

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 35 June 2007

Showing off in 1980s style

David Johnson of Tyne & Wear writes: If like me you were lucky enough to attend both Maling Pottery exhibitions held on Tyneside at Newcastle's Laing Art Gallery in October 1981 and in September 1997, then you will have retained some fond Maling memories from both events.

However, it may surprise a number of you to learn that an earlier Maling exhibition had actually taken place on Tyneside in September of 1980. (The promotional poster and a photograph of the exhibition are shown here.)

This exhibition had been organised by the East Newcastle Community Arts Association, which was set up in 1977, with a grant for two workers from Northern Arts. A year later this was supplemented by a grant for a third worker from Tyne and Wear County Council with partnership funding. Based in Byker and instrumental in setting up photography and pottery groups along with various other initiatives, Sally Madge, Richard Blossie and Peter Thomson, were those three community arts workers.

A project of Sally Madge, the exhibition dubbed as "Maling's White Mice" was as much about the surviving workers as the ware they had produced. Leading up to the exhibition, Sally would spend a number of hours visiting and interviewing former factory workers to obtain first hand accounts of their past working days at the Maling factory. These invaluable recollections, worker portraits, examples of ware and the history of the Maling family, would all be made available to the public through the exhibition.

The exhibition was open to the general public at Byker Library, Brinkburn Street, Newcastle, from Tuesday 2nd of September until Friday 26th September 1980, but it would be those very people who had helped to make Maling a part of history who would get the first glimpse of the exhibition. On the evening of Monday 1st September those surviving workers, including former General Manager Les Dixon, were invited to attend an official opening celebration.

Les Dixon's written account of this event sums up how he and the workforce missed those bygone days: "We hadn't seen each other, most of us, for 17 years or more and here I am once again looking at my long lost hard working family. I say family, because that is what they were to me for such a long time, some brothers and so many sisters. Whole families used to work for Malings, which was once the largest pottery in the world.

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Saturday, 15 September, 2007

Details on page 2.



Mr Toft signs in

We have often made reference to Clifford Toft, who worked at Maling in the early years of the last century. Signed items of Maling are not often found, but eBay recently turned up a piece by this designer. Given the height of 23 inches, the vendor suggested it was intended as a stick stand for the hallway.

We know that Toft's predecessor, Charles Miguet, produced signed pieces of a patriotic nature during WW1, though the nature of his association with the pottery at this time is not clear. LE Boulemier signed limited edition pieces for the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 and for the proposed and actual coronations of Edward VIII and George VI in 1937. Miss Theo Maling also signed some of her designs. Can anyone come up with other examples?



Finding the Freemen

Keith Cockerill adds more to the Maling family history. He writes: "I am very lucky to own a copy of the oldest (and therefore rarest) printed History of Sunderland, which was written by George Garbutt in 1819.

"In the list of subscribers in the back of the book is Captain Maling RN, whose name sits just under that of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael of Russia! This book sold for one guinea, which must have been a fortune to many people in 1819.

"The Malings appear several times in the lists of Stallingers and Freemen of the Town. Freemen had rights to carry out their businesses on days which were restricted to others. They could also graze animals on the Town Moor. A Stallinger had similar rights but he was not quite as important as a Freeman.

"Here are the entries:

- William Maling - Freeman 1757.
- CT Maling - Freeman 27th May 1765.
- "Resigned"
- John Maling - Freeman 12th April 1773.

"The book also states: 'During the late war when the invasion of this country was threatened by Napoleon Buonapart (sic), three bodies of Volunteers were raised in Sunderland: viz the Artillery, the Infantry and the Sea Fencibles.'

"The Volunteer Infantry were formed in 1803 and comprised 600 men, rank and file. Captain Maling was in this Volunteer Infantry group. They were 'disembodied' in 1813."

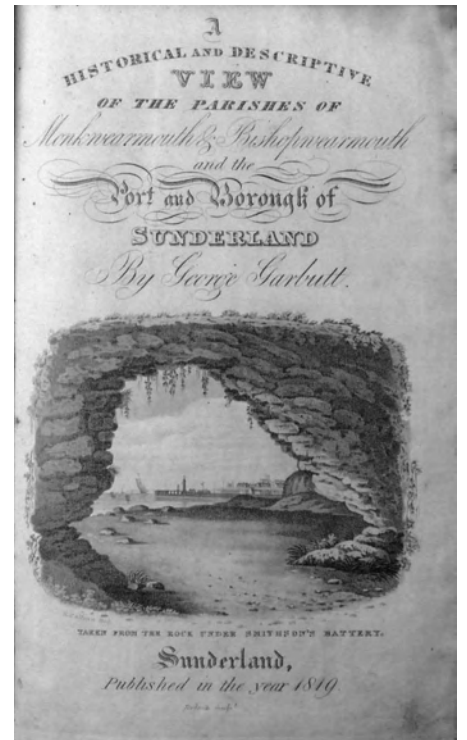
Keith also adds more background to the life of William Maling. Interestingly it makes no reference to the pottery business which would come to make the family name known worldwide. He writes:

"This information comes from 'The History and Antiquities of Sunderland etc - Volume 1' by Jeremiah William Summers, which was published in 1858. His second volume of work remained incomplete and unpublished because of the onset of blindness."

'Mr William Maling of Hendon Lodge, Bishopwearmouth, eldest son and heir of William Maling and Elizabeth Church, of Scarborough, was born Nov 4 1698, settled in Sunderland in 1723, where he carried on business as shipowner and timber merchant.

'He married, July 30, 1740, Catharine, only daughter and heiress of Christopher Thompson Esq, of Hendon Lodge, and previously of Scarborough. He took up his abode at Hendon Lodge on the demise of his father-in-law, 1749: his own father dying 11th May, 1743, he came into possession of a large fortune, and purchased extensive property in Hylton and Ford, on the north and south sides of the river Wear.

'Was appointed, in 1746, a Commissioner of that river, and in the same year, to the office of vestryman and churchwarden of Sunderland church. In 1757 he was one of the freemen of the borough. He died on 20th March, 1765, and was buried in a vault in Sunderland churchyard.'



COLLECTORS' DAY

The next collectors' day will be on Saturday 15th September at our pub venue in Yorkshire. We hope to keep it fairly informal, with a few talks and a chance to meet former Maling employees.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to attend. The cost has risen to £12 a head, but we do intend to provide a good lunch in addition to the chat.

Email as soon as possible, or ring/text David on 07866 765894. You can write to the PO Box - but be aware that this may delay your registration. Places are limited!

THE BRILLIANCE OF LUSTRE

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1262

POTTERY GAZETTE AND GLASS TRADE REVIEW, SEPTEMBER, 1950

Continued from page 1

“A girl would start at the age of 14, work there until she got married and had children, then she’d come back when the children were grown up. The children would follow in her Maling footsteps...and so on and so on, through generations. This exhibition is a reminder of what we and those generations achieved. Sadly, closure of the pottery finally came in 1963, after 200 years since it had started trading at North Hylton, Sunderland.

“To hear my family talking here though, you’d think that it had closed down only yesterday. Nostalgia is such a wonderful thing!”

And the title of the exhibition? At the time of the 1898 photograph shown on page 1 about 1,000 employees, mainly women, worked at the pottery and, because their shoes were usually covered with white clay dust, they became known as Maling’s White Mice.

With sincere thanks to Sally Madge and Richard Blossie.



MALING
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 Hoults, Caroline

Kirkhope, Heather Maling

Dr John Maling,

Steven Moore

Joining fee: £20 (UK); £25 (overseas)

Includes FREE Maling catalogue

Renewals: £10 p.a. (worldwide)

Letters to Laura

Laura Arkinstall was a decorator at the Ford Pottery from 1916 until sometime in the 1920s. Three letters charting her employment have survived, and they are reproduced here for the very first time.

While they don't tell us anything about the pots, they do provide an insight into Maling's concern for its employees' welfare, and into the customs of the era. (When was the last time you saw a ladies' third class waiting room?)

CT Maling & Sons
Sept 1/16



Miss Arkinstall,

I have received a letter this morning from Mrs Jones "as you will know by wire" of Gimsons in respect of you having applied for situation at Newcastle. Your experience has been put before Mr Maling & he is satisfied with it.

Now I am quite sure if you are capable of doing the class of work that we do here, I feel assured you will have nothing to be afraid of considering where you have had your training.

If you should decide to come which I hope you will, Mrs Jones says you will travel with Mrs Baker Tuesday Sept 12th that should be very nice for you.

Enclosed find stamped envelope for reply, letting me know as soon as possible your decision, when I will send you particulars how to come

Yours Respectfully
L Jackson

Sept 7/16

Miss Arkinstall



Very pleased you have decided to come.

In respect to travelling, you must go to the booking office at Stoke station and ask for a ticket to Newcastle on Tyne for Mr Maling it is paid for you, then get on the 9-35 from Stoke arriving at Derby 10-30 then ask which platform the 12-35 train goes out to Newcastle, likely you will have to cross the bridge, there are other trains but do not get on them, or you will have to change & this one comes straight through, if you do this you will have no trouble whatsoever & all being well you will arrive at Newcastle 5-20 then ask for the ladies' third class waiting room where I will meet you.

I have got Lodging for you which I think will be very comfortable. I hope you have met Mrs Baker & there is another young Lady travelling by the same train so you will have plenty of company.

Hoping you have a pleasant journey

L.J

Miss Arkinstall
Stoke-on-Trent



Madam,

We are looking forward to you travelling to Newcastle-upon-Tyne on Saturday as arranged.

Miss Jackson regrets she will not be able to meet you at the station as she expected. We would therefore recommend you to get a cab at the station when you arrive to take you straight to your apartments. We enclose a 6/- P.O. to cover your expenses.

The address is Mrs Donald, 169 Tosson Terrace (off Chillingham Road) Heaton. Mrs Baker who came up from Staffs this week is also staying there.

We shall expect you at the works on Monday morning

Yours truly
C.T. Maling & Sons,
per. J Watson