

# The Medalta Review

(A newsletter for Collectors of Alberta Made Pottery)

#1

Spring 98

Celebrating  
Alberta's  
Ceramic  
History



## About the Newsletter

### Why

The Friends of Medalta Society have for a number of years been interested in publishing a newsletter for the collectors of Alberta made pottery. At long last their wishes have been fulfilled with the publishing of the first issue of The Medalta Review which is being distributed without charge to potential subscribers.

As the FOMS is committed to the preservation and interpretation of the Alberta pottery industry, it felt that there was a need for a newsletter to keep collectors and others interested in history advised as to new product finds, potential finds, current prices and other matters relating to the production of pottery. The Friends are challenged with the preservation of two of Alberta's pottery plants, the original Medalta factory and the Medicine Hat Potteries factory which later became Hycroft China Limited. Their extensive pottery collections are currently on view for the public and collectors to enjoy in both of the plants, and within the Hycroft plant set amongst the equipment and tools used in the manufacturing process.

### Frequency

The Newsletter will be published four times a year around the end of March, June, September and December. It will vary from four to six pages in length, printed on both sides. Illustrations will be limited to black and white images.

### Rate

Subscription will be \$20.00 per year, and back issues will be available from the Friends of Medalta at \$5.00 each plus postage and handling.

### Contents

Each issue of the Newsletter will have a section devoted to Hycroft's and Medalta's products. Another column will bring you reports regarding the products of other Alberta potteries be it Provincial Industrial Enterprises (PIE), Alberta Potteries (Wyatt and Yuill), Medicine Hat Potteries (Little Chief), Medalta (1966) Ltd., Sunburst Ceramics or the Athabasca Potteries. Our question and answer column will partly depend upon our subscribers sending us pictures of their new finds along with any questions that they may have.

## A New Medalta Product

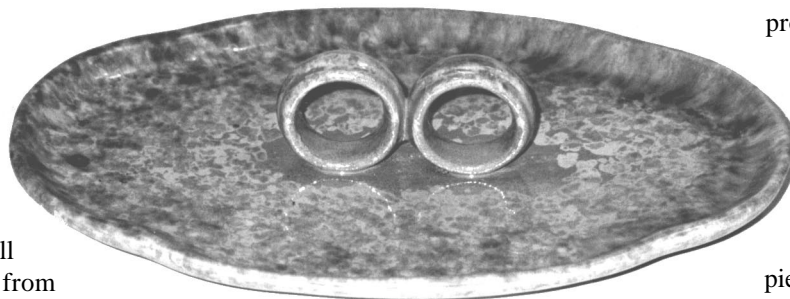
Recently a Calgary couple had the good fortune of picking up an altogether new Medalta product at the Crossroads Flea Market and at a very reasonable price too. While I have no idea what Medalta marketed this piece as, I believe it was likely used as a candy or nut dish, or perhaps a condiment tray.

Basically it is an olive tray which has been modified by adding two small loops to the centre of the dish. Its measurements are 10 1/8 inches long by 6 7/8 inches wide and the handles are about 1 inch in diameter. The glaze is not what one would expect to find on a Medalta item as the top exhibits dark blue mottling with some cream on an orange base, while the bottom is finished in a solid orange glaze.

The Medalta stamp on the bottom is G.46.a which dates the piece from 1942 to 1947, and I would think that it most likely was made in the post war period.

While the coloured glaze of the item and the fact that stamp G.46.a was used by Medalta (1966) Ltd. might make one question it as a Medalta piece, I believe that it is indeed an original Medalta piece. The first reason for this belief is that the looped handles are identical to those found on the 9.5 inch handled, hotel-style, salad bowl and the second is that Medalta is known to have made another product with handles in the centre. This latter product, which has not yet been observed in any collections, is described in a Medalta document as a "ribbed cake plate 9" with 2 handles in centre."

As this is the only known sample, we can only guess as to whether or not it became a production line. Perhaps it was made by a Medalta employee for his personal use and, if so, that could explain the unusual colouring of the piece. •



## Contents

About the Newsletter .....	1
A New Medalta Product .....	1
Tony Schlachter: A Collector You Should Know ....	2
Blood Testing Plate: A Rare Find.....	3
Recent Prices .....	3
Classified Ads .....	4
Hycroft China & Tibor Rada .....	4
Strangely Numbered Crocks .....	5
Questions and Answers .....	6
Next Issue .....	8
Writers in Waiting .....	8

## Tony Schlachter: A Collector You Should Know

I first met Tony in the early 1980's when he came to Calgary to view the George Martin collection which had been offered to the Glenbow Museum. At the time, Glenbow was not in a position to acquire this significant collection due to double digit inflation eroding its endowment fund, but I wanted to know who acquired it as I needed to photograph many of the unique pieces in this collection.

Tony was the successful bidder, and the addition of this four hundred piece collection put him well on his way to becoming one of the paramount Medalta collectors.

Prior to this, I did not really know Tony although I had run across his name from time to time from other collectors. Nevertheless, as he packed the collection to take it back home, he set aside the pieces that I wanted to measure and photograph. Included among them were of course some of the rarest pieces, and here he was entrusting them to a stranger that he had not met before.

Tony started collecting Medalta and other Alberta pottery pieces in 1958. Being in the heart of Medalta country, it was relatively to pick up pieces at local auctions and antique sales. Later on he expanded his collecting technique to include setting up a table at the Wild Rose Antique sale in Edmonton. This not only provided another avenue to add to his collection but permitted him to meet many other collectors and to eventually add to his collection by trading with them. Not only is he a regular attendant at every major auction and antique show, but he is well known by most of the owners of antique and collectible stores throughout western Canada.

How many new collectors has Tony brought into the field? I would not be surprised to find that it was a dozen or more. Anyone showing interest in Medalta could spend hours with Tony talking about the field, be it just plain crocks or churns through to the decorative wares such as lamp bases, vases and planters. His bubbling interest and extensive knowledge of the pieces would soon infect you, and if you were not already a collector you were sure to become one.

One of the ways Tony shared his knowledge and collections with others was to produce two video tapes of his and about four other collections. Bill Myers, his partner in the production, did the shooting while Tony held the pieces up to the camera showing close-ups of the markings and decorations, all the time talking about the piece which he was holding. The video is still an excellent primer for anyone interested in Medalta, be it a new collector or an old hand discovering the wide variety of products that were made over the years.

Another way he shared his collection was to make it available to me for study and to include in the various articles that I have written on Medalta's products over the years. Even today Tony still calls me every time he gets a new piece.

Tony is more than just a collector of the pottery pieces themselves; he loves to collect the stories that go with them. He is always seeking more information about his pieces by asking former em-

ployees about them or by searching through books and reference material. One reference which he ran across, dating to 1917 and discussing the clay beds of Saskatchewan, illustrated a one gallon jug with the markings "Made of East End Clay." That was quite a find for him as it documented a jug that had been in his collection for several years.

Tony has always shared his collection with others, loaning select pieces to various museums in southern Alberta. The Friends of Medalta perhaps have benefited the most as he has made several hundred items available to them over the years for display. Recently he has gone a step further by donating well over 500 pieces of pottery to the Clay Products Interpretive Centre. He is currently serving as a board member of the Friends of Medalta Society helping them to bring their dreams of a first class museum and pottery research centre to fruition.

The strength of Tony's collection lies in its diversity. Others have a better vase collections, a better lamp collection or a better advertising collection, but I do not know too many other collectors who have as good an

*Continued Page 7*

## The Medalta Review

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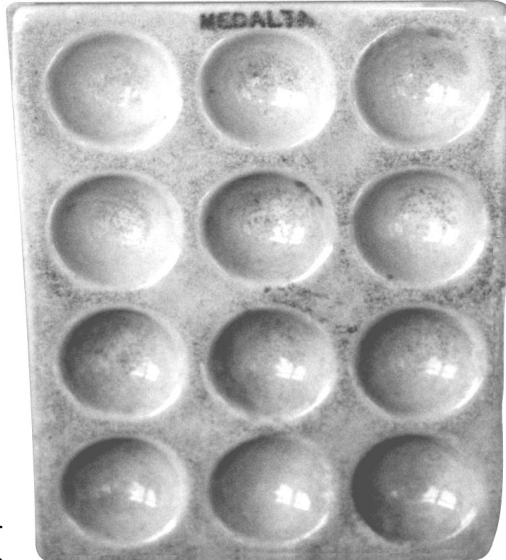
The Medalta Review is published quarterly in the interest of keeping collectors of Alberta made pottery informed on newly found products, current prices, history of the potteries and other aspects relating to the Alberta pottery industry.

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## Blood Testing Plate: A Rare Find

One collector has acquired a sample of Medalta's blood testing plate. He originally thought that it might be a palette made for an artist (and it well could have served that purpose) but the Medalta papers clearly identify what it actually was. Not only does the ordering letter describe it fairly well but its measurements are given on the back as 4 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 1/2". The actual measurements are 4 5/8 x 3 1/2 x 1/2" well within the +/- variation found for Medalta's products; and, as the letter requests, glazed all over in white with the Medalta stamp being applied underglaze in black oxide.



The order for 100 plates was placed by the Alberta Department of Agriculture, Poultry Branch. At present there is no indication that any further orders were placed, but admittedly the Medalta records are so incomplete that we cannot be sure of the number produced. Its exact use by the Poultry Branch is presently unknown but perhaps one of our readers is familiar with its use and can provide a comment to include in a future issue of the newsletter. So far, only this single sample has shown up, making it one of Medalta's rarer items.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
POULTRY COMMISSIONER



REFER TO

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
POULTRY BRANCH

EDMONTON, Alta.,  
July 15th, 1940.

Medalta Potteries Ltd.,  
MEDICINE HAT, Alberta

Dear Sirs:-

On May 18th our fieldman, Mr. E. R. Nicholls, visited with you showing you the twelve-well spot plates we use in blood test work. You gave him a quotation of \$1.05 each in lots of 100, stating that the glazing on the plates which you would supply, would be better than the sample which he showed you and that they would be glazed on the back as well. Accordingly we have received permission to purchase 100 of these plates from you and you will be receiving an order from the Purchasing Department, in a few days.

We are mailing you, under separate cover, a sample of the plate which is to be used as a sample.

Yours very truly,

CWT:C

C. W. TRAVES  
Poultry Commissioner

## Recent Prices

The following prices (rounded off) were realized at recent Hall's auctions in Calgary. Prices include both the GST and the buyer's premium. At the most recent auction some thirty pieces went on the auction block and quite a number of them brought surprisingly high prices, in my opinion more than what they should have. For example a vase no. 102, Indian & Maiden decoration, striped of all its original lacquer, brought \$180.00, and have you

ever heard of a chicken fountain saucer fetching \$75.00? (Yes, the saucer alone.)



Two relatively rare vases were included in this sale and they did indeed fetch prices reflective of their rarity. The Victory vase, style no. 131, was the leader at \$375.00 followed by vase no. 122 at \$205.00. At an earlier auction a glazed Medalta cookie jar with the schooner decoration went for \$390.00.



lamp base no. 24, brown drip .....	\$100
vase no. 114, green .....	110
vase no. 115, yellow .....	110
vase no. 102, dragon design .....	80
vase no. 104/7" (red lacquer) .....	45
vase no. 73 .....	135
ice water pitcher (CPR on bottom) .....	150
bulb bowl no. 77, sponged maroon ....	160
bulb bowl no. 77, green .....	85
forest jardiniere, unglazed .....	35
pair of candlesticks	
(damaged & poorly glazed) .....	57
2 gal. Stoneware Ltd. crock w/lid	
(oval stamp) .....	100
swirl teapot (no lid) & creamer .....	35
1 qt. grey stoneware bean pot .....	34
2, 1 gal. string line crocks (no lids) \$20 ea.	
chicken fountain w/saucer .....	75
pink, white lined Cypress pitcher .....	125
7" basket-weave casserole, no lid .....	12
6" swirl pattern bowl .....	12
dark green oval casserole w/cover .....	19










## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Medalta's lug handled cookie jar finished with the green maple leaf design around the top, all on a honey coloured glaze. Offering \$300.00 but must be complete with lid and with no damaging cracks or chips. *Contact the Newsletter Editor who will put you in touch with the collector seeking this item.*

**Wanted:** Information on Tibor Rada items in your collection. Please provide pattern name, a brief description and the item on which the design is found. *Contact the Newsletter editor. New patterns not listed in the Tibor Rada article will be mentioned in a future issue of The Medalta Review.*

**Wanted:** Help in building the collections of the Clay Products Interpretive Centre. Do you have any pieces of pottery made in the Medicine Hat area that you do not need for your collections? Consider donating them to us. *Contact Audrey Malek, Curator, at The Friends of Medalta Society, Box 204, 703 Wood Street, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7E9, phone or fax (403) 529-1070*

**Wanted:** Made in Alberta Pottery, with a special interest in Medalta & Medicine Hat Potteries advertising items (pitchers & ashtrays), miniatures and artwares such as vases & decorative figurines. Will buy or trade: top prices offered. *Phone Tony Schlachter at (403) 545-6985 or write to P.O. Box 448, Bow Island, AB, T0K 0G0*

 1931-38	 1941-66	 1955-91	 1939
 1915-24	 1938-55	 1924-54	 1915-24

**A. T. SCHLACHTER**  
MEDALTA COLLECTOR  
E Mail: schlacht@telusplanet.net

P.O. Box 448,  
Bow Island, Alberta T0K 0G0  
Phone: (403) 545-6985

## Place Your Ad Here

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 add 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. •

## Hycroft China &amp; Tibor Rada

Some collector's of Hycroft, including myself, have wondered what the square shaped logo with "DESIGNED BY/ T. RADA CALGARY/ ALBERTA, CANADA" below indicated. I recently found out that Tibor Rada was still living in the city of Calgary so I gave him a call to find out more about this venture. Some facts I was able to glean from the Hycroft papers, others only Tibor could provide.

Tibor Radar, a draughtsman by trade and a designer/artist by choice, took up the making of souvenir plates to earn some extra income. He designed a dozen or more attractive and colourful scenes depicting various western Canadian scenes, and at the end I have listed all that I am aware of, but there could well have been others.

To begin his venture, Mr. Rada acquired some plain white blanks from Hycroft in 1972 as these were needed to determine the size of his designs. There would not be much point in getting a whole lot of decals made up only to find they were too large or too small to fit the plates or ashtrays on which they would be placed. He only recalled getting the large and small safety ashtrays from Hycroft, but at least one of his designs is found on Hycroft's 9.5 inch diameter plate.

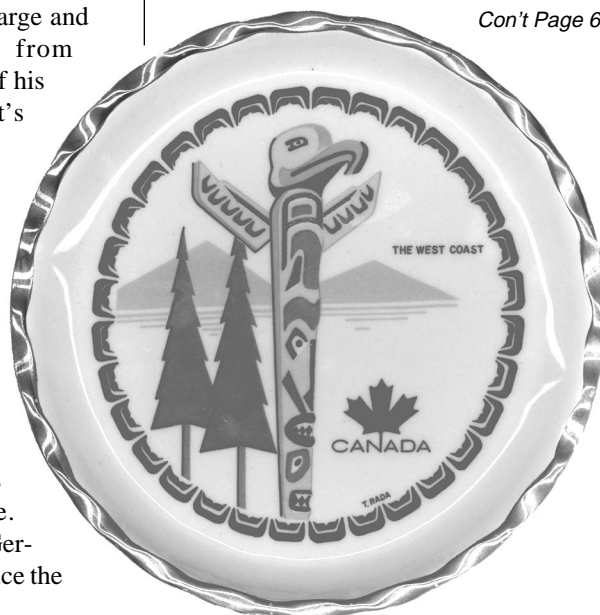
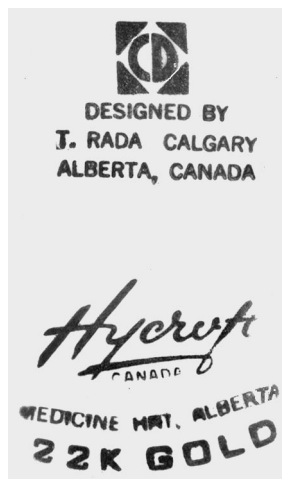
With his designs in hand, Tibor went looking for a firm to produce decals of different sizes for him. He first of all approached a firm at Stokes-on-Trent, England, but as they would only produce the decals in large quantities he was forced to go elsewhere. Eventually he found a German firm that would produce the

decals for him in the smaller quantities that he could afford.

In addition to his attractive and colourful scenic designs, he also had his own company's logo produced in gold oxide. His firm was known as Continental Designs Ltd. and all his dealings with Hycroft and the stores carrying his products were conducted through this company, thus explaining the letters "CD" found on

his back-stamp shown here.

While waiting for his decals to arrive, Tibor undertook the task of marketing his souvenir wares. He approached various stores, both large and small, convincing them to carry his products. The Hudson's Bay Co., T. Eaton Co., Simpson Sears and Woodward Stores of Calgary all placed orders along with smaller centres such as Super S Drugs, Penley's Drugs, Mardi Gras, Billy's News & Smoke Shop and the Calgary Card Shop. In Banff, his products were carried both by the Bay and by The Western Shop, in Lethbridge by Renaissance Imports and in Vancouver by Kripp's Pharmacy Ltd. Later he found outlets in Jasper National Park, Red Deer & Edmonton.



Con't Page 6

## Strangely Numbered Cocks

Tony Schlachter has the only known example of one of the specially numbered cocks made by Medalta. His cock which is one gallon in size and has a drain hole on the side just above the bottom is marked number 29 near the top. The number is underglaze indicating that it was placed there at the Medalta factory and not added later.

While I did not find any specific reference to cocks with numbers in the twenties on them, the Medalta records indicate that four or more agricultural or horticultural centres were placing orders for numbered cocks. The order shown here, filled on May 12, 1926, was for nine sets of one gallon cocks numbered from 1 to 12. Another order filled 4 February 1927 was for "153 only 1 gal- lon Wine Meas-



944

May 12th, 1926.

Messrs. H. Morgan & Son,  
914 Galt Avenue,  
MONTREAL, Que.  
2 3/4 30 days - 60 days net.

MONTREAL CAR. 9 - 30

150 only	6 In. Special Yellow Bowl	7 25	10 87
150 "	8 "	9 75	14 63
300 "	9 "	11 75	35 35
470 "	10 "	13 00	61 10
300 "	1 Gal. Cocks	09	27 00
72 "	8 In. Mixing Bowl - Casserole Glaze	09 1/2	8 66
98 "	6 1/2 " Cuspidors	10 00	9 80
108 "	1 Gal. Cocks stamped as follows on back & front	20	21 60
	9 #1	9 #5	9 #9
	9 #2	9 #6	9 #10
	9 #3	9 #7	9 #11
	9 #4	9 #8	9 #12
		186 91	186 91
	Prepaid freight to Montreal on above invoice - 5434 lbs @ \$1.00 per 100 lbs.	54 34	
	5% Discount	132 57	6 63
		125 94	180 28
	5% Government Tax		6 30
			\$ 186 58

Goods sold f.o.b. Montreal.  
Shipped in car C.P. #203695



Checking seed germination and growth in various soils at the Southern Research Station

ure Cocks previously ordered. Numbered 1 - 9 inclusive. 17 sets." And the latest order to show up in the Medalta records came from an horticultural station in Ontario which ordered 36 holed four gallon cocks; however it is not known whether or not they were specially numbered.

Thanks to Ken Pattison of Victoria, B.C. who sent me a copy of the "Canadian Geographical Journal" Vol. XLIV, No. 2, February 1952, I have been able to include a photograph showing numbered cocks in use by the Ontario Forest Service. In this instance 3 gallon imperial cocks were used and where the numbers can be read, they are in the two hundreds. The photograph in the article is so clear that you can even see that the cock with number 224 on it was actually one of Medalta's Ice Water cocks (stamp no. G.11).



## Questions and Answers

One collector recently sent the following letter.

*I've been collecting a few pieces of Medalta, and enjoyed using your book to check the date and marks.*

*I'm sending along a photo of a vase I bought this summer in the antique store in Nanton. It has a marking not shown in your book, but similar to those in the 1930-36 range. The finish is a blue-green "sponge" finish. Can you help me date it?*

*Yours truly,*

*M.C. (Edmonton)*

Dear M.C., Edmonton:

This is Medalta's hourglass shaped vase which was in production from at least 1922 and likely made right through to the closure of the plant in 1954. Beginning in 1931, Medalta assigned style no. 104 to this particular vase which came



in 7, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 26 inches high sizes. Prior to that it was referred to as a cut flower vase or simply by its height such as a 7" vase.

Your vase is finished on the exterior using coloured lacquers or paints as opposed to being glazed all over. In my booklet on Medalta's vases, I have referred to this particular decoration as the chicken-wire pattern due to the application of a different colour in a wire-like design sprayed over the base coat. From the enclosed photograph yours is apparently a green wire pattern on a blue base.

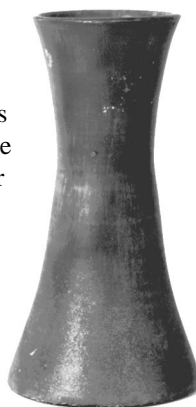
The stamp on the bottom is indeed a variation that I was not aware of at the time of writing the booklet on Medalta's stamps. However, since then, I have observed it on over ten samples of either the 7 or 10-inch size of the hourglass vase. I included this stamp in my booklet on Medalta's vases, illustrating it on

the page titled "Newly Found Oxide Stamps on Medalta Vases" (see page 115). It was assigned stamp no. G.74.

Effectively this is the same stamp as G.19 except that it is missing the word "LTD." on the first line. All samples that I have seen are similar to yours in that they were in white oxide and were very poorly applied. The stamp is likely just a faulty G.19 stamp or one where the word Ltd. was intentionally cut away due to damage, perhaps to extend the use of the stamp. As

to its date, it appears to be even more restricted in time than the G.19 stamp. I believe that whenever it is found on an item it indicates a production date of 1930-1932.

Thanks for letting me know about this piece, and please keep me posted on any other stamp variations that you run across or on any new finds that you make. •



## Hycroft China &amp; Tibor Rada - Con'd from page 4

The first year, 1972, was a disaster for Tibor Rada. He had all these orders in hand and Hycroft was ready to fire his designs on the small and large safety ashtrays, but he had no decals. The supplier in Germany was slow in producing them and as the summer came and went so did Tibor's orders. The stores which had placed orders needed them for the tourist season, not later, and when Tibor realized that he would not be able to provide his designs, he made arrangements with many of them to take general Hycroft souvenirs in the form of hat ashtrays with the city or town's name on them.

By the summer of 1973 though, Mr. Rada was able to provide his own designs to the stores that were willing to carry them. Within a few years, however, most of the larger stores were lost as customers when central purchasing prohibited local retailers from buying from local sources.

Within a couple of years, Tibor also decided to decorate the ashtrays himself. He

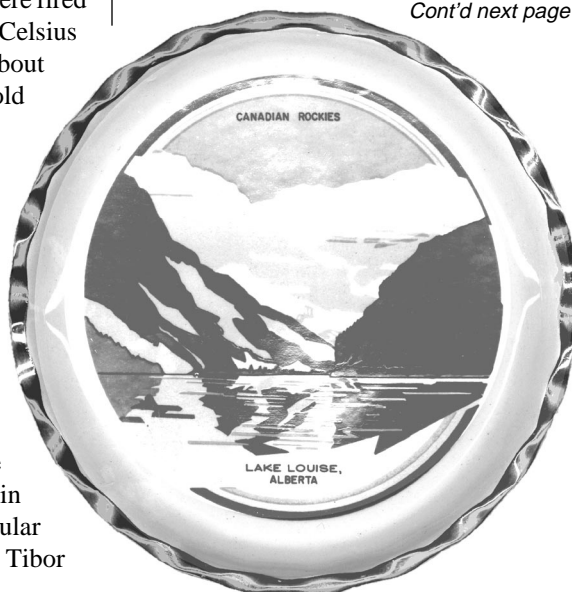
acquired the plain white ware from Hycroft, applied his decals, his own back-stamp and then fired the pieces in his own kiln. Tibor told me that he even applied the gold accenting on the rim and butt ring, but from samples that I have seen this was not always the case. Tibor's decals were fired at cone 18 or about 775 degrees Celsius and then fired a second time at about 725 degrees after applying his gold back-stamp.

Mr. Rada did not recall the exact number of ashtrays acquired from Hycroft over the years but he thought it was only several hundred of each size. If this is guesstimate is accurate, it means that any given design of his should be fairly hard to find as they were produced in relatively small numbers. Some were indeed small such as "The North" in the Canada series as it was not popular in south and central Alberta and Tibor

never established a market for it in the north.

Tibor Rada had three main designs in his portfolio: the Canada series, The Provincial Crests and Floral Em-

*Cont'd next page*



Tibor Rada - Cont'd from page 6

blem series and the Canadian Rockies series.

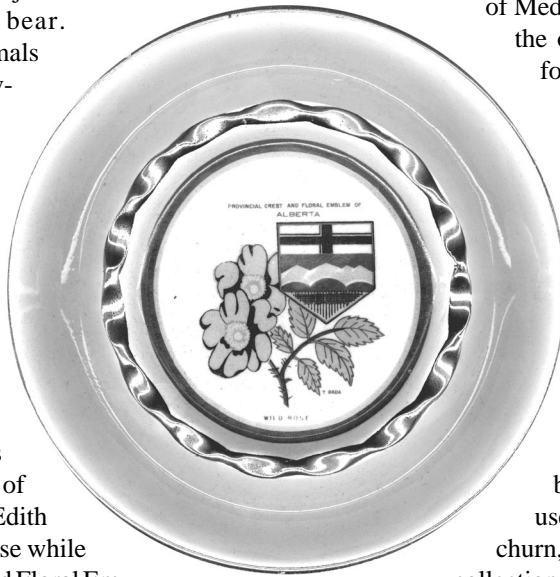
The largest series was the Canada one which depicted the subjects of a buffalo, elk and bear. Oftentimes these animals had the name of a province or town on them as well: Banff with the bear and Manitoba with the buffalo for example. Others in the Canada series included The West Coast, The Prairie and The North.

The Canadian Rockies series depicted scenes of Waterton Park, Mt. Edith Cavell, and Lake Louise while the Provincial Crest and Floral Emblem series were limited to British Columbia and Alberta.

In addition to these series, Tibor Rada designed a couple of other items. One was a Salute to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 1973, and the other was Calgary, The Stampede City. Later he put out an edition of 500 plates marking Calgary's Centennial, but this plate was not produced on a Hycroft product as he could not obtain any plain white plates from Hycroft at that time.

Even though Tibor Rada's designs are not truly Hycroft pieces, I personally feel that they are worth while additions to any collection. And should you be fortunate enough to put together a full collection, you will indeed have a unique and colourful depiction of western Canada. •

Design	safety sm	ashtray lge	9.5" plate
buffalo, Manitoba	X		
bear & cub, Banff		X	
The Prairie		X	
The North		X	
The West Coast	X	X	
MT. Edith Cavell	X	X	
Lake Louise	X	X	
Waterton Park		X	
Alberta Provincial crest	X	X	
B.C. Provincial Crest	X	X	
Calgary, Stampede City	X	X	
Salute to R.C.M.P.		X	X



Tony Schlachter - Cont'd from page 2

assortment of all of Medalta's products. If you want to see the range of hotel wares, domestic wares or artwares you can find them all in his collection. At one time, before he passed most of them along to other collectors or to the Friends of Medalta, you could find a good assortment of pieces made by the other potteries in the Medicine Hat area. He is largely focused on Medalta at the present time, but he still cannot pass up a good buy of other pottery items.

Perhaps the one thing that distinguishes Tony's collection from others is his stonewares. I do not know of a finer collection of stonewares in a Canadian museum or a private collection. Anyone interested in collecting in this area must see Tony's collection to get a feeling for what is out there. But be warned, his collection might scare you away from collecting in that area as there is so much to be found.

Tony does not just have one of each crock from the 1/4 gallon size right through to the massive fifty gallon size, but often three or more, each showing the different stamps used over the years. The same variety can be found in his churn, water keg and water cooler collections. One of the nicest collections of Moyer's water coolers can be found in Tony's basement for he has at least five differently named ones.

I could go on and on about Tony's collection but I will not as future issues of this newsletter will draw upon his collection for a variety of stories.

Why did I refer to Tony Schlachter as a collector you should know? It is because he would like to hear from you. Be you a new collector or a well established one, Tony is always open to sharing his knowledge and collection with you. Just give him a call at 403-545-6985 if you are in the Medicine Hat area as he only lives thirty or so miles from the city. •



About the Newsletter - Cont'd from page 1

Other topics which will be covered from time to time include such matters as interviews with former employees of the factory discussing the equipment that they used, how they made the items, did the finishing, decorating or perhaps even the packing. We hope to bring you pictures of some of the equipment found in the potteries along with an explanation of what it was specifically used for. With their permission, we will also tell you about specific collectors, giving insights into the strengths of their collection or their special area of interest. Museum collections will be highlighted as well, and when we hear about pottery exhibitions we will let you know the when and where so that you may view them when in the area.

## The Medalta Page

Specifically, the Medalta column will bring you interesting facts about the products made by Medalta over the years. When collectors find an altogether new product, a new decorative pattern or a new advertising piece, we will share it with you. Drawing upon the editor's extensive photo collection, we will show you some of Medalta's rarest products, including copies of the factory's records that help to date these pieces or identify what they were used for or to where they were shipped.

The factory records refer to many products that were at least produced as prototypes if not put into full production. Many of these have never been found but perhaps they will be as collectors become informed as to what to look for. A clock face, perfume and ink bottles or a custard cup holder/heater, these are just a few of the items that we could examine.

## The Hycroft Page

The FOMS as part of its museum/archival collections has all the business records of the factory from 1955 until its closure in the late 1980s. We will draw upon these records as well as its pottery collections for insights into the products that Hycroft made over the years. No pottery company in Alberta produced as many advertising, souvenir and commemorative items as did Hycroft, and no other pottery had as many different dinnerware designs. Future issues of the newsletter will highlight some of these wares. We may provide you with a listing of Hycroft's church plates, its political advertiques, its school wares or even its service club or military collectibles. Many of Hycroft's dinnerware patterns are well known such as its popular Bird Game series or the relatively common Calico, Tartan or Denim series, but others like Pioneer, Dots 'N Blocks or Fantasia are not seen too often. We hope to illustrate many of these patterns along with the factory stamps that help to date them. •

### Next Issue

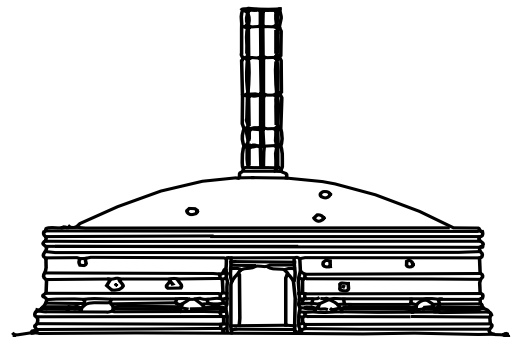
- two rare Medalta ashtrays
- an unusually marked hat ashtray
- Medalta's miniatures
- a listing of Hycroft's church plate
- a top hat by Medicine Hat Potteries
- a new plate pattern by MHP

## Writers in Waiting

Have you ever wanted to write an article, to share your knowledge with others? Well here's your chance. The Medalta Newsletter is looking for articles, short or long, that will help inform our subscribers on any and all aspects of collecting pottery or on the pottery industry itself. Perhaps you have done some research on a piece in your collection to find the who, when, why, what and where. Share this knowledge with others by telling us about it. We will print your article or story in one of our issues.

Perhaps you have found some secret concerning the cleaning of collection items that can be shared with other collectors. Have you found a safe way to clean your lacquered items? Do you know how to remove those grey metallic stains that are commonly found on hotelwares? How about the ugly brown stains on ovenwares or the grey and brown stains that get right into the crazes, have you found a way to get rid of them?

What about sharing an interesting story about how you acquired a particular piece for your collection? Have you ever found any Alberta made pottery in the United States or other countries? We would even be interested in an article on something as basic as why you started collecting Medalta. Was it an interest in our history, for the stories that the pieces tell, the love of the chase or just the challenge to put together a really unique collection? •



## Friends of Medalta Society

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