

KNOW YOUR MEDALTA:

STAMPS and OTHER MARKINGS:

A GUIDE to DATING PRODUCTS

Ronald M. Getty

Also available in this series:

The Kilns of South Eastern Alberta by Ronald Getty

A personal look at the colourful men and the companies they built which shaped Medicine Hat's clay industry history. Included is a collector's price guide for the more popular pieces.

Know Your Medalta: Vases by Ronald Getty

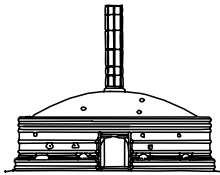
This book illustrates and documents the complete history of vase manufacture at Medalta. It provides photos and information on the stamps, decorations, and shapes. Also included is detailed information on prices and collectors checksheets.

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Preface

It was just over fifteen years ago that I first became interested in the pottery industry of Alberta, and especially Medalta, when Jack Forbes visited the Glenbow Museum in Calgary to select items for a forthcoming exhibit. Much to his and my surprise the Glenbow had few pieces other than a good variety of stoneware products such as crocks, churns, jugs, footwarmers (pigs), bean pots, ginger beer bottles and pickle jars. Hotel china was represented by only two or three pieces, and even the domestic wares consisted solely of a few teapots, pitchers and mixing bowls.

Since no museum in Alberta had a representative collection of the products made by the various pottery factories located in Alberta, the decision was made to build one and from that moment on my interest in the products just grew and grew. Not only did I have the opportunity to add to the Glenbow's collections, but I also had the pleasure of travelling across Canada, meeting many collectors, making new friends and, of course, recording their collections and the ones held by various Canadian museums.

It is the museums and private collectors which I visited that have made this booklet possible. They gave me free access to their collections to make notes and take photographs of the items and the stamps on them. While it is not possible to name every museum and collector that helped me, I would like to specifically mention a few of them.

Museums with fifty or more pieces of Medalta include the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, which acquired the Richard and Jean Symonds collection of about 800 items, the Medicine Hat Museum and Archives, the Glenbow-Alberta Institute of Calgary, the Provincial Museum and Archives in Edmonton and the Friends of Medalta Society. The Glenbow Museum, and particularly its photo department, deserves special mention as their staff took many of the photographs of the stamps and other markings illustrated in this booklet.

Again I must limit my list of collectors to those with substantial collections. Beth Anderson, Gordon and Keitha Armstrong, Bill Borgwardt, George Bruinsma, Trudy Cowan, Sid Dawes, Vicki Douglas, Gene Elgert, Jerry Frost, Herb Hlady, Bill Kellett, Guy Levesque, Kathy Malmberg, Ted Nicholson, Barry O'Neill, Gene Sabo, Tony Schlachter, Allan Sulatycyk, Jeanne Tompkins and Enid Yates all freely made their collections available to me for study.

I should be mentioning many others but to list everyone that has written me would be all but impossible. But to each and everyone of you goes my thanks as your contributions no matter how small all contributed to the final result.



14 inch vase #69 ca. 1938

Introduction

There has long been a need for an update on the products made by Medalta Potteries Limited, as the only booklet available to collectors is *Medalta Stoneware & Pottery for Collectors* published by Richard and Jean Symonds in 1974. The amount of information accumulated since then is vast, showing that Medalta was far more prolific than anyone would have suspected. From the some 300 different items illustrated in the Symonds' book the product line has grown to over a 1000 different pieces. The story of Medalta is one of change, changing to meet the demands of the market place and the fashion of the day.

Medalta, unlike many of the other potteries located in the Medicine Hat area of southern Alberta, frequently changed the stamps that it used to mark its products. This coupled with the fact that it also frequently changed its product line has provided a means whereby many of Medalta's products can be dated to within a few years of when they were produced. In this booklet the first of the "Know Your Medalta" series we will examine these stamps, placing them in a chronological sequence as much as possible.

In addition we will look at other markings found on Medalta's products, ones that indicate size, style numbers, style names, decorations or what have you. However, we will not look at named products, ones with advertising on them or ones made for a particular restaurant, as there are so many of them - almost a thousand - that they comprise a booklet or two by themselves.

Future booklets in this series will examine Medalta's vases, lamp bases, jardinières and planters, miscellaneous artwares, pitchers of all kinds, bowls of all kinds, ashtrays-cuspidors-humidors, stoneware products, hotel china, Ogilvie's premiums and advertising products. Each of these booklets will illustrate every product that is being discussed and provide a price guide as to what you can expect to pay for each item.

And if collectors show that there is a demand for more information, perhaps the series could include a reprint of Medalta's 1924 catalogue, the Hotel China catalogue, a variety of price lists, and even letters discussing various products such as the Malibu Club series and the Winston Churchill Toby jug among others. In time, all of Medalta's products will be illustrated and discussed, permitting collectors to know their Medalta.



Lampbase ca. 1940

Brief Historical Overview

We will limit our examination of Medalta's markings to those used between 1916 and 1954, or in other words to those used by the firms producing pottery under the names of Medalta Stoneware Limited or Medalta Potteries Limited. The original builder and occupier of the factory produced pottery under an altogether different name, The Medicine Hat Pottery Company Limited, as did the firms that occupied the plant after Medalta Potteries Limited went bankrupt in 1954. One of these, occupying the plant in 1958, produced pottery under a similar name, New Medalta Ceramics, while the other used the name Sunburst Ceramics Limited.

The reason for treating Medalta Stoneware and Medalta Potteries together is that the plant changed hands in 1924 with little or no interruption of production, with the new plant taking over and using the moulds of the earlier plant. Both of these potteries relied upon their stoneware line of products - crocks, jugs, churns, bowls, etc. - and to a lesser extent their lines of earthenware pitchers and bowls, until Medalta Potteries Limited hired Tom Hulme to head-up its art department in 1929. While stonewares remained a mainstay, the plant introduced many new lines, particularly vases, jardinières and lamps. In addition, its business in producing specialty named products, bearing the names of hotels and merchants and where they were located, expanded quite rapidly to peak around 1937 or 1938.

In 1937 Medalta hired a young ceramic engineer, Ed Phillipson, who took over as plant superintendent. He set Medalta on its new path, bringing it into the "hotel age". It was Mr. Phillipson who determined that the white burning clays located at Willows, Saskatchewan, were suitable for making a hard burning product. Over the next few years, Medalta developed its line of hotel china and by 1940 it was all but complete including a full line of service wares from plates, soup and salad bowls, through to pitchers and creamers.



Jardinière's
1924

Hotelwares carried Medalta through the war years and into the early fifties. Stonewares were still as popular as ever, although the range in sizes and variety had been reduced to some extent. Artwares were also available but again, it seems, not in the wide assortment that was produced before the war. It was the hotelwares that dominated Medalta's production. Its sturdy, thick-walled, heavy-duty restaurant china¹ was in high demand throughout Canada and probably would have carried the plant for quite a few more years; but, alas, new owners acquired the Medalta plant in 1952 and directed that it be retrofitted for the production of a new lighter ware.

The new owners envisioned making their fortune by producing millions of items for the movie theatre giveaway market. Pay your admission and with it you would get a plate this week and a salad bowl next week, until you had built up a complete set. It was a good idea, but one that was ten years too late. Just as Medalta was ready to go into full production, the demand fell. Televisions were becoming cheap enough for every home to own one, so why go out to the theatre so often? In 1954 Medalta fired its last kiln load, closing its doors, and with it losing an important part of southern Alberta's industry.

The aspects of this brief history that are important to the study of Medalta's stamps are the change in name in 1924 and the introduction of its hotel china line. All products that are marked with one of the stamps that says "Medalta Stoneware Ltd." date to 1924 or earlier; the ones reading "Medalta Potteries Limited" date from 1924 to 1954. Most, but not all, of the stamps that just include the name Medalta in the stamp are ones used by the later company. The introduction of Medalta's hotel china is important as many of the stamps include the term "hotel china" and thereby are dated to 1937 or later.



*Chicken Waterer
ca. 1930*

Review of the Literature

Richard and Jean Symonds did the pioneering work on Medalta in 1974² and considering the information that was available to them at the time they did an excellent job. Not only was the booklet a catalogue of their collection and a price guide, but it was also the first compilation of the many stamps that Medalta used to mark its products over the years.

However, since then many more documents have surfaced, permitting a more detailed chronology of the stamps that Medalta used over the years. In 1981, Ronald Getty and Ester Klaiman did an article³ expanding upon the list of stamps in the Symonds' book, refining many of the date ranges that had been assigned to the various stamps. Because this article was published in the *Material History Bulletin*, it did not receive too wide a distribution, particularly among collectors. The Symonds' book is still the primary reference used by collectors.

The article by Getty and Klaiman also set up a numbering system which in retrospect is not as useful as a straight forward one as used by the Symonds. It used the letters G, M and P to indicate the three different types of stamps - those applied using an oxide over or under the glaze, those in the mould (impressed or embossed ones), and paper labels or decals. The second part of the 3-digit code was a number from 1 to 5 which was used to indicate the decade when the stamp first came into use - one for the 1910s, two for the 1920s and so on. The third part was also a number running from one to infinity for each of the stamps falling into that decade.

While this numbering system worked well at the time, since then more stamps have shown up that cannot be readily placed in time. For that reason, I am going back to a simpler system to identify Medalta's stamps. It will have a letter to indicate the type of stamping, followed by a number from one to infinity (e.g. G.1, M.1 or P.1).

It is interesting to look at the number of Medalta stamps that have been recorded in the various publications and how this number has grown over the years. The Symonds' illustrated around 60 different stamps in their 1974 book, and when Getty and Klaiman published their article in 1981, this number had grown to about 103 stamps. Now in 1995 the total is up to 143 different stamp varieties. Admittedly, a good number of the new stamps are in-mould ones which are not too useful for dating purposes, but new oxide ones are still showing up from time to time. Hopefully, by now, we have discovered most of the stamps that Medalta used over the years, but that is what I thought in 1981 and how wrong I was.



Dinner plate 1950's

Medalta's Company Stamps

Medalta used three different means to identify the products made in its plant. The most common one by far was the use of an oxide or glaze stamp applied using a rubber stamp. This type of stamping is also the most useful for dating Medalta's products as the varieties are so numerous, reflecting changes over the years.

The next most prevalent type of marking is the in-mould ones. In this case Medalta placed its name on the plaster mould. Thus, when a slip casting was poured, the item came out with the Medalta name appearing as an impression. This means of marking a product is less useful as a dating method as once a master mould was cast it could be retained for making working moulds right up until the plant closed.

Paper labels and the maple leaf paper decal were the least used means of marking the plant's products, and when they were used it was often in conjunction with one of the two other stamping methods. While these labels are fairly good date indicators, their usefulness is limited by the few varieties that were used over the years.

The Glaze or Oxide Stamps or G-Series

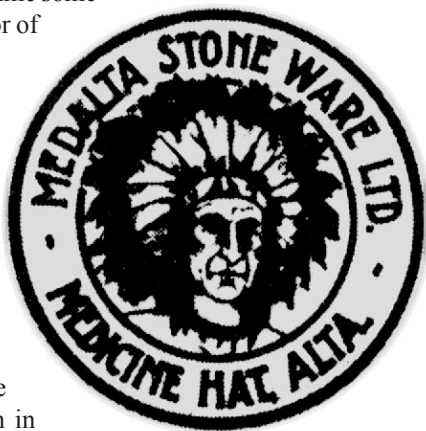
This series of stamps is identified by the letter "G" before the number. G.1 simply indicates the first stamp in the series and not necessarily the first one used by Medalta. In this instance G-1 was in fact the first company stamp used by Medalta Stoneware Ltd., and while I have listed them in chronological order as much as possible, they do not indicate a succession from one to the next. Many of the stamps are not yet positively placed in a date sequence for a variety of reasons, but in time we will certainly be able to place more of them accurately.

Some of the stamp numbers are followed by a suffixed letter such as the G.4.a to G.4.c series. This simply lists the varieties of a stamp that I consider to be the same one. Stamps wore out through constant use and had to be reordered on a regular basis, and each and every time new ones were made you ran the risk of injecting minor differences. Some of these differences have proven to be a good date indicator while the significance of other variations is still unknown.

Some of the differences found in similar stamps is the placement of the lettering, the size of the lettering, the size of the encircling oval, ring or rectangle, the presence or absence of those borders, and occasionally the

addition of extra punctuation, a word, date or what have you. I did not feel it useful to assign completely different numbers to these variations as they most certainly are very close in date. The suffixed letter may not even be necessary, but in the hope that in time some will turn out to be specific indicator of date I have separated them.

The first stamp used by Medalta to mark its products was in my opinion quite an attractive one, and it is really a pity that they stopped using it. It was what is commonly referred to by collectors as the Indian head stamp for it depicted an Indian wearing a feathered headdress, surrounded by the Medalta Stone Ware Ltd. name and its location in Medicine Hat, Alberta. But Medalta had a lot of trouble with this rubber stamping. Clear ones are seldom seen; they are often uneven in colour, smudged or incomplete.



And the problem was not rectified with the introduction of its next series of stamps. In 1923, Medalta sought outside help to improve its rubber stampings. A letter from Charles Pratt, Medalta's manager, to Mr. Bernard Kane in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, looked for answers to some specific questions:

"...We intended to ask you when you were here the best method of stamping names and addresses on Stoneware.

At present we are using Black Underglaze which we get from Roessler & Hasslacher of New York, and using a rubber stamp in stamping all our ware, the goods being fairly dry before we use the stamp. In mixing up the Underglaze we use a little Kentucky Ball clay and water, some glycerine, and a very little gum arabic.

Our stamping is not good and we would like to improve upon it. We do not know where our trouble lies. It may be in the preparation of the mixture, or perhaps it is the rubber stamp, but we are not getting the results that we should expect.

If you have any suggestions or information that would be of assistance we would be very glad to have it in detail..."⁴

Mr. Kane's answer stated in part:

"...I have made several tests, first trying the ingredients that you use. With these I did not get a good impression. The mixture was not sticky enough...

I got the best results by mixing the black color with molasses (sic), well grinding together on a glass slab with a palate knife, to the consistency of fairly thick paint, then spreading it over the glass slab with the palate knife, then distribute it evenly with a rubber roller; press your stamp once or twice on this surface and stamp your work. This will give a good impression.

Use a little water to thin the color if necessary.

...The rubber stamps should be well backed with cushion rubber. I take it that yours are?

*You will notice that the large letter M on the trials is not so clear as the other devices. It was not mounted therefore it did not print as well as the others..."*⁵

Presumably Medalta took Mr. Kane's suggestions to heart. They not only continued to back the rubber stamps heavily with cushion rubber until the plant closed, but increasingly produced more and more stamped products, particularly advertising pieces. And the stamped products that have been seen certainly showed a marked improvement over those of the early years.

For the first ten years or so, until about 1928, Medalta's oxide stamps seem to have been limited to select products such as the crocks, churns, ice water jars and some of the jugs. Perhaps it is a sampling error but their mixing bowls, pitchers, foot warmers and jardinieres among other products do not seem to have been stamped. No examples of items marked with one of the stamps of Medalta Stoneware Limited have shown up as yet, and personally I think that none ever will be found. The company just was not marking most of its products at that time, not even with an in-mould stamp. The majority of the items illustrated in the 1924 Medalta catalogue cannot be found with the Medalta name on them. But sometime after 1928, probably within a year or two, Medalta started putting its name on products faithfully, and unmarked ones became the exception.

Placement and Colour of the Glaze Stamps

For the majority of products, especially the artwares and the ovenwares, the factory's stamp is placed in an inconspicuous spot like the bottom of the piece. It is mainly the crocks, churns and jugs that have the Medalta name prominently displayed on the side. The stamps can be found on the unglazed surface of ovenwares, over the glaze, or more commonly under a clear glaze. They are usually found alone, but they can appear on some products in association with an impressed stamp. And I must admit that I was quite pleased to find double stampings as it helped to determine the date range of some of the impressed stamps.

The range in colours used for marking products is quite wide. One might have expected just two colours - a light one to go on dark coloured products and a dark, perhaps black, for light coloured wares. But that was not the case. The coloured oxides that have been recorded so far include black, white, red, gold, silver, and various shades of blue, green and brown. There could well be other colours for I gave up recording the colour of the stamp when it became apparent that it was pointless to do so. I had hoped that the colours selected might in some way be related to the class of products, the colour of the item, or perhaps the stamp itself. But the use of colours appears to be totally random. The same stamp can be found in a wide range of colours and the same product or group of products can have various coloured stamps on them. Even a dark item can be stamped with a dark oxide; I have found cobalt blue items with the Medalta stamp in black oxide making it all but impossible to read.

One to be Discovered

There is still one oxide stamp that remains to be found on a product. It was one used to mark the items made for Buscombe and Co. Limited. This firm was presumably in the Vancouver area as it is mentioned in letters to and from the Columbia-Orient Export and Import Co. Ltd., Medalta's Vancouver agent. In April 1941 Medalta wrote: *"...Do you wish us to put Buscombe's stamp on the bottom as we used to do?"*⁶ Later in June 1941 Buscombe's is mentioned again: *"...We have a letter from this customer this morning that these goods are all back stamped Buscombe & Co. Ltd.... and we would here impress on you that the back stamps for Cassidys and Buscombes must only be used when a specific order calls for their use."*⁷

So there has to be another stamp out there somewhere! I would guess that it is similar to the Cassidy stamp (G.45), but we will have to wait and see.

Table I

It is not my intention to discuss each of the stamps here giving the reasons as to why I have assigned a particular date range to each of them. But there are some who might be interested in such detail, so it is given in Appendix I. All the stamps for which I have illustrations are shown in Table I, but I am sure that more or at least new variations will still be found.

I would like to point out a few overall observations though. Where I have no idea as to when a stamp was discontinued, it is given a broad range. If the stamp was in general use, that is used on a wide variety of products, the range may be through to 1954 when the plant closed. If it is one of the hotelware stamps, the closing date may be in the late 1940s when Medalta introduced its dated series of stamps. The date range given for a stamp does not mean that it was in use for that whole period of time, but rather that it cannot presently be narrowed any further.

I was tempted to exclude stamps that were used on a particular product as they do not help to date anything other than that item, but as many of them were included in the Symonds' book, and since they are often the only indication that Medalta made the item, I decided to leave them in. But the name Medalta had to appear as part of the stamp. Medalta's early ice water jar for example is not included as it is invariably found with a regular factory stamp on it as well. Others stamps like the egg beater jar, the later ice water jar, and the water filter are included as there is seldom any other stamp on them.

Among the illustrated stamps you will also find a few that make no mention of Medalta - the one that just says "Made in Canada", the pair of "Western Motifs by Hulme", the "Confetti", and the "Aristocrat" stamp - but all have been positively identified as valid Medalta stamps. The products bearing these stamps were made in the Medalta plant.

One other type of stamp that does not mention Medalta are the two found on the Winston Churchill Toby jug. One was the official copyright stamp while the other was presumably used for a short time while awaiting approval of the other. As you could find these alone on the Churchill jug, they have been included.



About the Table I Illustrations

You might well be wondering why the factory stamps depicted in Table I are so clear, particularly since they are normally blurred, blotted or missing letters when you see them on a product. In preparing this booklet, all the photographs or photocopies of the stamps that had been recorded over the years were scanned into a computer and enhanced if necessary. In some instances, light stamps were darkened, missing letters were filled in, and the various coloured backgrounds were all made more uniform. In spite of these minor changes the illustrations are in fact quite accurate as to the style of lettering, and where similar stamps are depicted the relative size of the lettering and stamps has been maintained.

One thing that could not be done was to depict all the stamps at the same scale. Medalta's smallest stamp is less than 2 cm. long while the largest is over 10 cm. While it would have been nice to illustrate every stamp at its actual size, it was not possible to do so in a booklet of this size. Hopefully, though, the size will not mislead you, and you will be able to readily identify the stamps on your pieces.

The In-Mould Stamps or M-Series

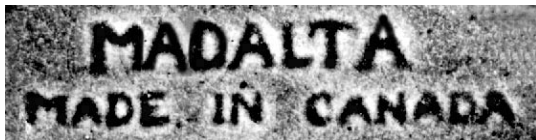
This grouping of stamps includes ones that are either impressed or embossed on the product. Few of the impressed stamps were actually stamped into the plastic clay by Medalta's staff, but were in fact produced by the Medalta name being on the working mould in raised or embossed letters. When a casting was made, the name would come out as an impression. For grouping purposes, though, anytime that the Medalta name appears as an impression, regardless of how it was actually made, it has been placed in this group. If the Medalta name is ever found simply cut or carved into the clay, it too would be placed in this grouping.

The embossed or raised lettering stamps are not very many in number and almost appear to be an afterthought. "Whoops, we forgot to mark this one 'Made in Canada' better



add it now before it's too late." So far, it is only two variations of "Made in Canada" that have appeared as embossed stamps. I am in fact surprised that other stamps have not shown up, as it would be relatively easy to add the Medalta name by carefully carving it into the plaster mould.

One of the oddities that has appeared on a mixing bowl was a stamp reading "Madalta" rather than "Medalta". If this had been an embossed stamp, one could chalk it up to a frustrated employee who had carved the misspelled name. But it was an impressed one, one in the mould. How it could have happened remains a mystery to me, unless it was just one of those really bad days!



The in-mould category of stamps is almost impossible to date beyond placing the starting date as based on the introduction of any particular product. Once a master mould was created, working moulds could be taken from it at anytime. If it was a product that remained in production through to 1954, it would look the same as when it first came out. Unless an oxide stamp is also on the piece, it cannot be dated more specifically within the wide range.

Also this group of stamps is often difficult or even impossible to read. Every time a mould was used there was wear and tear on it, slowly wearing off the embossed lettering of the mould. Given enough time, the marking would wear off completely.

But there were other forces at work as well. Many pieces had to be wiped or smoothed off, sometimes filling in the marking. At other times a very heavy glaze was applied, also filling in the impression. This is what Ed Phillipson had to say in reply to a complaint from Medalta Sales Reg'd.

"Bean pots are all marked on the bottom. In the newer moulds the numbers are very clear, but in the older moulds they might be worn off..."

*As for the vases, the same thing applies except that it is a little bit harder to retain the numbers in marking, because being a fancier article, vases are sponged in the raw state which obliterates the letterings. Those markings left, after sponging, usually get covered up by the heavy glazes, not only in the mottled ones, but even in the plain colours."*⁸

Another point about the impressed stampings is that each was designed to fit the product. While similar stamps may have been used on a particular style of teapot for example, each would be different in size and/or configuration to fit each size of teapot. The same was true for pitchers and bowls; the larger the piece the larger the stamp itself.

However there is one important time indicator in the impressed stamps, and it is the style of the actual lettering. Medalta basically used two lettering styles over the years. The first was a script style where the individual letters had curved sides and flowing tails. The other was a block style of lettering, with straight sides and without the tails. Just when the script style was introduced is not definitely known but it seems to have been in use by 1927, and I think it is safe to say that it was replaced by the block style of lettering around 1932. The script style does not appear on any products known to have been introduced after 1932, just as the block style is not found on items introduced before then.



And the last observation that I would like to point out is that mould markings, other than sizes, are not found on any of Medalta's early products. Many of the products illustrated in the 1924 Medalta catalogue do not have a Medalta stamp on them, either in-mould or an oxide one. The French pans, milk pans, mixing bowls, pitchers, pantry jars, combinettes, bed pans, jardinières and flower pots are usually found unstamped, and when a stamp is present it is one known to date from a later period.

The Paper Labels or P-Series

There is not much to say about this group of markings as so few varieties are known, and for the most part the Medalta papers are mute concerning them. The one label designated P.4 is known from a single example which dates to 1936 or a few years later. The maple leaf decal (P.1) has one firm date for it thanks to a couple in Edmonton who received their cookie jar with this particular stamp on it as a wedding gift in 1931. Originally I had thought that this stamp dated to the mid-1930s or later; I had no idea it was in use so early.

By far the most common of the paper labels are the pair found with silver lettering on a black background or with black lettering on a silver background. They too have been difficult to date as they are usually found on lamps or vases. They probably date to the mid-1930s as they are found on items introduced after 1932, but they are also found on pieces introduced as late as 1939 or 1940. A telegram dated 21 November 1935 asks that Medalta place Decalca stickers on items, but whether or not these are one of the paper labels found on products remains problematical. I think they are, but which one?



P.4

One of the letters in the 1938 Medalta files refers to paper labels which I believe are different from those seen so far. In part it states:

*"In reference to the articles being made up for the Metropolitan Stores... It is essential that the items not marked 'Made in Canada' such as the plain bowls, the harlequin bowl set and the white lined bowls be labelled. We are having these labels made now... and we have placed an order for one hundred thousand of these, five thousand of which are to be marked with 'Medalta Ovenproof'. These are costing at the rate of 75 cents per thousand."*⁹

On July 5, 1938, the labels were sent to Medalta with the instructions: *"We think it advisable that [for] the Bowls in the Harlequin Bowl Set, that the label be put on the inside of the Bowl and perhaps on the side of the Casserole or else on the cover."*¹⁰ To date I have not seen any "Medalta Ovenproof" labels, but they could well be hard to find considering where they were instructed to place them. The owner probably would have removed them immediately: but, if not, they certainly would have come off during the first few washings.

Finally, in closing this section I should point out that I have not seen a great

number of items with any of these paper labels on them. Presumably the labels were easily lost due to poor adhesion of the gum. As to when and why they were used, we put that question to several of Medalta's employees. One informant suggested that they were used to mark items with no other clear Medalta identification mark. This undoubtedly is true for many items, but you can certainly find pieces with a very clear impressed stamp that also has a paper label on it. Another explanation given by an employee was that any products made for the export market had to clearly indicate Canadian manufacture, and the gummed labels could have filled that requirement.

Dating the Stamps

The date range given for each stamp was determined using various lines of evidence. The stamps themselves provide some clues which may include the clarity of the stamp, the oxide used, the style of lettering and the overall configuration of the stamp.

The ever changing styles of Medalta's products was most helpful. Every four years or so Medalta brought out a new style of pitcher, mixing bowl or what have you. New products were continually being added and old ones dropped. Thanks to the records that have survived the ravages of time a fairly complete picture of these product changes is known for the period 1922 to 1941. The earliest years are poorly documented as are the ones from 1942 to 1954. The product succession is almost totally unknown for Medalta's last twelve years; but, thanks to knowing so many of the dates when products were introduced, we can build up a chronology of the stamps found on them. If a particular stamp appears only on products introduced in or after a particular year, say 1936, then we can at least say that the stamp dates no earlier than 1936. Similarly, if a stamp is never found on a discontinued product and we know when the item was dropped, we can say it dates after that time. Providing the stamp is found on a variety of products, and the sample size is not too small, we can determine its date range within a few years.

Another obvious help is Medalta's dated advertising pieces. If for example the piece says "Xmas 1934", we at least have a firm date for when it was in use, and as other dated pieces show up with the same stamp, we can build up the range. Another way the advertising or souvenir items are useful is that they show which stamps were in use at the same time. Usually pieces made for a particular event all have the same stamp on them, but there are exceptions such as Toshach's mixing bowl. The order for 1500 bowls was filled over a period of time, and several of the maple leaf stamp varieties were used to mark them. By the way, they only received 1200 bowls. I

presume the last 300 could not be made in time for Christmas which is when Toshach's distributed the bowls to their customers and friends.

The decoration markings found on items are some help, but not as useful as they would be if they were oxide stamps. More often they are found on items with an in-mould stamp. Some decoration numbers are actually dated. Starting in 1937 and going through to 1939, Medalta used a three part code to identify its decorations. A letter - G, L or S - was followed by a two part number separated by a slash. The first number - 37, 38 or 39 - indicated the year, the second number the decoration. We will discuss this numbering system more fully later, but the important thing is that they were dated and can in turn be used to date the product and the stamp. Unfortunately, they are not found on items very often. The



*14 inch decorative plate
1940-45*



Cookie jar ca. 1931

other aspect about some decoration numbers is that they can be related to dated documents in the Medalta files, particularly the stock ledger.

The handpainted versus the rubber stamped or stencilled decorations is also some help. Most of the handpainted patterns including the sail boat, mill, cottage and cows in pasture were replaced with the more quickly applied rubber stamp decorations or stencils. This seems to have occurred around 1934, but one -the owls - may have been in use for a few more years.

But there are still other clues to help date the products and thereby the stamps as well. The colour of the clay is one. Prior to 1937, Medalta had no white burning clay. It was developed for the production of hotel china, and eventually after many trials and errors, Medalta developed a mixture suitable for its other wares. The changeover from the “fat” or yellow burning clay to the white semi-porcelain clay is not firmly documented, but it happened in 1941 or just a year or two later.

You might have wondered why your 500 series lamps are in white clay while the ones with style numbers between 1 and 100 are yellow clay? Well now you know. And if you do find a lamp which was introduced in the 1930s which is made with the white clay then you can be sure it dates much later.

Another clue is the manufacturing process itself. From its beginning through to 1954 Medalta made many of its products using moulds, but some were made on a press using metal dies. Late in 1937 Medalta acquired a new flower pot machine, and by February 1938 they had metal dies on hand for making corrugated and plain mixing bowls on this machine. And over the next few years as new products were brought out, many of them were made using dies. If a product could be made this way, it was preferred as it was certainly faster and cheaper than the labour intensive use of moulds.

The die-made bowls and meat pie pan, among other products, are readily recognizable by the relatively sharp edge of the base. The bottoms of the mould-made items are gently rounded in contrast with the die-made ones which are almost at 90 degrees. And because it was a metal die, it was impracticable to have any embossed markings on the bottom. The limitation of the spinning metal die was of course that the item had to be smaller at the bottom than the top in order to readily release it from the die.

In the hotelwares, you can also find some dating clues. The earliest pieces often show black speckles scattered throughout the white clay, as it was not until 1939 that Medalta acquired a magnetic separator to remove the discolouring iron particles. When hotel china was first produced, the flatwares were stacked in a saggar one above the other, separated by a stilt. After firing, the plate was snapped from the stilt leaving the distinctive triangular mark. Around May 1941, Medalta switched over to using pins instead of stilts. Three metal pins were run through holes in the side of the saggar, the plate was placed on them, and the next one added until the saggar was full. The advantage, of course, was that the top of the plate was unblemished. If you look on the bottom of a plate you will find either the three stilt marks in the centre of the plate or the three pin marks just in from

the edge of the rim.

There were other useful clues that I was not aware of at the time I examined the archival collections and products, or ones that I have not yet taken into consideration. The use of gold and silver oxides for stamping products is one. It certainly dates towards the end of Medalta, but just how late I do not know. I gave up recording the colour of the stampings fairly early in my research as it did not seem to be worth pursuing, but in this instance it might have been. Another fact not yet taken into consideration was Medalta's acquisition of an oval jigger machine late in 1938 to make products like bakers, casseroles, au gratins and rarebit dishes.

In sum, what it boils down to is that you can establish a fairly good date range for many of the stamps when all the various lines of evidence are put together. There will always be anomalies as Medalta retained some of its rubber stamps long after they stopped using them. Indeed, the collection of rubber stamps acquired by the Glenbow Museum included one used as early as 1934, and some of the early hotel china stamps from the late 1930s along with dated ones from the 1950s. I am sure that the workmen grabbed the wrong stamp from time to time, but it seems to have been the exception as remarkable consistency is found in the use of most stamps. This was proved when I had the opportunity to check the stamps on named hotelwares against the scribbler entries that had been kept by one of Medalta's decorators. Her dated entries recorded the various names of the restaurant patterns that she worked on, and there was remarkable agreement between them and the dated stamps on the products - 1951 stamps were in her 1951 ledgers and so on for the time she worked at Medalta.

The Symonds' Stamps

In closing this section on Medalta's factory stamps, I would like to comment on the stamps illustrated in the Symonds' book. Perhaps some are wondering why I did not just keep their numbering system and add to it, for indeed it was a good piece of work. Perhaps I should have, but I thought it might be better to try to regroup them and place them more or less in the date order that they were used. To some extent these goals have been met, but I must admit that further research will undoubtedly change, hopefully narrow, the date ranges that have been established. As new stamps are found - and I am sure that they will be as new ones have been found after ten years of research - they will have to be added at the end of each series. If a new Medalta Stoneware stamp shows up it will be away out of sequence, but there is really no way around this problem.

In Appendix II and III, the Symonds' number is given for cross reference purposes. In some instances several of the Symonds' stamps are treated as one, as it was the style name or number that the Symonds were showing. For example, Symonds' 20, 28, 29 and 55 are all grouped together under my stamp M.15. Others like the Symonds' 45 and 66 are only a difference in size or colour. Ones like number 49 and 62 are showing "Victory" and "Elite", the pattern or style names.

There is one stamp in the Symonds' book that I have not been able to find. Their stamp No. 31 should read "Canada" not "Alberta" at the bottom. The vase in their collection was glazed so heavily it was all but impossible to read, and it is only when I ran across other similar vases with a clear stamping that the exact wording could be determined.

One of the Symonds' stamps, number 53, does not appear here at all as it is only the crest of the firm placing the order. Perhaps the RCAF crest should have been included as the name or crest is often the only indication that Medalta made the piece. But there are so many of them that Medalta's named and crested ware is a study in itself. There were over 200 different stores ordering a piece combining their name with an Ogilvie advertising slogan. Just to show the different Ogilvie slogans and layouts would take some time as there were about twenty of them.

OTHER MARKINGS

The pottery's stamp is often combined with other markings that served to define the item more fully, particularly for stock taking purposes. The majority of these were produced in the mould and are usually found near the Medalta name, often right below it. Others are found in various coloured oxides, but black or white are by far the most common ones. These additional markings can be categorized as those identifying a particular style by number or by name, those indicating the colour or decoration and those defining the size of the product. As is always the case, there are some other markings that served a special purpose, some of which still need to be explained.

Style Numbers

The assigning of style numbers, and in some cases names, started shortly after Medalta introduced its new artwares in 1930. The first artwares included the handpainted/glazed pitchers done in the decorative owl, mill and cottage designs. The three or four lamp bases and ten or so vases that were available were usually finished in a variety of designs using coloured lacquers. The first lamps and vases were hand thrown and accordingly marked with the "HAND MADE" stamp (M.6). The variety of products was fairly limited the first year, but as their designers brought out new shapes, it soon became apparent that Medalta needed a quick and accurate way of referring to each style. By the end of 1931, Medalta had gone back and assigned style numbers to its vases and two styles of jardinieres. They started at 101 assigning the numbers consecutively through to 112, but at this time the numbers were not yet in the mould. That would be done as the old moulds wore out and new ones were made to replace them. But they did start numbering the various styles by penning the number on the bottom in white or black ink, and at the same time the decoration number was added. A typical example would be "106/1500", the 1500 standing for the camels in desert decoration on vase style No. 106. The next year, 1932, saw Medalta bringing out a variety of new vases and these ones had the style numbers in the mould.



*Lampbase
ca. 1931*

The in-mould numbers are found in various forms. The series from 101 to 112 are just a number. Most of the ones assigned after that are preceded by “No.” but not always. Again it seems to have been a hit and miss thing, with no rhyme or reason as to why one has just the number and others the full entry, but the full entry are by far the most common ones. The style number can be found alone, with the size or other numbers below it, and it can be found with the size or decoration number appended to it. The size number is usually in-mould as well, while the decoration number is invariably added using a white or black ink or oxide.

Quite a few of the lamps have the number stamped on the inside of the bottom in black ink as just a number or as a number preceded with the number sign such as “55” or “# 53”. In one instance the No. 55 lamp base was clearly stamped with the number “57” showing that mistakes were sometimes made right at the factory.

Style Names

In 1932 when the new vases came out, many of them were also given style or pattern names which were placed in the mould. Medalta continued to assign names off and on over the years and one in particular, Polygon, appears to have been a favourite as it was used over and over again. Polygon, unlike most of the other names, described the overall shape of the piece as all items with this name had fluted sides. “Polygon” can be found on bulb bowl style No. 21, jardiniere No. 23, two mixing bowls, a casserole and a teapot. The other style names given to, and found on, products over the years are listed below.



vase No. 2 - Asia	jardiniere No. 59 - English Design
vase No. 3 - Edward	pitcher - Cyma
vase No. 60 - Hexagon	pitcher - Elite
vase No. 61 - Egypto	pitcher - Cypress
vase No. 62 - Rosetta	spittoon - Commodore
vase No. 65 - Amour	Dominion cup - CHARM
vase No. 70 - Betty	
vase No. 90 - Mikado	
vase No. 131 - Victory	

The Medalta records refer to a few other vases and lamps by name, but as yet the names have not been found on any items. They include:

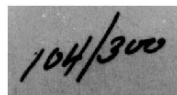
lamp - Robinson	vase No. 101 - Yoko
lamp No. 9 - Globe	vase No. 103 - Pekin
lamp No. 12 - Regal	
lamp No. 14 - Edward	
lamp No. 15 - Eton	

In ending this section, I would like to point out that with the exception of “CHARM” all of the style names found so far have been impressed, and all have been in script style lettering, even the name “Cypress” which was quite a late addition to Medalta’s ever expanding line of wares.

Charm is the only pattern name in block style lettering applied using an oxide, and it appears to have been a separate rubber stamp (G.58) made up to mark the cup and saucers finished with an encircling decorative band.

Decoration Markings

The introduction of decoration markings coincides with the assigning of style numbers. They both appear in Medalta's stock ledger at the same time, and they are usually found together on the item, especially in the early years. In the example illustrated here, the 104 is the style No. of the vase while the appended 300 indicated the decoration, which in this case is the swallow flying over lily pads. Within a few years when the style No. was right in the mould, the decoration number was often added to it. Most of the numbers that you will find are on pieces finished in coloured lacquers, and the decoration numbers are usually in either black or white. Although they are not common, you can find some glazed pieces where the number has been appended using an oxide. The only ones I have seen so far are decoration numbers 43, 44, 45, 2000 and 2001, but others are bound to show up.



That these numbers were used by Medalta's agents in taking and placing orders is attested to in many letters in the Medalta files. In October 1937 Medalta's Toronto agent wrote:

*"...A local florist wants two # 2/14" vases in a light blue decoration. The blue mottled glaze style 2500 is too dark, and if there is not a light blue glaze, there is no doubt a lacquered decoration of this shade."*¹¹

Three years later the Montreal agent, Medalta Sales Reg'd., wrote:

*"...I have just checked over my stock and find that I am out of size 36 yellow tea pots in mottled 3500 and the new design 170A."*¹²

I picked these letters out of the many to choose from as they are typical of what you find in the files. They give some description of a colour, but not quite enough to match it to a glaze which has been seen on an item. Other times, like the reference to No. 170A, they indicate when a new glaze first came out. So far, neither of these numbers has been found on an item.

Another style of decoration number was adopted in 1937 and was used through to sometime in 1939. It consisted of three parts - a letter G, L or S followed by two numbers separated by a slash. The letters stood for the type of finish, including glaze and lacquer. What S stood for is not specifically indicated in the letters, but it may have indicated a satina or slip glaze.

The first number was the year the decoration came out and you can find 37, 38 or 39. The number after the slash was the specific decoration, and they appear to range from 1 to 40 for some of the finishes. Once a decoration was developed and assigned a number, it seems to have remained in use until it

was dropped. In other words, Medalta did not reassign new numbers on a yearly basis. The 1940 letters and invoices are full of references to the 1938 decorations. For example an invoice dated 9 September 1940 states: “*Cane Mixing bowls - white lined and decorated G38/10 (cow)*”.¹³

But to balance the record, I should also point out that customers frequently referred to some decorations by name alone, such as the cow and church decorations. And colours were often referred to by just the colour and not a number which presumably they had. For example in enquiring about one order for lamp bases the agent wrote:

Order 734 of July 5th was, in part, for base No 414 in the following Color proportions:

<i>Base 414</i>	<i>Oxblood,</i>	<i>Brown,</i>	<i>Green,</i>	<i>Yellow,</i>	<i>Gray Blue,</i>	<i>Ivory</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>14</i>

I could list all the decoration numbers that I have run across either on products or in the Medalta files, but quite frankly it would be of little use to anyone as most have never been seen on products. Those that have been found is actually quite a long list in itself, and so I will limit Table II to those alone. This table also gives the date or dates when that decoration number appears in the Medalta stock ledger. Most appear for only a year or two, so the presence of these numbers may be a good date indicator. Also, I have listed the item(s) that they were on, but you can be sure that they were on other products as well. Some decorations may have been limited to a single product, but most were not. For example, many collectors may think that the No. 45 apple blossom decoration is found only on cookie jars, but that is not the case. It has shown up on a lamp base and a teapot. Others, like the tulip decoration, I have seen only on cookie jars. But who knows, in time they too may be found on other products.

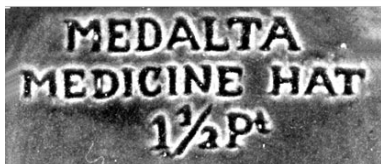
Size Markings: Diameters

A large number of Medalta's products have size markings on them, and they are not always easy to interpret as they mean different things on different items - some are the diameter, some the height and others the contents. The impressed numerals found on the bottom of mixing bowls, casseroles, pie pans, meat pie pans, au lutin dishes and some spittoons all indicate the diameter of the item. At just what point Medalta measured the diameter is not too clear, as the outside measurements that I took are never in agreement with the size stamped into the bottom. The inside measurement is much closer. Usually the diameter is expressed as a number alone, but one of the brown fluted stoneware bowls was followed by "IN". Other items where the diameter is indicated by the size marking include jardinieres, bulb bowls, dog dishes, flower pots and their saucers, and hanging baskets. The number on some styles of jardinieres may be giving the height; it is really hard to tell as the actual measurements and impressed sizes differ so much.



Size Markings: Contents

A good number of products were marked to indicate the contents that they held. Cocks and churns were often marked twice, once on the bottom with an impressed stamp and again on the side with an oxide numeral. In both instances the number indicates the number of gallons that the piece would hold. You will also find numerals with and without the word "IMPERIAL" below them as Medalta changed from the American wine measure to the Imperial measure during the 1920s.

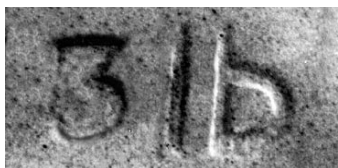


Other products marked with an oxide numeral on the side indicating the gallons held are the large 5 gallon pickle crock and the ice water jar found in 3, 5 and 8 gallon sizes. While chicken fountains themselves are not marked, their saucers sometimes have the 1/2 or 1 gallon size impressed in the bottom. The 1/2 seems to have been just a numeral while the other is expressed as "1

gal". The impressed numbers on acid pitchers also indicates gallons, but all other pitchers are measured in pints, ranging from 1/2 up to the 3 pint size. The markings on all Medalta's different styles of pitchers have always been impressed ones, but they do vary in style. Sometimes they are just numbers, other times they are followed by Pt. In the case of the corrugated pitcher, they are followed by what is best described as quotation marks.

Medalta also marked its honey pot which came in "1 pt" and "1 qt" sizes. The pint marking has been noted in both embossed and impressed varieties while the quart has only been impressed so far. The numbers impressed into the bottom of bean pots are for the number of quarts held, and they range from 1 to 8 quarts in size. Small items such as the handled and unhandled creamers, when they are marked, are in ounces. Usually it is just an impressed number but sometimes the number is followed by the oz. abbreviation.

A few items were marked in pounds. You can occasionally find a butter



crock with just an impressed number, but usually it is followed by "lb". I have seen 3, 5 and 10 lb. crocks marked this way. The only mark I have seen on the 20 pound crock was the oxide numeral "2" on the side. In this case it stood for 2 gallons which was the equivalent of 20

pounds, as indicated by a page from an undated Medalta catalogue in the Glenbow Archives. The other product marked in pounds was the pudding bowl. Typically the impression reads "5-2 lb" - the first number being the diameter of the bowl. So far I have recorded 1, 2, 4 and 7 1/2 lb. sizes for this style of pudding bowl.

Teapots were marked one of two ways, and sometimes both are found in combination with one another. Most commonly you find them marked in trade sizes which increased by multiples of six. They include 18, 24, 30, 36, 42 and 60. The number is usually by itself, but some have a small "s" raised above the number. The 60 was the smallest teapot or the individual size, and the 18 was the largest or 10 cup size. The second marking was by the cup such as "6 Cups", a commonly found size. The two markings are related below:

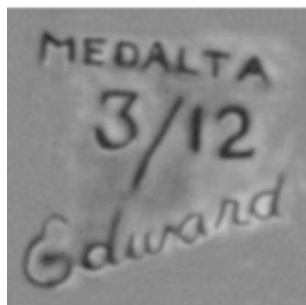
trade size:	18	24	30	36	42	60
cup size:	10	8	6	5	?	ind.

One other product was marked in trade sizes - Medalta's candy bowl. So far I have only seen sizes 30 and 42.

Size Markings: Heights

The last size markings to be examined are those that indicate the height of the item. These are the ones commonly found on Medalta's artwares. Once again the numbers can take many forms and are located in various spots in relationship to other markings. The numbers are often impressed, but on early pieces they can be found in oxide, often white, penned on the bottom of the piece. I have even found a few items where the style No. and size were marked in grease pencil or using a lead pencil. The number can be alone or followed by the inch sign. It can be appended to the style number with an intervening slash or it can be below all other markings. One thing I have never run across though is a size that is in raised figures.

The reason for placing the height on many items escapes me, and it was truly hit and miss as you will find many items that were not marked at all. In some instances the size was necessary to distinguish between the two or more sized vases given the same style No., such as the No. 2 vase which came in 10, 12 and 14 inch sizes. Others like the vases numbered 115 to 118 were made in only one size, so it hardly seems necessary to put the size on the item. Perhaps they just wanted to bring a better balance to the stamp.



In several instances it appears that Medalta made mistakes in its marking. The Edward vase, or vase No. 3, was available in the 10 and 12 inch sizes and are so marked with an impressed size on the bottom. However, the 10 inch one only measures 7 5/8 inches high and the 12 inch only 9 inches. Was it a mistake? Did Medalta change the moulds at the last minute? Who knows, but they sure do not appear to be right. A few other in-mould heights are out by an inch or so, but none this much.

Another example of a mistake is found in the Asia vase, style No. 2, which was marked on the bottom in oxide "#2 - 10", but it is definitely a 12 inch high one. Half a dozen other examples could be pointed out, but I will leave it to you to find out for yourself just how far out they were at times.

Other Markings

There are a number of other markings that you will find on pieces of Medalta, but none of them are common.

One of these was an underglaze stamp that simply stated “SECOND”. Symonds’ stamp No. 15 illustrates its occurrence below the main stamp, but I have also found it by itself, indicating that it was a separate stamp. It is not commonly found and for a very good reason. In most instances Medalta would not know if a product was going to be a second until it had gone through the final firing.

There are many reasons why a piece could be designated a second: the striping or decoration may have smeared or run, it might have crazed, been slightly out of round, did not sit flush, had a shrinkage crack, a rough area, a spall from the edge, uneven glazing or even unglazed areas. Some of these such as shrinkage cracks or not sitting flush could happen during the bisque firing, and as long as the item was not so bad that it had to be thrown away, it could be stamped and marketed as a second. Seconds were sold at a discount of about fifty percent, and quite frankly there was really nothing wrong with most of them, at least to the untrained eye.

Designer’s/Artists Names

Another uncommon marking on Medalta’s products was the name of the designer or decorator. Most of the design work was done by Medalta’s staff, and only a select few at that, and therefore it was not necessary to place their names on the item. In fact, when you read through the Medalta letters you wonder if Medalta was doing much in the area of design. Most of its products were copied after items sent in by their agents, albeit with slight modifications:

“Under seperate cover I am airmailing to you a blue brush & comb Tray badged in gold Hotel Vancouver, and with gold edge. I am asked to quote on this not later than tomorrow, Friday, afternoon.”¹⁵

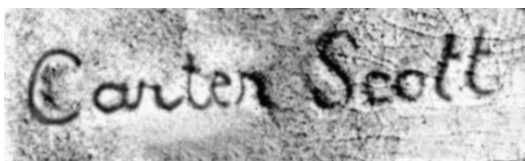
“The following numbers from amongst the [lamp] samples left at the factory last fall by Importex have not yet been modelled... 710, 713, 716, 720, 721, 431...”

Under seperate cover there has been shipped to you to-day Five new lamp bases...”¹⁶

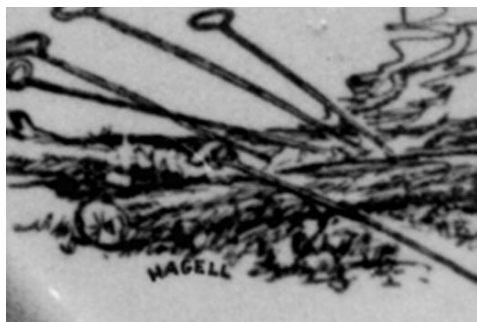
The one item with a designer’s name on the bottom was the Winston Churchill jug, but in one sense it was not really a Medalta product as they did not own the model block. It had been sent in by Mr. B.A. Cunliffe and he was the

exclusive distributor of the jug. *"The model belongs to Mr. Cunliffe, therefore we are making them for him exclusively."*¹⁷ When Cunliffe sent Medalta the block for the Churchill jug he advised *"that the name of the sculptor is on the bottom of the Jug, this has to appear on the finished article... Please take every care of the block for...I have an offer of \$200.00 for the block, and copyright."*¹⁸ And when I finally saw a jug that I could clearly read, it showed his name to be "Carter Scott". It is found written in script, impressed into the bottom of the jug.

Regretfully, I have never had the time to research Carter Scott, but for sure he never worked for Medalta.



The only other artist's name that I have run across is E.F. Hagell who did the drawings that were used on the Mountain Trails and Cattle Country series of dishes. Several years ago when I had the privilege of visiting the family in Lethbridge that commissioned these dinnerwares, they told me the story behind these patterns. Their home was full of sketches done by E.F. Hagell, a close friend of theirs,



and with Hagell's blessing they asked Medalta to reproduce selected images on hotel china. As a private business venture, the sets were sold through various stores located throughout southern Alberta, and while they were popular, they never caught on as they had hoped they would. The problem lay with Medalta

not being able to provide enough items to put sets together or to provide a consistent product. The bordering coloured band was supposed to be a reddish brown, but when shipments of the dishes arrived from Medalta they were often banded in a different colour. Undoubtedly many collectors have examples of the dark brown banding as well as the correct lighter brown. I can appreciate the problem of trying to sell dishes that were in different colours, not to mention incomplete sets while they patiently waited for the soup bowls or pitchers to arrive!

Other Names

From time to time, collectors have run across Medalta items with other names written on the bottom. Just what the names signified is anyone's guess, but I believe them to be personal additions done by a workman or perhaps even the one-time owner of the piece. The names that I have seen were handwritten and done in pencil or ink. One on the bottom of vase No. 73 read "Margaret Esplen"; another within the peak of a stetson hat ashtray said "W.H. Miller 1937". Were these the names of the decorator, the giver of a present, or just the owner marking his item? Perhaps someone who knows will eventually let me know.

One crock that a collector in southern Alberta picked up is indeed a gem for it records the maker's name on the bottom. For whatever reason the maker of this 2 gallon crock, dating around 1920, crudely carved his name and address into the bottom of the crock while the clay was still fairly wet. Perhaps J.F.E. Armstong of 813B 4th St. SE, Medicine Hat, Alta., just made it for a friend or as a personal souvenir. In any case he certainly immortalized himself and provided a collector with a very interesting and unique item.

Another item preserving a little history was a vase with the name Palliser written around the border of the bottom. Apparently it was from the Palliser Hotel in Calgary, and presumably was marked in this manner by the hotel staff.

Odd Numbers

A number of plates have shown up with numbers under the glaze. One six inch plate with the crest of the University of Victoria on it had the number "433" near the Medalta stamp. Another seven inch plate, reportedly made for the R.C.M.P. as it was banded in a royal blue edged in gold, had the number "113" on it. The only other piece that I have run across was a fruit saucer bearing the number "455"; its decoration was a broad blue band. I hope to find out what these numbers may signify from one of the people that did the banding for Medalta, but as yet I have not had the chance to ask the question.

At least one Medalta product had a number on it relating the item to the Hotel China catalogue that Medalta put out around 1948. The number "701" located just above the Medalta stamp refers to the item listed as the "No. 701" Shallow Baker" illustrated on page 16 of the catalogue. The same page illustrates the "No. 415 Baker" but so far I have not seen this number on that style of baker; but, in time, I am sure that it too will show up.

The other numbers found in conjunction with the Medalta stamp that probably relate to the Medalta catalogue are the numerals 1, 2 and 3. They like the factory stamp are found underglaze, but they definitely were not part of the rubber stamp as they are found in various sizes and positions, including upside down placements. The item they are most commonly found on is the oval baker which came in three sizes: 6 oz. or the No. 1 Oval Baker, 9 oz. or the No. 2 Oval Baker, and the 12 oz. or No. 3 Oval Baker. The agreement of the numbers found on the products with the three listed sizes is 100% so there seems to be little doubt as to what these numbers indicate. I have recorded a few of these numbers on other products but, the sample size is presently so small that I am hesitant to say what they stand for. One of these other items is the round pot pie dish, and again when you check the catalogue you find that it was available in two sizes. In this case, though, the catalogue does not refer to them as the No. 1 and 2, but only as the 10 and 14 oz. sizes.

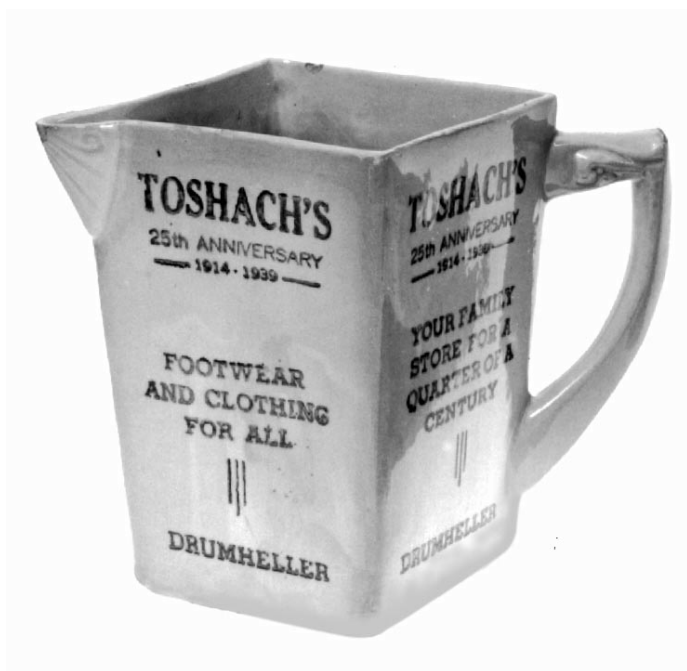
Two other numbers that have appeared on ovenwares are "36" and "40".



The former was on a ramekin which so far as I know was available only in the 4 oz. size. The other, number 40, was found on an oval casserole which came in 6 and 12 oz. sizes. Again, the number does not appear to relate to the sizes that this

casserole came in. I cannot even be sure that these numbers were factory numbers as they are on the unglazed bottom of these ovenwares. For all I know they might be an auctioneer's mark!

Another number that I cannot yet explain is found on the Astoria style of spittoon. Examples of this item dating to the 1920s have the impressed number "12" in the bottom, but it is only seven inches in diameter and about 4 3/4 inches high. My guess is that it was an error, but who knows how or why it happened!



Milk pitcher ca. 1939

The Final Word

To close the story on Medalta, I would like to warn you that at least one Medalta stamp - and perhaps others - was used by Medalta Potteries (1966) Ltd. to mark some of its products. When I asked Roy Ogilvie the owner of Medalta (1966) Ltd. about this, he told me that it was simply a matter of expediency. At the time, his pottery did not have a stamp small enough to fit the bottom of little items such as cups and jam jars, but he did have a box full of old Medalta stamps. In this box he found an original Medalta stamp that would do the job, and thus came about the marking of some of his pottery's items with an old Medalta stamp.

The Medalta stamp that he used is the one assigned number G.46.a and so far it has been found on a cup with fluted sides, a cream and sugar set, a flask-shaped bottle and and a jam jar decorated with a turtle in relief on the side, but I am sure that other items will be found that have this or another original Medalta stamp on them.

There is one other stamp that I should mention and it is the one used to mark items made for Medalta Sales (B.C.) Ltd. This company was a distributor for Medalta's products on the west coast, and obviously they were obtaining products from elsewhere - in this case Japan - after Medalta closed. Do not let this stamp fool you. While it may be desirable to add a piece with this stamp on it to your collection, it is not one made in Medicine Hat.



A second distributor of Medalta's products, Medalta Sales Reg'd of Montreal, used a similar name, and I would not be surprised if someone eventually finds a non-Medalta piece made for this company as well.

Finally in this brief discussion of odd stamps I would like to correct some misinformation that I have passed along to some collectors. Two of the stamps definitely confirmed to have been used by Medalta (G.61 and G.70) bear the words "British Empire Ware". This suggested to me that other patterns beside "Aristocrat" and "Confetti" also marked British Empire Ware may have been made by Medalta, and as a result some collectors, including myself, started picking up patterns such as "Treasure O' Gold", "Du Berry", "Goldcrest", "Charmiam" and "Peach Blossom". However, no evidence has been found to indicate that any of these other patterns were made by Medalta, and I am now convinced that they were made by an eastern firm, perhaps the Sovereign Potteries.

You Can Help the Author's Studies

My studies into the stamps and products of all the potteries located in Alberta are ongoing, and I would welcome hearing from collectors that have not yet been in touch with me. If you have stamps that are not included in this booklet, unusual pieces, uniquely finished items, advertising pieces, souvenirs, commemoratives or named hotel china, I would welcome a note or photograph advising me of what you have. Many of the items made by the smaller potteries such as P.I.E. (Provincial Industrial Enterprises) and the Gas City Pottery Limited are poorly known, and your help in documenting them is definitely needed.

As this is the first booklet in what I hope will be a series on Medalta and, time permitting, the other potteries in Alberta, perhaps you would like to drop me a note indicating that you would like your name added to a mailing list announcing further booklets in this series. Perhaps you just have a question or two that you would like answered - like the location or date of a named piece. I will try to reply to all letters that I get, but as this is my hobby, I will have to fit those letters into my spare time. Please send your questions, reports of new finds or your wish to be advised of future publications to:

Ronald Getty
216 Maddock Way N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2A 3X3
(403) 273-1132
gettyr@nucleus.net

Suggested Readings

Richard and Jean Symonds, *Medalta Stoneware and Pottery for Collectors*, Symco Distributors, 1974. 55 pp.

Bill Borgwardt, "Discovering Medalta," *Dig & Pick*, Vol. 1, No. 3, September/October 1975.

Marylou Antonelli, "Medalta Pottery," *Canadian Collector*, Vol 11, No. 1, pp. 71-73, January/February 1976.

Marylou Antonelli and Jack Forbes, *Pottery in Alberta, The Long Tradition*, The University of Alberta Press, 1978. 189 pp.

Bill Borgwardt, "Medalta and other Pottery from Alberta," *CanadiAntiquer*, April 1979. (Reprinted in *Dig & Pick*, Vol. 5, Nos. 1 & 2, Fall 1979.)

Ronald Getty and Ester Klaiman, "Identifying Medalta, 1916-1954: A Guide to Markings," *Material History Bulletin* 12, pp. 17-60, Spring 1981.

Ronald Getty and Jack Forbes, "Alberta Pottery: An Overview of the Pottery Industry in the Medicine Hat/Redcliff Area of Southern Alberta, 1912-1981," *Canadian Antiques and Art Review*, Vol. 3, No. 22, pp. 26-30, October 1981.

Ronald Getty, "Medalta's Art Wares," *Canadian Collector* Vol 17, No. 5., pp. 51-55, September/October 1982.

Ronald Getty, "The Medicine Hat and the Alberta Potteries," *Material History Bulletin* 16, pp. 31-39, Winter 1982.

Ronald Getty, *Medalta's Advertising Premiums and Named Hotelwares*, Privately printed by the author, 1993. 191 pp.

Ronald Getty, *The Kilns of Southeastern Alberta*, The Friends of Medalta Society, Medicine Hat, 1994. 79 pp.

Where to get them

Many of the magazine articles are hard to find and all I can suggest is that you contact your local library and museum to see if they have a copy. If not I would suggest that you write the Glenbow Library at 130 9th Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2G 0P3, as they have copies of all the articles. I too can provide copies but it will probably take longer as I do not have a photocopier in my home.

The books "Pottery in Alberta, The Long Tradition" and "The Kilns of Southeastern Alberta" can be obtained by writing to the Friends of Medalta Society. "Medalta's Advertising Premiums and Named Hotelwares" can only be obtained by writing to the author.



*1 gallon pickle jar
ca. 1930*

*Salt-from-the-pantry
four-piece set*

TABLE I



G.1
1916-20



G.2
1916-24



G.3
1918-22



G.4.a
1920-24



G.4.b
1920-24



G.4.c
1922-24



G.5.a
1924-27



G.5.b
1926-54



G.5.c
1926-54



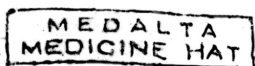
G.5.e
1926-54



G.5.d
1926-54



G.5.f
1926-54



G.6
1920-30

MEDALTA
MEDICINE HAT, ALTA

G.7
1920-30



G.8
1924-54



G.9
1926-34



G.10
1927-40

ICE WATER

MEDALTA
MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

G.11
1930-54



G.12
1926-34



G.13.a
1930-32



G.13.b
1930-32



G.14
1932-42



G.15
1930-32



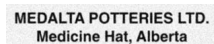
G.16.a
1930-36



G.16.b
1930-36



G.17
1930-36



G.18
1930-34

MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.
MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

G.19
 1930-34



G.22
 1930-32



G.24
 1936-42



G.26.b
 1936-42



G.29
 1938-40

MADE IN CANADA

G.20
 1930-34



G.23
 1930-42



G.25
 1936-42



G.27
 1936-42



G.30.a
 1935-38

MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.
MEDICINE HAT
ALBERTA

G.21
 1930-54



G.73*
 1936-42



G.26.a
 1936-42



G.28
 1938-42



G.30.b
 1935-38

* G.73 is duplicated for ready comparison with other maple leaf stamps

REG'D DESIGN
MEDALTA

G.31
1936-48

REG'D DESIGN
MEDALTA

G.32
1936-38

MEDALTA
POTTERIES
Medicine Hat
Canada

G.33
1937-54

MEDALTA
POTTERIES
Medicine Hat
Canada

MEDALTA
POTTERIES
Medicine Hat
Canada
VITRIFIED

G.34
1937-54

MEDALTA
POTTERIES
MAY
Medicine Hat
Canada

G.35
1937-54

MEDALTA
HOTEL
CHINA

G.36.a
1937-40

MEDALTA
HOTEL
CHINA

G.36.b
1937-40

MEDALTA
HOTEL
CHINA

G.37
1937-47

MEDALTA
MADE IN
CANADA

G.38.a
1937-47

MEDALTA
MADE IN
CANADA
APR

G.38.b
1937-47

MEDALTA
MADE IN
CANADA

G.39
1937-47

Medalta
Potteries Ltd
APR
Made in
Canada

G.40.a
1940-45

Medalta
Potteries Ltd.
MAY
Made in
Canada

G.40.b
1940-45

Medalta
Potteries Ltd.
Made in
Canada

G.41
1940-45

INDUSTRIAL
DESIGN
REG'D 1940

G.42
1940-41

COPYRIGHT
SERIAL NO.
52194

G.43
1941-45

Medalta Potteries Ltd.
Made for
BELL, RINFRET
& CO. LTD.

MONTREAL

G.44
1937-54

VITRIFIED
MADE FOR
CASSIDY'S LTD.
BY
Medalta
Potteries Ltd.
CHINA

G.45
1937-54

MEDALTA
MADE
IN
CANADA

G.46.a
1942-47

MEDALTA
MADE
IN
CANADA

G.46.b
1942-47

MEDALTA
MADE IN
CANADA

G.47.a
1942-47

MEDALTA
MADE IN
CANADA

G.47.b
1942-47



G.48
1942-47

**MEDALTA
CANADA**

G.49.a
1942-47

**MEDALTA
DEC
CANADA**

G.49.b
1942-47

SOUVENIR
Made by
Medalta Potteries Ltd.
Medicine Hat, Alta.

G.50
1945-54



G.52.a
1949



G.52.b
1950



G.54
1949-54



G.51
1947-50



G.51
1947-50



G.53
1950



G.55
1951



G.56
1952



G.57
1952



G.58
1952



G.59
1953



G.60
1954



G.61.a
1952-54



G.61.b
1952-54

REG'D. DESIGN
MOUNTAIN
TRAILS
CANADIAN
WESTERN
ART
SPECIALTIES
BY MEDALTA

G.62.a
1950-54

REG'D. DESIGN
MOUNTAIN
TRAILS
CANADIAN
WESTERN
ART
SPECIALTIES
BY MEDALTA
CANADA

G.62.b
1950-54

REG'D DESIGN
CATTLE
COUNTRY
CANADIAN
WESTERN ART
SPECIALTIES
BY MEDALTA
CANADA

G.63
1950-54

Registered
Design
HOTEL
WALES
CALGARY
by MEDALTA

G.64.a
1953-54

REG'D DESIGN
HOTEL
WALES
CALGARY
BY MEDALTA

G.64.b
1954

Made for
HARRISON
HOT SPRINGS
HOTEL
By MEDALTA

G.65
1950-54

T. C. A.
Medalta
Canada

G.66.a
1950-54

T. C. A.
MEDALTA
POTTERIES

G.66.b
1950-54

MADE
EXPRESSLY
FOR
J. J. SUPPLY
EDMONTON
BY MEDALTA

G.67
1950-54

Western
Motifs
by Hulme
SERIES 1

G.68.a
1952-54

Western
Motifs
by Hulme
SERIES 2

G.68.b
1952-54

"Star
Dust"
by MEDALTA

G.69
1952-54

"Confetti"
BRITISH EMPIRE
WARE

G.70
1952-54

KOSHER
For Meat
Use Only

G.71
1950-54

MEDALTA CONTAINERS
KEEP VEGETABLES AND
LETTUCE
FRESH AND CRISP

G.72
1926-40

MEDALTA
MEDICINE WARE

G.73
1936-42

MEDALTA
MEDICINE WARE

M.1.a
1926-34

MEDALTA
MEDICINE WARE

M.1.b
1926-34

8 IN
MEDALTA
MEDICINE WARE

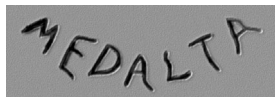
M.1.c
1926-34

MEDALTA
MEDICINE WARE

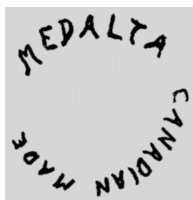
M.2
1926-34



M.3.a
1930-54



M.3.c
1930-54



M.4.a
1930-40



M.3.b
1930-54



M.5
1926-35



M.4.b
1930-40



M.6
1930-32



M.7
1930-34



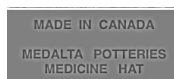
M.8
1930-34



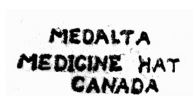
M.9
1930-54



M.10
1930-54



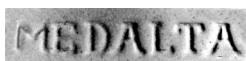
M.11
1930-40



M.12
1930-54



M.13
1932-54



M.14
1932-54



M.15
1932-54



M.16
1932-54



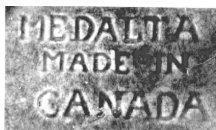
M.17
1936-54



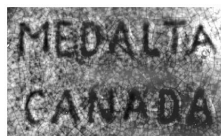
M.18
1932-54



M.19
1932-54



M.20
1930-54



M.21.a
1926-54



M.21.b
1926-54



M.21.c
1926-54



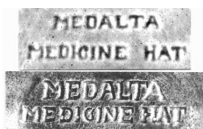
M.21.d
1926-54



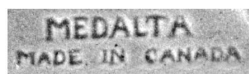
M.21.e
1926-54



M.21.f
1926-54



M.22
1930-54



M.23.a
1932-54



M.23.b
1932-54



M.24.a
1930-40



M.24.b
1930-40



M.24.c
1930-40



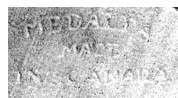
M.25
1930-54



M.26
1930-54



M.27
1945-54



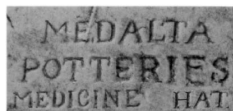
M.28
1938-54



M.29
1942-54



M.30
1930-40



M.31
1930-54



P.1
1930-40



P.2
1932-45



P.3
1932-45



P.4
1932-45

TABLE II

DECORATIONS WITH ASSIGNED NUMBERS

Decoration Number	Colour and/or Description	Date(s)	Found on Style No.
40	Dutch [night scene, blue]	1933	5
41	Dutch [sunset scene, orange]	1932	5
43	black dragon [silver & gold dragon on black glaze] ¹⁹	1933	5
44	[black floral outlined in gold]		5
45	apple blossom [blue background]	1932	tc cookie jar
45	black floral [gold and silver on black glaze]	1933	5
47	pink, black-eyed Susan	1932	tc cookie jar
49	green-tulip [red tulip on green]	1932	tc cookie jar
50	mauve-yellow tulip	1932	tc cookie jar
53	[yellow & red tulip on blue]		lh cookie jar
60	orange-corn flower	1932	tc cookie jar
67	[stencilled apple blossom on orange]		tc cookie jar
69	[stencilled apple blossom on green]		tc cookie jar
300	bird, ivory	1932-33	104
1100	Dutch, straw	1931-32	101,104,106,108 109,110
1150	Dutch, ivory	1932	101,107,110
1200	Dutch, grey	1931-32	107,108
1300	Indian, straw	1931-32	101,102,107,110 111
1400	stork, straw	1931-32	102,105,107,110
1450	stork, grey	1931-32	107
1470	stork, blue	1931	110
1500	camel, desert	1931-32	103,105,106,107 108,110,111
1550	Venetian or gondolier	1931-32	103,105,108,111
1570	ship [sailboat]	1931-32	106,107,108,109 111,112
1600	dragon [gold and/or metallic on blue]	1931-32	107,108,111
1650	dragon, black	1931-32	103,109,110
2000	variegated, red top	1932	5,65,80,111
2001	variegated	1932-36	108,111
37/22		1937	pudding bowl
37/36		1937	71/4"
L.38/Snapdragon		1938	71/6"
L.39/5	grape on pale sand grey	1939	104

* tc - twisted cord, lh - lug handled

APPENDIX I

Glaze or Oxide Stamps ---

G.1

1916-1920

This was the first stamp used by Medalta. It is found in blue or dark blue and red. Sometimes the dark blue is so dark it appears to be black and perhaps some were in fact in black. Clear stampings are hard to find, and the red stamp is the rarest, but when you find one it is usually clearer than the dark blue stamp. The date range is based on the fact that other Medalta Stoneware stamps replaced it and at the same time the style of the number giving the gallon size changed as well. Note that the name Stone Ware on this stamp is two words not one as are the later Stoneware stamps.



G.2

1916-1924

This is a specialized stamp used only to mark the Purity water filter. It has been seen only in the dark blue. Since it has not been possible to determine when the water filter first went into production it has been given the broadest range. Ones produced after 1924 were effectively marked with the same stamp, with Medalta Stoneware Ltd. being changed to Medalta Potteries Ltd. (see stamp G.8).



G.3

1918-1922

This stamp, observed only in dark blue, is presumably the second one used by Medalta. It is placed here as the next stamp is more similar to the first of the Medalta Potteries Ltd. stamps. Also the numerals to mark the gallon size are more similar to the earlier ones than the later ones. I have

overlapped the date of this stamp with G-1 and the G-4 varieties as it has not been possible to pin down the dates when one replaced the other.



G.4.a

1920-1924

This variation, observed only in dark blue, differs from the next variety in that the line under the word "STONEWARE" covers "NEWARE" rather than just "WARE". Also there is a short line above the "WA" (sometimes blotted), and the word



"ALBERTA" at the bottom is closer to and appears to follow the curve of the oval. It is the longer underlining and following the curvature of the oval that suggests this stamp is the one used after G.3, but admittedly I cannot be sure as very few samples of this variation have been observed.

G.4.b

1920-1924

This variation is one of the commonest ones suggesting that it was in use for a longer period of time than the other varieties. Only dark blue stamps have been observed so far.

**G.4.c**

1922-1924

This variation, also only found in dark blue, differs from the others in not having any underlining in the word STONEWARE, the lettering being thinner or more delicate, and the oval being more elongated.



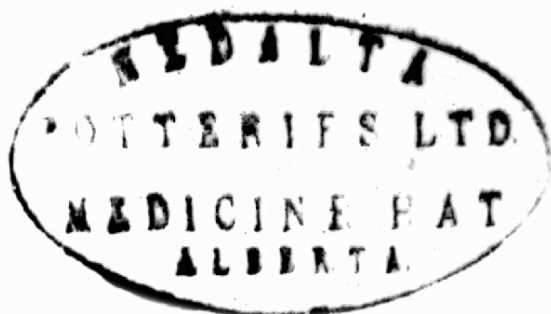
Stylistically it is very similar to the next stamp G.5.a which is the Medalta Potteries Ltd. version of this one. Both of these stamps are found on what is known as the "string line" crocks; called this as they have an embossed ridge encircling the crock just a few inches down from the rim. The string line crocks are the ones shown in the 1924 Medalta catalogue, and we know that they were not in use for too many years as they are not found in the imperial sizes.

G.5.a

1924-1927

Based on the similarity of this stamp to the preceding one and its presence on the string line crocks, I believe this stamp was the first of the Medalta Potteries Ltd. ones.

I suggest 1927 as a closing date as Medalta had replaced its American wine measure crocks with imperial sized ones by then.

**G.5.b to f**

1926-1954

There are at least five variations of the main oval-shaped Medalta Potteries Ltd. stamp, the differences due to underlining and punctuation marks. The stamp is found in a variety of colours depending on the products it is on. Dark blue to black are the common ones but reddish brown is also fairly easy to find. The white stamp is much rarer and is often found on a cobalt blue or



black background. I suspect that the use of this stamp was largely discontinued around 1940 as the majority of items exhibiting it are also found with later stamps on them. The date has been left open for now as some of the stoneware products - water coolers, pickle crocks, butter crocks and churns - have not been seen with later stamps on them although they were available right through to 1954. It might have remained in use until 1954, limited to use on the large stoneware items. I do think that the punctuation varieties may turn out to be a good date indicators, but for now I cannot pin them down except to say they are later than the others.



G.6

1920-30

The date range of this stamp is not yet known as it only appears on one gallon jugs. The



stamp is undoubtedly early as it is done in the dark blue to black oxide and it is often poorly executed. For the most part it is found on jugs that have the dark brown glazed top rather than the reddish-brown top, and the dark brown is another indicator of early vintage. One collector told me that someone who worked at the Medalta plant had advised him that this stamp was used by Medalta Stoneware Ltd., and I would not be surprised that it was even though I originally thought it dated no earlier than 1930. I would now say that its use was discontinued before 1930.

G.7

1920-30

The date range of this stamp is not known, but an early date is suggested by it having the same features as the



previous stamp. It is found on 3 sizes of jugs (1/2, 1 and 2 gallons), crocks and bed warmers. The bed warmers and jugs usually have dark brown ends or tops, but I have seen a jug with a reddish-brown top. At present there is no way of knowing whether this stamp or G.6 is earlier in date. My guess is that G.7 replaced the G.6 stamp.

G.8

1924-1954

The Medalta Potteries Ltd. variety of the Purity water filter stamp presumably replaced the G.2 stamp. It is assigned a date through to 1954 as the water filter was available the whole time and no other stamps have been observed on this product, but admittedly the sample size is too small to be sure. I have seen only two of them.

**G.9**

1926-1934

This stamp found in black and white oxides is mainly observed on products introduced in the early 1930s, and it has been found on several souvenir pieces firmly dated to 1932. I have extended the range back to 1926 as it is regularly found on Medalta's embossed yellow bowl which was introduced that year. It is usually in black oxide. One of our informants told us that the date was sometimes placed in the centre of the stamp. While no date has been seen, other numbers have been recorded. The first was "104/1100" (the vase and decoration number) and the second was the number "20" which I believe was also a decoration number, not a date.



G.10

1927-1940

This is a product stamp found only on Medalta's egg beater jar. A letter dated 30 December 1926 states that they are looking forward to receiving the egg beater jar being sent to them. Another letter dated 20 January 1938 states that it has not been made for several

**MEDALTA
BEATER JAR
EGGS. CREAM
SALAD DRESSING**

years and that no moulds are on hand, but they made a few new moulds two days later. The beater jar is usually found with encircling blue bands above and below the blue wording, but it can be found without the bands. Could it be that the unbanded jars were the new ones made 1938 or later?

G.11

1930-1954

This is another specialized stamp, limited in use to the ice water jar. I have suggested 1930 for the starting date as ice water jars have been found with several of the G.5 stamps on them, but not any of the later stamps. Presumably this stamp was used right through to 1954 as ice water jars were one of Medalta's mainstays.

ICE WATER
~~~~~  
**MEDALTA**  
**MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA**

**G.12**

1926-1934

The stamp has only been observed on the side of a miniature crock, and for that reason cannot yet be dated to a specific year. That it is early is inferred by its design which is similar to G.6 and by the other stamps where the name “Medalta” is found alone. Half a dozen of Medalta’s advertising items dating to the late twenties have the slogans within a bordering single or double rectangle.

**G.13.a and G.13.b**

1930-1932

In retrospect it might have been better to give each of these stamps its own number as they are different in their wording. The first variety only states “MEDALTA” while the other also has the words “MADE IN CANADA” below the company’s name. Both varieties have been seen only in white oxide so far. The “a” variety has been found on a polar bear and one of Medalta’s first lamp bases while the “b” variety has appeared only on the buffalo figurine. I believe this stamp or method of identifying the item as one made by Medalta to be an early way of marking the piece. The date range is based on the bear and buffalo first being introduced in 1930. Also, the hand lettering is similar to that used for advertising and souvenir slogans dated to the early 1930s.



## G.14

1932-1942

This stamp is found in two discreet sizes. The smaller one is only 2.0 cm long while the other is 2.6 cm in length. The larger size is the same length as the impressed stamp M.7 and the “MEDALTA” part of the G.32 stamp. The date range is broad at present due to the small sample size. It has only been found on two lamp bases, a miniature unhandled chamber pot, the small round matchbox holder ashtray, the two piece ashtray and a blood testing dish. The lamps were both introduced in 1938, the matchbox ashtray came out in 1934, the two piece ashtray is a coronation commemorative dating to 1937 and the blood testing dish is mentioned in a letter dated July 1940. The miniature cannot be pinned down in date.



## G.15

1930-1932

So far it has shown up only in black oxide, but the sample size is presently very small. It is one of Medalta's stamps that is fairly hard to find. This stamp has been observed on Medalta's wall plaque, the large size of its early lamp, a 10" high No. 104 vase, a miniature chamber pot and a miniature jug. Several of these products, the wall plaque and lamp, were first introduced in 1930 suggesting the date range for this stamp. In my opinion, it was in use for a very short period of time, perhaps only in 1930. This stamp was placed on the side of the miniatures and undoubtedly served to advertise Medalta's products. Both miniatures could well have been factory giveaways.



**G.16.a and G.16.b**

1930-1936

All examples have been executed in black oxide. The difference between the two variations is relatively minor with the placement of the name Medicine Hat being slightly different, and it is probably accounted for by the variation that one finds between two orders of rubber stamps. The best indication of the date of this pair of stamps comes from finding it on Medalta's early artwares, including its first small lamp and three different styles of vases. At least one of them is a handmade vase. It has also shown up on the cracker box, trivet, rope handle style of cookie jar and the plain round flat ashtray. The ashtray and trivets are advertising pieces which appear to date to 1935 and 1936 respectively. The cracker boxes advertising Ogilvie's products have not been accurately dated as yet, but the cracker box was first introduced in 1932. Perhaps in time the date range can be narrowed, but as it is a fairly uncommon stamp I am not too hopeful.

**G.17**

1930-1936

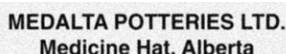
This stamp is effectively the same as G.16 except that the name Medicine Hat has been dropped. As only two examples of this stamp has been seen, it cannot be accurately placed other than to say it must be around the same time as the named varieties. It was on a seven inch high style No. 104 vase which by its splattered lacquer decoration dates to the early 1930s and a lacquered finished buffalo dating to about 1931.



## G.18

1930-1934

This stamp is effectively the same as the next one except the lettering of the second line is in upper and lower case rather than all upper case. So far it has only been found on a polar bear and a 12" high No. 104 vase finished with the swallow over lily pads decoration.

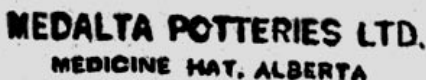


MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.  
Medicine Hat, Alberta

## G.19

1930-1934

The measurement from "M" to "D." in MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD., varies from 5.2 to 5.6 cm., and several varieties have been seen including one without the period after "LTD" and/or a comma after "HAT". These variations could well be poor stampings or flaws in the rubber stamp. At present they are not considered important. The stamp can be found by itself or in association with others, particularly G.22 or G.23 - the maple leaf and G.20 - Made in Canada. The initial date is based on the stamp commonly being found on products and/or decorations first introduced in the early 1930s such as the handpainted tankard pitchers, wall plaques, buffalo, polar bear and style Nos. 104 and 112 vases. It has not been found on any products introduced after 1932 and therefore it has been given a fairly narrow date range.



MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.  
MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

## G.20

1930-1934

This stamp found in both black and white oxides is usually found in association with other stamps, but not always. It has been found

alone and as such often goes unrecognized as a Medalta stamp. Alone it has been found on the handpainted tankard pitcher, casserole plate, large cookie jar and vase No. 101. Once again the products on which it is found all date to the early 1930's.



MADE IN CANADA

**G.21**

1930-1954

This stamp found in black oxide is not well dated as it appears on a limited number

**MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.**  
**MEDICINE HAT**  
**ALBERTA**

of products mainly crocks, jugs and foot warmers. It also appears as an advertisement on the side of miniature chamber pots and miniature jugs. The suggested starting date is based on the stamp appearing on round top vinegar jugs which were first recorded in the stock ledger in 1931. As to the end date, it has been left open for now even though I believe this stamp was in use for only a few years. This stamp is not too common, and if it was used over a long period of time one would expect to see it more often.

**G.22**

1930-1932

There are two varieties of this stamp, a large and a small one. I have given them separate numbers as the large one appears to be more limited in use than the small one. The stamp is found alone and in combination with the G.19 stamp. It has been found on the handpainted globe style teapots, teapot trivets, tankard style pitchers and the 104 vase. The best indication of the closing date of 1932 comes from the tankard pitcher which



was discontinued that year. If I had to guess as to why Medalta stopped using this stamp, I would say it was because of its size. It is really quite an attractive one and invariably it came out quite clear, but on the bottom of a 1 pint pitcher it surely filled the space! There is no correlation between the size of the stamp and the size of the pitcher; the large stamp is just as likely to be on a 1 pint pitcher as on a 2 pint one.

**G.23**

1930-1942

The small maple leaf stamp is found on the same products as the large maple leaf, and many more including the flat ashtray, beer stein, ice-water pitcher, wall plaque, Churchill jug, candlestick and seven styles of vases. The Churchill jug and several of



the vases, introduced as new products in 1941, show the length of time this stamp was in use. When this stamp is found in gold oxide, the piece probably dates after 1940. The ones using a black oxide appear to have been used throughout the date range.

**G.24**

1936-1942

This stamp and the next one are obviously related, differing only in the wording in the middle of the maple leaf; one simply says "Canada" the other "Made in Canada". In turn, it is probably safe to say that all the maple leaf varieties are related and close to one another in date. This and the next stamp are difficult to date as they are found on so few products. This variety has appeared on the lug handled casserole, ice water pitcher, Elite sugar bowl, baby plate, large platter and rarebit dish.



**G.25**

1936-1942

This stamp has been seen less often than G.24, but both are in fact quite hard to find. It has been found on the Cyma pitcher, Elite creamer and rarebit dish. I think that this stamp and its mate G.24 may have been in use before the next two stamps, G.26 and G.27, but my reason for saying so is based on nothing more than the seeming popularity of each pair of stamps. They are seen on products far less often than the next pair of stamps. Perhaps Medalta did not like the overall design of the first pair and quickly replaced them with the new pair.

**G.26.a and G.26.b**

1936-1942

This pair and the following stamp also are obviously related. In this stamp, the difference between the a and b variety is the size of the lettering on the lower curve, one is notably smaller than the other. In my opinion, though, this is not useful as a time indicator; it is only the difference that can occur from one order of rubber stamps to the next. The stamp is found on products coming out after 1936 such as the Cyma pitcher (1937), the Elite



sugar and creamer

(1938), ice water pitcher and tumblers set and a variety of hotel china pieces. On dated items it has been found on the 1939 bowl advertising Toshach's shoes and a flat ashtray celebrating the 50th anniversary of the I.O.O.F. in Alberta. At present it has only been found on one of Medalta's artwares, the No. 1 vase.



**G.27**

1936-1942

This stamp is found on the same range of products as the G.26 stamps. In fact, you can sometimes find the same advertising item with one of the two stamps. The Toshach bowl is one such example, showing that both stamps were in use at the same time. This stamp has been found on more artwares, including the No. 1 vase, No. 23 jardiniere and No. 71 vase.

**G.28**

1938-1942

I have dated this stamp a bit later than the other maple leaf varieties as it is found on artwares that were introduced in 1939 or later. So far it has shown up on eleven different products, two of them vases that were designed in 1941. The suggestion is there that this stamp followed the other maple leaf varieties, but I would like to see a little more evidence before drawing that conclusion. It is one of the hard to find maple leaf stamps.



**G.29**

1938-1940

This is also a rare Medalta stamp found on only a few products thereby making it difficult to accurately date it. The presence of the maple leaf suggests a time period near the other maple leaf stamps, but just where it fits in the succession, if indeed these stamps replaced one another, is not known at present. The items it is found on are of little help. They include the miniature crock, stoneware jam jar, round flat ashtray and the Old French Church picnic set. Only the picnic set is well dated to May 1938, and my guess is that this stamp was used for only a short time around then. On the miniature crock, the stamp served as an advertisement since it was on the side and not the bottom as for the other products.

**G.30.a and G.30.b**

1935-1938

One variety of this stamp has shown up. It is one without "Medicine Hat" in the centre, but so far it is a single occurrence found on a miniature crock. The main stamp is frequently found on advertising items that Medalta produced, particularly the round flat ashtray, and almost all of them have been dated to 1936 or 1937.

A few might date to late 1935. The other products it has appeared

on are the horseshoe-shaped ashtray, gourd ashtray, matchbox ashtray, teapot trivet or stand, machine made mixing bowl and the old style beer stein.

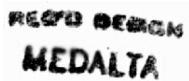


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**G.31**

1936-1948

This stamp and the next one, G.32, a variety of it, are found only on the stetson-shaped ashtray. It was one of the few products for which Medalta took out a registered design, and this stamp was designed to show that. It remained in use for at least 20 years. Ashtrays made after 1948 are marked with one of the “Vitrified” stamps rather than this one, but one advertising ashtray dating to 1948 had both stamps on it. The starting date of 1936 is once again based on when this product was first designed.

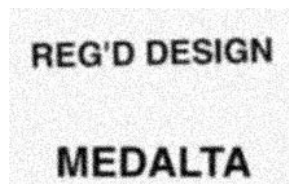


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**G.32**

1936-1938

This stamp differs from the one above in that the lettering is larger and that it seems to have been two separate rubber stamps as the “Reg’d Design” is sometimes well removed from the word “Medalta”. The word Medalta in this stamp measures 2.6 cm. while the G.31 variety is only 1.8 cm. in length. One of the busiest years for Medalta producing advertising, souvenir and commemorative hat ashtrays was in 1937. It seems that everyone wanted one or, if not the stetson hat, the flat round ashtray. The sales records show that well over 100 different orders were placed, but until actual products are seen one cannot tell which ashtray was ordered as both styles sold for the same price, \$21.50 for a gross or about 15 cents each. What is interesting, though, is that all seven of the hat ashtrays with this particular stamp variation are either dated 1937 or found in the 1937 sales records.



**G.33**1937-1954

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There are more variations than the one I have included, but they are so minor that one can only pick them up with the greatest of care. And I must admit that I did not really look



for variations or spend the time recording them. They are all either slight differences in the size or configuration of the lettering, and as far as I can tell only what you would expect to find each time a new batch of rubber stamps was made. This is perhaps the most common of all Medalta's rubber stamps. It can be found on some of the smaller stonewares, most of the artwares, the domestic wares and even some of the hotel china. It was definitely in use by 1939 as it is on a dated advertising item from that year. Other dated pieces are found for 1940, 1941, 1944 and probably 1949. The 1949 piece could date a year or two earlier. Perhaps this stamp was abandoned when Medalta introduced its dated stamps in 1951, but as I cannot be sure the date range has been left open.

**G.34**1937-1954

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This stamp is basically the same design as G.33 with the addition of the word "Vitrified" at the bottom. It is a rarely seen stamp which, so far, has been found only on the flared base coffee mug and the mountain goat figurine. The date of initial production of that style of coffee mug is not yet known, but the mountain goat was being sold by February 1940. But I do not think it dates this early.



The use of the word vitrified first shows up on other stamps which date from 1947 to 1954, and on that basis I would date this stamp quite late. For now, though, the date has been left open. Hopefully further examples will turn up to help pin it down.

**G.35**

1937-1954

Once again, this stamp is basically the same design as G.33, but in this case the factory name and location has been split by a date. As it has been seen only on a plain white 9 1/2" dinner plate, the date range cannot be narrowed at present.

**G.36.a and G.36.b**

1937-1940

This pair of stamps differ slightly in the diameter of the circle and in the configuration and size of the lettering. In my opinion, the variation is normal and not useful for helping to narrow the date range any further. These stamps have appeared only on hotel china so far. I believe them to be one of the first stamps used to mark hotelwares, and there are two lines of evidence to suggest this. First of all, the clay used in making the products with these stamps on them often exhibits black specks due to iron impurities in it and it was not until 1939 that Medalta acquired a magnetic separator. The other evidence is the use of stilts instead of pins when stacking the plates for firing. From 1940 to 1941 Medalta switched from stilts to pins.

**G.37**

1937-1947

Very little is known about this stamp as it has only been seen on a Dominion cup and a coffee mug. Both items were plain white. Presumably, this stamp was only in use for a very short period of time, but just when that was is not known. In its wording it is similar to G.36, so it might just turn out to be an early hotelware stamp.



**G.38.a and G.38.b**

1937-1947

The dated variation of this stamp has only been recorded on a single item so far. It had the month "APR" below the

stamp. The main stamp was chiefly used on hotelwares but is has been found on some artwares, particularly the 500 series

lamp bases. This series of lamps came into production in 1942 or later and all were made using Medalta's white clay. The other two lamp bases it was on - No.424 and 430 - were introduced in 1940.

**G.39**

1937-1947

This stamp is identical to G.38 except it has no surrounding square. As only a couple of examples have been seen on hotel china so far, it is not possible to say much about it.

**G.40.a and G.40.b**

1940-1945

There are two varieties of this not too common stamp;

one with a surrounding rectangular border and one without the border. At present, I cannot determine which may have been used before the other, but the bordered variety is far more commonly found than the other. The month in the middle of the stamp probably included

all twelve. So far I have seen all but February, September and October. The presence/absence of the border may only be a reflection of the stamp for a specific month. The January, June and July stamps have only been found unbordered, and the others only with the border. The sample size is

small though and this could well change as more pieces are examined. The December marking was a bit different as I have seen "D 6" and "DEC 6". The G.40 stamps appear to be found on a very limited variety of products. The Saxon, Dominion and boullion cups;



stacking coffee mug; 6, 7 and 9" dinner plates; and the toothpick holder are all recorded so far. Plain white and green band items are included along with a plate bearing the B.C. crest. Plates were also made for the Canadian National System and the Canadian Pacific B.C. Coast Steamship. In January 1941 Medalta was asked if they could copy the B.C. government crest, but just when they did so is not definitely known, although it was before 1946. What do the dates mean? Ed. Phillipson suggested to me that it had to do with quality control. When things went wrong, Medalta wanted to know which batch it was and when it happened, so that they could check on the cause. I think it also may have had something to do with meeting the quotas set by the War Department. But whatever the reason, it seems to have been discontinued after the war.

## G.41

1940-1945

This stamp is presumably related to G.40.b as it is the same stamp except that there is no month designation. It has only been found on one style of vase and a few hotelwares, so it cannot be placed in time except for its similarity to the one above. It has not been found on any named hotel china pieces or advertising items. The one vase it was found on is an unnumbered one, made using the white burning clay, which probably went into production after 1942.



## G.42

1940-1941

This is a special stamp found only on the Winston Churchill toby jug. It probably was in use for only a couple of months while Medalta was waiting for approval of its registered design number found on its next stamp. A letter dated 6 February 1941 reads in part: *"Am mailing copyright stamp today to you. This is to be substituted for the temporary stamp sent you at first on all production of the Churchill jug."*<sup>20</sup> The first run of these jugs was in December 1940.



**G.43**

1941-1945

Just when Medalta stopped making the Churchill jug is not known, but I suspect it was by the end of WW II. This is the copyright stamp used on the Winston Churchill toby jug.

**G.44**

1937-1954

This is a specialized stamp used to mark hotel china made for Bell, Rinfret & Co. Ltd. I have no idea as to when it was in use, except for the fact that it was on hotel china. So far, it has only appeared on a white 10 inch plate and a rimmed soup. The plate shows stilt marks so it could turn out to be an early hotelware stamp, but a larger sample size is needed before any firm conclusions are drawn.

**G.45**

1937-1954

This stamp is a specialized one used to mark hotel china made for Cassidy's Limited. It has been seen only on a turquoise rimmed soup and a cup. The only clue to its date comes from a letter in the Medalta files dated 5 May 1941 which shows an imprint of the stamp.



**G.46.a and G.46.b**

1942-1947

The two main varieties of this stamp differ in the diameter of the enclosing circle and in the placement of the lettering. At present, I do not think that the differences are useful for narrowing the date range. This stamp is also found as an impressed one, M.29. Originally, I had tentatively dated this stamp from 1937 to 1943, but now I am convinced it was mainly used after the war.



It is found on hotelwares but just as commonly, or even more so, it is found on a large number of domestic and artware products including a couple of lamp bases and 16 styles of vases. The vases are all ones that came into production after 1942. The dated pieces it has been found on all date to 1944, but it was also on a piece made for the 34 S.F.T.S. (Service Flying Training School) in Medicine

Hat, one of the WW II flying schools located in Alberta.

**G.47.a and G.47.b**

1942-1947

This stamp's variations are once again one of size and placement of the lettering. It is sometimes found with a number (in various sizes) off to one side of the stamp. These numbers are explained under the G.51 stamp. The one variety, often found on bean pots, has the wording within the stamp compressed; it is noticeably much closer together. Again, I do not feel the differences are significant for refining the date



range, but this pair of stamps is indeed useful to date bean pots, chicken fountain saucers and spittoons. It is one of the few stamps other than the G.5 series that is found on stonewares. It may date earlier than 1942, but as the four vases on which it has been found date to 1942 or later, I place it here.

**G.48**

1942-1947

The dated variety has only been seen once, and it was on an oval platter bearing the B.C. provincial crest. The month “APR” was located below the stamp, and it was probably a separate stamp as suggested by its alignment.

**G.49.a and G.49.b**

1942-1947

The dated variety has been found only on one item while the other has been seen on a good number of products, almost all of them hotelwares. The one exception was a 10 inch dinner plate in the “thumbprint” pattern,

**MEDALTA  
DEC  
CANADA**

Medalta's third dinnerware set made for use in the home. This pattern has a decorative, raised, joining circular pattern all around the rim, but just when it came out is not presently known, although it was probably at the end of or just after WW II. The

**MEDALTA  
CANADA**

dated variety, reading DEC, was on a green banded Ovide cup.

**G.50**

1945-1954

This stamp is not well dated as it has been seen on too few objects. So far it has only been found on vases which were initially produced sometime after 1942. At the earliest, I date it a few years later as Medalta was not making hardly any artwares during the war years.

**SOUVENIR**  
Made by  
**Medalta Potteries Ltd.**  
**Medicine Hat, Alta.**

## G.51

1947-1950

This stamp has more variations than any other stamp. I finally gave up trying to record all of them as most are not helpful in refining the date range. Two obviously are though - the ones where a date is found below the stamp. In addition, the variation with the number "502" in association with the stamp is also a dated variety, and it is actually found quite often. These three dated varieties have been assigned different stamp numbers, but the rest are still all lumped together. The variations that have been recorded, and there are probably others, include:

1. omission of the "IN"

2. omission of the "N" in "IN"

3. the numerals 1, 2, 3 and 4 found in various positions around the stamp - from right side up, to upside down, to sideways in relationship to the main stamp. Another oval shape may be a zero or an O.

4. letters and figures found around the stamp, also with various orientations, including C, V and a star.

The Medalta employees who were asked about these variations could not shed any information on why they were used, but the products themselves might, at least for the numbered ones. One of the commonest products with the numbered varieties on them is the oval baker. It came in three sizes - 6, 9 and 12 oz. - and the 1 is found on the 6 oz., the 2 on the 9 oz. and the 3 on the 12 oz.

On other products such as a saucer and a fruit saucer which had threes on them, I have no idea what it may have stood for. The only 4 which I have seen was also on a saucer for a cup.



This stamp is well dated as it was introduced by Fred March who took over ownership of the Medalta plant in 1947. While this stamp is mainly found on hotel china, it does appear on a fairly wide variety of products including 3 styles of ashtrays, a spittoon, chamber pot, casserole, pie plate, Cypress pitcher, basket-weave teapot, syrup jug, jardiniere and 4 styles of vases.

### G.52.a and G.52.b

1949 & 1950

This pair of stamps is the dated variety of the G.51 stamp. The date appears to be a separate stamp from the main one as the alignment and size of the date is not always the same. So far only 1949 and 1950 have been found, and the date has always been below the main stamp, but I would not be surprised if a 1948 one shows up. The reason for the



dates is not presently known as they were not regularly applied. Some advertising hat ashtrays dated 1949 do not have the date below the stamp. Dated 1949 pieces include items made for the Canadian

National Railway and the White Spot restaurant; 1950, the Canadian National Railway, Grant Hotel, and the Lingnan and Foodcraft restaurants.



## G.53

1950

A Medalta employee advised that "502" stood for the second half of 1950 - July to December. It was a means of quality control. If something went wrong and complaints came in, the staff would have some idea as to when it happened and perhaps could

determine why. The stamp is found mainly on hotel china, but it has been seen on several vases with style numbers in the 600s and the hat ashtray.



## G.54

1949-1954

This stamp is not found very often and is therefore hard to date with any degree of accuracy. It appears to follow G.51 as it simply says "Vitrified" (rather than "Vitrified Ware") as on the dated stamps which follow from 1951 to 1954. Perhaps it is a variety of the dated 1954 stamp, but it is not just one where the 5 is missing as the 4 is not aligned correctly for that. I have placed it here with a broad date range as it could turn out to be a 1949 stamp. In time we will be able to date it firmly, as the plates made in 1954 are quite different from the ones made in the late 1940s. Only a larger sample size is needed.



## G.55

1951

This is the first of the dated vitrified stamps. In this year the date is found within a square border while the next three are just the year. It is predominantly found on hotelwares but it has shown up on the basket-weave mixing bowl and teapot, Cypress pitcher, syrup jug and 3 styles of ashtrays.



**G.56**

1952

The date "52" can be found in several distinct sizes due to variability in the rubber stamps. Another variety that appears quite frequently - the one which has no 5 in front of the 2 - has been given a separate number. Once again it is a hotelware stamp that is found occasionally on other items such as the syrup jug and teapot trivet.

**G.57**

1952

This stamp occurs so often that it has been assigned its own code number. In my opinion it is simply a faulty G.56 stamp as the 2 is in alignment where it should be.

**G.58**

1952

This stamp is another variation of the G.56 stamp, only differing in having the pattern name at the bottom of the main Medalta stamp. While I have not yet seen many examples of this stamp, it appears to be a single stamp rather than a combination of G.56 and a separate stamp for the pattern name. So far it has only been found on the Dominion style of cup and accompanying saucer. The name CHARM presumably stands for the decorative band encircling the cups and rim of the saucers. The decorative band has been observed in both blue and brown colours, but I should also point out that I have seen at least one example of this pattern that did not have the CHARM stamp on the bottom.



## G.59

1953

So far no variations of this hotelware stamp have been noted, other than finding numerals associated with it as discussed under stamp G.51. It has been found on two styles of ashtrays, Jiffy dinner plate and style No. 128 jardiniere in addition to a wide range of hotelwares.



## G.60

1954

There are really no varieties of this stamp other than the presence of the associated numeral 2 that we have noted on other stamps. However, in this instance the variety with the 2 seems to be the norm and an integral part of the stamp. The 2 is always in the top righthand corner and it is not limited in use to the oval bakers. It is pretty well on everything. In fact, it is the one without the number two that is seldom seen. Once again it is found on a few products other than hotelwares such as the horseshoe-shaped ashtray and the No. 128 jardiniere.



## G.61.a and G.61.b

1952-1954



The differences in the varieties are only one of size. That it is a Medalta stamp was confirmed by finding it on a "Ranchman's Club" plate which was double stamped, but it is more often found alone. Besides hotelwares, it



has been seen on two styles of ashtrays. Even though this a late stamp, it is found on Medalta's heavy hotelwares, not the thinner, theatre giveaway dishes that came out after 1952.

## G.62.a and G.62.b

1950-1954

This is a specialized stamp for use only on hotelwares decorated with the “Mountain Trails” patterns. The only difference between the two noted varieties is the

addition of the word “Canada”

at the bottom of the stamp. It appears that “Canada” is a separate stamp from the main one as the alignment of the

word varies from straight to slightly angular. This pattern of dishes, along with “Cattle Country” which also had its own stamp (G.63), came about when a family in Lethbridge had Medalta make these dishes for them. The attractive designs of a moose, ram, deer’s

head, elk and squirrel were all by E.F. Hagell, a Lethbridge artist and a friend of the family. Pine cones and leaves complemented the animal scenes.

REG'D. DESIGN  
MOUNTAIN  
TRAILS  
CANADIAN  
WESTERN  
ART  
SPECIALTIES  
BY MEDALTA  
CANADA

REG'D. DESIGN  
MOUNTAIN  
TRAILS  
CANADIAN  
WESTERN  
ART  
SPECIALTIES  
BY MEDALTA

## G.63

1950-1954

This specialized stamp was for use on hotelwares decorated with the “Cattle Country” patterns. The images, also by Hagell, included a branding scene with a mounted cowboy dragging a calf, crossed branding irons, cowboy boots with an encircling bull whip, a bridle and reins and a saddle.

REG'D DESIGN  
CATTLE  
COUNTRY  
CANADIAN  
WESTERN ART  
SPECIALTIES  
BY MEDALTA  
CANADA

## G.64.a and G.64.b

1953-1954

This specialized stamp was for use on hotel china made for the Wales Hotel of Calgary. Two variations have been observed; one without the numbers “5” and “4” and one where the numbers are on the left and right sides of the stamp. The 5 and 4 even though they are split stands for the year 1954.

The undated variety may just be a 1954 variation or it may have been in use the year before.

The main designs include a cowboy roping a calf and a cowboy on a rearing horse. Associated designs such as those found on the rim of plates include “E [backwards] E” arrow piercing both, “FD 9” in brand style, and “S” in brand style.

**REG'D DESIGN  
HOTEL  
5 WALES 4  
CALGARY  
BY MEDALTA**



## G.65

1950-1954

This is another specialized stamp used to identify the products made for the Harrison Hot Springs. It has been found only on products exhibiting the decorative geometric pattern that marked the products made for the Harrison Hot Springs.

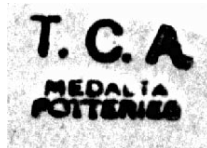
**Made For  
HARRISON  
HOT SPRINGS  
HOTEL  
By MEDALTA**

## G.66.a and G.66.b

1950-1954



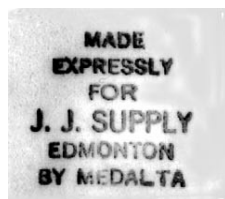
This pair of stamps marked the specially designed deep plate or bowl that was used by the Trans Canada Airlines, now Air Canada. The earliest record I have for this product is 1952, but it could well be earlier.



**G.67**

1950-1954

This stamp, another specialized one, was used to mark the hotelwares made for J.J. Supply of Edmonton. It appears that it only marked the items made for “Frankie’s” as it has not yet been seen on any other named hotelwares or on plainly decorated pieces. Frankie’s was located near the landmark oil derrick that caught your eye as you entered Edmonton from the south, and accordingly the dinner plates depicted this derrick against an attractive blue.

**G.68.a and G.68.b**

1952-1954

This pair of stamps was used to mark the new thinner, theatre giveaway dishes that Medalta produced in its waning years. The designs are much the same as found on the “Cattle Country” series, depicting western scenes. I am not sure that the Hulme series even got into general circulation as it has not shown up in any collections as yet. The examples that I recorded were owned by one of Medalta’s staff members.



**G.69**

1952-1954

This is another specialized stamp used by Medalta to mark its line of theatre giveaway china known as “Stardust”. This set was round in shape and came in half a dozen different colours which were heavily speckled.

**G.70**

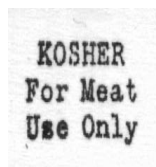
1952-1954

While the name Medalta does not appear on this stamp, it is believed to be one of theirs for two reasons. First of all, the rubber stamp used to make this stamping was among the box of rubber stamps which came from the Medalta plant. Secondly, it is very similar to the “Stardust” pattern. It is found in the same range of colours, differing only in the shape of the pattern. The plates in this pattern are squarish with rounded corners.

**G.71**

1950-1954

I debated whether or not to include this stamp and finally decided to do so as in one instance it is the only stamp found on an Ovide cup made by Medalta. This stamp was on the bottom of a cup which had the name “The Y” on the side. While I have not been able to accurately date this cup, I am sure that it will fall within the suggested date range.



**G.72**1926-1940

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I only recently obtained a photograph of this stamp, and therefore it is being added to the end of the oxide series rather than inserting it where it belongs and renumbering all the stamps that came into use after it. It is a specialized product stamp for use on the lettuce/vegetable crisper jar. This jar was in

fact only a 10 lb. butter crock with this special stamp on the side as far as I can tell. None of the examples that I examined had a lid, so we do not yet know how it was marketed. Perhaps there was no difference between it and the butter crock, but for all we know it may have had a special lid or one with a rubber seal. For now this stamp has been given a very broad date range as the butter crocks have not been studied to see how the moulds changed over time.

**G.73**1936-1942

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This variation of the maple leaf stamps has just come to my attention, so it too is being added to the end rather than in chronological sequence. As to its dating, until the sample size is larger we can only presume that it was in use about the same time as those assigned numbers G.24 to G.28.



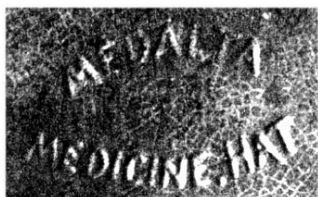
## Mould Stamps

### M.1.a, M.1.b and M.1.c

1926-1934

The three varieties noted so far are ones where the lettering is around the top and bottom borders, where it is lenticular (sometimes very slight) and where the lettering is parallel. The arced variety, M.1.a, is found on the jam or tobacco jar, the plain Astoria type of spittoon, the fancy spittoon and the white lined cane bowls. The M.1.b variety has appeared only on the barrel-shaped pitcher while the M.1.c has been seen only on the brown variety of the fluted stoneware bowl. The

stamps on the cane bowls vary with the size of the bowl which ranged from 4 to 12 inches in diameter. Dating is based on the fact that some of these products are illustrated in Medalta's 1924 catalogue, and the ones that are not were in production before 1930.



### M.2

1926-1934

This stamp was probably designed to mark a particular style of Medalta bowl that ranged from 5 to 10 inches in diameter. Other sizes may have been available, but I cannot positively identify this bowl in the Medalta records and it is not illustrated in the 1924 Medalta catalogue. The stamp has only been observed on this bowl,



albeit on four different sizes - 7, 8, 9 and 10 inches in diameter. The stamp on the only 5 inch bowl of this style was illegible. Once again the size of the stamp changes with the size of the bowl.

### **M.3.a, M.3.b and M.3.c**

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1930-1954

This stamp has three varieties; one that is horizontal, one that is arced upwards and one that is arced downwards. The size of the lettering varies



quite a bit depending on the product it is on - usually the larger the item, the larger the stamping. The horizontal stamp is found on the forest and style No. 110 jardinières, large handled cookie jar and small unhandled cookie



jar; the upper arc variety on the chamber pot, fancy spittoon, and the large cookie jar; and the lower arc variety on style No. 101, 102 and 103 vases as well as the No. 109 jardiniere. All of these products were introduced by 1931. The date has been left open as some of the products marked with these stamps may have still be available in 1954.



**M.4.a and M.4.b**

1930-1940

There are two known varieties of this stamp and each may be exclusive to the product on which it is found. The first variety encircles the bottom of one of Medalta's jardinières which can be found in several different sizes. Later, in the 1930s, this jardinière was apparently assigned style No. 4. The second variety has been recorded on the cracker box which was available by 1932. The end date of 1940 has been assigned as new moulds for each item were probably available by then.



**M.5**

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1926-1935

This stamp is found on Medalta's fluted stoneware mixing bowl which is illustrated in the 1924 catalogue. However, it has shown up only on the ones glazed in brown, and so far only in the 9 and 10 inch sizes. This style of mixing bowl seems to have been discontinued in the early 1930s. The



brown bowls, by the way, were made for Woolworth's, and probably Eaton's, beginning in 1926.

**M.6**

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1930-1932

This impression was produced using a metal stamp, and it can be found in several sizes. The use of this stamp meant that the item was hand-



thrown, and items were made this way for only a short period of time. This stamp was invariably accompanied with the one that reads "MEDALTA", given the number M.7. The two stamps are usually one below the other, but at times they are well separated. This separation clearly indicates that M.6 and M.7 were distinct stamps, but this one has never been found alone although M.7 has. The "Hand Made" stamp is found on most vases<sup>21</sup> with style numbers from 101 to 112, at least two lamp bases, cookie jars, a biscuit barrel with lugs for a wire handle (probably what Medalta called a billikin), beer steins and a few other items.

**M.7**

1930-1934

This impression was also produced using a metal stamp as the lettering is usually accented with a border, and it too is found in several different sizes. While this stamp is more often found in association with M.6, it is found alone, and so far alone it has been seen on cookie jars and a rabbit feeder. It is by far the most common stamp found on the large twist-cord handle cookie jar. I have extended its date range a few years as it is found on some glazed cookie jars which may not have been in production in 1932.

**M.8**

1930-1934

This stamp also appears to be made using a metal stamp as the lines of the letters are sharp, narrow and clear. However, only two examples have been seen, so we should not yet draw any firm conclusions. Also, it has been found only in association with both the M.6 and M.7 stamps, never by itself or with only one of them.

**M.9**

1930-1954

The stamp has been found only on the 10 inch high style No. 104 vase. It might turn out that there are two varieties of this stamp, one with the maple leaf and one without. For now, I am presuming that the two examples where the maple leaf was missing were simply illegible stampings. Both were on heavily glazed pieces, and the maple leaf might have been obliterated by the glaze or the mould might have been a well worn one.



**M.10**

1930-1954

This stamp has only been found on the 12" size of the No. 104 vase, and as far as I can tell there are no varieties. It is often on pieces finished in coloured lacquers dating to the 1930s, but it could have remained in use until the plant closed.

**M.11**

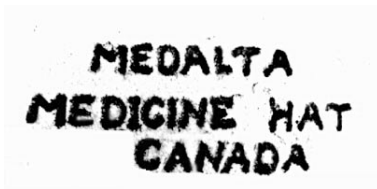
1930-1940

This stamp has been found only on the six inch size of the forest jardiniere and it has been recorded only a couple of times. The more common stamp on this size of the forest jardiniere is the M.3.a one. I have left the beginning of the date range at 1930 as I cannot be sure that it was later even though I suspect that this stamp replaced the M.3.a one. The end of the range, 1940, is suggested due to the observed samples being finished in coloured lacquers rather than glazes.

**M.12**

1930-1954

This stamp has been found on two different products - the seven inch size of Medalta's early fluted base jardiniere and an individual size teapot. Both items are listed in Medalta's 1924 catalogue, so it is possible that this stamp was in use



before the date range I have suggested. I suggest 1930 as a starting date as the other two jardinieres illustrated in the catalogue do not carry any impressed stamping, and this one likely did not either at that early date. The other two jardinieres were discontinued, but this line was expanded from one size to at least two; and, at that time, I believe that new moulds were made incorporating the Medalta name in the bottom.

**M.13**

1932-1954

This marking was specially designed for vase No. 1. In my opinion, it would have been more attractive if all the lettering had been in one direction, and it most certainly would have been easier to read. Vase No. 1 first appears in the stock ledger in 1932 and I cannot be certain that it was discontinued before 1954.

**M.14**

1932-1954

This stamp is effectively the same one as M.15 except for its size. It is noticeably much larger



and ranges from 5.9 to 7.1 cm. in length, depending on the item it is found on. It is found on several styles of casseroles, several mixing bowls, the corrugated mixing bowl and pitcher, a pie plate and several jardinieres. Taken together these products suggest it first came into use around 1933. The Polygon mixing bowl clearly shows that this stamp and M.15 are one and the same depending on the size of the particular piece. The smaller Polygon bowls have the small stamp, the ones above 8" inches in diameter have this one.

**M.15**

1932-1954

There is great size variability in this stamp, once again depending on the specific product. It ranges from 3.8

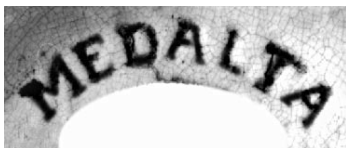


to 5.5 cm. long. This stamp in block letters is perhaps the commonest of the in-mould stamps. It is found on a wide variety of products, particularly vases and planters that first came out during the 1930s. The non artwares it is found on include a spittoon, 3 styles of teapots, and the smaller Polygon mixing bowls. It first came into general use in 1933, but it was still being used to mark pieces first designed in 1941.

**M.16**

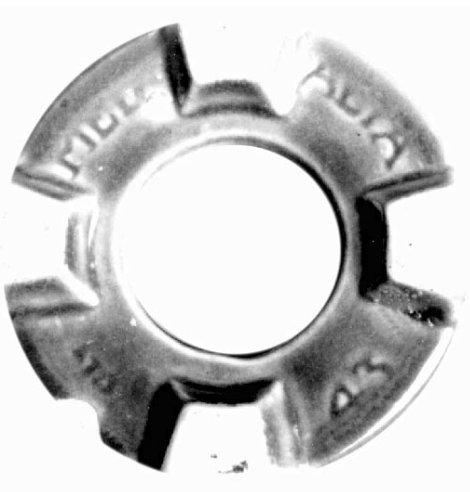
1932-1954

This stamp is essentially the same as M.15 except that it is curved around the top rather than being horizontal. For whatever reason it was not used very often. The main stamp has appeared on only one lamp base, No. 418, and the Cyma pitcher. The pitcher was introduced in 1937 and the lamp base in 1939 or 1940. For now I have given it an early starting date as the sample size is so small.

**M.17**

1936-1954

This stamp which is similar to M.16 has been found only on the lamp base assigned style No. 43. The name "MEDALTA" is split by one of the four stubby legs and the word "LTD." has been added between two of the other legs. If this stamp is confirmed to occur only on this lamp then it dates to 1936, the year this lamp base was introduced. I do not know if this lamp was discontinued before 1954, but it probably was as it is not found in very many collections. Only three samples have been recorded so far.



**M.18**

1932-1954

Once again this is effectively the M.15 stamp placed around the lower curve of an item. It too is found commonly on artwares, mainly lamp bases but also a few vases. As a rule, if the artware is not marked with M.15 then it is marked with this one. Interestingly, it has not been found on any products other than artwares.

**M.19**

1932-1954

This split variety of the M.18 stamp has been recorded only on a stoneware honey pot dating around 1937. The date range has been left fairly broad for now due to the small sample size.

**M.20**

1930-1954

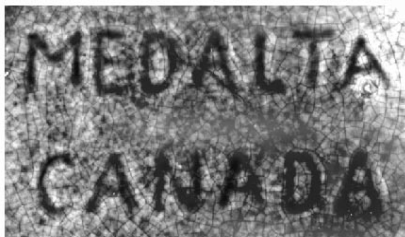
This stamp has only been observed on one size of the globe style teapot. The globe was one of Medalta's most popular lines, in production from 1924 when it was called the Brown Betty, through to at least 1941 and perhaps later. Therefore, it is difficult to date this stamp. Two of the four recorded samples were also stamped with G.33.



**M.21.a to M.21.f**

1926-1954

There are at present six varieties of this stamp based on the orientation of the lettering. Perhaps I have grouped too many stamps together as some of them are only found on a single product, but since they all are in block letters and say only "MEDALTA CANADA" it seems reasonable to illustrate and discuss them together.



a. The parallel variety has been found on the Boston low teapot, Globe teapot, candy bowl and a mixing bowl. The candy bowl and one example of the globe teapot were hand decorated suggesting a date from 1930 to 1934. Two examples of the mixing bowl were double stamped with the dated 1953 and 1954 stamps, G.59 and G.60.



b. The variety arced around the top and bottom is found only on the individual size of the Globe teapot. Again, one example was hand decorated. Most of the others were the usual dark brown but one was black. Black teapots were available by 1927 if not before.



c. The variety where the name is found around the upper arc has only been recorded on the 5 lb. butter crock. In this instance the butter tub was stamped on the side with the "Little Chief" - the trademark of the Medicine Hat Potteries. As this plant did not open until 1938, we at least have some idea as to the date of this particular piece.



d. The divergent variety is found only on the cornucopia-shaped vase, assigned style No. 99, which came out in 1939 or 1940.

e. The variety with the wording forming a lenticular shape has been recorded on the chamber pot and rabbit feeder. Both are stoneware items. The 5 and

7 inch rabbit feeders were available by 1926, while the chamber pot goes back to at least 1922.

f. The variety with the stamp arced around the top and bottom but with the word “MEDALTA” reversed, is found only on the 3 lb. butter crock and the 1/2 gallon size of tall crock. Both products were Medalta mainstays produced before 1922 and right through to 1954.



## M.22

1930-1954

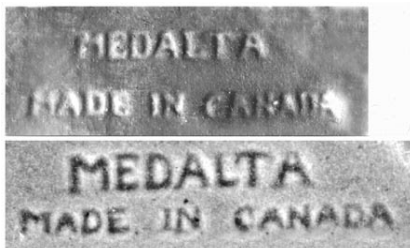


This stamp is found on select Medalta vases, all ones that came out about 1932. Included are style Nos. 60, 65, 70, 80, 90 and 108, and these vases are some of the first ones to be made in moulds. On household products, the stamp appears on the barrel pitcher, the ship style pitcher, meat pie pan and a barrel-shaped jam jar. The pitchers were introduced 1930 and 1932 respectively and the meat pie pan around 1935.

**M.23.a and M.23.b**

1932-1954

The main horizontal variety of this stamp shows the greatest size range of the impressed markings, ranging from 5.4 to 11.3 cm. for the length of the "Made in Canada" line. The only artware it appears on is vase No. 5 which was introduced in 1932. Later,



around 1938, it is found on the ice water pitcher, a mixing bowl, oval casserole, au gratin and rarebit dish. The lenticular variety of this stamp has been noted only on an oval roasting pan which came into production in 1938 or later.

**M.24.a, M.24.b and M.24.c**

1930-1940

This stamp has been noted in three varieties, the



the top and the bottom, another similar to the first but having different sized lettering and the third in a half circle shape. The circular variety has been noted on the



Globe teapot, candy bowl and barrel pitcher. Some of the teapots are dated advertising pieces from 1935. The second variety has been found on a mixing bowl and a stoneware pudding bowl while the third has been found only on the individual size of the Globe teapot. Many of the products bearing these stamps were discontinued by 1940.



**M.25**

1930-1954

This stamp unless it is found in combination with one stating “Medalta” would not be recognized as a Medalta stamp, and quite frankly I cannot be sure that all products marked this way are in fact Medalta’s. Perhaps other companies also marked their products in a similar fashion. What we can say is that if you find a Boston low teapot with the M.25 stamp, it is probably Medalta’s. The other style of teapot marked this way was not double stamped, so there is a chance it was made by someone else.

**M.26**

1930-1954

The embossed variety of the “Made in Canada” stamp has only been seen on the small Boston low teapot. The only clue as to its date range comes from the teapot made for the Ranchmen’s Club dating to the 1950s. Other teapots with this stamp were all brown suggestive of a much earlier date.

**M.27**

1945-1954

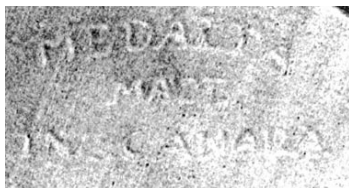
This variety of the “Made in Canada” stamp has been observed on only two products, the buffalo figurine and the Cypress pitcher. While the buffalo was available from 1931, this is a new mould probably made in the 1940s, and the Cypress pitcher appears to have been introduced around 1950.



**M.28**

1938-1954

This stamp seems to have been specially designed for the swan-shaped planter as that is the only product it has appeared on. It was introduced in 1938 and presumably was available right through to 1954.

**M.29**

1942-1954

The stamp appears to have been made with a metal stamp due to its sharpness. Two sizes have been found, one 1.9 cm. in diameter and the other 2.2 cm. Besides hotel china - and only plates and a soup bowl so far - it has been found on a teapot. It is obviously related to G.46 and therefore has been given the same starting date. The end date has been extended though as it has been found on plates that were also stamped with the dated 51 and 53 stamps (G.55 and G.59).

**M.30**

1930-1940

This stamp has been seen only once and it was on a nine ounce oval baker finished in a dark brown Rockingham glaze. The dark glaze all but obliterates the stamp but it can be read even though it did not show up too well in a photograph. I believe the dark brown glaze represents an early example of a Medalta baking dish, perhaps as early as 1931-32 when Medalta was making meat pie pans. Other styles and colour of glazes were used for the ovenwares made after 1940.

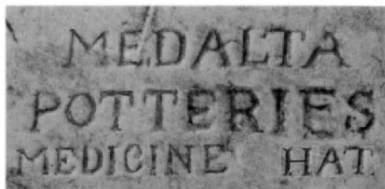


**M.31**

1930-1954

This stamp appears to be limited to a single product which is best described as a large stoneware florist vase with eared handles for carrying it around. I have not been able to date the item itself from Medalta's records, and therefore the suggested date range for the

stamp is based on its similarity to stamps M.9, M.11 and M.30. These are the only impressed stamps where the word POTTERIES is included.



## Paper Labels

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### P.1

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1930-1940

This stamp has been found on both the twist cord and lug handled cookie jars as well as vase No. 5. All examples have been finished in coloured lacquer decorations dating to the early 1930s. One of the cookie jars was dated by its owners to 1931 as they received it as a wedding present.



### P.2

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1932-1945

This stamp with black lettering against a silver background has been observed mainly on artwares - both lamps and vases - and one example of the cracker box. This suggests a starting date of 1932 while the end date of 1945 was assigned on the basis that it has not yet been found on any artwares introduced after 1940.



### P.3

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1932-1945

This stamp is the same as the previous one except the colours are reversed; it is silver lettering against a black background. It has only shown up on artwares introduced during the 1930s. While I cannot yet be 100 percent sure, I believe that this stamp replaced the P.2 one. When you compare the two stamps with the products that they are found on, this stamp appears on items introduced in 1936 while the P.2 one is found on pieces first brought out in 1932. The reason I have given both stamps the same date range is that the sample size of the dark stamp is quite small.



**P.4**

1932-1945

This label has white lettering against a dark blue or navy background. As it has only been seen once, it is difficult to place it in time. It was found on vase No. 69 finished in coloured lacquers which dates it to the late 1930s. Vase No. 69 was introduced in 1936, and the lacquer finishes were probably discontinued about 1940.



## APPENDIX II

Correlation of Symonds, Bulletin No. 12 and Current Stamp Numbers

| Symonds'<br>Nos. | Bulletin No. 12<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. | Dates   |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1                | G.1.1                   | G.1             | 1916-20 |
| 3                | G.1.2                   | G.2             | 1916-24 |
| -                | G.1.3                   | G.3             | 1918-22 |
| -                | G.1.4                   | G.4.a           | 1920-24 |
| 2                | G.1.4                   | G.4.b           | 1920-24 |
| -                | G.1.4                   | G.4.c           | 1922-24 |
| -                | G.2.1                   | G.5.a           | 1924-27 |
| 4                | G.2.1                   | G.5.b to f      | 1926-54 |
| 38               | G.3.4                   | G.6             | 1920-30 |
| 41               | G.3.5                   | G.7             | 1920-30 |
| -                | -                       | G.8             | 1924-54 |
| 25               | G.3.7                   | G.9             | 1926-34 |
| 61               | G.2.2                   | G.10            | 1927-40 |
| 30               | G.3.6                   | G.11            | 1930-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.12            | 1926-34 |
| -                | -                       | G.13.a          | 1930-32 |
| -                | -                       | G.13.b          | 1930-32 |
| -                | -                       | G.14            | 1932-42 |
| -                | G.3.1                   | G.15            | 1930-32 |
| -                | G.3.8a                  | G.16.a          | 1930-36 |
| -                | G.3.8b                  | G.16.b          | 1930-36 |
| -                | -                       | G.17            | 1930-36 |
| -                | -                       | G.18            | 1930-34 |
| 45 & 66          | G.3.2                   | G.19            | 1930-34 |
| -                | G.3.15                  | G.20            | 1930-34 |
| 46               | G.3.3                   | G.21            | 1930-54 |
| -                | G.3.12b                 | G.22            | 1930-32 |
| gold maple leaf  | G.3.12a                 | G.23            | 1930-42 |
| -                | G.3.10b                 | G.24            | 1936-42 |
| -                | G.3.10a                 | G.25            | 1936-42 |
| 21               | G.3.9b                  | G.26.a & b      | 1936-42 |
| 23               | G.3.9a                  | G.27            | 1936-42 |

| Symonds'<br>Nos. | Bulletin No. 12<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. | Dates   |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 22               | G.3.11                  | G.28            | 1938-42 |
| -                | G.3.13                  | G.29            | 1938-40 |
| -                | G.3.14                  | G.30.a & b      | 1935-38 |
| 58               | G.3.16                  | G.31            | 1936-48 |
| -                | -                       | G.32            | 1936-38 |
| 17               | G.3.25                  | G.33            | 1937-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.34            | 1937-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.35            | 1937-54 |
| 16               | G.3.18a                 | G.36.a          | 1937-40 |
| 18               | G.3.18b                 | G.36.b          | 1937-40 |
| 51               | G.3.24                  | G.37            | 1937-47 |
| 14               | G.3.21                  | G.38.a          | 1937-47 |
| -                | -                       | G.38.b          | 1937-47 |
| -                | -                       | G.39            | 1937-47 |
| 13               | G.3.22a                 | G.40.a          | 1940-45 |
| -                | G.3.22b                 | G.40.b          | 1940-45 |
| 65               | G.3.23                  | G.41            | 1940-45 |
| -                | -                       | G.42            | 1940-41 |
| -                | G.4.1                   | G.43            | 1941-45 |
| -                | -                       | G.44            | 1937-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.45            | 1937-54 |
| 19               | G.3.20a                 | G.46.a          | 1942-47 |
| -                | G.3.20b                 | G.46.b          | 1942-47 |
| 39               | G.3.19                  | G.47.a          | 1942-47 |
| -                | G.3.19                  | G.47.b          | 1942-47 |
| -                | -                       | G.48            | 1942-47 |
| 52               | G.3.17                  | G.49.a          | 1942-47 |
| -                | -                       | G.49.b          | 1942-47 |
| -                | G.4.2                   | G.50            | 1945-54 |
| 5                | G.4.3                   | G.51            | 1947-50 |
| -                | G.4.3                   | G.52.a          | 1949    |
| -                | G.4.3                   | G.52.b          | 1950    |
| -                | G.4.3                   | G.53            | 1950    |
| -                | G.4.4                   | G.54            | 1949-54 |

| Symonds'<br>Nos. | Bulletin No. 12<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. | Dates   |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 6                | G.5.1                   | G.55            | 1951    |
| 7                | G.5.2                   | G.56            | 1952    |
| -                | G.5.2                   | G.57            | 1952    |
| -                | -                       | G.58            | 1952    |
| 8                | G.5.3                   | G.59            | 1953    |
| 9                | G.5.4                   | G.60            | 1954    |
| -                | G.5.10                  | G.61.a          | 1952-54 |
| -                | G.5.10                  | G.61.b          | 1952-54 |
| 34               | G.5.6                   | G.62.a          | 1950-54 |
| -                | G.5.6                   | G.62.b          | 1950-54 |
| -                | G.5.7                   | G.63            | 1950-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.64.a          | 1953-54 |
| -                | G.5.5                   | G.64.b          | 1954    |
| -                | -                       | G.65            | 1950-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.66.a          | 1950-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.66.b          | 1950-54 |
| -                | G.5.8                   | G.67            | 1950-54 |
| -                | G.5.9a                  | G.68.a          | 1952-54 |
| -                | G.5.9b                  | G.68.b          | 1952-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.69            | 1952-54 |
| -                | G.5.11                  | G.70            | 1952-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.71            | 1950-54 |
| -                | -                       | G.72            | 1926-40 |
| -                | -                       | G.73            | 1936-42 |
| 11               | M.2.2b                  | M.1.a           | 1926-34 |
| -                | M.2.2a                  | M.1.b           | 1926-34 |
| -                | -                       | M.1.c           | 1926-34 |
| -                | M.3.2                   | M.2             | 1926-34 |
| 43               | M.3.3a                  | M.3.a           | 1930-54 |
| -                | M.3.3b                  | M.3.b           | 1930-54 |
| 47               | M.3.3c                  | M.3.c           | 1930-54 |
| 10               | M.3.1                   | M.4.a           | 1930-40 |
| -                | -                       | M.4.b           | 1930-40 |
| -                | -                       | M.5             | 1926-35 |

| Symonds'<br>Nos. | Bulletin No. 12<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. | Dates   |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 24 & 64          | M.3.6                   | M.6             | 1930-32 |
| 35               | M.3.7                   | M.7             | 1930-34 |
| 64               | M.3.5                   | M.8             | 1930-34 |
| 31               | M.3.15                  | M.9             | 1930-54 |
| 12               | M.3.12                  | M.10            | 1930-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.11            | 1930-40 |
| 36               | M.3.14                  | M.12            | 1930-54 |
| 56               | M.3.16                  | M.13            | 1932-54 |
| 40               | M.3.8                   | M.14            | 1932-54 |
| 20, 28, 29 & 55  | M.3.9a                  | M.15            | 1932-54 |
| 67               | M.3.9c                  | M.16            | 1932-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.17            | 1936-54 |
| 37 & 59          | M.3.9b                  | M.18            | 1932-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.19            | 1932-54 |
| -                | M.3.10                  | M.20            | 1930-54 |
| -                | M.2.1a                  | M.21.a          | 1926-54 |
| -                | M.2.1d                  | M.21.b          | 1926-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.21.c          | 1926-54 |
| 63               | M.2.1b                  | M.21.d          | 1926-54 |
| 26               | M.2.1c                  | M.21.e          | 1926-54 |
| 57               | M.2.1e                  | M.21.f          | 1926-54 |
| 27, 48 & 54      | M.3.13                  | M.22            | 1930-54 |
| 44               | M.3.11                  | M.23.a          | 1932-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.23.b          | 1932-54 |
| -                | M.3.17                  | M.24.a          | 1930-40 |
| -                | -                       | M.24.b          | 1930-40 |
| -                | -                       | M.24.c          | 1930-40 |
| -                | M.3.4                   | M.25            | 1930-54 |
| -                | M.3.4                   | M.26            | 1930-54 |
| 60               | M.4.1                   | M.27            | 1945-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.28            | 1938-54 |
| 42               | M.3.18                  | M.29            | 1942-54 |
| -                | -                       | M.30            | 1930-40 |
| -                | -                       | M.31            | 1930-54 |

| Symonds'<br>Nos. | Bulletin No. 12<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. | Dates   |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| maple leaf       | P.3.3                   | P.1             | 1930-40 |
| 33               | P.3.1a                  | P.2             | 1932-45 |
| 50               | P.3.1b                  | P.3             | 1932-45 |
| -                | P.3.2                   | P.4             | 1932-45 |



*Head-cheese bowl*

## APPENDIX III

### Correlation of Symonds' & Current Stamp Numbers

| Symonds' | Current Nos. | Symonds'           | Current Nos. |
|----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1        | G.1          | 35                 | M.7          |
| 2        | G.4.b        | 36                 | M.12         |
| 3        | G.2          | 37                 | M.18         |
| 4        | G.5.b        | 38                 | G.6          |
| 5        | G.51         | 39                 | G.47.a       |
| 6        | G.55         | 40                 | M.14         |
| 7        | G.56         | 41                 | G.7          |
| 8        | G.59         | 42                 | M.29         |
| 9        | G.60         | 43                 | M.3.a        |
| 10       | M.4.a        | 44                 | M.23.a       |
| 11       | M.1.a        | 45                 | G.19         |
| 12       | M.10         | 46                 | G.21         |
| 13       | G.40.a       | 47                 | M.3.c        |
| 14       | G.38.a       | 48                 | M.22         |
| 15       | —            | 49                 | —            |
| 16       | G.36.a       | 50                 | P.3          |
| 17       | G.33         | 51                 | G.37         |
| 18       | G.36.b       | 52                 | G.49.a       |
| 19       | G.46.a       | 53                 | —            |
| 20       | M.15         | 54                 | M.22         |
| 21       | G.26.a       | 55                 | M.15         |
| 22       | G.28         | 56                 | M.13         |
| 23       | G.27         | 57                 | M.21.f       |
| 24       | M.6 & M.7    | 58                 | G.31         |
| 25       | G.9          | 59                 | M.18         |
| 26       | M.21.e       | 60                 | M.27         |
| 27       | M.22 & G.33  | 61                 | G.10         |
| 28       | M.15         | 62                 | —            |
| 29       | M.15 & P.2   | 63                 | M.21.d       |
| 30       | G.11         | 64                 | M.6-M.8      |
| 31       | M.9          | 65                 | G.41         |
| 32       | —            | 66                 | G.19         |
| 33       | P.2          | 67                 | M.16         |
| 34       | G.62.a       | gold maple<br>leaf | G.23         |

**APPENDIX IV****Correlation of Bulletin No. 12 and Current Stamp Numbers**

| Bulletin<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. | Bulletin<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| G.1.1            | G.1             | G.3.20a          | G.46.a          |
| G.1.2            | G.2             | G.3.20b          | G.46.b          |
| G.1.3            | G.3             | G.3.21           | G.38.a          |
| G.1.4            | G.4.a           | G.3.22a          | G.40.a          |
| G.1.4            | G.4.b           | G.3.22b          | G.40.b          |
| G.1.4            | G.4.c           | G.3.23           | G.41            |
| G.2.1            | G.5.a           | G.3.24           | G.37            |
| G.2.1            | G.5.b to f      | G.3.25           | G.33            |
| G.2.2            | G.10            | G.4.1            | G.43            |
| G.3.1            | G.15            | G.4.2            | G.50            |
| G.3.2            | G.19            | G.4.3            | G.51            |
| G.3.3            | G.21            | G.4.3            | G.52.a          |
| G.3.4            | G.6             | G.4.3            | G.52.b          |
| G.3.5            | G.7             | G.4.3            | G.53            |
| G.3.6            | G.11            | G.4.4            | G.54            |
| G.3.7            | G.9             | G.5.1            | G.55            |
| G.3.8            | G.16.a          | G.5.2            | G.56            |
| G.3.8            | G.16.b          | G.5.2            | G.57            |
| G.3.9a           | G.27            | G.5.3            | G.59            |
| G.3.9b           | G.26.a & b      | G.5.4            | G.60            |
| G.3.10a          | G.25            | G.5.5            | G.64.b          |
| G.3.10b          | G.24            | G.5.6            | G.62.a          |
| G.3.11           | G.28            | G.5.6            | G.62.b          |
| G.3.12a          | G.23            | G.5.7            | G.63            |
| G.3.12b          | G.22            | G.5.8            | G.67            |
| G.3.13           | G.29            | G.5.9a           | G.68.a          |
| G.3.14           | G.30.a          | G.5.9b           | G.68.b          |
| G.3.15           | G.20            | G.5.10           | G.61.a          |
| G.3.16           | G.31            | G.5.10           | G.61.b          |
| G.3.17           | G.49.a          | G.5.11           | G.70            |
| G.3.18a          | G.36.a          |                  |                 |
| G.3.18b          | G.36.b          |                  |                 |
| G.3.19           | G.47.a          |                  |                 |
| G.3.19           | G.47.b          |                  |                 |

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| Bulletin<br>Nos. | Current<br>Nos. |
|------------------|-----------------|
| M.2.1a           | M.21.a          |
| M.2.1b           | M.21.d          |
| M.2.1c           | M.21.e          |
| M.2.1d           | M.21.b          |
| M.2.1e           | M.21.f          |
| M.2.2a           | M.1.b           |
| M.2.2b           | M.1.a           |
| M.3.1            | M.4.a           |
| M.3.2            | M.2             |
| M.3.3a           | M.3.a           |
| M.3.3b           | M.3.b           |
| M.3.3c           | M.3.c           |
| M.3.4            | M.25            |
| M.3.5            | M.8             |
| M.3.6            | M.6             |
| M.3.7            | M.7             |
| M.3.8            | M.14            |
| M.3.9a           | M.15            |
| M.3.9b           | M.18            |
| M.3.9c           | M.16            |
| M.3.10           | M.20            |
| M.3.11           | M.23.a          |
| M.3.12           | M.10            |
| M.3.13           | M.22            |
| M.3.14           | M.12            |
| M.3.15           | M.9             |
| M.3.16           | M.13            |
| M.3.17           | M.24.a          |
| M.3.18           | M.29            |
| M.4.1            | M.27            |
| P.3.1a           | P.2             |
| P.3.1b           | P.3             |
| P.3.2            | P.4             |
| P.3.3            | P.1             |

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Just how sturdy was driven home to me when I was visiting a couple in Lethbridge who made the point by nonchalantly knocking a piece of hotel china off the kitchen counter. It hit the linoleum floor, bounced a couple of times, but there was no damage. He did this to make the point that short of a direct hit the restaurant china would stand up to almost any abuse. And the piece that was dropped was one of the Mountain Trails pieces that was selling for \$75.00 to \$100.00 at the time!

<sup>2</sup> Richard and Jean Symonds, **Medalta Stoneware and Pottery for Collectors**, Symco Distributors, 1974.

<sup>3</sup> Ronald Getty and Ester Klaiman, "Identifying Medalta, 1916-1954: A Guide to Markings", **Material History Bulletin** 12, pp. 17-60, Spring 1981.

<sup>4</sup> Provincial Archives, Accession No. 69.235, Box 1, No. 20. Letter dated 28 June 1923.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 1, No. 16. Letter dated 14 July 1923.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 428. Letter dated 22 April 1941.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 429. Letter dated 11 June 1941.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 405. Letter dated 11 December 1940.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 383. Letter dated 27 June 1938.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 11, No. 378. Letter dated 5 July 1938.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 11, No. 367. Letter dated 30 October 1937.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 404. Letter dated 6 august 1940.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 413.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 388. Letter dated 5 October 1940.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 388. Letter dated 9 May 1940.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 388. Letter dated 7 September 1940.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 13, No. 446. Letter dated 7 May 1941.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 12, No. 389. Letter dated 16 November 1940.

<sup>19</sup> Description in square brackets is based on an actual specimen that has this decoration number on it.

<sup>20</sup> *Op. cit.*, Box 12, No. 428.

<sup>21</sup> The one vase not seen with this stamp was the No. 104, and I can only presume that because this vase was available as early as 1922, it was regularly being made in moulds.

