

## Rarities of Size, Form and View

### Ralph Stevenson's Vine Leaf Border Series

by  
Ted Gallagher

The Vine Leaf Border series has always been considered one of the rarest and most desirable of the series dealing with American Views on Historical Staffordshire. The following is a brief look at some pieces of "Old Blue" china made by Ralph Stevenson, from this series, that the reader may not have seen in other references. (*All of the items illustrated are in the author's collection.*)

**Esplanade, Castle Garden - Alms House, Boston** (on base); **Fort Gansevoort, New York** (on cover) high-domed coffee pot and cover: (with cover in place): 14 1/2" high; (base only): 10 3/4" high; 14" wide from outside of handle to tip of spout; cover only: 4 3/4" dia.; 4 1/4" high.  
Note: This item is unique in size. It is the largest Staffordshire coffee pot ever recorded in blue and white with Ameri-

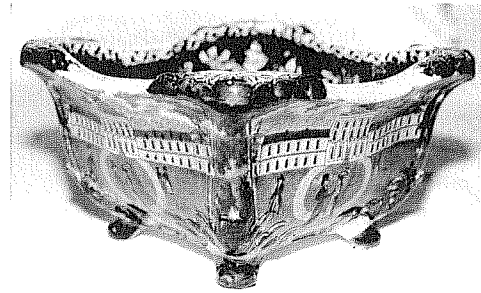


can Historical views. No other similarly-sized coffee pots are known with any transfer prints by any of the English potters. Ralph Stevenson is not known to have produced any tea services or coffee services in the Vine Leaf Border Series, thus making this item a unique form in this series. The first recorded mention known to be made of this item is by Sam Laidacker in his Forward to *Anglo-American China Part I*, 1954, page iv. Could there be a companion teapot of comparable size somewhere, yet to be discovered?

*ex coll.:* T. Thornton; Bertha Blair; Jens Louv; sold at auction by Arman Absentee Auctions; Paul Richards, sold at auction by Collectors Sales and Services; William & Teresa Kurau

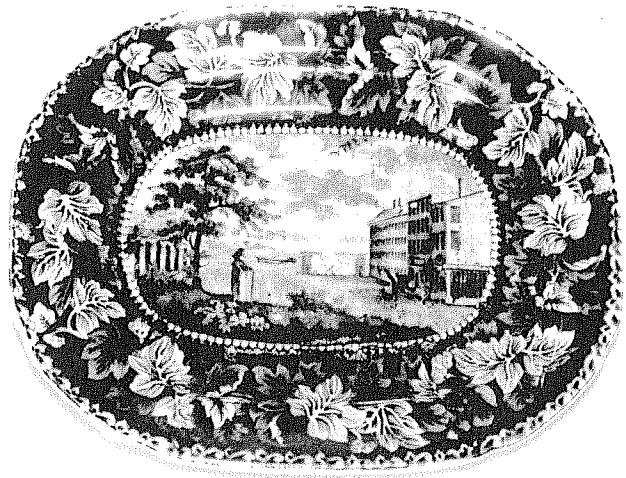
**Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia** (on each of four exterior sides); **Charleston Exchange** (in well of interior) square-sided fruit bowl with four curved, padded feet; sides flare up to a beaded rim with floral-leaf embossed corners: 9 1/8" square; 5 1/2" high

Note: This item is mis-marked at the base with a blue



transfer-printed mark "New York Battery". Stevenson employed the "Pennsylvania Hospital" also on the soup tureens in this series: some six tureen specimens are known to exist. Aside from the present item, two other fruit bowl specimens of identical form and views are known: one is at the Winterthur Museum and the other was catalogued in a sales list (#20) issued by Bill Kurau in the last decade; that specimen is in a private collection. Of the three, only the present item is undamaged.

**Brooklyn Ferry** platter: 10 5/8" long; 8 9/16" wide



*ex coll.:* Duckworth Collection, Toledo Museum of Fine Art; David and Linda Arman; Larry Fair-ElryGroves; Arman

*continued page 54*

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*continued from page 13*

Absentee Auctions; unknown; Ken Hultgren; Northeast Auctions

**Fulton Market** custard cup with handle and cover: cup with cover in place: 3 5/16" high; cup: 2 1/2" high; 3 1/4" wide; cover: 2 7/16" dia.; 1 3/32" high.

Note: This item is believed to be unique.



Ralph Stevenson is not known to have produced custard cups in any of his dark blue series with American historical views, thus making this item a unique form in this series.

ex coll.: Nina Fletcher Little; Sothebys, William and Teresa Kurau

*This series certainly does contain some of the rarest items known to exist in the field. In addition to the pieces in this article, other rarities are: St Patricks sauce boat, Boston State House creamer and a Capitol Washington flask.*

*Photos courtesy of Ted Gallagher*

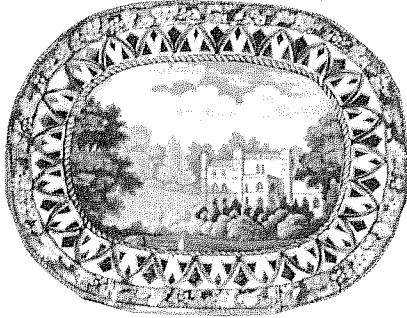
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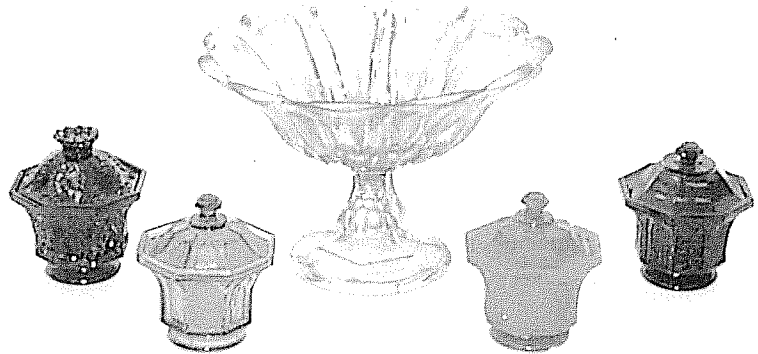
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## The Grapevine Border Series

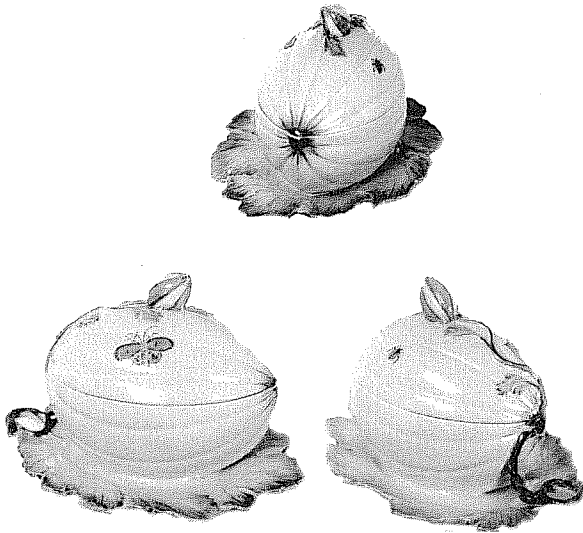


Openwork undertray Wellcombe, Warwickshire. The view taken from Neale's "The Seats of Noblemen and Gentlemen in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland"

## A Class Glass Collection



## Yellow-Glazed Earthenware



Three views of the same Wedgwood gravy tureen in a melon form, placed on a leaf-shaped undertray. Highlighted in green, orange, red and black. Note the butterfly and the ladybug on the sides. It was these "fruit" tureens that caused Josiah Wedgwood to experiment with the yellow glazes.

## Meet the Collectors



Mrs. Emma DeF. Morse's coffee pot "Baltimore Assembly Rooms" and "Baltimore Almshouse" by an unknown maker (probably Davenport) at The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts.

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*Plus So Much More.....*