

What's Happening in British Ceramics

March 2016

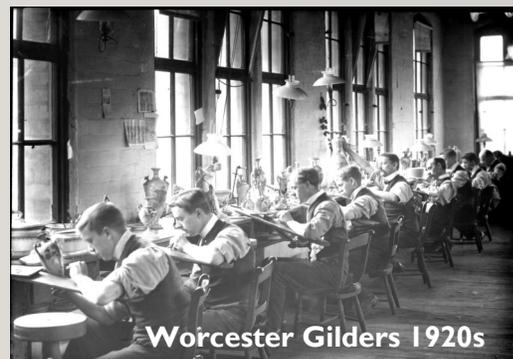
Museum of Royal Worcester Reinvigorated with Important Heritage Fund Grant

by Loren Zeller

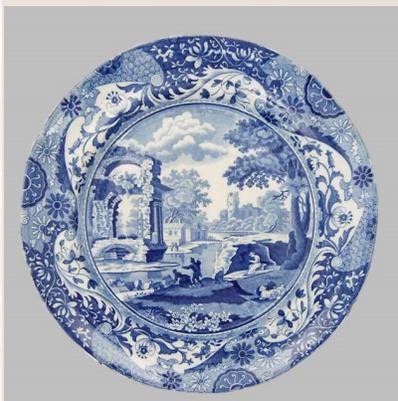


The *Worcester News* reports that the Royal Worcester Museum is the recent beneficiary of a £1.3 million grant to complete a project designed to celebrate 250 years of innovation, industry and craftsmanship at the museum. The newly funded project will expand the museum's offerings beyond its extensive collection of china to include the history of the factory, the people that worked in it and the social history linked to the company's hundreds of years of porcelain production. When completed, the expanded exhibit will "shine a light on the hidden stories and exhibits

from the museum's archives" and it will include "audio recordings which describe the camaraderie and rivalry that existed between departments and show just how many skills and pairs of hands each piece took to create." Consultant for the project, Philippa Tinsley, said that "You get a sense of how important [the city of] Worcester became because of the factory." Royal Worcester, in operation from 1751-2008, was the oldest porcelain manufacturer in Britain.



Worcester Gilders 1920s



Laura James of *The Sentinel* reports that Portmeirion, current owners of the Spode brand, have planned a celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the company's iconic *Italian* pattern. Produced for the first time in 1816, this ubiquitous pattern continues to be a favorite for Spode lovers today and rivals the success of

Portmeirion to Celebrate 200th Anniversary of Spode's Iconic *Italian* Pattern

another Spode original, the *Standard Willow Pattern*. While it is frequently referred to as *Blue Italian*, the pattern has been produced in many colors over the years. Blue and black appear to be the preferred colors for today's consumers. Given its popularity, it has been produced by several factories over the years.

The Spode Museum Trust will have a cooperative display at the Visitor Centre later in the year and the Portmeirion Company will be contributing financially to support it. The Trust has been assisting Portme-



Studio Design Manager John Raftery

irion with their marketing celebration by providing the background history about the *Italian* pattern and with historical information about the Spode factory.

For an in-depth review of this pattern, see [The Italian Pattern: The story of an iconic 19th century transferware design](#) by TCC member Richard Halliday.