Welcome

Following our last issue which concentrated on views of continental Europe, we are back to a more normal and variable potpourri of transferware treats. Again, a wide mix with new items, new literary patterns, some interesting marks, and, unusual for us, a couple of Indian-related subjects. As usual, feedback would be welcome and we would love to hear news, views, or other contributions, all of which should be sent to the usual Recorder email address: recorder@transferprintedpottery.com

Can we also ask everyone to have a look back at Issue 30 and see if you can help with any missing images of European views. There are still too many gaps.

Join the Mailing List

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New Images

Information on patterns related to Robert Burns was on the sparse side in Volume Four of The Transferware Recorder although there was mention of a series decorated with scenes from Burns’ poems. Here’s one good example – a child’s plate with a scene from “John Anderson My Jo” alongside the source print after John Masey Wright. We know of three other similar examples and there are probably more.

New Item

The Morning Glory Border series was covered in detail in TR1 and while we are no closer to discovering the maker, a couple of new items have turned up. The teapot and sugar box were both noted in two shapes, one basically rectangular and the other oval, but only the rectangular creamer was then known. We now have proof of the creamer in the oval shape (courtesy Linda Christine McLaughlin). Another new item is this slop bowl, still decorated with “Frognall Priory, Hampstead” but at 19cm diameter somewhat larger than the 16cm example previously recorded.

Rare Item

Collectors are inevitably drawn to rare things, and the uncommon or unusual can make very high prices at auction. Cheese coasters and dog bowls both spring to mind, although examples do turn up quite regularly. Another sought after item, seen very infrequently, is the money box. The example shown here is by William Smith & Co. of Stockton, decorated with his “Cupid” pattern, and two other examples by Smith can be seen in John Griffin’s brilliant book The Yorkshire Potteries (plate 996) in the “Indian Sports” and “Rosette” patterns. Remember that the Smith pattern numbers are covered in a research article on www.reynardine.co.uk.
Auction Report

Although Indian scenes have not featured in The Transferware Recorder or the Recorder News before, this rather fine early jug merits a mention. The pattern is not recorded in Michael Sack’s excellent book India on Transferware although another smaller example printed in red has appeared since the book was published. The scene is from a drawing by William Hodges, the engraving shown here being titled “A View of Part of the City of Benares upon the Ganges”. This example is from the European Magazine, dated 1 November 1788, but other later prints are known. The shape and style of the jug would seem to suggest a date of around 1820. The maker is unknown and possible attributions would be more than welcome. The jug appeared at Charterhouse in Sherborne last month and sold for a premium-inclusive total of £78, which seems good value for the buyer. The auctioneers can be contacted via their website: www.charterhouse-auction.com

Mark Time

Two sets of marks for the price of one in this issue! The first is again Indian-related with the printed title mark from a Parrot Border series dinner plate. In this case the plate is a reproduction, clearly shown by the added stamped mark for “CAULDON CHINA / ENGLAND”. Similar marks have been reported before and have led to suggestions that the series was made by John & William Ridgway, tracing the Cauldon factory back to the 1820s. However, this has been disputed and there is at least one other serious candidate for the series. The other marks shown here are from Bristol, on the “Priory” pattern by J.D. Pountney & Co. The interest is really in the clear impressed mark with initials J.D.P. & Co. together with B.P. (for Bristol Pottery) and also a trade name “IMPERIAL STONE CHINA”. There are very many similar trade names and it would be useful to have a directory of firms and the trade names they used.

Dates for your Diary

The worldwide pandemic has led to the cancellation of most physical meetings, several now taking place online. It has also led to a proliferation of online lectures, some at relatively short notice. This Dates feature will be resumed when possible.

New Discovery

Scenes from the novels by Charles Dickens appear in three different series: “Pickwick” by John & Robert Godwin; “Humphrey’s Clock” by Ridgway; and a series found mainly on tiles and teapot stands by T. & R. Boote (all covered in TR4). The little mug shown here (courtesy Sandy Hall of Windsong Antiques) is new to us although the scene is not. Here it is titled “Mr. Pickwick’s First Sight of Sam” but the Bootes called it “Mr. Pickwick’s Introduction to Sam Weller” and the Godwins “First Appearance of Mr. Sam Weller” (the source print can be seen in TR4). We wonder if this mug is part of a previously unrecorded series?