (ornamental wares were made at Etruria in Josiah Wedgwood's partnership with Thomas Bentley). When Thomas left the partnership he was found drowned in the local canal and his son Ralph had to take responsibility for his father's newly started pottery business in Burslem. Ralph Wedgwood had a brilliant mind and was a renowned inventor (father of British photography) but he was not suited to managing a pottery business. He was in business at Burslem from about 1785-96 when the Burslem factory went bankrupt, Ralph went to Yorkshire where he was involved in a pottery at Ferrybridge from about 1798 to 1801. Ralph went on to focus on his inventions (the first carbon paper, better carriage springs etc.) but like many inventors never made much money and Josiah Wedgwood often came to his cousin's financial aid.

One attendee brought two pieces for identification. It turned out they were late 20th century, illustrating the benefit of attending meetings and sharing information. He learned a bit about identifying 19th century transferware, and in an extremely good-natured manner expressed appreciation to the group for helping him with the identifications, even if a bit embarrassing!

Others displayed items as well; our apologies for not including everyone in this summary.

An interesting group discussion evolved at one point, pertaining to how members catalogue and store their images and collection data. A number of methods were described by various attendees.

The afternoon concluded with an informal Show and Sale. Individuals were limited to 10 items each, in order to preclude any one or multiple individuals from dominating the sale. A number of items changed hands.

We continue to be amazed that no one else within the TCC has offered to host or arrange a regional meeting. It's easy! Our meeting brought together experienced transferware collectors as well as

neophytes, and TCC members as well as non-members, one of whom joined following the meeting. Please contact Judie or David for advice.



Pat Knight describing her Adams sugar box.



Enoch Wood Sporting Series – extraordinary!



David Hoexter and Diane Brooks.



Hunters and Dogs.



David Hoexter and group.



Blue !!!!!



Pat Halfpenny, Michael Sack, and platters. Pat traveled from Delaware and spoke to the San Francisco Ceramics Circle the following morning.



Children's Transferware and Rabbit



Peter Scott traveled all the way from England



Children's items and more.



Hunting and horses



Children's Items



Kitchen Scene



Last, but not least.