

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 33 December 2006

Some you win, and some...

We devote this issue to mysteries - some solved but many, alas, not.

How much time should you devote to solving a mystery? It's a question I often ask myself as I deal with the queries I get via the society website from non-members.

Some of them are chancers who want a free valuation. Others simply haven't bothered to look through the site and find that the information they want is already there. They tend to get a curt, rather than courteous, reply.

But I was intrigued by one case which arose recently. Even though it turned out not to involve Maling, I thought I'd document the investigation.

I was contacted by a lady in the USA who wanted information this mug commemorating the death of Lord Nelson. Along with the photograph, she gave a very full description of the piece and said that the design included the word "Newcastle". Was it Maling, she asked.

Having collected Maling commemoratives for many years, I can say that I have never seen a piece which predates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897. Also, the date of Nelson's death in 1805 takes us

back to the old North Hylton pottery when we suspect that Maling was unmarked.

That set me wondering about the Newcastle in Staffordshire. An American wouldn't necessarily know that this was another centre of British potting.

Having exhausted my limited store of knowledge, I turned to the reference books. Two tomes on commemorative wares revealed nothing. Moving on, I found that Geoffrey Godden's "Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks" had this to say about Newcastle Pottery: "Various owners, Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland. Early 19th century. Earthenwares".

Not much help there, then. Time for a raid on my trusty copy of RC Bell's "Tyneside Pottery". This states: "Newcastle pottery may appear as the mark on early 19th century pieces and refers to the pottery at Skinnerburn. A directory of 1801 gives Addison, Falconer and Co., Newcastle Pottery, Skinnerburn.

"The Willett Collection in the Brighton Museum contains two rare earthenware mugs marked 'Newcastle Pottery'. On one a pair of sorrowing Englishmen mourn the death of Lord Nelson at Trafalgar in 1805..."



The Bell book adds: These two pieces are illustrated in Godden, "An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain". And so they are.

Two false starts and five reference books. I guess I could have saved myself a lot of time by starting with the last book. But things don't always work out that simply.

Verdict: not Maling



Mission imp - possible?

This little imp or pixie doesn't seem typical of Maling's designs from the early 1930s. And yet he looks strangely familiar - as though he were based on something a contemporary book illustrator had done.

The piece is factory marked and the shape is known, so we have to guess that this is from the hand of LE Boullemier.

LEB's grandson, Tony, also feels that there's something familiar about the design. However, he can't state categorically that it derived from any book or child's comic which may have been in the family home at the time.

All artists draw inspiration from what has

gone before. Even Shakespeare derived many of his plots from previously-published chronicles. It's what they do with the source material that counts.

There are stories of Maling paintresses being covertly sent out to sketch patterns on display in retailers' windows around Newcastle. And neither of the Messrs Boullemier was averse to taking an old pattern and giving it a spanking-new treatment.

So come on folks! Ransack your childhood memories and see if you can help us out on this one.

Case still open.

Pottery leads to poverty

Joanna Dawson, an archaeology graduate from Glasgow University, writes about the pottery from middens excavated at Edinburgh City Poorhouse at Craiglockhart.

In 1870, the Poorhouse in Edinburgh moved from its overcrowded premises on Forrest Road, to an innovative purpose-built complex at Craiglockhart. The complex remained in use until 1987 when it was finally closed. It gradually metamorphosed over the years into a hospital and then an old people's home, but it apparently never actually closed as a Poorhouse, so there is no definite finishing date for Craiglockhart Poorhouse.

The Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club started to lease some of the land formerly belonging to the Poorhouse in 1907, and their lease continues to this day. It is on this Golf Club land that the midden on which I am doing my dissertation is located.

I have studied materials lying on the surface of the midden, and so far have found a large quantity of pottery which can be identified as belonging to the Poorhouse, falling into two main categories: white with pink stripes, and white with blue stripes. The stripe patterns further separate the pottery, possibly chronologically.

There are some very substantial round plates - about 14 inches in diameter, as well as dinner plates, soup plates, bowls and mugs, all of various styles. The City of Edinburgh crest, along with its motto "Nisi Dominus Frustra" and "Edinburgh City Poorhouse" appears on one style of bowls and mugs.

There is also a large quantity of white bowls of three different sizes, white mugs, and some white plates, all of which may be assumed to be table ware from the Poorhouse, some being the equivalent without the stripes of the previous category.



The only pottery mark I have been able to trace is one appearing four times on different pieces of white pottery, and is from a pottery in Newcastle (C.T. Maling). Due to lack of bases for the blue- and pink-striped crockery it isn't possible to say at present whether this pottery was also manufactured by C.T. Maling, or indeed if several different manufacturers were involved over time.

Case still open.

It rings a bell

Sometimes words fail you - as with this item which recently came up for sale in New Zealand.

Why on Earth would anyone want to cover an old telephone with bits of broken Maling?

If it had been done by Salvador Dali, I suppose the art world would have been queueing up to pay millions for it. But as an amateur's whim, it was hardly worth the 150 dollar asking price.

Makes you think again about the true worth of art and antiques, doesn't it?

In the past we have asked you for unusual or unexpected sightings of Maling - but this one's going to take some beating!

Case referred to the Torchwood Institute for investigation into possible non-human activity.



Maybe yes, maybe no. Don't know

Jean Brideson writes: I have come across two square plates that bear a remarkable similarity to figure G on page 30, TMOE (3rd edition. It's not in the first).

These plates are obviously a pigeon pair. They both have the bronze outer border and the pink lustre inner border as per the example in the book. The pink is marked with what resembles raindrops as does the one in the book. They do not however have an illustration but a text .

One says "Thou sees't me" and the other says "Praise yea the Lord", so the religious aspect follows through. It is all in capital letters.

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On the following page we reproduce an advertisement from the "Pottery Gazette" of February 1930. Use it to develop your knowledge of Maling shapes and patterns.



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



No. 5373, Grainger Shape
(Square top)



Biscuit and Cheese Dish, No. 5391



Handled Hors d'œuvre Dish, No. 5136



Savoy Shape, No. 5374

These are a few specimens of the latest productions of

"Maling Ware"

See other advertisement.

Full range now on view at our London Showrooms, Morley House, 26, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.1.



No. 74 Vase, 5369



Princess Bowl, No. 5171



No. 67 Vase, 5410



No. 73 Vase, 5231



Candy Jar, No. 5172



Octagon Jug, Covd., No. 3773



"Stuart" Bowl, No. 5030



"Roman" Flower Bowl, No. 4064
With block



Ginger Jar, No. 5355

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There are no markings of any sort on the reverse but the description given is "Sunderland". What do you think? Are they or aren't they? Could they be? I wonder if every man and his dog was making such a plate at the time and these came from the pottery down the road.

I am definitely interested in these plates but not at the adventurous price sought although I would not hesitate if I were sure.

David adds: *You're right to be wary. This sort of item was made by many potteries in the north east and is generally described as "Sunderland Ware" if there's no specific identification mark. Another generic term is "splash" (or occasionally "spatter") lustre. I'd expect a Maling piece to be marked - probably with 1.1, 1.3 or 1.4 on the marks page of the book.*

Otherwise, there's just no way of knowing. The transfers were probably all bought from the same engravers (Beilby and Bewick a guess) so there's no stylistic difference.

You might think that slight differences in colour would be a clue. Oh, no! I've got two round plaques with religious mottoes. Both guaranteed Maling. One has a very purplish border with hints of copper. (It's up on the website.) The other has a paler border which veers toward pink. Both, as I recollect, are mark 1.1.

Given the price of these things, I would advise caution. There are dedicated collectors of religious wares and of Sunderland wares. They will pay the price and not care about the manufacturer. A Maling collector wants to know it's genuine Maling.

Verdict: not proven.


The Maling Collectors Society
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
PO Box 1762
North Shields
NE30 4YJ

www.maling-pottery.org.uk

Secretary: David Holmes

Patrons: Roger Allan,

Tony Boullemier, Fred Houlst, Caroline

Kirkhope, Heather Maling

Dr John Maling,

Steven Moore

Joining fee: £20 (UK); £25 (overseas)

Includes FREE Maling catalogue

Renewals: £10 p.a. (worldwide)

We hunt the facts

David Johnson tracks down more information on Maling's links with hunting.

It was during my previous research (see newsletters 24 and 25) in connection with Christopher Thompson Maling (1863-1934) master of the Haydon Bridge Hunt from 1902-1919, that a puzzle emerged.

Our patron Heather Maling had pointed out to me that her family still retained a retirement presentation gift to her great uncle Tom which was dated 1908. This immediately questioned the accuracy of my own research and yet everything that I had ever read, pointed me back to 1919, as his actual retirement date from his mastership. So why should the family retain a presentation gift dated some 11 years earlier?

By a stroke of luck, all would be revealed, when I obtained a book written by Mr. William Fawcett and published in 1927, titled *Hunting In Northumbria*. In the name of research I quote the following, directly from this very knowledgeable book:

"At the end of this season (i.e. 1908), Mr. Maling, owing to ill-health, was forced to relinquish the mastership, but his popularity and services to hunting and the Haydon county were not allowed to pass unnoticed, and the following is the verbatim account of the presentation that was made to him by the landowners, sportsmen, farmers and members of the Haydon Hunt, whose interests Mr. Maling had deeply at heart.

"At the opening meet of the Haydon on Saturday, Mr. C. T. Maling, the retiring master, was made the recipient of a handsome presentation to mark his six years mastership of the Hunt. The presentation took place at Newbrough Lodge, Fourstones, the residence of Mr. A. M. Palmer. It was a beautiful day and huntsmen, hounds and pedestrians all assembled in front of the lodge, amid the autumnal tinted trees, which presented a very pretty picture.

"There the presentation took place in front of the main entrance, where, on a table, were displayed the silver model of a huntsman on horseback in the act of



blowing his horn, and a huntsman album, accompanied by an illuminated scroll describing the gifts and giving the names of the subscribers. The workmanship is of a most artistic nature, the pose is splendid and the modelling perfect.

"The figure of the hunter rests on a bronze base, representing a bit of moorland and the whole on an ebony plinth. On the face of this is an inscription. 'Presented to C. T. Maling, Esq., M. F. H., by his many friends on his retirement from the Mastership of the Haydon Foxhounds, 1902-1908.'

"On the reverse side is a secret drawer, silver mounted and containing the names of the subscribers on the vellum. The sculptor was Mr. C. Curry and the model has been supplied by Messrs. C. S. Proctor & Son, jewellers and silversmiths, Newcastle. A portrait in oils of Mr. Maling, a work of Mr. T. Eyre Macklin, was on view in the lodge and was greatly admired."

I had already stated within my previous article that in 1908, Mr. Maling had been joined in the mastership by Mr. A. M. Allgood. The account from this book confirms that after two seasons of excellent sport, Mr. Allgood was joined by Mr. Maling, who, was now fully restored back to good health. From 1910, both would be masters of the Haydon Hunt and continued together until 1918, when Mr. Allgood retired.

Mr. Maling carried on with Mr. James Dodd of Hexham, till the end of season 1918-19, both retiring on the advent of a new master, Captain Alexander Keith.

Case closed.