

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 30 March 2006

A talented partnership which ended too soon



With the recent sad loss of Theo Maling this information regarding Peggy Bullock (or Marguerite as we should perhaps call her) seems timely, as the two were great friends and co-workers in the field of design.

It should be no great surprise that Peggy was so talented, as her father was the well known artist Ralph Bullock (pictured left) who had exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1927 and 1928. His huge painting depicting the entry of Princess Margaret into Newcastle in 1503 hangs in the Laing Art Gallery and measures 35ft x 10ft. Princess Margaret was the Daughter of Henry VII & married James IV of Scotland.

Amongst the items depicted here is a small reproduction of one of his paintings. Written on the reverse is: "Done in 1921 from a portrait by Daddie", beneath which has been added in a different hand: "Marguerite Bullock died 1932 aged 22".

Here and on page four are three very striking examples of her work. The vase is typical of patterns we have seen before

(for example the pieces painted by students at the night school classes which Peggy taught - shown in TMOE). The tankard and jug bear less familiar designs. The vase and jug are inscribed M Bullock, whereas the tankard is marked P Bullock.

Theo and Peggy worked together, decorating Maling "blanks" with their own designs. A cutting from a local newspaper, the grandly named "Newcastle Journal, North Star & Courant", dated September 12th 1932, shows on its front page a display advertisement by Townsend, the retailers in Northumberland Street. It trumpets a: "Special Exhibition Of Maling Handcraft Pottery. Some charming examples painted by Miss Theo Maling and Miss Bullock are on view in our special Window Display. The prices are most moderate - a few shillings will secure a delightful example of high artistic value".

How tragic to think of all the excitement that Peggy and Theo must have felt then and yet, by the end of that year, Peggy had passed away.



A computer crash has robbed us of some members' e-mail addresses. If you have not already done so, please mail us with your current electronic address. (Postal addresses are all intact in the database.)

If you are mailing, why not give some thought to the point raised in "Society Matters" on page two? Perhaps one way forward is for the society to concentrate more on electronic communication?

Ads can be an aid to knowledge

Internet auctions have recently thrown up quite an array of Maling promotional material. Many items are advertisements from the "Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review". A selection is reproduced here.

While you may not feel inclined to learn every pattern shape and number, the opportunity to see "new" pieces may help you to develop your eye for Maling. Information on pattern numbers, names and dates appears not only in "Trademark of Excellence" but also on our website.

SOCIETY MATTERS

It is sad to report that membership now stands at just over 100. Financially, we are secure, and I have said that I will keep going for another year for the benefit of those of you who have been our most loyal supporters.

However, we once again have to consider the longer term. It is becoming harder and harder to find newsletter articles or new things to say at the collectors' days. Does this mean that we have said all there is to say?

We have always seen ourselves as a research organisation - digging out obscure facts or snippets of history relating to Maling. To distance ourselves from the market, we have shied away from valuations and from the conflicts of interest which could arise if we introduced sellers to buyers.

Perhaps we are the victims of Maling's astonishing diversity. The evidence from collectors' days suggests that no two members are alike in their tastes and interests. How can the society satisfy everyone?

With a few notable exceptions, members have seemed reluctant to provide feedback of any kind. Once again, I ask all of you to consider what the society can do to keep moving forward. If we are not doing what you want, or you have any ideas about the future, please tell us. - David

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Mr. York Street,
Agents: Mr. E. S. RANSOM.

NEW ZEALAND:
D. W. Wardrobe, Wellington.
Agents: Messrs. J. G. MAINE & CO., LTD.

COPENHAGEN:
Wolfsraede 1.
Agents: Mr. G. F. V. VOLERTSEN.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES:
South—Mr. A. Stock,
North—Mr. H. Stock.

Tower Box and Block Flower Dishes.

280

The Pottery Gazette and Glass Trade Review, March 1, 1905.

Maling Ware

Full range of new decorations.

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LONDON SHOWROOMS:
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REGENT SHAPE DINNER WARE

AGENTS: County Advertising: E. G. Rutherford, Mr. York Street, Sydney.
Post Office: P.O. & H.S. Head, 10, St. George's Square, Manchester.
L. F. T. Volertsen, Wolfsraede 1, Copenhagen.

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THE POTTERY GAZETTE AND GLASS TRADE REVIEW. January 1, 1905.

C. T. MALING & SONS, LTD. ESTD. 1762.

FORD POTTERIES, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

*Gifts
for
all
occasions*

*Lustre
and
Pastel
Decorations*

In a large variety of shapes and patterns

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Maling Ware

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C. T. MALING & SONS LTD.
FORD POTTERIES, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

LONDON SHOWROOMS:

MORLEY HOUSE, 26, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C.1.

MR. L. W. HADLEY.

AGENTS : Country Representative.....North—H. Sharpley.
Australia.....E. S. Ranson, 50, York Street, Sydney.
New Zealand.....F. O. & H. S. Hart, Ltd., 44-48, Victoria Street, Wellington.
Denmark.....C. F. V. Vollertsen, Webersgade 1a, Copenhagen.



REGENT
SHAPE
DINNER
WARE

We move to DVD - “faux-pas” and all!

We are almost at the end of our stock of “Maling Memories” videos. As it is quite expensive to produce single copies, we are proposing that, in future, the programme will normally be supplied in DVD format. The price will remain the same - £15 - and, for the time being, videos can still be ordered.

The programme shows former workers reminiscing about their time at Maling and demonstrating the various processes of pottery production. It lasts approximately 75 minutes and was assembled from some five hours of footage gathered over two days. “Maling Memories” is accompanied by a bonus thirty-minute programme: “Potty About Maling”, supplied by courtesy of Tyne Tees TV.

“Maling Memories” was shot without script or rehearsal, as we could hardly expect the participants to go to such lengths. They simply chatted while we filmed. Inevitably, memories fade with time, and we have discovered some small inaccuracies in the programme.

None of these “little faux-pas” (as the late Peggy Stewart once described them in a letter to David) is of any great importance in the overall story of Maling. However we have listed them here to set the record straight for the benefit of present and future collectors and researchers. Most have, in fact, already been covered in earlier newsletters.

1 Where did the Maling paintresses demonstrate their skills during the 1929 NE Coast Exhibition?

In the video it is stated that they were in the Palace of Arts. In fact, as its name suggests, this Palace was an art gallery containing paintings, sculpture and silverware loaned by prominent collectors from the region. Two of Ralph Bullock’s works were included, but the artists represented were by no means all from the North East or even from the UK.

The paintresses were attached to the stand of the retailers Townsend, which was in the Palace of Industries. There is a photograph of this stand in TMOE, and the Ford Pottery name can clearly be seen towards the rear.

A correspondent also queries the statement that Townsend sold only Maling ware, as he has seen another pottery item with a Townsend mark but of non-Maling origin.

2 What was LE Boullemier’s contribution to the 1928 FA Cup?

The video says that he scored the winning goal for Stoke against Sheffield United to gain the Cup. Although LEB had previously played for Stoke, by 1928 he was with Port Vale and it was with this team that he scored the winning goal in a first round replay. Port Vale were knocked out of the competition in the second round and, therefore, never made the final.

There is more information about LEB’s footballing career and his other talents beyond that of design in newsletters 19 and 20.

3 What’s the story behind the “Fox Head” stirrup cups?

One of these items appears on the table towards the end of the video in a section designed to highlight the quality and diversity of Maling wares. Some of these cups were, indeed, produced for the Haydon Bridge Hunt, of which CT Maling was Master. These had a body in “hunting pink” (or scarlet).

Examples can be seen in the photograph of the Townsend stand mentioned above. This suggests that they were available for public purchase as well, and also contradicts the statement that the cups only went into production after the 1929 NE Coast Exhibition.

Other versions were produced with an ivory/cream coloured body and with various transferred designs applied. It is one of these which can be seen on the table. Lemonade sets, consisting of a jug and six cups were particularly popular export items with the Australian market. See newsletters 24 and 25 for a fuller story.

To order a copy of “Maling Memories”, please send a cheque for £15, payable to the society, to the address on this page. Remember to state whether you require VHS video or DVD format.

The pictures below relate to the article on page 1




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North Shields
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www.maling-pottery.org.uk

Secretary: David Holmes
Patrons: Roger Allan,
Tony Boullemier, Fred Hoult, Caroline
Kirkhope, Heather Maling
Dr John Maling,
Steven Moore
Joining fee: £20 (UK); £25 (overseas)
Includes FREE Maling catalogue
Renewals: £10 p.a. (worldwide)