

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 24 September 2004

A-hunting we will go!

**No, not "Bargain Hunting"!
The Duke must stand aside as
David Johnson of Tyne & Wear
presents us with his latest
research.**

From 1902 Mr. Christopher Thompson Maling (1863-1934) then of Chesterwood Grange, near Haydon Bridge, began his very successful and popular mastership of the Haydon Hunt, which was to last for 17 seasons. An enthusiastic hound breeder, Mr. Maling did a lot to improve the pack in the kennels at Chesterwood and with his huntsman, Mr. George Holland, they showed first rate sport. In 1908 he was

joined in the mastership by Mr. A. M. Allgood of Nunwick, Humshaugh-on-Tyne, who hunted hounds himself and both masters retired in 1919, being followed by Capt A. M. Keith.

Mr. Maling with many fond memories of his hunting days, retained an old cutting from a newspaper dated February 11th 1920, which he handed to a member of his workforce at the Ford (B) Pottery in 1932. It confirmed that a hunting presentation had taken place in his honour, being entertained to dinner at the Royal Hotel, Hexham, Northumberland and presented with fruit and flower stands as tokens of the high appreciation of his services to the hunt. The following are extracts from this cutting.

support they had always ungrudgingly given him to Capt. Keith, his successor."

The centrepiece of the silver fruit and flower service bore the following inscription: "Presented to C. T. Maling, Esq., for 17 years Master of the Haydon Hunt."

To be concluded in the next newsletter.



PAY YOUR SUBS NOW!

It's subscription time again. Send 10 GBP to the PO Box address to enjoy another year's membership.

What, only a tenner to get a year's worth of top-quality Maling-related stuff? Yes, we've decided to lower the renewal fee in the hope of keeping more people on board.

We are now embarking on Year 7. Over the past 6 years we have seen around 200 people join and then quietly drift away again. Usually, we don't have a clue why. So:

- If you're not happy with any aspect of what we do, please tell us.
- Suggest what you'd like us to do. (Proposals for a colour newsletter must be accompanied by an interesting and decent-quality colour photo. After 24 editions, we still haven't managed to teach the newsletter to find good Maling and photograph it all by itself.)
- Promote the society. If you sell Maling, either on the 'Net or at fairs, ask for a handful of membership leaflets and stick one in with every sale.

"Capt. Keith, the successor to Mr. Maling presided and was supported by a representative assembly of the members of the Haydon Hunt. Mr. James Dodd, the hon. sec, made the presentations and expressed the high appreciation the subscribers felt for the warm and generous sympathies Mr. Maling had always shown in sustaining the popularity of the hunt in the Haydon country. He had hunted the hounds for 17, years with the unqualified acceptance of all the followers. Farmers interested in the breeding of good hunters were grateful to Mr. Maling for introducing Dennis Richard, a King's premium thoroughbred horse into the country.

"Mr. Maling, who was enthusiastically honoured on rising to respond both on behalf of himself and his wife, who was the recipient of a gold-mounted hunting crop, said he was glad to have been able to assist in carrying on the hunt in a manner acceptable to them for the 17 years he had been master. He would ever cherish the gifts as mementoes of his happy relationships with the subscribers. He hoped that they would extend the

Try this one *if you dare!*

Should you... dare you... restore your Maling? We published this technique in an earlier newsletter, but a chance find at an antiques fair gave me the opportunity to record the process on film.

The item in question is a 1929 Exhibition piece. You can see from photo 1 that it was very badly age stained. There's also a small chip on the rim, a hairline crack and a "ding" to the footrim. But, hey, at forty quid I'm not complaining.

The staining was so bad that it looked more like a piece of "Brown Chintz". How to remove it?



Step 1 - immerse the patient in a bucket of cold water for 24 hours.

Step 2 - go to the chemist and buy a roll of cotton wool and a bottle of hydrogen



peroxide solution. It's sold as a mouthwash and mild antiseptic. A 6 per cent solution should be OK for a start but, if you find that you need a higher strength, sweet-talk your local hairdresser. While you're shopping, get a roll of clingfilm.

Step 3 - once your patient is saturated with water, it's time to bandage him. Soak the cotton wool in peroxide and wrap the piece. Then wrap the whole lot in clingfilm (photo 2). Put the piece in a warm place such as an airing cupboard or sunny windowsill. Keep fingers crossed!

Step 4 - check daily. There is no guarantee when this treatment will kick in, or when it will finish. The very dark staining in the bottom right of photo 2 is shadow - but the lighter staining on the cotton wool is gunge being pulled out of the piece. Stop the

treatment while there is still some staining visible.

Step 5 - put the piece back into cold water for a while in an attempt to stop the reaction. Then let it dry out as slowly and naturally as it can.

Step 6 - the piece will continue to "sweat" out peroxide solution. Keep wiping and washing it with a mild detergent as necessary.

Step 7 - the piece will either be nicely restored, or it will crumble to pieces in your hand. Photo 3 shows that, in this case, there was quite a degree of success.

There is NO GUARANTEE with this advice. You take the step at your own risk. DO NOT try to use this technique on anything with overglaze paint decoration, as you'll strip it off. Gilding doesn't appear to be affected by this treatment but, again, no guarantees.



Your number's up

Sometimes, Maling "mystery numbers" turn out to have so simple a solution that they astonish you. Take this query received via the website.

"I wondered whether you could assist in identifying this pin dish. From what I can determine it is a 'thumbprint' design and has a rather hard to decipher pattern number: '3339' or '7339'? However, your site seems to indicate there are no pattern numbers beyond 6xxx."

We can forgive a non-collector for not knowing that the first pattern book ran beyond 6000. But what of the number?

The assumption here is that the pattern number is in the same orientation as the castle mark. But the monogram of the paintress will generally be found beneath the number. So, in this case, the number is upside-down relative to the castle.

Turn the piece round and all is revealed.

The number is, in fact, 6552 - a piece of 1950s "Godetia". That's why we warn that Maling pattern numbers are notoriously difficult to read. Incidentally, as this piece is blue, the pattern number should be 6553 - so it's out by one digit. Stuff like this happens.

Here's another one. *"I have a mystery plaque, since there is no pattern number only the handwritten notation: 'Lou 7'. The plate has a Japanese-type motif (wooden bridge over water leading to pagoda-like structure) and there are two vases at top right (one pinkish with green bough and leaves, brown rim; the other yellow background with green and brown band, circles, brown rim)."*

And these vases are mysteriously hanging



in the air are they? When was the last time you went into someone's house and were told: *"Don't bang your head on those vases on the ceiling!"* Are they perhaps a bit like lanterns? And you say they're Japanese? I wonder what this piece might be?

The embossed Japanese Lanterns plaque is pattern number 6067, as indicated in the list on the website and in TMOE. Is it just conceivable that, despite our warnings that numbers were painted in haste, you have mis-read 6067 as "Lou 7"?

Maling in depth

People go to extraordinary lengths to get their hands on Maling. A correspondent writes:

"I am a scuba diver and recently, on a trip to the Western Isles of Scotland, I dived a wreck called the HMS Port Napier, which sank by the Kyle of Lochalsh, Isle of Skye, on 27 November 1940.

During the dive I found some plates made by Maling. They are a plain white plate, approximately 8 inches in diameter with this mark on the front. The rear has a Maling castle mark and number 140."

David responds: The front mark is the Admiralty Seal, which would be expected on items made for naval use. The Port Napier was built by Swan Hunter in 1940 in Newcastle, so it would be logical to assume that any "fixtures and fittings" would be sourced locally. The 1.40 (note the full stop) is the date of January 1940, and indicates when the plates were fired. They may, of course, have been decorated and finished somewhat later.

The plates ought to be in good condition, as the Port Napier didn't last very long. She was requisitioned by the Government in June 1940, while still under construction, and fitted out as a minelayer.

While moored in the Kyle of Lochalsh in November of that year, a fire broke out in the engine room. The ship was hastily towed out to deeper water and cut adrift. Then she exploded (though, strangely, the mines didn't go off and most were later recovered).

And, while we're diving into Maling history, here's another message.

"I recently found a jar on a shipwreck off of the Norfolk coast. The wreck is believed to date from around 1880, although this is not confirmed.

"The pot is 93mm in diameter at the top tapering to 82mm at the base. Height is 93mm. It is blue/white in colour with a mottled effect. Heavily crazed, I guess with age. Maling is embossed in the base in large, basic writing. No other marks are visible.



"The sides are scalloped with a recess about 6mm below the top rim. Looks very much like a jam jar. Apart from a small chip on the rim, it's in remarkable condition considering that it has spent the last 100 years plus at the bottom of the North Sea."

David adds: I can't immediately identify the shape. However it does sound like a jam jar or similar container. Maling had a big trade with Denmark, so this may be part of a consignment heading out there to be filled with Danish produce. Or it may just be an odd pot from the galley. There's no way of knowing. So, I can't confirm your date of 1880s, but certainly can't deny it.



As a change from eBay, we look at one of the TV antiques shows - "Cash in the Attic". As you may be able to make out, this bowl was estimated by the experts to make between 40 and 60 pounds at auction. It just crept in at 42 pounds.

Your Maling is worth somewhere between what you're willing to pay and the seller is willing to accept. To avoid conflicts of interest, the society doesn't offer valuations.



COLLECTORS' DAY 9

The next collectors' day will be Saturday, 16 October, at our Yorkshire pub venue. We will have paintresses, a lion tamer and a cavalcade of monster trucks.

(OK, we lied about the last two. Just checking to see if you were paying attention.)

Actually we have no idea what the theme will be. And these things never go to plan in any case. Let us know a.s.a.p. if

you want to attend. The cost is £10 a head, which mainly goes on a good lunch. Bring pots and be prepared to talk about them!

We would have returned to the north east this year, but support from the region has not been good. If people are prepared to travel 200 miles from the south to attend, we have to go with the majority.

FINALLY: PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION! IT'S 10 GBP, AND WE DON'T SEND OUT REMINDERS. NO CASH MEANS NO FUTURE FOR THE SOCIETY. ADDRESS IS BELOW.


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£20 p.a. (UK),
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