

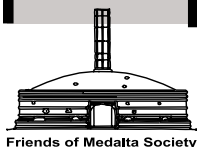
#9

Spring
2000

The Medalta Review

(A newsletter for Collectors of Alberta Made Pottery)

Celebrating
Alberta's
Ceramic
History



Friends of Medalta Society

Medalta's Cannister Set

(or Pantry Jars) ca. 1922-1930

Most Medalta collectors have two or three pantry jars in their collection but very few have all five. Looking at the frequency of occurrence for those that I have recorded (salt 11, coffee 10, sugar 10, tea 8 and rice 6) it appears that rice is the hardest one to find, with tea being a bit harder than the other ones. Perhaps the reason that Rice is harder to find stems from the fact that it was introduced later, likely in 1926.

The earliest reference to the pantry jars is found in the 1922 price list where they are listed at \$1.25 per dozen for inventory purposes, but they could well have been made a few years earlier as few records prior to 1922 exist. The lids which were sold separately were \$.80 per dozen. The price does not seem to have changed much over the years as they were still listed at only 10 cents each in 1930.

The pantry jar appears to have been discontinued sometime in 1930 as it is not listed in the year end inventory after that date, although there may have been a few miscellaneous sales of old stock for the next couple of years.

The pantry jar stands 6 1/2" to 6 5/8" high and is about 5 3/8" diameter across the top. There could well be a greater size range than what I have recorded as I only measured a few specimens. The jar is typically finished with a clear glaze over the grey stoneware clay and the name is in dark blue to black oxide, found near the middle of the side, but the positioning does vary a bit. The name Salt, Tea etc. is in solidly filled-in upper and lower case script. Just a centimeter or two down from the rim, and the distance does vary, is an encircling ridge of clay or what I refer to as the string line. This little ridge of clay permitted the owner to place a piece

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Another Pottery Auction

April 24, 2000

Frank Hall will be conducting the first of what is expected to be several sales over the next six months or so to dispose of the Pat Sonntag/Barry Sheferneck pottery collection. There is no doubt in my mind that this collection is as good as or perhaps even a little bit better than the Jack Harmer one that Frank Hall auctioned off last year.

I had the pleasure of recording Pat and Barry's collection a couple of years ago, and at that time it contained quite a few one-of-a-kind pieces. Since then they have undoubtedly added more as they both had an eye for rare and unusual pieces. Medalta was their prime collecting target, but they like most collectors did have a cross section of most of the potteries located in the Medicine Hat area. They had some Alberta Potteries (both Wyatt's and Yuill's), some Medicine Hat Potteries (both the 1912-1914 and the 1938-1955 companies) and a few pieces of P.I.E. and New Medalta Ceramics. For the most part they stayed away from the later Sunburst, Hycroft and Medalta 1966 wares, however they had some pieces.

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Five Thousand Pieces Ovenproof Stoneware

Arrives for the Made-in-Canada Spotlight Sale

FOR three years now we have arranged with a reliable Western pottery to make stoneware for this event during their slack season. We take a large quantity and the cost is made exceptionally low. This year a new departure has been made in giving some of this stoneware a rich brown glaze that makes it suitable for table use. All of it is processed and is guaranteed oven-proof.

Pantry Jars - 15c



Covered stoneware, lettered in black, grey with brown glazed band, 15c.

Brown Betty Teapots - 25c



Pretty shaped, nicely glazed teapots with strong handles and spouts. About 6-cup capacity.

Covered Casseroles - 40c



Pretty brown glazed ovenproof dishes with clean white interiors. Complete with cover at this astonishing price.

Generous Sized Jugs - 25c



Large, smoothly glazed jugs holding about 1 1/2 pints. A pretty creamy-yellow color.

Mixing Bowls 10c, 15c



Well-finished brown glazed bowls in handy eight and ten-inch sizes. China Section, Three, Five, Ten

Continued from page 1

of cloth over the top, tying it firmly in place so that it would not slip off.

The "Rice" jar was added around April 9, 1926. It may have been specially produced for Eaton's who requested a number of different pieces for their "Made-in-Canada Spotlight Sale". An invoice for the pieces ordered for this sale is included herein, as is the ad, which was attached to the invoice. As you can see from the invoice listing the pantry jars had brown tops.

A few of these brown top pantry jars have shown up in collections but as a rule they are quite hard to find. The dark brown glaze is confined to the top usually just down to the string line, although I did record one example where the brown ran about an inch below the string line.

As pointed out elsewhere in this newsletter a couple of the usual grey pantry jars will be sold in the forthcoming Hall's auction. My guess is that they will sell for around \$100.00 each but one never knows what surprises a sale will bring.

The Medalta Review

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The Medalta Review is published quarterly in the interest of keeping collectors of Alberta made pottery informed on newly found products, current prices, history of the potteries and other aspects relating to the Alberta pottery industry. Each issue includes a Hycroft and Medalta section. Other columns will bring you reports regarding Alberta Potteries (Wyatt and Yuill), Athabasca Potteries, Medicine Hat Potteries (Little Chief), Medalta (1966) Ltd., Provincial Industrial Enterprises (PIE) or Sunburst Ceramics, and our question and answer column will reply to inquiries from our readers and museum visitors.

Subscription is \$20.00 per year. Back issues are available from the Friends of Medalta at \$5.00 each plus postage and handling.

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436	April 9th., 1926.
The T. Eaton Co. Ltd., Dept. No. 221, WINDSOR, MAN.	27529
2% 30 days - 60 days net	J.B. Carter
1000 Only 10 in. Mixing Bowls Brown	1 60 133 13
695 " 5 " Mixing Bowls	1 1 25 25 25
345 " 9 " Mixing Bowls (Charged as 8")	1 1 25 25 25
190 " Tea Pantry Jars, Brown Tops	15 00 25 50
45 " Coffee Pantry Jars, Brown Tops	15 00 25 50
30 " Sugar Pantry Jars, Brown Tops	15 00 25 50
170 " Rice Pantry Jars, Brown Tops	15 00 25 50
140 " Chambers (Back Order)	1 1 25 25 25
200 " 30's Tea Pots	1 1 25 25 25
200 " 3 Ft. Yellow Pitchers (Charged as 2 Ft.)	1 1 25 25 25
Prepaid freight on the above invoice is, 9825 lbs. @ 50¢ per 100 lbs. amounting to	445 50 445 50
less 1% discount on.....	388 02 388 02
5% Government tax on.....	388 02 388 02
	403 79
GOODS SOLD F.O.B. MEDICINE HAT SHIPPED IN CAR C.P. NO. 213424	

I should point out that the pantry jars are never marked with a Medalta stamp, and for that reason you can luck-out and find one at a flea market or garage sale for just a few dollars.

I also believe that I once saw a Pantry Jar made by Medalta Potteries (1966) Limited, one with the name on the side just like Medalta's. Unfortunately I was not recording their products at the time and therefore I have no measurements, description or picture of it. If one of our readers can confirm that Medalta (1966) Limited made such a jar, please send me a picture and measurements for future follow-up in the newsletter. •

Follow-up: Round Flat Ashtrays

One of the flat round ashtrays which will be included in the forthcoming Hall's auction, is a new listing for my records. It is marked in solid brown lettering "INTERNATIONAL HOTEL | EDMONTON | ALBERTA" within the three rim segments. The central decoration is the usual rubber-stamped windmill. The Medalta sales records indicate that this hotel was billed \$2.25 for the rubber stamp and \$15.45 for the order in February 1937. As these ashtrays sold for 15 cents each at that time, the order was for about 100 ashtrays. Incidentally another order was mentioned in a letter dated April 16, 1938, also for 100 ashtrays, but this time the match holder style of ashtray was mentioned.



I tried to photograph another new find that showed up in Medicine Hat but as you can see I got a lot of glare, obliterating some of the markings. On the three rim segments it reads "Royal Hotel, Taber | Corona Hotel | Vauxhall" and in the middle "We welcome you/AT OUR/HOTELS". The lettering in this instance is in open block style and it is in the usual brown on honey colour. A search of the Medalta sales records did not reveal this particular order. Although there are several orders for a Royal Hotel and at least one for a Corona Hotel, there is no mention of the two together or of the town Vauxhall. •

Some Recent Finds: Baby Ware

A Vancouver collector was the successful bidder on three baby plates that were listed on ebay. Ebay, for our readers who are not yet familiar with this internet site (accessible at www.ebay.com), is the main auction found on the internet. It always has an assortment of Alberta made pottery listed in the pottery and glass section.

The plates are not what you would expect for baby plates as they were made using the saucer form for Medalta's first set of domestic wares, the dishes that were modelled after the popular USA-made Fiesta Ware. The saucer is about 6 inches in diameter (+ or - an eighth) but in this instance the saucer form was modified by removing both the cup ring and the encircling rim pattern on the top surface.

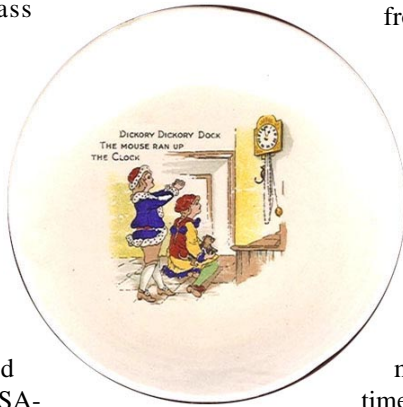
It is also the only recorded use I have for white burning clay being used to make the Fiesta-like dishes. The yellow coloured flat clay was used in making the regular dishes, and prior to the arrival of these baby plates

I had never recorded the use of white clay.

The Medalta stamp found on the bottom of the plates is the early or larger lettering variety of the G.33 stamp which was in use from 1938 to

1940 (the right hand one as illustrated in the Stamps and Other Markings booklet). As expected for white dishes made at this time, there are iron inclusions in the clay that show up as black specks (due to Medalta not yet having an effective magnetic particle separator).

The decorations as you can see from the illustrations are centered and they are indeed quite attractive when viewed in all their colours. From some of the letters in the Medalta files, we know that



these multicoloured decals were acquired from England until World War II disrupted the supply.

The three nursery rhyme verses with the lettering all in capitals read "Dickory Dickory Dock, The Mouse Ran Up The Clock", "The Sheep's In The Meadow, The Cow's In The Corn" and "Little Miss Muffet, Sat On A Tuffet, Eating Curds And Whey".

Medalta's baby ware is both sought after and prized by collectors and it is indeed quite hard to find; therefore, the price of about \$110.00 each seems reasonable to me. For a product not seen before, I certainly would have been willing to pay that much. •

Want Ads

Wanted: Your feedback. Just a reminder asking you to let us know if you would be interested in a copy of Medalta's 1947 illustrated Hotel China Catalogue (32 pages) for around \$30.00 each.

Place Your Ad Here

For those who have renewed their subscription, please remember that you get one ad per year, up to three lines long, free with your subscription. Other ads \$1.00 per line, or partial line. Pictures with your ad extra at \$1.00 each. Advertise for wanted items, items for sale, items for trade, requests for information or any other matters related to the collecting/documenting of pottery. •

Crock Production

Contributed by Tony Hansen:

The Friends of Medalta Society has just received a donation of equipment including a huge kiln, jigger wheel, conveyors, drying chamber, blunger and slurry mixer, ware racks and many other items. It is very modern and in excellent condition. We are setting it up to produce large quantities of open containers such as crocks, bowls, and ice buckets. While we have enjoyed considerable success manufacturing ware for our gift shop, it has become clear that a greater volume will need to be made to cover our core expenses at our ever growing interpretive center.

To better utilize space we have decided to focus our production on just a few items and learn to do them very well. We have finished restoring an original set of molds for 1/4, 1/2 and 1 gallon crock sizes. New molds for lids to fit these are almost complete. We are aiming for a high quality glaze surface and vitreous stoneware strength; these will be better than anything made in the past. Packaging with original design motifs will be prepared and we are planning to include some of the original recipes for things like beans and sauerkraut in the boxes. We will keep you posted on these exciting developments in the next issue. •

Medalta's Toby Jugs: The Churchill Jug

As far as we know Medalta made only two pieces that may be classified as Toby jugs, the Churchill jug and the other which has been referred to as the Paul Revere jug. The only jug that actually appears in the Medalta records for sure is the Churchill one, but recently I ran across a reference to a Chamberlain jug and perhaps that is indeed the one which collectors have been calling the Revere mug; more about that later.

The Churchill jug was in fact not even the



property of Medalta. A letter from Medalta dated May 7, 1941 advises another client that B.A. Cunliffe owned the model block and that orders had to be approved by him before Medalta could make or ship any jugs.

While it is not possible to print all the letters that refer to the Churchill jug, it is worth while sharing a few of them with you.

The first one, a rather long letter, dated November 16, 1940 describes the block that was commissioned by Cunliffe and produced for him by artist Carter Scott (not mentioned in the letter by name but found on the bottom of the Toby jugs). In this letter Cunliffe suggests modifications that need to be made, the colours that he would like to see and what the cost of production would have to be kept at in order to sell it.

Another letter,

misdated January 4, 1940 instead of 1941, describes the colours that were made up for the initial order of 836 jugs. These according to the accompanying shipping instructions (also reproduced here), were sent to a firm called Clorient (location unknown) and to the Robert Simpson Company in Toronto.

As you can see from these documents quite a number of the dark coloured varieties, the

ones using blue and black with lettering often in red, were made up and shipped out for resale. Where have they all gone? I have only recorded three samples so far, and they were all the black decoration as described under Number 1.

The brown toned one was by far the most popular,

not only by what you see in the market place but also as suggested by some of the Medalta letters. It is not really described in the letter reproduced here, but other letters indicate it was close to the Number 6 listing. It basically has the hat and coat in brown with the face being in skin tones. The lettering on the hat in a brownish-yellow stands out against the darker brown of the hat. The secondmost popular colour from what I

have seen in the marketplace is the Number 7 decoration, or the plain ivory one. It likely never really caught the public's eye as I have only recorded 6 of them as compared to thirty or more of the brown ones.

The design of

Columbia-Orient Export and Import Co. Ltd.

JAPAN OFFICE: TATEMITSUBU GINCHO
P.O. BOX 24
NAGOYA, JAPAN

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO VANCOUVER OFFICE
321 WATER STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.

January 4th 1940

Medalta Potteries Ltd.
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Description of decorations for Churchill Jugs.

Number 1. Black Coat & Hat and Red Lettering as sampled by Medalta

Number 2. Black Coat & Hat shaded blue inside hat Gold lettering as sampled by Medalta.

" 3 Black Coat Blue Handle & hat & gold letters as sampled by Medalta.

" 4 Blue Coat and rim of hat shaded blue inside of Hat Red lettering as sampled by Medalta.

" 5 Dark Blue handle & coat & hat shaded blue inside rim Red lettering as sampled by Medalta.

" 6 See sample sent under separate cover, this is not sent to be copied but as an indication of the effect to be aimed at. The face to be pinked, the coat and hat washed in with a purplish brown wash, handle and letters to be left alone. I don't specify that hair and eyes be touched but if you do touch them Churchill's eyes are blue and his hair and eyebrows are sandy. The sample I send you is landed here for 24¢ retail for 49¢ .24¢ includes factory cost, packing, freight from England, Duty, Tax & war risk insurance.

" 7 Plain Ivory, not heavily covered but merely washed to give it an antique effect if at all possible to sample the last two to me promptly please do so so that I may approve it. If Number 6 is good it may result in much larger orders.

Renwick & Cunliffe Ltd.

From B.A. Cunliffe.

Place Vancouver, B.C.
November 16th/40

to E.G. Phillipson.
Medicine Hat.

Date

My Dear Ed., I have been trying for days to get a few minutes to reply to your various letters and now I have to write you for I have to-day expressed to you the block for the Churchill jug which I want you to make for me and I must give you the instructions as to how if possible I want it done. It is unfortunate that I have not been able to get the block finished before for I have tentative orders for a couple of thousand of them if I could deliver before Christmas which I know is impossible for you.

How ever I think I will sell a lot more than that but it will take longer than if we could have taken advantage of the Xmas gift buying. I have marked the Carton carefully to try and ensure that it will be carefully handled both by the Express Co and in the opening. I have had the plaster block made because I dare not risk sending the clay model and hope that you will be able to make your moulds from it. Check it over carefully however or rather have Tom check it over as there may have to be some little alteration made so that it will draw properly. In any case I think that it will have to be a 5 piece mould, 1 piece for the front face, 2 for the back head and handle and two for the upper part of the hat and lettering.

There is one little alteration that I think can be made without difficulty. This is it, if you set the jug down with the side face toward you you will note that the spout is slightly lower than the back of the jug, this should not be so the spout should be the highest. If you slip under the bottom of the jug at the front end anything which raises it not more than 1/8th of an inch not only is this remedied but the entire appearance of the jug is improved. Please there for before making any mould from this block have this remedied. I presume that Tom will do this by plastering a little on the bottom tapering away toward the back. You will note that the name of the sculptor is on the bottom of the Jug, this has to appear on the finished article. What I want you to do is make a mould or a couple of moulds, cast a half dozen pieces in cane body. My idea is that the face should be left in cane, the coat hat and handle in greyish black and the face of the

Renwick & Cunliffe Ltd.

From B.A. Cunliffe

Place Nov 16th/40

to E.G. Phillipson.

Letters on the hat as brilliant a crimson as you can accomplish. The whole to be covered with a clear Glaze. If it is possible to do so this could be a one fire job so that the coat can be kept as low as possible. Large volume depends on us being able to keep the price down to not exceeding 55cents net at the factory. Send me on three or four pieces in bisque so that we can make some experiments in color here but try out the above suggestion at the factory and let me have the results as soon as possible.

In the meantime tell me your story for I may be in error on some points. Please show this letter to Tom and talk it over with him he may have some suggestion to make that we neither of us think of. I have thought of the fact that you may not have a crimson that will one fire but that might be overcome by applying a slip color. Copyright has been applied for on this jug so you might warn anyone who might be tempted to do monkey tricks that it would be both dangerous and expensive.

Please take every care of the block for if you cannot do this, I have an offer of \$200.00 for the block and copyright.

Please advise me at once when the next car will be ready to leave and whether Spencers orders are all ready (there is no hurry for the Bowl sets and Brown special T-pots).

Also How many Lamp bases will you have ready for the car.

Will write you re other matters to morrow.

Sincerely,

B.A. Cunliffe

P.S. Please write me promptly as to the Jug.

this Toby jug was very timely, Cunliffe must be admired for coming up with such a good idea. Undoubtedly, he had the large British populace of Victoria in mind as the likely buyers of this piece, and it seems that projected sales were high considering the size of the initial order.

Did Cunliffe simply copy a British piece that he had seen or was this an original idea? I suspect it was copied after another one, perhaps a British made Toby jug, but whatever the case, it was a good idea. And from the number that you see in collections I would say a pretty good seller. The rim of the hat commemorated that now well-known line from Churchill's speech where he said "We Shall Not Flag Nor Fail". The date of those famous words, 4 June 1940, is found on one shoulder and the name Churchill is found on the other shoulder.

To finish the Churchill jug discussion, I will refer you to The Medalta Stamps and Other Markings booklet to see the Carter Scott signature and the two Medalta stamps exclusively found on the jugs, stamp G.42 the Industrial Design stamp and stamp G.43 the Copyright stamp.

The Chamberlain Jug:

This jug is not described in the Medalta letters and is only known from a passing reference to it in one of the invoices. One of my many regrets is that

I never got around to asking Ed Phillipson about this piece as I am sure that he could have told me right away whether or not the Chamberlain jug is the one that collectors have been referring to as the Paul Revere jug.

The jug shown here was finished in a green glaze but I have also recorded a cobalt blue one and about

four samples of cream coloured ones, the cream ones often with some additional brown shading or accenting of the eyes. The stamps recorded on this jug include the G.28 and the G.33 marks indicating a date from the late 1930s. It stands 3 3/4" in height.

When I first read the distribution

sheet dated December 7, 1940 which mentions the shipment of "1 carton Chamberlain jugs" sent to B.A. Cunliffe in Vancouver, I thought it was referring to the Churchill jug. Now I am not so sure for several reasons. Firstly, the Churchill jug is mentioned by the name Churchill in letters dated before this time, so why would they use a different name in the invoice? Secondly, why couldn't the so-called Paul Revere jug in fact be a characterizing of Neville Chamberlain, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain? I suspect that the name Paul Revere in part came into use thanks to the hairstyle depicted on this jug, but could it also not be the wig worn in the British court and parliament?

Can one of our readers help solve this question? Perhaps one of you has a friend in England that could look up depictions of Neville Chamberlain in issues of Punch and other British magazines dating to the early World War II years. Perhaps one of our readers uses the internet much more frequently than I do and knows how to go about getting an identification that way. As usual, I will include any information passed along to me in a future issue. •



Medicine Hat Potteries Building Recreation

In 1938 when it was first built, the Medicine Hat Potteries was a magnificent, state-of-the-art building. It is the home of our Interpretive Centre

today. In its honour Brandeil MacLeod has created an accurate computer model that contains over 5,000,000 polygons

and is detailed to the level of the individual brick. We can render it from any angle at any resolution. •



Continued from page 1

What were the strengths of their collection? That is a fairly hard question to answer but the one thing that comes to mind right away is some of their lamp bases, and particularly their advertising collection. Their Saskatchewan advertique collection was the best for that Province of any of the collections that I have had the privilege of recording over the years. However, I am not going to say any more about what those pieces are as few of them are included in this sale. I would not be surprised if they retain parts of their collection such as the Saskatchewan advertising items, and therefore I do not want to mention pieces that are not up for sale.

The auction will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday the 24th of April and as usual there will be about 300 separate lots. For further information please contact Hall's Auction to let them know that you would like a detailed listing. Write to: Hall's Auction, 5240 1A Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2H 1J1; phone 403-640-1244; fax 403-259-3682; e-mail brent.cheung@hallsauction.com and check the web-site www.hallsauction.com from time to time. Pictures of the collection have been posted already, and I presume a listing will be on their web page by the time you get this newsletter.

A Selection from the Auction

When there are 300 lots to choose from, it is hard to know where to start and certainly impossible to discuss very many of them. And please do not interpret my lack of mentioning cracks and chips as an indication of their absence as I was only interested in what was there, not in its condition. If you are going to bid on any of the pieces, it is best to view them firsthand, but if that is impossible, please give Hall's Auction a call and ask them to look

the piece over for you.

Two pieces seldom seen are the pair of baby cup saucers. One has the Little Miss Muffet verse and the other The Ole King Cole rhyme. I expect the bidding to be interesting on these saucers, as I am sure that several collectors will want to pair their baby cup with the saucer. By the way, the saucers are indeed round and only look oval due to the angle that I took the photograph at.

In addition there are at least two other baby wares in the sale, a true baby plate with the Four and Twenty Blackbirds rhyme and the baby cup with the lamb decoration from the Mountain Trails pattern.

It is also a good opportunity for a few collectors to add some missing pieces to their named hotel china sets. Six pieces of the yellow rimmed dishes with the crest of The South Alberta Regiment in black are included in the sale, and this pattern is fairly hard to find. This pattern is of special interest to me as it was the Regiment that Ed Phillipson joined during W.W.II.

There are also RCAF, Hotel Wales, Canadian National and CPR wares in the sale along with some Mountain Trails and Cattle Country pieces. One of the CPR pieces is extremely rare, it being the small handled dish which may have been used to serve oysters. I do not know what Medalta called

this piece as I have never seen it mentioned in the letters or in any illustrations. It is the small dish more or less in the center of the picture just to the right of and behind the pair of candle-holders.

The same photograph also shows some of the vases in the sale; the No. 131 Victory vase (V-shaped), the tall slender No. 69 vase behind it with the silver buffalo berry design on black, and the No. 2 Asia vase also with the silver buffalo berry but this time on the sand green background. I had a good look at the Asia vase and it was in super condition. The 15" high hourglass vase with the grape decoration was at one time a real beauty, but this one has some major chipping around both the rim and the base.

There is a good cross section of Medalta's ashtrays in the sale including several not shown in the photograph. The ones shown here are advertising ones which are always of special interest as they are generally hard to find. The one with "STETSON HATS" in embossed lettering at the front of the hat is still one-of-a-kind as far as I know. It and another with the name "MEDICINE HAT" embossed at the front (not part of this sale) are the only embossed varieties that I have run across. The round flat ashtray advertising the International Hotel in Edmonton is also one-of-a-kind, and while the matchbox holder ashtray made for the York Hotel is hard to find, at least six samples can be found in private collections.



The photograph showing the Gateway Lodge beer stein and a number of vases also shows a rare piece of hotel ware. It is the plain white muffin cover just to the right of the mauve No. 1 vase. In all the collections that I have recorded I have only

seen a couple of muffin covers that bear a Medalta stamp. In the fifteen or so years that I collected for the Glenbow, I never was fortunate enough to find the muffin cover.





There are also some good pieces of stoneware up for grabs, two miniature jugs, an unbanded egg beater jar (black lettering), a salt and a tea canister jar and a 3 and 5-gallon Moyer's water cooler. There is also a 2-gallon crock made by the Medicine Hat Pottery Company Limited dating from 1912-1914. Unlike the stoneware grey Medalta crocks, this one has a dark brown top half and a whitish bottom half. I would bet that A.B. of Calgary picks this up to go with the 1-gallon crock that he got at one of the Blue



Mountain sales last year.

Also, please note in that same picture beside the crock, the small sharp-shouldered lamp base. It is a lacquer finish with the white apple blossom decoration against a pink background. This style of lamp base



dates to the early 1930s and is quite difficult to find.

Decorated wares include a cookie jar with the glazed sailboat design (no lid), a stenciled cows in pasture mixing bowl, a number of stenciled sailboat ship style pitchers and also an owl one, a couple of mill decorated tankard style pitches and one with a well executed hand painted sailboat, a stenciled cottage No. 84 basket-weave pitcher, and even a cheese bowl with the maple leaf decoration on the exterior and Ogilvie advertising in the bottom. This by the way is one of the hard-to-find Ogilvie items.

I could go on and on as there are still so many hard-to-find pieces that I have not mentioned, but if I did there would be no surprises for you to discover for yourself when previewing the pieces. But I would like to make one prediction just for fun, and to see if I even come close to my estimate. I think the highest priced piece will be the globe style

teapot finished with the glazed mill decoration. I did not examine it closely for damage or repairs, but presuming that it is in fairly good condition I would expect it to fetch in the \$650.00 to \$800.00 range.

Good luck to all of you that attend the sale. It promises to be a good one, one that will help fill many voids in your collection. See you there. •

Questions/Answers

E-Mail from L.C., British Columbia

Appraisal Request:

Description: this piece is approximately 4 1/2" high including the cork and is about 7 3/4" around. The base colour is an off-white and the top portion is medium brown. The cork is a brown colour as well. The markings on the side are:

**MEDALTA
POTTERIES
LIMITED**

(an unrecognizable marking)
MEDICINEHAT



The condition is excellent. There is some kind of slight wear or discolourization above the markings and a chip below the markings that seems to be glazed over. The top portion has a shiny glaze and the bottom portion has a glaze but it seems less shiny. The cork is worn in around where it meets the jug.

I would appreciate anything you could tell me about this piece. I was told it could be quite valuable. (I bet everyone is told that, right?) Thank you very much. L. C., British Columbia

Dear L.C.

You do indeed have a little gem, which is known to Medalta collectors as the miniature jug. In The Medalta Review, No. 2, Summer 1998, I discussed the various miniatures made by Medalta over the years, and if you do not have a copy of that issue, you can still obtain it and any other back issues from the Friends of Medalta Society for \$5.00 per issue.

The miniature shouldered jug was without doubt Medalta's most popular miniature.

Other pieces like the miniature churn, crock and chamber pot had a much more limited distribution. The jug that you have in your possession is one of the varieties used by Medalta Potteries itself. Several people who worked in the factory told me that the miniatures, including the jug, were given away to visitors touring the plant. In all likelihood, thousands were given away over the years, but it seems that only a few have survived.

The earliest production date for the miniature jug is 1925, and apparently it was produced right through to 1954. The variety that you have cannot be precisely dated at present, but it most likely dates from 1930-1940. The unrecognizable marking on the side appears to be nothing more than three asterisk like signs placed side by side.



As to its value, most of these miniature jugs sell in the \$200-\$300.00 range. Richard and Jean Symonds in their booklet "Medalta Stoneware and Pottery for Collectors" published in 1974 listed the miniatures as priceless at that time as only half a dozen miniatures in total had been seen, but they actually are not too hard to find. I have recorded over 54 miniature jugs in total, but only 5 of those were identical to the one that you have. The other Medalta pottery giveaways shown here only number 3 in total so far, but even though yours is more common it still sells for around the same price.

If you have any future questions please direct e-mail to me at gettyr@nucleus.com or call me at 403-273-1132. Thanks, Ronald Getty

Editors Note:

Just a week or two after I answered this e-mail, a miniature jug with the identical markings as the one the reader asked about went for \$270.00 U.S. on ebay, the computer auction. That converts to about \$400.00 Canadian, and that could well be what the miniature jugs will be selling for from now on as many dealers are now making a point of watching the prices realized on ebay.



Dear Mr. Getty:

We've all seen the Catelli bean pots, but most of us have only heard of Rosaire bean pots being made by Medalta. I recently ran into a Rosaire bean pot that is about a third smaller than the Catelli. The handles are different, perhaps more modern looking and the glaze is perfectly shiny and smooth both inside and out. It has raised letters ROSAIRE and the raised numeral 100 appears underneath the letters. There is, however, no marking anywhere. I know that the headcheese bowls made for Arthur Beaudin, Montreal are not marked either, although they appear to be earlier. Do the above characteristics coincide with what is known about the Rosaire bean pot made by Medalta? And does anyone know what ROSAIRE refers to? Thanks. Don Breen

Dear Mr. Breen:

The Rosaire bean pot that you describe appears to be different from what I have recorded. All the ones with a Medalta stamp on the bottom have been in the 1-quart size as indicated by the impressed numeral 1 in the bottom. The lettering ROSAIRE, like the one you describe, is raised from the rest of the body. The Medalta ones are a reddish-brown in colour with the top of the letters of the word ROSAIRE being left unglazed. You said that the one you saw had 100 below the name ROSAIRE; this I have not seen on any

marked Medalta ones.

I do not know what Rosaire stands for. All I can say at present is that the Rosaire bean pots have been showing up in Eastern Canada, so presumably they were produced for an eastern firm.

Rosaire bean pots are harder to find than Catelli ones but they still fall in the \$40 to \$75 range.

Sorry I could not be more helpful.
Ronald Getty

To: gettyr@nucleus.com

Subject: Medalta at Redcliff

Cher Maitre:

I have a question that is more of a puzzle (to me) than a request for appraisal. I have several Medalta pieces that are marked Medalta Potteries/Redcliff/Alta./Canada (circular stamp). My only guide thus far is your 1994 handbook, from which I cannot tell how/when the Redcliff plants would have been using the Medalta name.

For example, I have two matching pudding bowls, 6 1/2" across x 4" high, and 7 1/2 x 4 1/2, green glazed bodies with a dark brown glazed rim shading down on to the body, and with matte leaf-design transfers (green, orange, brown leaves) on one side of each, both with the tm described above. What I most want to know is when they date from, although of course I'm curious to know how you would appraise them as well — both are in mint condition (no chips, no cracks) except for some horizontal crazing in their (beige) interiors.

I have had a lot of fun flipping back and forth forever through your book. I grew up in Medicine Hat in the late 40s, early 50s, knowing the Medalta name, of course, but never realizing how much my bits and pieces would mean to an aging memory so many years later. Thank you for

helping me to fill in some blanks. Yours sincerely, Susan K.D.

PS: For Christmas I received from my sister the lop-sided sugar bowl from the tea set made by Medicine Hat Potteries (sleepy Indian) in the early '50s that you describe so amusingly. The lid is a bit annoying, but it does make me smile every time I go into the kitchen.

Dear Susan:

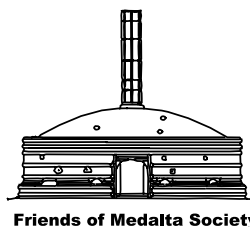
I am sorry that I cannot help you too much regarding the Medalta Redcliff that you asked about. At present I do not know too much about this company as I have not seen very many of their products. I am not a collector so I rely on collectors to let me record their holdings and to send me photographs. At present not too many people collect Medalta Redcliff or at least I am not yet aware of them.

Medalta Redcliff is actually made by the company registered under the name "Medalta Potteries (1966) Limited". They were only in business from 1966 to 1986, and in that time they used some ten or so stamps to mark their products. At present though I do not know the date sequence of those stamps. Whenever you see a piece marked Medalta and with the name Redcliff, you can date it between 1966 and 1986. The Redcliff company was a separate company from the original Medalta, which closed in 1954, and the quality of its wares left much to be desired.

Recently Medalta Redcliff items have been climbing in price, but I cannot help with the products you mentioned as I cannot visualize them from your description. If you can send me a picture of the pudding bowls perhaps I will be able to tell you more about them.

Happy collecting.

Ronald Getty •



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Note: This letter should have been included with the 1953 Medalta Price you received last week:

A 1953 MEDALTA PRICE LIST

Few Medalta price lists have survived and those that have all date to the 1950s, relatively late in the company's history. This is one of the most informative ones as it lists both the hotelwares and the stonewares. What is missing is a listing of Medalta's domestic wares and perhaps none was ever printed as I have yet to see such a listing.

For the most part the listing is self explanatory and matches the descriptions found in the hotelware catalogue produced by Medalta in 1947. Regretfully that 32 page catalogue which illustrates most of the pieces found in the hotel china section of this 1953 price list has not been reprinted as yet, but hopefully it will be before too long. However it is on the Medalta CD available on our web site.

In the column where the weight per dozen is listed, it is of course in pounds as that was the measurement of the day. Under teapots and coffee pots where it says 1G, the G is a reference to the colour green. Ice Water Pitchers are referred to on page 2 giving both the individual and the large size. On the next page under Tankard Jugs the last entry is for a Ball Water Jug. As far as I can tell it and the Ice Water Pitchers are one and the same.

I am sure that most of you are familiar with the various products listed here, but what you may not be aware of is some of the sizes. Also, some of the products are rarely seen in collections including the T.C.A. dishes mentioned at the bottom of page 2. 'T.C.A.' is a reference to Trans Canada Airlines as this plate was specially designed for them and was marked with the oxide stamps listed as stamp no. G.66a & b in the book "Know Your Medalta: Stamps and Other Markings." Other seldom seen pieces are the no. 701 and 415 bakers listed under Oval Bakers and the Muffin Cover listed on page 5.

Some problematical pieces, due to the fact that they are not illustrated in the 1947 catalogue, are the Soybean Dishes, Oatmeal Dishes and Blood Plates (listed on page 5 of this price list). I believe I know what the Oatmeal Dish looks like but as for the other two I really have no idea what they may be. When I read 'Blood Plate', what comes to mind for me is a plate with a trough around the rim to catch the juices from a rare-cooked steak, but admittedly I have never seen such a plate made by Medalta.

The only surprise found on the stoneware listing is the mention of a 'Churn Vase W/Handle' on page 7. I have no idea what this product may be as the only large vase that comes to mind is the cookie jar vase (which has two handles). The listing is informative however in that it suggests that some sizes of tall crocks, the 8 and 12 gallon ones for example, had been discontinued. Some sizes of bean pots, churns and butter crocks are similarly not listed and may have been discontinued. The other facts of interest to me were the weights and prices of some of the pieces, particularly the crocks. For example, the 50 gallon Self Draining Crock sold for \$116.50 with the lid adding another \$6.30 to the price. The combined weight of the crock and lid is listed at 290 pounds. No wonder collectors have little desire to add these heavy pieces to their collections.

In conclusion I will ask our readers to let the Friends of Medalta Society know if there is any interest in reprinting the 1947 Hotel Ware Catalogue. Due to the limited number of expected sales, the cost would likely be around \$30.00 each. Please let the FOMS or the Editor know if you are interested at this price as a reprinting may be possible if enough of our readers give a positive response.