

Unpublished Discoveries in Ceramics

The first four items in this issue's article were sent in response to our article in the Winter issue of **The Quarterly** and the remaining six items are from our own archives. Come on folks, keep your editor happy and crank up those cameras.

The first piece is a 18 3/4" platter by Davenport from the Don Quixote series. This was submitted (sounds like a contest doesn't it?) by Carol Richter of California. Doesn't seem like



a big deal at first glance, but it is the mark which asks all the questions. As you can see, the underglaze mark "*Encuentro con la Duquesa*" is in Spanish. The usual underglaze title is "*Sancho Panza and the Duchess.*" To make things even more interesting, the color of the Richter platter is described as a "medium blue," rather than the deep blue associated with this series and other Davenport products (it just occurred to me that some of the Cities series by Davenport does come in a lighter blue. Hmm.). Okay, what does this mean? Was there trade between the Staffordshire potters and the Iberian peninsula? Did it thrive or was it a stillborn attempt by England to solve their enormous economic and trade problems, brought on by the Napoleonic Wars, by exporting to places recently conquered and wrested from French control? Another clue in the puzzle could be that large **Boston State House** service by Rogers found in Italy in the 1940's. Was this marketed there

*Encuentro con
la Duquesa*

as St. Peter's and was this another English attempt to enter recently freed markets? Does anyone have the answer or a plausible theory?

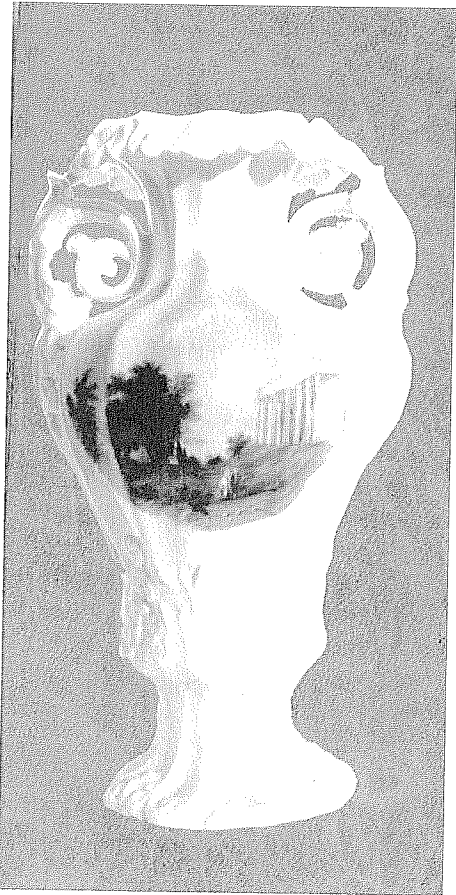
The next three items were discovered by John Watson, a dealer-collector from Pennsylvania, who covers the area from Maine to Ohio to Maryland searching for antiques. His first item is a *Staffordshire*-shaped War of 1812 pitcher decorated in overall pink splash lustre and bearing the black transfer portraits of Decatur and Brown. Prior to this discovery, the



five or six recorded examples of War of 1812 pitchers with overall pink splash lustre were in either the Liverpool form or a barrel shape. As far as we are aware, this is the only



known example with this decoration, in this form. John's



second item is an ornate Victorian type porcelain vase with a beautifully executed view of Mt Vernon, after the Thomas Birch engraving in overglaze enamels. We have seen extremely rare Paris porcelain pieces with extremely high quality portraits of the early presidents and Lafayette done during the period from 1800 to 1835, but nothing of this quality after that time frame. There are, of course, the portraits done during the American Civil War by Lux, but this is a totally different genre.

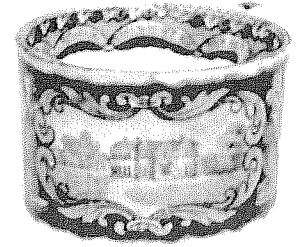
Finally, we have a Lafayette medallion sugar bowl found by John several years ago and sold at auction. As you can see, the portrait of Lafayette bears the typical slogan "Welcome



Lafayette The Nation's Guest." The interesting thing about this piece and the moral to the story is that the other side does not have the medallion, only a transfer of leaves and flowers. So turn those pieces you see on dealers shelves around folks, you might have a most pleasant surprise.

The next item, a 3" h handled child's mug was discovered at

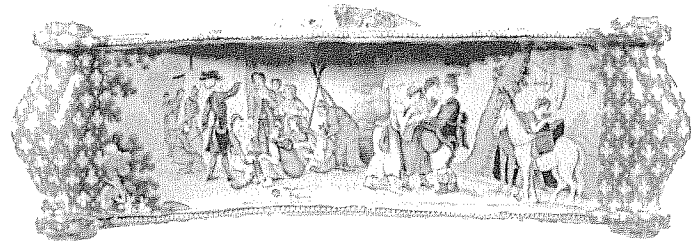
the auction of the Collection of Pearl J. Rose held in Providence, Rhode Island five years ago. It is an unlisted form for the States series and is that view now known as "Belton House, Lincolnshire" (or Arman, *Historical Staffordshire, an illustrated check-list, #15*). It is still the only example known.



That strange piece illustrated from the Dr. Syntax series is a

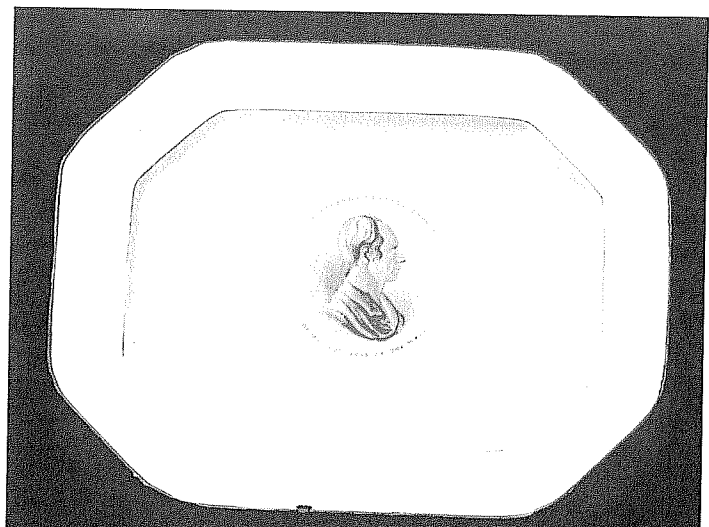


huge cheese dish and bears the views of *Dr. Syntax Bound to a Tree by Highwaymen* and *Dr Syntax and the Gypsies*. As I said,



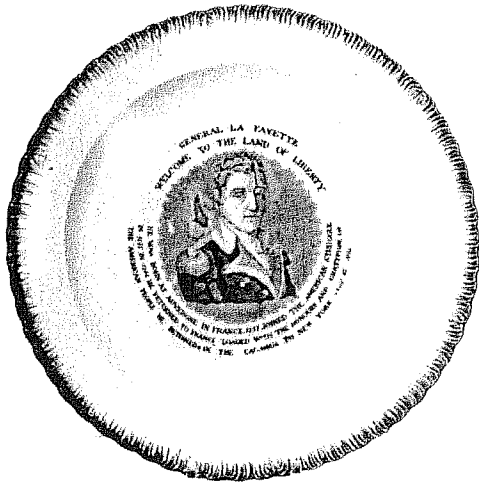
the piece is enormous and is meant to hold an entire "wheel" of cheese.

The 17 1/2" platter illustrated next, is a most important piece

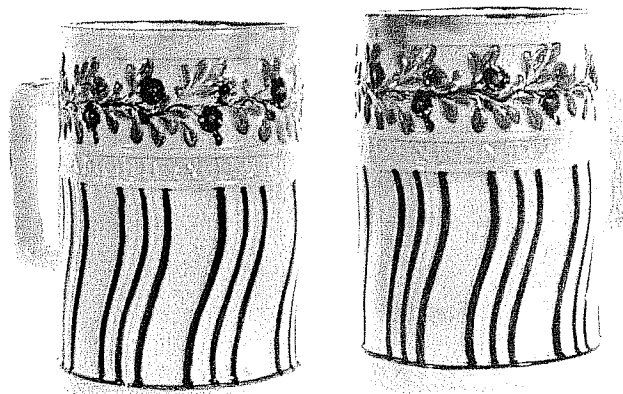


of political ceramics and is the companion transfer of "The William Henry Harrison" transfers that we discussed in our last issue. It is a light blue transfer of a portrait bust titled "HENRY CLAY / STAR OF THE WEST." It was discovered several years ago in the Illinois-Wisconsin area. It now resides in the collection of Rex Stark, the Massachusetts dealer-collector. This is the only platter known to exist and I believe there are only two plates known, one in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the other in the Stark Collection. They bear the same James Tams importer mark found on the "Harrison" pieces discussed in the last issue.

The 9" d plate with the blue feather edge and the blue transfer



of a young Lafayette in uniform passed through Arman Absentee Auctions years ago and I know neither the present location nor where it was found. This is unique since this is the only example I have recorded with Lafayette facing to the right. The only transfers of this portrait we have seen are with the young Marquis facing the left. We have pieces in our own collection that are identical in every way, but this small variation. When you give it some thought, this was not just a simple case of flipping over a photo negative, as we can do with today's technology, this required the engraving of an entire copper plate to make the transfer. So what seems to be a tiny variation in today's world, becomes an entirely new view, in the world of 1824. The piece is attributed to the pottery of Andrew Stevenson.



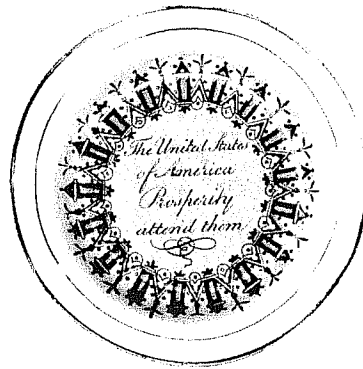
Next we have a wonderful example of an American Historical
continued page 49

continued from page 46

tankard decorated in the blue, green and ochre colors usually referred to as "Leeds." The pearlware body is embossed with a band of flowers beneath the lip and vertical wavy lines around the base. These are all highlighted in blue, ochre and green. There is a narrow band between these two decorated bands that is embossed "AMERICA INDEPENDENT. 1776." This was made in a two-part mold and the handle applied. We know of two examples of this rarity, one in the Stark Collection and the other in our collection.

The final item is an extremely rare 3 3/8" d cup plate with a red transfer which reads "*The United States of America Prosperity attend them.*"

There are only four examples I have recorded. The example illustrated came from the Nancy Nebenzahl Collection. Another turned up in Maine several summers ago and sold for well more than \$1,000.00. Two years ago a 6" d plate and a 7 1/2" d plate were discovered at a New York auction. Does anybody know of more? Let us know.



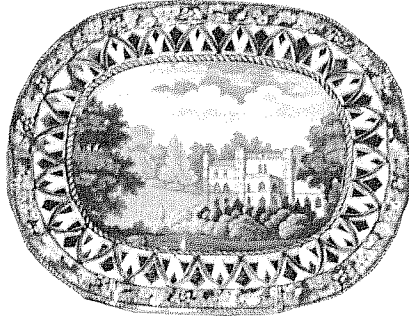
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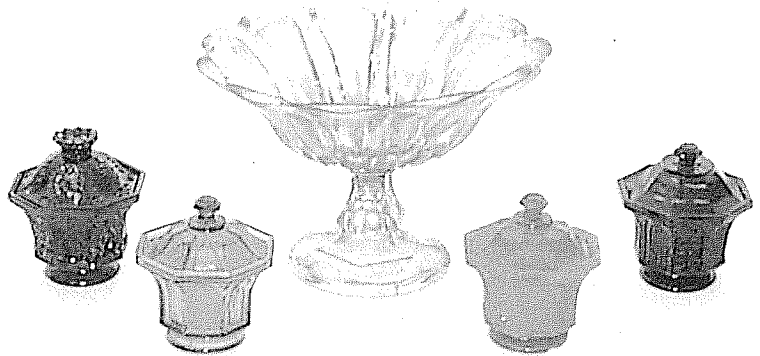
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The Grapevine Border Series

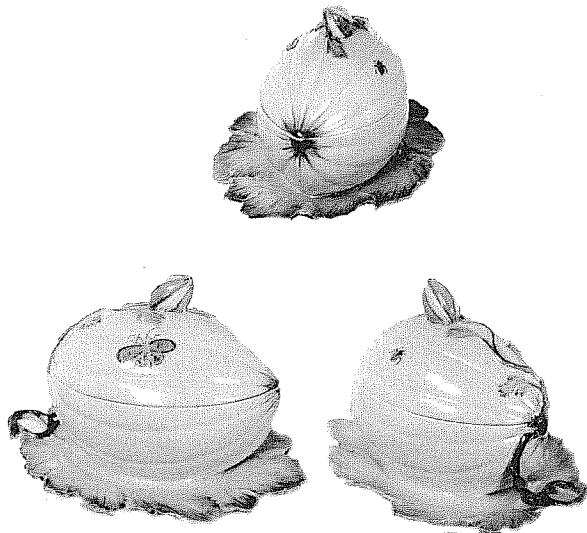


Openwork undertray Wellcombe, Warwickshire. The view taken from Neale's "The Seats of Noblemen and Gentlemen in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland"

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.....