

TOO MUCH !@#%&^# MEDALTA!!

By Bill Kellett

It was 1986, and I had only been collecting Medalta for about a year. My collection consisted largely of plain white or banded hotelware items, bean-pots, a few pitchers and a vase or two. By no means did I consider myself a "serious collector", but rather more of a casual accumulator! My inherent 'pack-rat instinct' compelled me to search for ever more Medalta items, even though I had no idea as to why I was so driven, nor had I any 'game-plan' as to what I was going to do with what was on its way to becoming a full-blown-collection!

With having a hungry mortgage and two equally hungry children, being able to find extra funds required to indulge in such dalliances as putting together a collection of anything seemed outside the realm of likelihood!

Then, one day, quite by chance, I happened upon a somewhat obscure antique and junk shop (mostly a junk shop), run by a curmudgeonly old character who asked me if I was looking for anything in particular.

Much to my astonishment, a voice emanating from my mouth blurted out, "Yah, I'm looking for Medalta pottery."

"MEDALTA" retorted the gruff old shopkeeper in a manner that indicated I'd hit a nerve. "I've got too %!@#&^ much Medalta! I can't give the !&@^#% stuff away!"

After recovering from my initial shock at the caustic old gent's mastery of language, I enquired, "Oh, how much do

you have?"

He pointed to several shelves filled with glass and pottery, and several more filled with miscellaneous 'junk' and said, "Them two shelves are full, and there's a bunch more of the sh!# on them ones as

well. It just don't sell. I'm gonna throw it all out and make room for stuff I can sell!"

He then asked me if I "wanted to make a deal on the @%\$#^& stuff."

"How much?" I asked, to which I received the reply, "How's fifty bucks sound? And I won't charge no tax!"

When I balked at the \$50.00 price (which today I would have jumped at), he lowered his price to \$40.00, which curiously was the exact amount of cash I had on me at that moment. So the deal was struck and I went home with some thirty-plus items including a mint #73 lacquered vase, an ashtray advertising

SILVER FOAM RICE LAGER ALE AND PORTER, numerous hotelware items along with some Medicine Hat Potteries Hatina patterned pieces, as well as a number of pitchers and a couple of mixing bowls!

Although a number of the items were damaged (including the SILVER FOAM piece) or badly stained or worn, I nevertheless made a pretty good deal, even by 1986 standards!

I suppose it was after this acquisition that I realized I was



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hooked and was on my way to becoming a 'serious collector!'

Before leaving the shop the brusque old duffer asked me, "Are you a Maple Leafs fan?" "HELL NO" I fired back! "I could tell" he responded. "No Leafs fan woulda paid forty-bucks for that #@!\$%^& stuff!!!"

To this day, I'm not certain what he meant! But he can have his Maple Leafs, and I'll gladly pay \$40.00 any day for that much !@#\$%^&% Medalta!!! •

The Medalta Review

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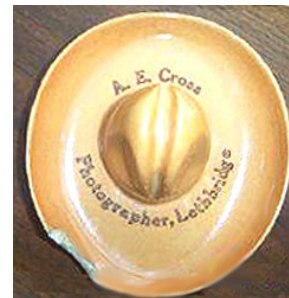
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THE A.E. CROSS HAT ASHTRAY

The Canada Olympic Park Antique Show was disappointing in so far as Alberta made pottery goes. I did not hear from a single person about an outstanding find that they had made and personally I saw very little pottery other than the usual crocks, commonly found vases and the occasional Hycroft or Medicine Hat Potteries piece.

One vendor did send me this picture of a hat ashtray that apparently was sold at the show for what I thought was a staggering amount. Reportedly, the vendor was at one time asking over \$300.00 for it, and I heard that eventually he got about \$275.00 for it. Even in excellent condition that would be a high price, but considering the large chip from the rim, that was an amazing price.



Up to this point, I had not heard of any hat ashtrays selling for over \$200.00, and hopefully this will not be the new plateau that every dealer expects for hats.

In checking my notes of the Medalta sales records, I found that A.E. Cross of Lethbridge was invoiced for the sum of \$32.40 (\$30.00 for the ashtrays and \$2.40 manufacturing tax). Up until this piece showed up, as this is the first A.E. Cross piece that I have seen, I did not know what they were billed for: a flat ashtray, a hat ashtray, a pitcher or what have you. But now, knowing what the piece was, we can determine that the order was for 200 hats. In 1937 hat ashtrays sold for 15 cents each as indicated in other records from that time.

It is hard to believe that from an order of that size, this is the first hat to surface. Perhaps they have all been scooped-up by Brewery collectors thinking that this was the same E.A. Cross family that once owned the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company!

For your interest I have enclosed a listing of the October 1937 Artware Sales. In addition to the A.E. Cross order it shows many others. Some were undoubtedly for

SALES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER-1937

NAME	Amount	Gov. Sales Tax
ARTWARE		
Mr. E. A. Cope	2 79	2 58
Ogilvie Flour Mills Co. Ltd.	82	76
Marshall's Book Store	3 08	2 85
Rosery Flower Shop	9 91	9 18
do	1 51	1 40
Mr. Wallace Wade	88	63
W. Calhoun	95	88
James McQuillan Co. Ltd.,	54 08	
The T. Eaton Co. Ltd.,	8 18	7 57
S. J. McDiarmid	6 87	6 18
The S. A. F. E. Limited	9 12	8 44
National Picture Frame Co.	165 90	
George W. Parson	8 48	7 85
do	35 46	32 83
Olds Hardware	8 97	8 31
H. Hawkes	7 41	6 96
G. T. Ingham	4 72	4 37
Hudson's Bay Company	19 63	18 18
Hutt Importing Company	18 90	17 50
Selkirk Hotel	16 20	15 00
Yale Hotel	16 20	15 00
Kerrison & Adams	5 40	5 00
Edmonton Flower Shop	8 10	7 50
Burrows Hardware	5 24	3 00
J. C. Beveridge Limited	1 48	1 37
Watson & Powell	32 40	30 00
Hudson's Bay Company	112 15	103 84
Mac's Cigar Store	17 11	15 84
F. Markham, Florist	10 08	9 32
do	10 48	9 70
Hutt Importing Company	15 88	14 70
Milliard Hotel	8 10	7 50
The T. Eaton Co. Ltd.,	80 14	74 20
Martyn Oliver	1 90	1 76
J. Grierson & Son Limited	7 34	6 80
Alex. Stewart	5 54	5 13
A. J. Coleman Limited	9 18	
Cope's Plumbing Shop	80	74
A. E. Cross	32 40	30 00
J. C. Beveridge Limited	67	62
A. W. Dinnigan	1 63	1 51
Clark's Flower Shop	5 36	4 96
H. Taylor	10 15	9 40
Renaud & Cie Limited	31 10	28 80
F. Foulston	24 56	23 74
Marshall's Book Store	2 11	1 95
Fletcher-Wilde Limited	7 76	7 19
Mr. F. H. Harris	12 57	11 64
Openshaw's Variety Store	26 68	24 70
Edgehill Hotel	8 10	7 50
Hotel Myrnam	8 10	7 50
Marwayne Hotel	28 08	26 00
J. J. Moore & Son	1 54	1 43
W. H. Reed	1 30	1 20
James McQuillan Company	3 15	2 92
do	73 41	
Canadian Sales Assoc.	2877 67	
George W. Parson	4 97	4 60
	3890 49	657 43

vases but many were for named orders, and hopefully you will recognize some of them from pieces in your collection.

The following information was largely obtained from Glenbow, although I did confirm it by talking to the present manager of the A.E. Cross Studio in Lethbridge, Ed. Keeling. He advised me that there was absolutely no relationship between the two families, not even as distant cousins. Out of curiosity I asked if he was familiar with these hats, and he was. In fact he has been unsuccessfully looking for one for several years now.

Alfred Earnest Cross, ca. 1890-1951, emigrated from England to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and settled in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1920. By 1924 he had opened A.E. Cross Studio, a photography

business that offered portraits and commercial photography, photo finishing and picture framing. The studio was located at 906-3rd Avenue South, moved to 614-3rd Avenue South in 1927 and then to 710-3rd Avenue South in 1952 where it is still located today.

A.E. Cross retired ca. 1948 and his son, Reginald A., became manager. The company was renamed A.E. Cross Photography Ltd. about 1967, and in 1970 Terrance Bland became manager. The following year, the business appears to have been renamed Terry Bland's Photography Ltd., but this was only for a year. By 1973, the A.E. Cross Studio was apparently re-established at the same location with Reginald as manager. Later, about 1976, Ed Keeling became manager and he is still there today. •

MEDALTA'S CHURN VASE

It only took 22 years, but at long last I finally know what Medalta meant when it referred to a Churn Vase in a letter dated 12 April 1940. Back in 1980 or 1981 when I went through the fourteen storage boxes of Medalta's records held by the Provincial Archives in Edmonton, I copied most of the letters that referred to products, especially ones that referred to pieces that were not common. I did not copy every letter mentioning teapots, mixing bowls, crocks or butter churns, as there were thousands of them, but a letter like this one I did.

Why? Simply, because I had no idea what the correspondents were discussing. Not for a minute did I think that it was indeed a vase. Who in their right mind would make a vase modeled after a 5-gallon churn? At the time I probably thought that it was simply a typographical error where they were discussing either a vase or a churn.

But now we know that it really was a vase, a very large vase, presumably a lawn vase, made using the mould for the 5-gallon churn. In addition, we also know another name of one of Medalta's decorations, "Red Granite".

Thanks to Bruce Douglas of Vancouver who wrote the booklet on Medalta's lamp bases, I am able to share these

pictures with you. He was the lucky collector who picked up this vase and within a week another one finished in a blue glaze.

One might well wonder why he picked up the vase as it does not bear a Medalta stamp. What caught his eye was the colour or finish of the piece, as the speckled red brick-like finish was almost identical to a couple of lamp bases in his collection, differing in

having less black in the glaze mixture than the lamp bases. Also, he recognized the similarity in handles between this vase and what Medalta marketed as its cookie jar vase with its strap handles.

When he phoned to advise me that he had found a new Medalta vase, one not shown in the booklet "Know Your Medalta:

Vases", I was the usual doubting Thomas until he started to describe it to me. His description struck a cord, and sent me on a search of my files where much to my surprise I found the long forgotten letter.

While the measurements differ slightly for both samples of the churn vase, they are well within the range of variation that is observed for 5-gallon churns made by Medalta, and



Medicine Hat, Alta.,
April 12, 1940.

Mr. Alex B. Cruickshank,
Melfort, Sask.

Dear Sir:

Further to your letter of April the 8th we are glad to give the following prices:

4/14 jardiner (17" top diam., 15 1/2" height) 7.00 list
These are glazed in various colours, usually mottled crimson, mottled green, a combination of white and brown glazes, and other decorations which you may choose.

Churn-Vase. This is about the same size as either a 6 gal or 5 gal churn. These are made up in very attractive multi-colour decorations, particularly the red granite decoration. You may just mention approximately the kind of combination you prefer and we will have this made up.

We are sorry to say that we have discontinued making vases as shown on your sketch, and have nothing similar to that.

Hoping to hear from you very soon, we remain

Yours very truly,

The Medalta Potteries Ltd.,
Per/E.C. Phillipson.

both were made using yellow burning clay. Medalta remodeled its churns around 1930, replacing the tall cylindrical, unhandled ones with ones with a more bulbous body. At the same time the sizes were changed from the American wine measure ones to the Imperial gallon ones (about a fifth larger). The handles on the new style churn were applied separately, and therefore it was easy to make the churn vases, by replacing the usual solid lug handles with a more decorative strap-style handle, along

with removing the inner ledge at the top for holding the churn's lid in place

As expected the vases have the number "5" impressed in the bottom and the taller one stands about 19-

Cont'd on page 7

FOLLOW-UP:

Yet Another High River Furniture Plate

Recently a B.C. collector picked up another floral pattern, bringing the total to five different plates so far (see newsletter no. 17). The layout of the advertising is the same as for the others, with Season's Greetings arched at the top and with the store's name at the bottom. The colourful floral spray is centered on the plate, and in this instance it consists of a bouquet of three round pink roses, a couple of rose buds, a variety of other flowers in yellow or blue and a number of green leaves scattered throughout. How many more floral patterns will we find?



More Varieties of Hycroft's High Stetson Hat

Recent donations to the FOMS have permitted me to photograph two more examples of the high style Stetson hat made by Hycroft.

The first is the usual gold writing on a plain white hat. The writing at the top of the hat is difficult to photograph clearly due to being well worn on the piece, but it states "WELCOME TO/ CALGARY STAMPEDE".



The piece does not have a Hycroft stamp on it, and so far I have not been able to find the invoice record for the order. However, the FOMS collection does include the rubber stamp for placing this wording on the back of the hat, confirming that this hat was indeed made by Hycroft.

The second example has "SASKATCHEWAN CONSISTORY 1958" arched at the top in gold and bears the Consistory cross-shaped logo at the bottom. The cross is executed in red and white with the number 32 in the center being in white.

For those of you that do not know what this ashtray may be commemorating, and I must admit that I had no idea myself until I went to the World Wide Web, it relates to the Free Masonry movement. The Consistory is the third (and highest) body within Scottish Rite Masonry and, in turn, within it, there are some 14 separate degrees. The 32-degree, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, is apparently the highest level that one can obtain within the Consistory.

I had in fact heard about this ashtray some years ago, but I did not include it in the article on Hycroft's high style hats as I was not sure about the accuracy of the notes that I had made, and I did not have a picture of it on hand at the time. What threw me off, making me wonder if I had not made a mistake, was the date 1958 as that was when this style of hat was discontinued in favour of the low style. (See newsletter No. 13 for the Stetson article.)

I still do not know the specifics for this ashtray, but it probably was a year-end gift to members of the Saskatchewan Consistory, or perhaps it simply was a souvenir marking a convention. •



HYCROFT VASES REVISITED

In the Spring 2002 newsletter, issue number 17, I illustrated all of the shapes that have been identified so far for Hycroft's limited line of vases. Only one of the shapes is found with any regularity in the marketplace, and as you can see from the illustration it came in two distinct sizes, one about 7.25-inches high and the other about 9.5-inches high.

In that first article on Hycroft's vases, space did not permit an examination of this pair of vases. That we will do now, examining how these vases were used for advertising and souvenir purposes.

The Hycroft records show that the factory, at times, referred to its vases using the roman numerals one to five. The number for this vase is presently unknown, and perhaps they even had different numbers for each of the distinct sizes. Similarly, I have not yet run across any consistent description of this vase as given by Hycroft, but as you can see the vase has a globular body leading to a relatively slender neck that flares outward at the



rim. Small vase is the term used most often, but at other times it is referred to as the bud vase and the narrow necked vase.

The Large Variety

We can fairly quickly dispense with the large variety of the vase as so far I have only seen a couple of examples of souvenir/named vases. The first one shown here has on its side a floral decal spray consisting of a central dark pink rose with other yellow and blue flowers around, as well as rose buds and leaves. The decal shows well against the plain white background, and the vase is finished with gold trim around

the rim.

I have actually recorded three examples of



this vase, and all had a 'Compliments of Harry Veiner' stamp on the bottom. This vase, both in the large and the small size, was often sent to friends and acquaintances of Harry Veiner, and when this vase was not chosen as the gift, the teapot trivet often was.



The only souvenir vase in the large size that I have seen was one with "MEDICINE HAT STAMPEDE" arced over colourful rodeo scenes on opposite sides of the vase. One scene is of a cowboy on a bucking bronco and the other is of a cowboy roping a calf, all displayed on a white vase with a 2.0 cm. wide gold band and a gold stripe around the top and with another gold stripe around the middle of the vase. The scenes themselves were produced using brown, green and blue colours.

Was this a prototype in hopes of getting an order? I really do not know, but so far I have only seen the one example which was found in the Hycroft warehouse and, to date, I have not been able to find an invoice for such a piece.

The Small Variety

The small variety was apparently the one most often chosen as an advertising or commemorative piece. And, like the large variety, you can also find it with several different "Compliments of Harry Veiner" stamps on the bottom and with at least two different floral patterns on the side. The same floral patterns can also be found on vases bearing a regular Hycroft stamp rather than a Veiner stamp.

I have also see one example with the Black Angus image screened on the side of a white vase with a reddish-brown wash around the upper quarter of the vase. It may have been an unfinished example as it was found in the Hycroft Warehouse, and it did not have any gold trim on it.



The Saskatchewan Jubilee Series:

A group of vases found in the Hycroft warehouse may well be prototypes, as so far they have not shown up in the marketplace. In addition, only one of them can be matched to an invoice and as if often the case, not enough description is given to be 100 percent sure of the match.

The series was produced to mark Saskatchewan's Diamond Jubilee in 1965. One variety is decorated on one side using a decal of a diamond with "60" on it, with "Jubilee" horizontally placed in old English style lettering above the diamond and with the dates "1905" and "1965" placed vertically on the left and right sides, both the design and naming in dark brown. On the other side is the multicoloured Saskatchewan provincial crest. Both decals show well against the white vase that is finished off by applying



gold trim around the rim.

One example in the FOMS collections is plain with no additional naming while another has the name "ROSE TOWN" below the provincial crest.

The second variety is laid put down quite differently and does not use the provincial crest at all. Rather, on one side, it has the word "SASKATCHEWAN" running vertically above the same diamond decal as described above. The vertical line is broken by placing the CH of Saskatchewan side by side. On the opposite side one finds the name of the city or town in gold. The example shown here has "Prince Albert" placed obliquely in gold, script style lettering, and another was an identical style with "Moose Jaw" script. A third example was almost the same, differing in only having the name "MACKLIN" written in block style lettering rather than script.

The only vase in this group of five that likely can be matched to an invoice is the one named to Moose Jaw. Invoice number 6209 dated 8 July 1965, sent to The Rosery Flower Shop of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, billed them for 12 vases marked "MOOSE JAW, SASK" at \$14.40 dozen. While the invoice naming does not match the vase itself, as it does not include the word SASK., at least the invoice date is right for the Golden Jubilee.

If I had to guess as to what happened, I would say that Hycroft was requested to prepare samples of a vase marking Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee. This led to preparing the two formats, one with the provincial crest and one without. Next, they tried to market the vase, and much to their surprise, they received only one or two orders. Surely, if more orders had been placed, the jubilee vases would be showing up in the marketplace, and in the invoice records.

The City of Medicine Hat:

The City of Medicine Hat placed the largest orders for vases that I have run across in the Hycroft records. One was for 500 small vases with decal and the City Crest at \$.65 each on 4



Aug. 1965 (6461); another was for 346 small, decorated vases at no charge on 23 Dec. 1965 (7722); and lastly another 500 small vases, with the Wild Rose decal and "MEDICINE HAT" were billed at \$.65 each on 26 April 1966 (8786). Probably there were other orders as well, but so far these are the only ones found that specifically mention vases.

The August 1965 order is likely for the vase in the Glenbow Museum collections which has "THE GAS CITY OF THE WEST" arched around a feather headdress on one side and the Alberta



wild rose decal on the other. The crest is in brown and, as usual, the vase is trimmed with gold at the rim.

Whether or not the vase shown here that has "The City of/Medicine Hat" on one side was one of those ordered by the City or just a general souvenir is not presently known. The naming is



in gold, and on the opposite side the vase is decorated with the Alberta wild rose in pink and green, with the decal being titled "ALBERTA/Wild Rose" in fancy script at the lower left-hand side.

Other Medicine Hat Vases:

Other varieties with the name Medicine Hat on the vase were likely just general souvenirs carried by various gift shops in the City, but so far I have not been able to identify any specific orders. One of these is decorated on one side with the Silvery Pine decal (stems and leaves in gray and brown, with maroon cones), and on the other side it simply says "Medicine Hat/Alberta, Canada". The rim is a bit fancier than others as it has a wider gold band and a gold stripe just below the rim.



A second general souvenir has "Medicine Hat" in red rope style letters and on opposite side the multicoloured Alberta provincial crest with a wreath of wild roses around. It too is banded with gold just below the rim.

A third variety is similar to the one above except that it has the "ALBERTA/Wild Rose" decal instead of the Alberta provincial crest. Regretfully I do not have a picture of this vase as yet.

Business Vases:

McElgunn's Steak House located in Medicine Hat placed several orders for vases over the years. They were billed for 40 small vases (\$1.25 each) and 20 celery dishes (\$.60), both with brown shading, on 28 June 1966 (9439) and then 4 years later for 36 small vases, blue, with "McElgunn" on them at \$1.95 each on 31 Aug. 1970 (9377). Both examples have been found in the mar-



ketplace and while the lettering is basically the same, the orientation is different. The vase with the reddish-brown shading has "McElgunn's/STEAK HOUSE" obliquely placed while the blue vase has the writing placed horizontally. Both have the cow skull design to the left of the words "Steak House" and both have gold trim at the rim.

The Canadian Wax Gallery, located in Banff, Alberta was billed for 10 small vases, brown shading, with "Canadian Wax Gallery" in brown at \$1.85 each on the 21 March 1969 (6358). At present, I do not have a picture of the single example that I have recorded, but here is its description. On the side "CANADIAN/WAX/GALLERY [some letters with long tails]/ BANFF, ALBERTA [small lettering]" all in brown on a white vase with a reddish-brown wash around the rim and the base, with thick/thin gold banding around the top and with a gold stripe around the middle.

The Skyline Hotel located in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, was billed for 40 vases, narrow necked, marked "Skyline Hotel, Swift Current" at \$10.80 dozen on 2 Oct. 1959 (5162); and, later, for another 60 bud vase (as per sample) in blue, yellow, pink and green, at \$10.80 per doz. 31 Oct. 1962 (5011). My notes indicate that at least one of these vases in the hands of a collector, but at present I do not have a photograph to share with you.



Vase Orders:

As there are so few orders for vases in the Hycroft invoices, I decided to list all of the ones that I have not yet seen here. Some were simply one vase as part of a set, while others were fairly substantial orders. I suspect that many of the Ranch sets (decorated with images of Hereford, Charolais and Angus cattle or the mare/colt scene) included vases. Unfortunately, the invoice record often just listed a set of dishes without giving the particulars of what comprised the set.

Until we see an actual specimen, the style of vase remains questionable; but, I am sure that the majority will be this shape.

As usual, if any of our readers have examples of any of the vases listed below, or for that matter ones mentioned above for which I had no illustrations, I would welcome pictures of them to include in a future issue of the newsletter.

- a 101 piece set in the Charolais pattern with brown shading, gold trim and with the brand "MH" (conjoined) or "M-1", was billed to Mrs. M.D. Hyland, Montario, Sask., at \$360.50 for the set on 31 March 1977 (invoice no. 7941) which included 2 small vases.
- the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, Vauxhall Branch, Medicine Hat, was billed for 100 small vases at \$1.10 each 9 June 1967 (2196); decorated with the centennial crest and with "A.I.A./ June 9th & 10th. 1967./MEDICINE HAT", the silkscreen costing \$10.00 extra.
- The Canadian Ceramic Society, Medicine Hat, was billed for 70 flat ashtrays, assorted colours, no pink, \$.35 each 29 Oct. 1960 (8086) and for 30 vases with crest (no charge); marked "MEDICINE HAT, October 1960/WESTERN SECTION" and with the crest of the Canadian Ceramic Society.

- the Christian Business and Professional Women's Club and Council, Medicine Hat, was billed for 2 small vases, gold trim, with "C.B.P.W.C." at \$2.50 each 30 Sept. 1976 (7612) and for another 65 other vases, likely not marked as they were only \$2.15 each.
- the German Canadian Club, Medicine Hat, was billed for 50 small vases with the Alberta rose decal at \$1.75 each 15 July 1971 (1105) marked "GERMAN CANADIAN HARMONY CLUB/Medicine Hat."; another 50 small vases, same decoration and price 17 July 1972 (2965).
- Hilde's Flowers, St Albert, Alberta, was billed for 36 small vases, decorated and personalized (no details) at \$1.00 each 26 Oct. 1966 (295).
- 276 items, brown shaded, gold trim, "Kootenay Hotel" at \$1.35 each 1 April 1968 (4157) which included 12 small vases, 24 large safety ashtrays and 2 wagon wheel ashtrays; later another 25 small vases and 50 large safety ashtrays, both with brown shading and gold trim, at \$1.35 per item, were ordered 23 Aug. 1968 (4952), all with "KOOTENAY HOTEL/Creston, B.C." on them.
- the L.O.B.A. Grand Lodge Committee, Lethbridge, was billed for 77 vases, white with the Spray Rose decal, lettering in gold, marked "L.O.B.A./Provincial Grand Lodge/of Alberta/Lethbridge/1965." at \$1.25 each 11 March 1965 (4976) and then another 26 vases on the 17 May 1965 (5563). L.O.B.A. stands for Ladies Orange Benevolent Association.
- Nootka House, Port Alberni, British Columbia, was billed for 36 bud vases, totem pole in brown, brown shaded top and bottom, gold at top, at \$1.75 each on 18 Oct. 1968 (5377).
- the Variety Club of Toronto, Ontario, was billed for 20 large steins, 37 no. 238 mugs, 6 large ashtrays and 1 large vase, all decorated and personalized at no charge on 8 Nov. 1965 (7395). •

SOME NAMED MEDALTA HOTELWARES

The September Blue Mountain antique show was a disappointment as I neither saw nor heard of any outstanding pieces. Good Medalta pieces were nonexistent and even Medicine Hat Potteries, Sunburst and Hycroft pieces were hard to find and, when present, often priced beyond what collectors were willing to pay.

For example, one dealer had a MHP platter decorated with the map of Canada decal priced at \$85.00, and while it did not sell during the two days that I was at the show, it did sell on the last day. He also had two 14-inch Hycroft platters similarly priced, \$80.00 if I remember correctly. One had the Hereford decoration on it while the other was a Saint John's Ambulance piece. Apparently they did not sell at the show. Personally, I think they are probably worth that as Hycroft originally sold some platters in the \$50.00 to \$75.00 range.

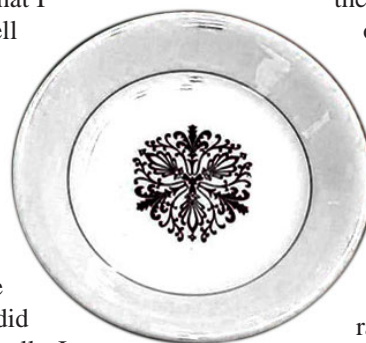
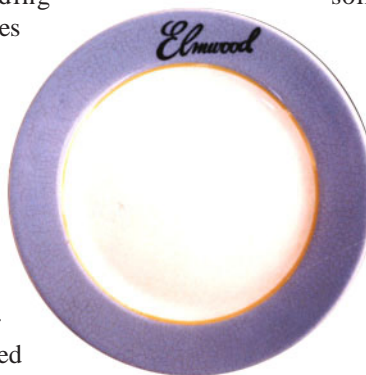
Another dealer had a Hycroft mug with advertising on it for a gas station, but at \$28.00 there was no taker.

I did see a few pieces that I expected to move quickly that did not. One dealer had a pair of coupe soup bowls made by Medalta for the Harrison Hot Springs, well marked on the bottom with the special stamp occurring on such pieces. The black, central geometric design, applied with a rubber stamp, stands out boldly against the white plate with black banding on it.

The second pattern that he had was one named "Elmwood", the naming being in solid black against the blue rim trimmed with a yellow band between the rim and the white centre. I presently do not know where the restaurant was located that used this pattern, but I certainly have not seen many examples of it before, and he had both a pair of plates and coupe soup bowls.

All of the pieces were priced at \$40.00 each which I thought was a fair price, and I was truly surprised that they did not sell over the three days of the show.

Lastly, I heard of, but did not see, a cookie jar similar to the one shown here. It was decorated with what I call the stenciled apple blossom decoration on a band running around the middle of the cookie jar. On the bottom was the decoration number "67". You can find various background colours including green and blue, but this one was in bright orange. I heard that it sold for about \$90.00, not a bad price even though the lid was a replacement and did not match the jar itself. •



Medalta Churn Vase - Con't from page 3

inches high. Apparently the walls are about 5/8 of an inch thick and, reportedly, the vases weigh quite a bit. I do not know if earthenware and stoneware weigh about the same or not, but I suspect that they do.

What did the red granite vase sell for? Only \$95.00 I was told, quite a bargain for a previously unknown vase. Hopefully some of our

readers will now be able to pick up a sample of this large lawn vase before dealers start asking an arm and a leg for it.

May I also suggest that you take another look at the Medalta letter as it also mentions a 4/14 jardiniere. The 4/14 should be indicting the style and size of the jardiniere, but personally I have never seen the No. 4 jardiniere in a 14-inch size. •

A CORONATION TEAPOT

Wow! Who would have thought that this beauty would originally go for just \$25.00? I find it hard to believe that any coronation collectible from 1937 would go so low, even if it bears no maker's markings at all. But that is what happened.

As I heard the story, the first person to pick up the piece, and there may have been others before him, looked it over and decided to pass it up, as he obviously did not recognize it for what it was, Medalta made. Another collector/dealer saw it in his hands, and knowing what it was, made his way quickly to the side of the one inspecting the teapot.

When asked if he was interested in it he did not want to show too much excitement, that

must have been difficult to say the least. I am sure that I could never have kept my excitement hidden. I would have been jumping up and down, if not actually foaming at the mouth! In any event, he kept his cool at least long enough to have the piece handed to him, not giving anyone else a chance to pick it up from the table again.

What happened next, I do not know, but I heard that strange whooping sounds were heard in the Hillhurst parking lot that morning!

It truly is a rare piece for when I looked it up in my notes I found that I had only ever seen one other, one held in the collections of the Glenbow Museum. The heavy, early-style beer stein and the Cyma picture with effectively the same commemorative inscription on the pieces are seen more often. The only other piece of equal rarity is the two-piece ashtray that was also produced as a Coronation souvenir. But that is another story, and perhaps in the next issue of the newsletter I can show you what it looks like.

The teapot is the rounded top variety and while it had no size markings at all, it was the six-cup size or the No. 30 teapot. The inscription above the maple leaf reads "King George IV. Queen Elizabeth/CORONATION/MAY 12th, 1937" and below is found the motto "Dieu et mon Droit", and all the naming is executed in brown lettering against the honey glaze. It was almost in perfect shape with only a very tiny chip from the spout.

What was it flipped for? \$600.00 I heard, but I think it likely would have gone even higher if it had been placed in a Medalta auction. •

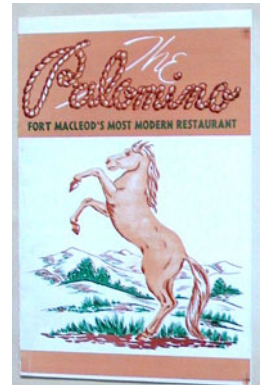


THE PALOMINO RESTAURANT

As mentioned in the past, I have a special interest in acquiring the accessories that help to document Medalta products. The items shown here are some more examples of what I like to run across.

Just over a year ago, the Calgary Stampede was the recipient of scrapbooks, pictures, posters and other items coming from the estate of the well-known cowboy Herman Linder. Herman made his home in Cardston, Alberta, and was an active member in various cowboy associations and in promoting rodeos throughout southern Alberta. He kept scrapbooks filled with pictures, letters, newspaper clippings and sometimes a souvenir of an event that he attended.

In cataloging those scrapbooks, I ran across a menu from The Palomino Restaurant in Fort Macleod. Herman was invited to a Civic Luncheon sponsored by the Town of Fort Macleod on October 9, 1952, in honour of Vincent Massey, Canada's Governor-General at the time, and as a memento of that luncheon, he saved the menu/program brochure. Just look at the cover of that souvenir. It is effectively the same Palomino horse image as found on the Palomino china, excluding the gate, the horse rearing on its hind legs with the foothills in the background.



Just when I ran across the matchbook cover, I do not recall, but most likely it was something that appeared on ebay. It too is from the Palomino restaurant.

In the past, a southern Alberta Medalta collector advised me that the Palomino pattern dishes were from Fort Macleod, and if I had any doubts previously, I think that these documents prove its location.

The Palomino dishes are certainly a popular pattern with collectors, not only for the horse image but also for its bright colours, yellows, greens and brown. The larger pieces such as dinner plates, side plates and pitchers usually depict the rearing horse in all its glory, while the smaller pieces such as individual creamers and fruit nappies often just show the ranch gate and/or the name Palomino in rope lettering.

There is no easy answer as to what the Palomino items are worth as prices vary with the item. Some two years ago a side plate sold for \$140.00 but in more recent times they have sold in the \$60.00 range. The pieces only showing the gate or using the name Palomino usually sell in the \$20.00 to \$40.00



range. The large 3-pint, hotel-style, tannard pitcher that Glenbow has would likely fetch at least \$200.00 in today's market. •



SOME RECENT PRICES

A Banff School of Fine Arts Cup/Saucer:

Every once in a while you get what appears to be an aberrant bid for an item. The Banff School of Fine Arts cup and saucer was such an item. Someone certainly wanted this set in the worst way as they were willing to pay about \$240.00 for it during an ebay auction. Wow!! Obviously someone else wanted one as well as it does take two to tango.



Previous to this price, I had not heard of a cup/saucer going for more than \$60.00 and I can only conclude that the bidder wanted this set for a special reason, perhaps as a memento of attending the school or maybe just to complete a set.

Beer Steins by Medalta:

This group of four beer steins went for an average price of \$25.00 each, not a bargain but in my opinion a bit under-priced. The ebay description/picture did not mention any damage, so I must presume that the condition was good.



I do not know what the Medalta marks

were on the pieces, but that style of beer stein was introduced about 1938 and made through to 1954. Each of the four steins was a different colour: one a dark green, another maroon, and the last two slightly different shades of yellow.

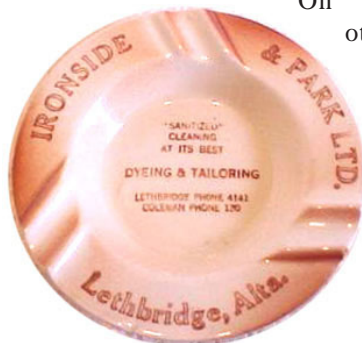
Items by Medicine Hat Potteries:

This little creamer sold for about \$45.00 Canadian. It is only 2½-inches high and was finished in a yellow glaze. Others have sold for about \$25.00.



On the other

hand, a round flat ashtray advertising "IRONSIDE & PARK LTD. Lethbridge, Alta." sold for about \$21.00 Canadian. That in my opinion was a bargain as I have only seen two other examples of this ashtray. •



MEDALTA'S BIRDER WARES

There are still a few Medalta pieces that I know only from a catalogue illustration of the piece. This page shows two of them, the pigeon nest and the canary nest.

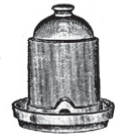
PAGE TWENTY

MEDALTA



COVERED COMBINETTES

This Combinette is supplied with or without cover as requested. Made in light grey stoneware. Holds approximately 3 gallons.



CHICKEN FOUNTAIN

Original 1/2 + 1 gallon



COVERED CHAMBERS

Made in Grey Stoneware; can be supplied with or without covers. Medium size.



RABBIT FEEDER

with a heavy brown glaze



RABBIT DRINKING FOUNTAIN

with oval made bottoms to prevent breaking with water frozen



Plain



Fancy

CUSPIDORS

Plain or fancy Cuspidors glazed with white or brown glaze. Sizes 6 and 7 inches.



PIGEON NESTS

Unemployed correct shape one size only - 9"



CANARY NESTS

on secondary unemployed set colors green blue brown one size only

The page shown here was a mock-up for a catalogue that was intended to be printed about 1931 or 1932 as far as I can tell, and presumably it was the Great Depression that prevented its publication. Medalta's sales were certainly falling off after 1930, and as they got less and less it would have been difficult to justify the cost of printing such a catalogue.

From other records, particularly the year-end inventories, we know that the pigeon nest was introduced in 1926 and discontinued around 1935. The canary nest had a shorter life span being produced from 1927 to about 1932. The illustration says that the pigeon nest was 9-inches in size, presumably its diameter. As to the size of the canary nest, we can only guess that it is about 6¾-inches in diameter, assuming that the illustrations are proportional to one another.

One other aspect of the canary nest that is readily apparent in the illustration is the fact that it was holed. Not being a birder, I do not know the reason for doing this. Was it to lighten the piece, to let water run through or for some other purpose? For all I know it may have even been for the bird to enter its nest as maybe one was supposed to put a cover of some sort over it. Quite frankly, I am not even sure that such a piece had anything to do with canaries; but, if not, why the name?

As the hand writing may be difficult to make-out, I am quickly going to list what is says on the catalogue sheet:

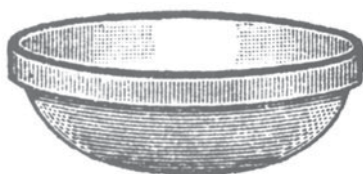
- Cuspidors/Plain or fancy Cuspidors glazed in colors Green, Blue or Brown
 Sizes 6 1/2 and 7 inches

- Chicken Fountain: Sizes 1/2 & 1 gallon

- Rabbit Feeder/Sizes 6 and 7 inches with a heavy brown glaze

- Rabbit & Dog Drinking Fountain with oval inside bottom to prevent breaking with water freezing

- Pigeon Nests Unglazed correct shape/One size only - 9"



PIGEON NEST

- Canary Nests Sanitary unglazed nests/one size only



CANARY NEST

Hopefully by sharing this page with you, someone will know where to look to find samples of these pieces. I have heard of Pigeon Farms and presumably that is where one might find such a nest. But where and for what purpose would a canary nest be used? By someone raising canaries? If any of our readers have any information concerning the use of these pieces, I would welcome it. •

WANTED

Please email me at gettyr@nucleus.com or call me at 403-273-1132 (best after 6:00 PM or on weekends/holidays) to tell me about your recent finds or any unusual pieces in your collection. Perhaps you have some electronic pictures that you can share with me. There are still many pieces for which I do not have photographs, and I would welcome your help in building my repository for future newsletters. Thank you. Ron Getty

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Email: Appraisal Request from W.C.

I am enquiring about a pair of 10-inch bowls with the RAF insignia. The stamp is MADE BY Medalta (Medalta is written) 52 CANADA VITRIFIED. There are no chips, but one has a hairline crack around the bottom of the bowl.

I enjoyed my recent visit to the Medalta Museum and while there, I asked the tour guide about these bowls... What is their value and were many pieces made? I obtained these 2 bowls at a garage sale for \$2.00 each. The lady told me that when she got married, and moved into the Air Force housing, they were issued a complete kitchen set of this pattern. Thank you for your help. Wendy



Covered Vegetable Dish
 10" dia. - 5 1/2" deep

CAT. No
 W160/C- White
 GB160/C- Green Band
 RB160/C- Red Band
 S160/C- Slipware

The lid and bottom can be used as separate dishes.
 Packed 1 doz. to carton.
 Shipping weight approx. 70 lbs per carton.

Hi Wendy:

From your description, I think you have the bottom half only of Medalta's Covered Vegetable Dish. The measurements that I have on three bowls are all 10.25" dia. across the top by 4" high. The 5.5" height mentioned in the catalogue description refers to the effective height inside the bowl when the cover is in place. A Calgary collector has the top half of the bowl with the RCAF crest on it, but I have never recorded the bottom half before.

It is hard to place a value on only half an item, but you have the better half, as the top that I saw was not marked with a Medalta stamp. Based on what some of the other hard-to-find Air Force pieces have

sold for, I would suggest that your bowls would likely fall in the \$60.00 to \$75.00 range; and, should you ever complete the set by finding a lid, the price would surely double and, perhaps, even be a bit higher.

Please send me a picture of your bowls if you can, as I would like to show them in the Medalta Newsletter that I write. Also if you can contact the lady from whom you acquired the bowls, I would like permission to contact her to get more information about the Air

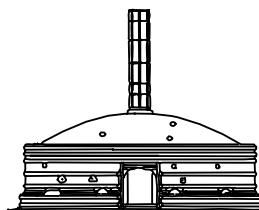
Force connection. Also please see if you can get her phone number for me. I would really like to know where she was living at the time that she moved into the Air Force housing as

well as the year that it occurred. I sincerely hope that you can get more history for me, as it is the history that brings the pieces to life.

Ron Getty

P.S. Wendy could not find the people from whom she acquired the dishes. In all likelihood they had moved away. She did, however, get a friend to take these pictures of the bowls that I am sharing with you. Both dated to 1952 by the Medalta stamp on the bottom.

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