

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 December 2001

A day of odd coincidences

Buy a video of Day 6 for £9. Send sterling payment to the address on the back page

You have to admit that collectors' day 6 was a day of odd coincidences. We could start with the first prize in the raffle, which was an imported china trio dating from around 1900 and decorated with a Mr Miguet design of roses.

Steven hadn't seen it "in the flesh" before, as David had picked it up off the Internet. Part of Steven's talk in the morning was a look at some slides of pages from an early 20th century catalogue. Would you believe that the very cup and saucer were illustrated there?

The first prize winner, incidentally, was our guest John Hughes, and he seemed delighted, as the photo shows. Three other members also won prizes - our generosity astounds us!

Coincidence two came in the "pots and chat" session. The last newsletter included the lid of a Bambola honey jar, found in the archives, but with no base to show what the complete item would have been like. Member Julia Irwin turned up with a decorated base, but no lid! A marriage made in... erm, Tynemouth, actually.

Earlier, when paying tribute to the skills of Lucien G Boulemier, Steven mentioned that, on one occasion when rather pressed for time, Mr Boulemier produced a design based on some curtains which hung in the family home. The pattern is Brocade and, as coincidence three, an example turned up in



A picture of concentration during the painting session.

the later "pots and chat" session. A couple of rarities from this session are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Once again, we were delighted to welcome our guest painters who treated us to an excellent display. Joyce had even managed to find her old brushes, which are pictured below. Our painters demonstrated the "Storm" pattern and the technique of "waving" on pieces cast earlier in the year by Doug and Vi Spearman. Once we've had

these pots glazed and glost fired, we might even consider giving one of them away as a future raffle prize. (And, if you don't know what glost firing is, the Genii of the Teacup will assist you on page 3.)

Video cameras were in action, and the tape is now available to members at £9.00. It features John Hughes taking us on a "virtual" tour of the factory site, the painting session, and slides taken at Malings in 1948 which demonstrate the manufacturing process.



Bambola - the cap fits.



A brush from the past.



The lucky winner.

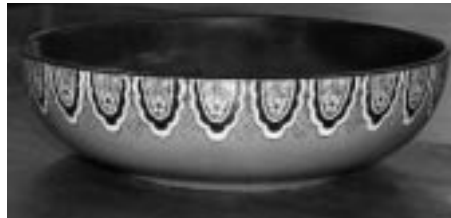
The **A T O Z** of Maling

‘**B**’ is for...

Barber. - This very well painted vase is signed “L Barber” and stands out from the usual “out painted” pieces as it is very high quality. We know very little about “L Barber”, but our friend Cecil Parker tells me that he recalls a “Mrs Barber who used to buy white ware and paint some very good designs.” This is the only one I have seen and it is top rate painting. Have you got another piece?

Burmese. - This pretty border has been familiar to me for a few years but I have not known its name until quite recently when a marked example turn up. It’s the “BURMESE” border and very nice it looks too. So, one more Maling pattern name is known thanks to a member. (If you are one of the many members who have not sent in a pic of your pieces, please do so - and thanks to the members who already have.)

Boston Stump - I am never (well sometimes) surprised at the enormous range of goods Maling made, and here is a fine example. A splendid water filter with a wonderful engraving of the Boston Stump, supposedly the largest parish church in the country and the tallest tower. Did the sellers of this water filter think that a picture of a church would make the production seem purer? There is another water filter with a picture of St Nicholas’s church in Newcastle, so perhaps this was a typical theme. Much better than the patterns you see on some water filters! - *Steven*



“Tanks” for the memory

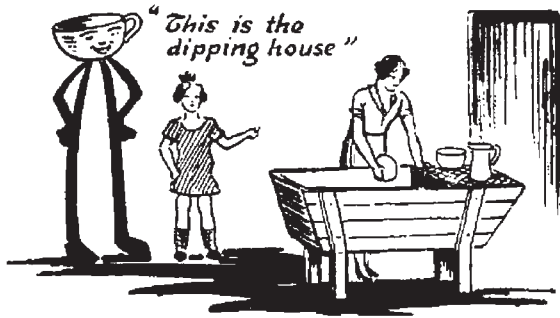


Back in issue 11, we showed you a somewhat-the-worse-for-wear inkwell produced for the Royal Tank Corps at the start of World War 2. You may recollect that John Hughes, who had engraved this series of regimental badges, was rather scathing about the way his work had been treated. (Not, we hasten to add, by the society member who brought it in, but by previous owners.)

Fortunately, out of all the engravings John did for Maling, guess which ones he’d kept copies of. You’re right! And he brought them along to the collectors’ day. So now we can now show you what those badges should have looked like. You can see the Royal Tank Corps emblem at top right. I suppose you can mark that down as another of those odd coincidences from Day 6. - *David*

Society matters

We are gradually going to move all members’ renewal date to 1st October. It’s a great deal easier to have just one date than the current four. This means that those of you who are due to renew now will be asked to pay only-three quarters of a subscription (e.g. £15 rather than £20 for UK members.) Then we’ll ask you to renew again in October 2002 for a full year. Anyone who is affected will receive an explanatory letter and renewal slip with this newsletter.



THIS was a large airy place with several big tubs filled with a milky-looking liquid - this, I was told, was the glaze - the stuff that makes the cups so nice and shiny.

"Hurry on," said the Genii, "and watch that girl in the white smock.. She is just about to 'dip' some cups, notice how careful she is to get the cup properly coated with the glaze."

This glaze is very sticky and takes careful handling so that it does not get rubbed off. The cup at this stage being porous absorbs the water, leaving a thin coating of glaze adhering to its surface.

"The cups are now ready to undergo their third firing, which is known as the Glost fire," said the Genii.

"This great oven is very similar to the first one. But look at this heap of curious looking things - they are called stilts."

These "stilts" are used to keep pieces of ware apart after glazing, otherwise when they are put in the oven they would all stick together. "I am sure sometimes you must have noticed a tiny mark or two on the back of your plates at home?" "Yes," I replied, "like little knobs sticking up out of the ware."

"Well, they are the marks made by the stilts which have stuck to the glaze."

Made by Maling—stands for

WHEN this oven was bricked up it was fired just the same as the other one, and when the Cups were taken out they were almost ready for the table.

From here we went into what was called the Glost Warehouse, where there were stacks of cups and other articles ready to be sorted and packed for dispatch to the many dealers in Maling ware.

"This is the way I go out into the world," said the Genii of the Teacup... "I hope you don't think me too self-centred... because really I am only an ordinary 'Blue Broseley' printed teacup, just a very small example of Maling ware."



"It has been very interesting," I assured him. "Could I just have look at some of the more highly decorated ware?"

"With pleasure," said my obliging friend, because, as you know, Malings make almost anything that can be made in pottery - and very handsome work too!

pottery perfection since 1762.

A layman's guide to lay plates

Steven points out an ambiguity in the article about embossed plaques on page 8 of the last newsletter. The heading: "good enough to eat off" suggests that these plaques may have been used as dinner plates. In fact, they were intended to be service plates - more like high class place mats. Or as Steven says:

"A 'service plate' is actually the American/Canadian equivalent of a 'lay plate' and not a dinner plate. The place would be set at the table with a service plate and a dinner plate placed atop the Maling plaque/service plate. Many small vases in embossed Peona etc. were made to go with such table settings."



Perhaps the contemporary owners weren't aware of that piece of etiquette. I've seen many wonderful 1930s Maling plaques which show clear evidence of knife marks. - *David.*



Once again the Genii of the Teacup takes us on a tour of the Maling factory to see how the wares were made. This booklet was written by Fred Maling for distribution at the 1929 NE Coast Exhibition.



Seen on the day...

The collectors' day turned up some interesting pieces of Maling ware. Here are just a couple of them. First is a fine example of early Maling Gaudy Welsh. Dating from the 1830s, this cup and saucer are dedicated to Catherine and Robert Atchinson of Schousewood Colliery. Anyone know where that is?

The six iris plates are some of the rarest embossed Maling pieces. Although they were originally thought to have been made in 1948, Maling paintress Margaret Dixon recalls painting them as samples sometime in the late 1950's, probably 1958. Margaret says: "They were made for Canada and we only produced a few, I think it was a special order." Thus they are very rare and as far as we know this is the only full set in this country, unless of course you know otherwise!

Maling in use

Mary Bainbridge writes from Australia: Herewith a photo of two of my mother's Maling blue cobblestone canisters (ex Bishop Auckland) which have had things in them all my life that I remember. I also have a little jug I bought on eBay (ex Queensland). If anyone has any of the blue that they want to sell I am interested - unless the price is too silly!



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Chairman: Steven Moore
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Membership:
£20 p.a. (UK),
£25 p.a. (overseas)

REMEMBER: If you use your Maling for its intended purpose, we'd like to hear from you and see a photo. Actually, we'd be happy to hear anything from members!