



Final Grant Report

Recipient: The Fort Ticonderoga Association
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Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Award Period: August 2020-December 2021

Title: *Trash to Treasures: Cataloging Transferware in the Pavilion Collection*

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Project Background

Fort Ticonderoga received \$4,000 from the Paul and Gladys Richards Research Grant from the Transferware Collectors Club to support the work of the Curatorial Assistant, Meredith Moore, and later the Director of Archaeology, Margaret Staudter, to catalog and document transferware in the Pavilion collection at Fort Ticonderoga. William Ferris Pell, who purchased and preserved the garrison grounds of Fort Ticonderoga in 1820, built the National Historic Landmark Pavilion in 1826. Occupied by five generations of the Pell family through the late 20th century, the Pavilion also served as a hotel on the fashionable Northern Tour during the mid to late 19th century.

This project was part of the first effort to catalog and document the Pavilion collection, a group of over 8,000 fine, folk, and decorative arts collected by the Pell family, and to make these objects available to the public for study and exhibition. When the first accessions from the collection were made in the 1970s, transferware was lumped under a single record with other types of ceramics and glassware under the description “large collection of porcelain, Venetian glass etc.” This cataloging project occurred concurrently with the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Pavilion structure, which now houses galleries for the display of the museum’s collection related to the Pavilion. During this restoration process, the museum’s Director of Archaeology oversaw the recovery of hundreds of fragments of ceramics, notably transferware. The proposed project goals involved identifying, researching, and cataloging both archaeological and non-dug transferware for the first time, allowing the museum to include transferware in on-site exhibitions and making the collection available remotely to anyone in the world through inclusion in our online museum database.

Project Summary and Results

Upon receipt of the grant in August of 2020, Meredith Moore, our temporary Curatorial Assistant was tasked with cataloging and researching ceramics in the Pavilion collection, among her other assignments documenting the Pavilion's decorative arts collection. Meredith joined our team through the support of the Decorative Arts Trust and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Corridor to focus on the Pavilion collection. She conducted research on a broad range of artifacts from silver to furniture, including the extensive ceramics collection. Due to the sheer scale of ceramics to review and catalog, other members from the collections department joined the project, including Registrar Tyler Ostrander, Collections Manager Tabitha Hubbard, and Director of Archaeology Margaret Staudter. Meredith remained with the team through December of 2020 when her term ended.

As we were preparing our grant application to the Transferware Collectors Club, we had little sense of the true scope of the collection, and could only estimate the proportions, age, and extent of its representation of transferware. This project was a huge leap forward in being able to correctly identify ceramics that were incorrectly previously label as transferware, as well as ensure all transferware ceramics that had never been cataloged before were correctly identified.

Over the course of the project, the team was able to:

- Created 216 catalog records for transferware objects,
- Catalog, photograph, and rehouse 515 transferware ceramics and fragments that comprise the 216 catalog record total above. Fragments of the same object are included in the same record, which accounts for the discrepancy,
- Make 201 transferware records available to the public through Fort Ticonderoga's Online Database,
- Share information about the Pavilion transferware collection through multiple lectures, an article in the Haversack newsletter, and in the new exhibit galleries in the restored Pavilion.

The transferware portion of the Pavilion ceramics is lower than we first thought, and revealing many groupings that were mis-identified as transferware by earlier inventories. This project greatly helped us clarify the collection's contents. Extensively using the Transferware Collectors Club Database of Patterns & Sources and consultation with specialists allowed Meredith and Margaret to refine the attribution and dating for many of the pieces, the whole of which had never received scrutiny beyond a superficial inventory when the materials were moved into storage. This has allowed us to more carefully identify and date transferware pieces as part of the broader ceramics collection and note patterns in the records for the artifacts where we have been able to distinguish them. The inclusion of this material, once cataloged, onto our online museum database now makes these pieces of transferware, as well as the collection more broadly, accessible to scholars for the first time ever. In addition, we have been able to correctly identify and label transferware in the museum's non-Pavilion related collections.

During the restoration of the Pavilion into a new multi-use facility our Director of Archaeology Margaret Staudter monitored ground disturbances associated with the project construction and collected artifacts as they were uncovered. This has resulted in a rich assemblage of

archaeological material dating from the 19th and 20th century occupation of the Pavilion. During the period from roughly 1838 to 1900 the Pavilion was used as a hotel, welcoming guests from across the US and abroad who visited the ruins of the 18th century fortifications on the site, which were privately purchased in 1820, among the earliest historic preservation efforts in US history. However, this period is not well documented in the archival record, and the remains of the physical furnishings of the Pavilion from this period were a welcome glimpse into life here during the hotel period.

Research and cataloging were imperative for this project. This was especially important for the transferware recovered from the Pavilion site that had yet to be identified. A majority of the sherds date from the first half of the 19th century and were produced by potters in Staffordshire, England. Again, the excellent resources on the Transferware Collectors Club Database of Patterns & Sources have enabled identification and dating of these fragmentary artifacts. As well, the identification of archaeological sherds from the Pavilion has allowed for older institutional transferware found on the property, but with no records, to also be identified. Along with the generous assistance of Len Kling of the Transferware Collectors Club, who has been willing to review attributions and sherds, even more about the collection is now being brought together and made accessible for future researchers.

As we concluded the term of the grant, we are pleased with the volume of material we have been able to process. While records will continue to be refined, more research conducted, and new images added, we have been able to generate a total of 216 catalog records for transferware pieces, consisting of 515 individual pieces. Two hundred and one of these objects are now available on the Ticonderoga Online Collections database, accessible worldwide. As this project was the first time any of this material was cataloged and made available, we are very pleased with the results. Ongoing work with the collection, and related archival and historical sources, will no doubt tell us more about the collection, its use, and allow for further interpretation of the collection. Our efforts represent the first pass at this material, and we feel institutionally that making records accessible, period, is of vital importance to make the presence of the collection known to the scholarly community. The availability of this material online will allow scholars and collectors to view Fort Ticonderoga's transferware collections for the first time, help us to continue to refine our catalog records, and hopefully add to the body of knowledge on the use of this material.

Finally having this material more accessible, physically and intellectually, has also allowed us to include pieces of transferware in the inaugural, and planned subsequent exhibits, in the restored Pavilion. The current exhibitions include two gallery spaces of modest size, but which provide the opportunity for at least some transferware to be displayed with additional decorative arts and rotated in the future. The larger gallery, focusing on the history and evolution of the Pavilion structure, includes the display of archaeological sherds from the site, while the smaller gallery, dedicated to the decorative arts collections, provides a space for display of intact pieces from the Pavilion Collection. During her tenure Meredith designed the initial exhibit plans and the selection of pieces and Margaret selected representative archaeological sherds for the installation, which opened in Fall 2021. Of the 7 exhibit cases in the exhibit, 2 highlight transferware pieces and transferware is featured in proportionately to other ceramic types within the exhibit.

Project Deliverables

Proposed Deliverable	Results	Notes	Links
Transferware included in a Haversack Newsletter article	Completed Fall 2020	An in-depth article featuring the Pavilion collection was sent to nearly 3,000 subscribers through post. Beyond the printed publication, the Haversack is accessible to thousands more through the museum's website. The article highlights the entire collection and credits the TCC while discussing transferware cataloging and research.	See pages 8-9 https://indd.adobe.com/view/313b6f9a-4c9a-4ca1-bdcc-263e5263bac1
Transferware featured in a lecture	Completed 2 lectures of the proposed 1. Given the limited in-person audience during the pandemic, the museum opted to present these lectures virtually to have the broadest reach possible.	Meredith Moore delivered a virtual Fort Fever series lecture on her work with the Pavilion collection, including the cataloging work with the transferware and other ceramics, to 34 virtual guests on January 10, 2021. Margaret Staudter dedicated an episode of her popular archaeological series <i>From the Ground Up</i> to focus on transferware recovered on site. This series explores aspects of the material recovered from across Ticonderoga's landscape, particularly from the perspective of a discreet grouping of objects or media types. To date the video has reached over 2,300 people through our social media platforms, with 808 viewers engaging with the video directly. through our social media outlets.	The <i>From the Ground Up</i> episode can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSPduHGvhE&t=1s
Transferware made available to the public	Completed July 2021	Today, there are 201 transferware records available for free to the general public through the	https://fortticonderoga.pastperfectonline.com/search?utf8=%

through Center for Digital History database		Ticonderoga Online Collections database.	E2%9C%93&search_criteria=transferware&searchButton=Search
Make selections of transferware available in exhibit	Completed August 2021	<p>In the new exhibits at the Pavilion, there are 2 cases (of the 7 cases total) that feature transferware. For photographs of the transferware objects in the cases, please see this Dropbox folder: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9a535crhwemj80m/AAC5BLvmLlsbX9zUdZBxZUu9a?dl=0</p> <p>Please see next column for individual transferware object records as they appear on the online database.</p>	<p>Transferware included in the exhibits include the following objects: https://fortticonderoga.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/BA CB3EC1-6DA4-40C1-A88B-221666982759 and https://fortticonderoga.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/14C076F6-6B92-4E9D-9973-553431542928 and https://fortticonderoga.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/F792AD21-C047-48D0-8B44-412235461503</p>

Budget Breakdown

Fort Ticonderoga has been extremely grateful for the support of the Paul and Gladys Richards Research Grant from the Transferware Collectors Club to be able to make significant progress in cataloging and making accessible a unique collection of transferwares related to the National Historic Landmark Pavilion at Ticonderoga. Given the scale and significance of the collection, additional staff were brought onto the project as part of a match by Fort Ticonderoga to ensure all deliverables from the project were met.

The support, assistance, and understanding of the Transferware Collectors Club and its members during this time has been greatly appreciated. Museums across the country have struggled to endure, even survive, as we have all dealt with the global repercussions of the COVID pandemic. Your support has not only allowed us to make substantial progress toward our initial cataloging of transferwares in the collection, but to retain and support our staff who make this a reality and everyday contribute to making our collections accessible to more and more people across the world.

Staff Name	# of staff hours dedicated to the project	Transferware Collectors Club support	Fort Ticonderoga Support	Total
Meredith Moore	144 hrs at \$14.90/hr	\$2145.60	-	2145.60
Margaret Staudter	150 hrs at \$19.23/hr	\$1854.40	\$1,030.10	2884.50
Tabitha Hubbard	48 hrs at \$17.31/hr	-	\$830.88	\$830.88
Tyler Ostrander	640 hrs at \$16.34/hr	-	\$10,457.60	\$10,457.60
Total	982 hrs	\$4,000	\$12,318.58	\$16,318.58