

#3

Fall
1998

The Medalta Review

(A newsletter for Collectors of Alberta Made Pottery)

Celebrating
Alberta's
Ceramic
History



MEDALTA'S ROUND FLAT ASHTRAYS

Medalta's round, flat ashtray was so named by the company as it is both round in shape and has a flat rim extending about 3/4" from the straight flared walls of the base. It stands about 1" high and has three butt holders evenly spaced around the flat rim, each butt holder marked by an elevated ridge on each side to keep the cigarette from rolling off. It is these three rim segments that make the ashtray an ideal one for advertising as the name and location of the business could be placed on the rim with additional advertising or, better yet, a scene or picture in the centre. The flatness of the rim and the central ash cup permitted the application of clear sharp naming images.

This ashtray was produced by Medalta from 1930 to about 1942. While it is shown in a trade show photograph dating to late 1930 or early 1931, it likely dates to early 1930 as an order placed by Bradley's Taxi of Edmonton was filled in March 1930. The termination date is not positively known as the surviving Medalta records are so skimpy for the period 1942 to 1954.

Few of the round flat ashtrays are actually dated on the piece itself, but we do have an Alazhar piece dated 1940 and an I.O.O.F. Grand Lodge piece dated 1939. Other dated pieces appear in 1937 and 1938. The last actual reference I have for this ashtray appears in a letter dated 29 December 1941 when Medalta asks why the ashtrays made for and named to the Riverside Hotel in Two Hills, Alberta, were returned. Based on the present evidence, I think it unlikely that the flat ashtray was made after World War II, but I could yet be proven wrong.

Examination of the ashtrays in various collections reveals that the moulds for making this ashtray changed over the years and that the size varied quite a bit. The first ashtrays appear to be larger than the later ones. They measure 5.5 to almost 6.0" in diameter while the later ones range from 5.25" to 5.38" in diameter. Around 1937 or 1938 the bottom of the ashtray also saw a minor modification. The early varieties have a slightly elevated ridge encircling the bottom on the inner side of the basal rim while the later ones do not have this ridge. However, I should point out that this ridge is not a good date indicator as some ashtrays dating after 1938 were produced on the ridged bottom

variety. All we can really say is that pieces without the ridge date to 1938 or later, and that Medalta was replacing its old moulds as they wore out through use. You can also find different diameters across the bottom resting ring, but as I seldom took such measurements it is not known how they relate to other production changes.

The flat ashtray was quite popular as an advertising medium as sixty-nine different named pieces have been found so far. Five of these were produced for merchants carrying Ogilvie's Flour products as advertised in the centre of the ashtray. The glivie ashtrays have been seen with either green or blue rims while, for the most part, the other ashtrays are usually finished in honey or yellow colours. So far all but one of the pieces made by Medalta (as indicated by one of the factory stamps) have been advertising pieces. The lone plain one, finished in a turquoise blue glaze, was marked with the G.33 stamp, indicating a 1930s to early 1940s date.



Open style block lettering as depicted in the Silver Foam ashtray was preferred over solid block lettering as it not only looked neater but any poorly executed lettering was not so apparent. The lettering was most commonly in brown against the honey, tan or yellow background, but black was often used as well, particularly in the earlier years.

Below I have listed all the named pieces that I have recorded in collections. Although many other orders were placed by and filled for hotels and other businesses, they are not

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listed here as I do not know if the order was for this style of ashtray or for the Stetson shaped ashtray since both cost the same in 1937, selling for \$21.50 per gross (144).

The listing shows that hotels were the most frequent buyers of Medalta's flat ashtrays. Of the sixty-nine pieces seen to date, twenty-six bear the names of Hotels. Retail stores of various types were the next largest group with about 20 entries, but you can also find garages, breweries, lumber yards, lodges, clubs, a convention, reunion and even a royalty souvenir on the list.



One person who had a friend in the hotel business told me that it was common, and almost expected, for an overnight patron to take something with him as a souvenir, be it a pen, book of matches, towel or ashtray. Perhaps this explains why some hotels were placing repeat orders over several years. For example, in the Medalta sales ledger you can find several entries for the Alberta & Queen's Ho-

tels in Edmonton, and in all likelihood these separate sales are represented by the three named varieties that you can find for this hotel.

Not all of the ashtrays were decorated with an image in the centre but many were, usually depicting the windmill scene (either hand-painted or rubber stamped) or the stencilled sailboat design. A few depicted a subject mindful of the business advertised. Several hotels showed the actual hotel; a brewery, the Kakabeka Falls after which a brand of beer was named; a garage, a scene of a car motoring on a country road; another garage, a large V with an 8 within the V; the Alazhar Temple, the Masonic emblem of the scimitar, crescent and star; and Spence's Shoes, what else but a high heeled ladies shoe. These specially decorated pieces are more sought after than the undecorated ones or even those with the usual windmill or sailboat scenes. At today's prices, I believe that most of these pieces would sell in the range of \$175-\$250.00, but admittedly I have

not heard of any being for sale in the recent past.

I will not try to list the size of the orders here as I do not have such information for most of the orders. However, the majority of orders showing in the 1937 sales records were for a gross billed at \$21.50. Other orders that I have been able to match to sales records have usually been for a 1/2 gross or a simple multiple of a gross. The largest order that I have run across was for 5000 ashtrays ordered by the Sudbury Brewing and Malting Company Limited in 1938 and they may have ordered another 2500 ashtrays earlier in 1935. Their ashtray

order is the one marked "SILVER FOAM | RICE LAGER | ALE AND PORTER" and so far I have seen three variations, one with the windmill decoration and two different scenes of the brewery itself.

I am sure that collectors have picked up pieces not included in the following listing, and if you let me know about them, I will include them in a future issue of this newsletter.

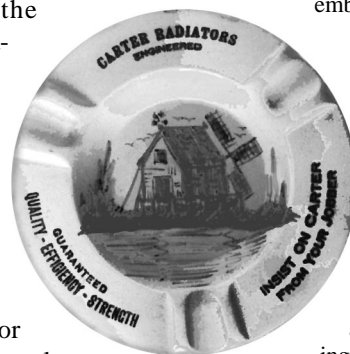
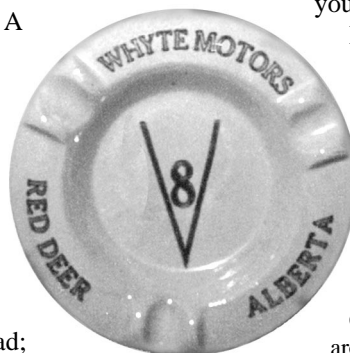
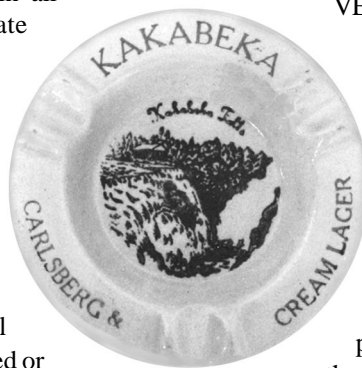
Alphabetical Listing of Ashtrays

- "ALAZHAR | CALGARY | JULY, 1940" around rim in open style maroon lettering with the Masonic emblem in centre in black

- "Alberta & Queen's | HOTELS | Edmonton, Alta." around rim in open lettering and "We welcome you at/ALBERTA & QUEEN'S/ HOTELS" solid lettering in centre

- "Alberta & Queen's | Hotel's | Edmonton" around rim in open lettering and "We welcome you at/ALBERTA & QUEEN'S/HOTELS" solid lettering in centre

- "Alberta & | Queen's Hotels | Edmonton" around rim in open lettering and "We wel-



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David Jamieson, Chairman

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.

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come you at/ALBERTA & QUEEN'S/HOTELS" in solid lettering in centre, black on yellow

• "ASSINIBOIA | HOTEL | MEDICINE HAT" open lettering on rim, rubber stamped windmill scene in centre, brown on cane

• "ASSINIBOIA | HOTEL | MEDICINE HAT" open lettering on rim, stencilled sailboat scene in centre, brown on yellow

• "Best Wishes | ATHABASCA RIVER/LUMBER CO. LTD. | ATHABASCA" open lettering around rim and in the centre a stencilled forest scene with "Forest to You" below, in solid lettering and in quotes

• "C.W. BAYNE | Choice Meats | Eston, Sask." open lettering around rim with stencilled sailboat in centre

• "Best Wishes | Sam Krueger | Beiseker, Alberta" around edge and in centre "Beiseker Hotel [slightly arced]" with 3 maple leaves decoration

• "BELL'S | HARDWARE | FLIN FLON, MAN." open lettering with rubber stamped windmill in centre.

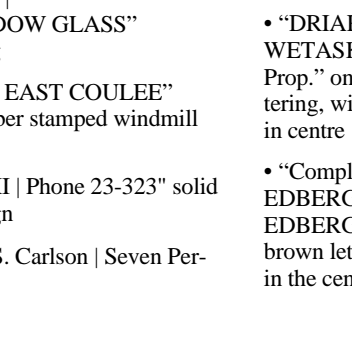
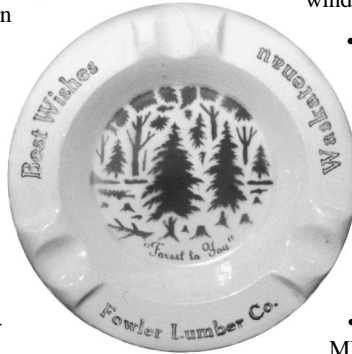
• "BENALTO | HOTEL | ALBERTA" open lettering on rim

• "THE/BENNETT/GLASS CO. LTD./M1778" solid lettering in centre and "MIRRORS | AUTO GLASS | WINDOW GLASS" on rim in open lettering

• "THE BIG | STORE | EAST COULEE" open lettering with rubber stamped windmill in centre

• "BRADLEY'S | TAXI | Phone 23-323" solid lettering with owl design

• "Best Wishes | 1938 S. Carlson | Seven Persons" open lettering



• "CARTER & McGEACHY, LTD. | INSURANCE/MORTGAGE LOANS | Phone 96-000" open black lettering with brown handpainted windmill in centre on cane

• "CARTER RADIATORS/ENGINEERED | GUARANTEED/QUALITY-EFFICIENCY-STRENGTH | INSIST ON CARTER/FROM YOUR JOBBER" in solid lettering with handpainted windmill in centre

• "MEDICINE HAT | CASCADE | LODGE 342" open lettering with large solid letters "BLFE" in centre tied together with a ribbon

• "CECIL HOTEL | MEDICINE HAT | ALBERTA" in open lettering with a rubber stamped windmill in the centre, brown on cane

• "CORONA | HOTEL | MEDICINE HAT" open lettering with rubber stamped windmill in centre, brown on cane

• "DALLAS | HOTEL | LETHBRIDGE" on rim and "OUR HOTEL" in centre, all in open lettering

• "Deck & Stark | Hardware | Medham" in open lettering

• "Best Wishes | Downs & Tetler | Wiseton Garage" on edge in open lettering, with stencilled hotel in centre

• "DRIARD HOTEL | WETASKIWIN | Curt Smith, Prop." on edge in open lettering, with stencilled hotel in centre

• "Compliments of | EDBERG HOTEL | EDBERG ALTA." open brown lettering on rim and in the centre, within an oval,



the Ogilvie slogan "We Use OGILVIE'S/Royal Household Flour"

• "EDMONTON'S | GAS COMPANY | PHONE 22121" open lettering on rim and in centre "CLEAN HEAT/GAS" in solid lettering on a design and within a circle

• "G.A.D. Flitton | General Store | Port Alberni, B.C." open lettering, with stencilled sailboat in centre

• "Best Wishes | Fowler Lumber Co. | Waskatenau" open lettering around rim and in the centre a stencilled forest scene with "Forest to You" below, in solid lettering and in quotes

• "KING GEORGE & | QUEEN ELIZABETH | CORONATION/ MAY 12th, 1937" in open brown lettering on rim with a maple leaf in the centre

• "HEALY | HOTEL | Swift Current" open brown lettering with rubber stamped windmill in centre

• "HERBERT | HOTEL | BEST WISHES" open lettering with rubber stamped windmill in centre, brown on cane

• "THE HUB | CLOTHING | MEDICINE HAT" open lettering with stencilled sailboat in centre

• "Grand Lodge | of Alberta | March 1939" on rim in open lettering and "1889/Medicine Hat Lodge/No. 3 [3 linked rings] I.O.O.F./50 YEARS/1939" solid lettering in centre

• "H.E. JORDAN | Snappy Tailors | MEDICINE HAT" on rim in open lettering and "TIP TOP/TAILORS" open lettering in centre

• "KAKABEKA | CARLSBERG & | CREAM LAGER" solid lettering on rim with scene of the falls in the centre with the title "Kakabeka Falls" above the scene

• "KING EDWARD | HOTEL | EDMONTON" open lettering on rim with rubber stamped scene of hotel in the centre

• "KING EDWARD/HOTEL" in centre and "Pincher Creek | Alberta | Canada" on rim, all open lettering

• "Hesla Bros. | Best Wishes | Kyle Hotel" open lettering with stencilled sailboat in centre

• "LINCOLN | HOTEL | EDMONTON" with mill scene in centre

• "SEE LYLE | Coaldale Hotel | Coaldale, Alta." around edge in open lettering with rubber stamped mill in centre, brown on yellow

• "MEDALTA/POTTERIES LTD./MEDICINE HAT/ALBERTA" solid lettering in bowl of ash-tray

• "MEDICINE HAT | SHRINE CLUB | LABOR DAY 1937" open lettering with shrine symbol (symitar/star/crescent) in centre

• "MELTON | HOTEL | ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE [smaller]" open lettering around rim with stencilled sailboat in centre flat ashtray, ridged type

• "New Edmonton | HOTEL | Edmonton, Alta." open lettering around rim and "We welcome you at the/ NEW EDMONTON/HO-



TEL" in solid lettering in centre

• "175th Bn. | REUNION | 1938" open lettering on rim and in centre the cap badge of the 175th Bn. Canadian Expeditionary Force with "Medicine Hat" below the badge.

• "PATRICIA | HOTEL | Patricia, Alberta" open lettering with rubber stamped windmill in centre

• "R.H. Phillips Co., Ltd. | Men's & Boys' Wear | Lloydminster" open lettering, with rubber stamped windmill design in centre

• "Ponoka Metal Works | RADIO SALES | Wyman Murphy" open lettering with stencilled sailboat in centre

• "PREMIER | GARAGE | CALGARY" open lettering with car scene in centre

• "34 S.F.T.S./R.A.F./ MEDICINE HAT/ALBERTA/SERGEANT'S MESS", reported but not seen as yet

• "ROYAL | ALBERT | HOTEL" around rim and "Winnipeg, Man." in centre, all in open lettering

• "ROYAL | HOTEL | TABER" open lettering with handpainted windmill scene in centre

• "F.G. Sandercock/Jeweler | Men's & Boys' Wear | MARWAYNE" open lettering with stencilled sailboat scene in centre, brown on yellow

• "SELKIRK & | YALE HOTELS | EDMONTON" around edge in open lettering, either dark brown or black on cane

• "SERVICE GROCERY | PHONE 370 | MEDICINE HAT" open lettering on rim with "FREE/ DELIVERY" in centre

• "SILVER FOAM | RICE LAGER | ALE AND PORTER" around edge in open lettering with handpainted windmill in centre

• "SILVER FOAM | RICE LAGER | ALE AND PORTER" around edge in open lettering with rubber stamped brewery in centre, brown on cane. 2 varieties available

• "SPENCE'S/ THE HOME OF GOOD SHOES" | SHOES FOR THE | WHOLE FAMILY" in open lettering with high-heeled shoe design in centre

• "STAN'S | HARDWARE | Hazlet, Sask." open lettering with stencilled sailboat design

• "Best Wishes | Stauffer's Garage | Olds, Alberta" with stencilled sailboat in centre

• "Best Wishes | Waldorf Hotel | DRUMHELLER" open lettering with rubber stamped windmill scene in centre

• "WHYTE MOTORS | RED DEER | ALBERTA" open lettering on rim and a large solid "V" with an "8" within its fork in the centre

• "YALE HOTEL | CALGARY | ALBERTA" open lettering on rim and "If you are/ satisfied tell/ your friends/if not, tell us." solid lettering in centre

Flat Ashtrays Advertising Ogilvie's Flour

• D.L. GALLUP, MACRORIE, SASK., green rim

• ENDERBY GROWERS' ASS'N, ENDERBY, B.C., blue rim

• HOME BAKERY, VERNON, B.C., green rim

• COMPLIMENT OF, IDEAL BAKERY, green rim, city/town not known

• F. RICHARDSON, ATHALMER, B.C., green rim

Sales for the month of SEPTEMBER 1937.					
NAME	Amount	Gst. Sales Tax	Net Sales	Postage Freight	Net Tax
ARTWARE (1)					
G. E. Jones	22 68	21 00			1 68
Garrett Purriers	22 68	21 00			1 68
M. J. Chaplin	21 40	20 00			1 40
W. A. Kroposky	19 44	18 00			1 44
Royal Hotel	70 80	66 00			4 80
Medicine Hat Shrine Club	6 48	6 00			88
Walter Ramsey Limited	7 13	6 60			53
Govt. of Province of Alberta	10 78		18 78		
J. H. Ashdown Hardware Co.	3 02	2 80			22
Beiseker Hotel	23 22	21 50			1 72
Pioneer Garage	23 22	21 50			1 72
W. E. Goad	10 90	10 00			90
Camrose Sheet Metal Works	35 10	32 50			2 60
F. G. Sandercock	12 96	12 00			96
Hotel Equipment & Supply Co.	18 66	17 88			1 58
Hyman Hardware	10 90	10 00			90
Davidson Bros.	23 22	21 50			1 72
Wallace Wade	45 56	42 00			3 56
W. H. Williamson	34 02	31 50			2 52
W. J. Bennett Limited	10 56	9 50			76
Canadian Sales Association	1,956 50		1,956 50		
Brooks' Lamp & Shade Co.	215 05		215 05		
Herbert Hotel	25 22	21 50			1 72
L. Fairhurst	24 04	22 00			1 04
Consumers' Idwe. & Supply	4 35	4 00			35
Black Hardware Limited	10 90	10 00			90
The J. H. Ashdown Hardware Co.	8 01	7 16			85
Hotel Tilley	25 22	21 50			1 72
The Mount View Hotel	32 22	29 66			2 56
Smoky Lake Hotel	17 88	16 00			1 88
Scorsone Hotel	23 22	21 50			1 72
Gladwell Motors	23 22	21 50			1 72
The Mount View Hotel					
Carlson's Service Station	12 99	11 75			94
John B. Stetson Company	5 70	5 25			45
do	8 95				85
Jack's Men's Wear	11 40	10 56			84
Grand Union Hotel	19 50	17 50			2 00
Minor Hotel	23 22	21 50			1 72
Canadian Sales Association	32 22	21 50			1 72
Brooks' Lamp & Shade Co.	86 10		86 10		
Steele's Food and Supply St.	3 12				12
Martin Paper Products Ltd.	98 50	91 20			7 30
Medalta Hospital	30 12		30 12		
R. H. Phillips Co. Ltd.	23 22	21 50			1 72
Chesney Hardware	11 52	10 67			85
Sallantyne Bros.	4 58	4 25			33
Fr. St. Youngberg	9 07	8 47			60
United Hotel	28 51	26 40			2 11
Gosky Gosky Products	18 22	16 87			1 35
Kyle Hotel	14 80	13 50			1 30
Waldock Grocery	28 40	26 00			2 40
Martin Paper Products Ltd.	55 25		55 25		
James McQuillan Company	82 40	30 00			52 40
Central Motors					

March 25th, 1939.

Budbury Breeding and Mating Co.
Budbury, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Due to slight miscalculations we would ask you to advise us by telegram, collect, the actual number of ash trays you have received.

According to our figures we have shipped to you 2132 of these ash trays. Because the balance of the order for 5000 will leave Medicine Hat on Tuesday, March 28th, we would like to avoid any possibility of short shipment, and so would appreciate your immediate reply.

Yours very truly,
MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.
per:
P.S. Please wire direct to plant at Medicine Hat.



MEDALTA STOCK CERTIFICATE

The Glenbow Museum has the only Medalta stock certificate that I have seen so far, although the Friends of Medalta have one for Alberta Clay Products. I would not be surprised if a collector or two have picked up shares, but so far I have not heard of any in private collections. The certificate (catalogue number M65/t7 if you want to visit Glenbow Archives to view it) measures 11.5" wide by 8.75" high. It is named to CARLILE & McCARTHY LTD. dated 15 April 1930 and is for 10 shares. The border is greyish green with the seal at the lower left-hand side in a very dark green. The printed text is black while the "10" of 10 shares is in red as is "NO PAR VALUE" across the centre of the certificate. The added text of the holders name, number of shares and the date of issue are all in blue.

Unfortunately, I have never done any research concerning this item so I cannot provide any information other than a description. I have no idea as to how many shares were issued, over what period of time, to whom or what have you.

I hope that the presence of this certificate will encourage collectors to look for other examples as a stock certificate would be an excellent addition to anyone's collection

CARNOTT Art Wares

The Origin of the Name Solved

On page 16 of the booklet "Know Your Medalta: Vases" where I discussed CarNott artwares, I suggested that while the origin of this name was likely lost to us, it may have referred to a coloured lacquer finish; but, now thanks to an astute reader, we probably have the origin solved.

John Shairp put two and two together noting that the new owners of the plant in 1929, just before Medalta introduced its artwares, were named Reginald C. Carlisle and O. Clair Arnott. What could be simpler than the origin of CarNott as coming from "Car" in Carlisle and "Nott" in Arnott? Thank you John for not only spotting the association that was not obvious to me but also for bringing it to my attention. •

WANT ADS

For Sale: 10.5" Hycroft plate, "EL RANCHO MOTOR HOTEL, LETHBRIDGE" \$20.00 plus postage. Contact: Steve White, P.O. Box. 93, Gray Creek, B.C., V0B 1S0. Editor's note: the only order for El Rancho plates that I have run across so far was for 457 plates at 1.00 each on 29 November 1960.

Wanted: Medalta plates of various sizes with the following marks: G.46.a, G.47.a, G.47.b, G.48, G.49.a, G.49.b, G.52.a, G.52.b, G.54, G.56, G.58 & G.60. Also 14 saucers G.51 with the omission of "N" or "IN". Contact Eugene Dumka, 18419 96th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5T 3V9

Wanted: The right home for a Medalta saucer. It is the Confetti shape (roundish with the four sides slightly flattened and with a square cup ring in the centre), unstamped as to maker and a deep maroon (ox-blood) in colour. (I have seen a square-base cup with an impressed Medalta stamp on the bottom in the Glenbow collections, which is why I think this is a Medalta piece.) Anyone with a square-based cup but missing the saucer can have this one for the cost of shipping it to you.

Editor's Note: The bright lime green on cream background Confetti style saucer mentioned in the last issue of the Medalta Review has not found a home as yet. The offer is still open, so please contact the editor if you need this saucer or the maroon one to match a cup in your collection.

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 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.

STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES

Every fall from 1961 until about 1996 a race was held at Stampede Park for two year old thoroughbreds. Patty, the historian for the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede advised me that the prize going to the winning horse was \$100,000.00 in the later years, but she did not know what it may have been at earlier times. Such a prize would have indeed attracted some of the best two year old horses in the country. Today the Futurity Stake Races are not being held due to the fact that the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede does not hold any races in the fall anymore, and even if fall racing came back to Stampede Park, it is unlikely that the souvenir plates would be part of the luncheon.

Commemorative plates were part of the race festivities for many years and Hycroft was the company providing the plates from 1961 right through to 1984.

After that, although the plates were still issued, they were made by other firms, and regretfully I cannot tell you anything about those plates as I have not bothered to record them. Patty did state, however, that plates were not issued for the last couple of years of the races.

All of the plates made by Hycroft were produced on the 10.5" coupe style of dinner plate. Basically the plates stated "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES" above the central image of a horse or a horse and jockey, gave the number and dates of the running (be it the first, second or twenty-fourth running) and gave the name(s) of the winning horse from the year before. The central image was usually in brown or black on a white plate with the edge usually shaded with another colour, and the rim was invariably

banded with gold. The only exception which I have seen was the first or inaugural plate for 1961; instead of an image of a horse or rider in the centre, it had a green horse-shoe shaped wreath and as the race was yet to be run, the winning horse's name could not be given.

In order to get a Futurity Stakes plate, you had two choices: you could

purchase it directly from the gift shop or you could attend the brunch held the day of the race. I spoke to a Dr. Calvert who attended the races for many years and he got his plates at the annual brunch. The cost of the brunch varied from year to year but generally it was

around \$35.00

which included the cost of the plate itself. The brunch was often held on the stampede grounds but not always as the Glenco Club and Palliser Hotel were hosts at different times.

Dr. Calvert received some of his plates directly from the

Hycroft plant. This came about due to his desire to have a complete set of plates. When some of his original plates were accidentally broken, he wrote to Hycroft to see if he could get replacements, and he could.

These may have been provided from old stock or they may have been newly made-up as

Hycroft always kept the original silk-screens on hand and from them they could

produce replacements when asked to do so.

The Hycroft files indicate that about six different colour and wording layouts were prepared each year and sent off to the Calgary Stampede for them to make the final selection. Usually these were returned to the Hycroft plant; but, as

some collectors have picked up several different plates for a specific year, perhaps not all were returned. Perhaps in some years the racing fans were given a choice, but so far I have not run across any mention of this being so in any of the orders that I have examined in the Hycroft files. More

likely, collectors have picked up some of the unapproved samples prepared for that year. Harry

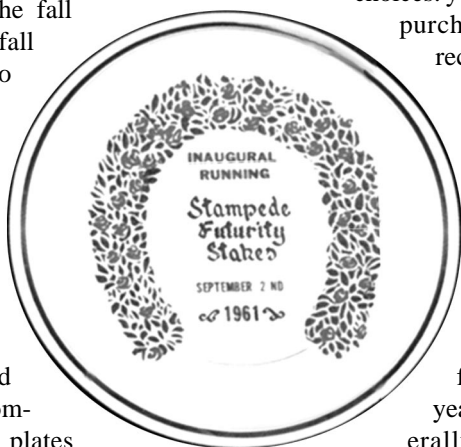
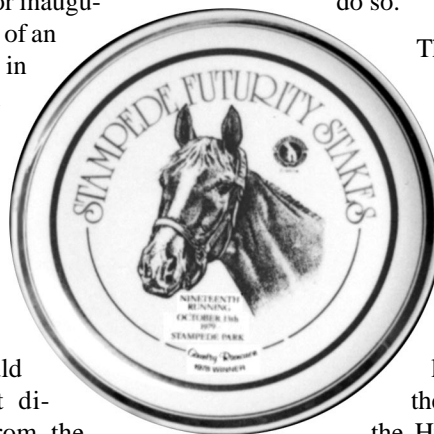
Veiner was hesitant to break-up or discard any piece of china made in his factory, putting all seconds and prototypes away for a rainy day. Eventually many of these

pieces were sold through the Medicine Hat

Hardware, also owned by Mr. Veiner, and perhaps that is how some collectors acquired different samples for the same year.

The Friends of Medalta Society have a complete set of Hycroft made Futurity Stake plates, and a good number of them are on display in the Hycroft plant. In addition, they have many of the colour variation and layout prototypes that I mentioned earlier.

In my listing of the Futurity Stakes plates, I have given the quantities ordered for each year that I have run across to date. The numbers have been



compiled from several lists including actual invoices and from the orders placed as given in Hycroft's silkscreen booklets. The quantities ordered for the missing years will be filled in as time permits examination of the rest of Hycroft's invoice records. As you can see the numbers ordered varied from about 250 plates in the early years to about 500 plates in the later years, generally increasing each year presumably due to the increasing popularity of the Futurity Stakes. 1971 and 1972 were exceptional years as 700 plates were ordered both years, and the 1973 order of 253 plates is likely only a partial order.

Chronological Listing of Hycroft's Futurity Plates

- "INAUGURAL/RUNNING/Stampede/Futurity/Stakes/SEPTEMBER 2 ND/1961" 258 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Second Running/ September 1st 1962/Silent Sandra/1961 Stampede Futurity Winner" 253 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Third Running/August 31st 1963/Sky Spark/1st Division/Brother Leo/2nd Division/1962/Stampede Futurity Winners" 275 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Fourth Running/August 29th 1964/Lucky Diamond/1st Division/Billy Baton/2nd Division/1963/Stampede Futurity Winners" 302 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/FIFTH RUNNING/August 28th 1965/ROYALATACHE/1st DIVISION/"SOLAR APEX/2nd DIVISION/1964/Stampede Futurity Winners" 303 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Sixth Running/September 3rd 1966/"Wily

Waltzer/1965/Stampede Futurity Winner" 307 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Seventh Running/September 9th, 1967/Prince Blue/1966/ Stampede Futurity Winner" 300 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Eighth Running/ September 7th, 1968/Sharon's Cheno/1967/ Stampede Futurity Winner" 330 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Ninth Running/August 30, 1969/Roundy's Kid/Never Lose Hope/1968/Stampede Futurity Winners" 436 plates ordered

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Tenth Running/ September 5th, 1970/ Flying Award/Stampede Futurity Winner/1969" 450 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ Eleventh/Running/ September/11th 1971/"BRANDY MAGIC"/ Stampede Futurity Winner/ 1970" 700 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ TWELFTH RUNNING SEPTEMBER 16, 1972/STAMPEDE FUTURITY WINNER 1971/MADLY MAGIC /60th ANNIVERSARY/DIAMOND JUBILEE 1912-1972/CALGARY STAMPEDE" 700 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/THIRTEENTH RUNNING - SEPTEMBER 1-1973/ NORTHLANDS PARK/Trochu Joe/ 1972 WINNER" 253 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/FOURTEENTH/ RUNNING/SEPTEMBER 28/1974/STAMPEDE

PARK/Sea Reason/1973 WINNER" 450 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/FIFTEENTH/ RUNNING/SEPTEMBER 27/1975/ STAMPEDE PARK/Western Dangler/1974 WINNER" 450 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/SIXTEENTH/ RUNNING/OCTOBER 2/ 1976/STAMPEDE PARK/ Careless Word/1975 WINNER" 450 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ SEVENTEENTH/ RUNNING/OCTOBER 1/1977/STAMPEDE PARK/Honey Speed/1976 WINNER" 500 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ EIGHTEENTH/RUNNING/ SEPTEMBER 30/1978/STAMPEDE PARK/ Tojero/1977 WINNER" 500 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ NINETEENTH/ RUNNING/OCTOBER 13TH/1979/STAMPEDE PARK/Country Romance/1978 WINNER" 500 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ TWENTIETH RUNNING/ OCTOBER 4th/1980/STAMPEDE PARK/Bully for Butch/1979 WINNER" number ordered not known

- "Stampede Futurity Stakes/Twenty First Running/October 10th 1981/Stampede Park/DEGLO/1980 WINNER" number ordered not known

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ Twenty-Second Running/October 2nd, 1982/ Stampede Park/ LUCKY SHIP/ 1981 WINNER" 500 plates ordered

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ Twenty-Third Running/October 2, 1983/ Stampede Park/MISS NOTABLE/1982 WINNER" number ordered not known

- "STAMPEDE FUTURITY STAKES/ Twenty-Fourth Running/ October 13, 1984/ Stampede Park/SLY MANNER/ 1983 WINNER" 400 plates ordered •



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Phone call and letter

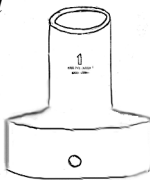
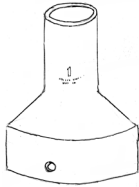
I am in Regina and have just run across a Perfection Cooler. Have you ever seen this type before? T.S., Alberta

Here's a drawing of the "Perfection Cooler" and pottery insert. Is there any record of Medalta having supplied the pottery parts to the Perfection Cooler Company of Toronto? Any enlightening information would be much appreciated.

T.H., British Columbia

Dear T.S. & T.H.

The perfection cooler is mentioned in the Medalta letters in several places, and a couple of



them even provide a sketch of the coolers. On 25 June 1927, two different styles of coolers were sent to Medalta from its Toronto agent, Medicine Hat Pottery Company, requesting that they be copied; and, later, a third style was sent in referred to as the Perfection Cooler Jar 1A. Anticipated sales would be in the neighbourhood of 200-300 for each style of cooler from time to time.

By 1928, Medalta was making two different styles, but to date I have seen only the one style with a Medalta stamp on it. The difficulty in finding these coolers stems from the fact that they were made to fit within a metal container with a 7 to 8" metal spigot running from the stone-ware container through the side of the box. One has to take the unit apart to find the Medalta stamp and most dealers want to sell the unit as is. I personally

would not buy a Perfection cooler unless I could see how the piece within the box

was stamped as other pottery companies did make perfection coolers.

The one pictured here and marked with Medalta's stamp G.5.b is the No. 1-A, not the number 1 which both of you have acquired, and it measures 8.25" across the base and stands about 11.25" high. The top of the 1A cooler has an inside ledge to hold a rubber ring unlike yours which have plain tops.

The pieces that both of you have enquired about is likely the earlier style but I have yet to see one of these stamped Medalta. The measurements of the pieces that each of you have are different enough that they either reflect separate moulds if both were made by Medalta, or that they were made by different potteries. Nevertheless you have both acquired nice pieces as they could well prove to be ones made by Medalta.

T.H. Cooler	T.S. Cooler	1A Cooler
10" dia. base	9 1/2" dia. base	8 1/4" dia. base
4 1/8" dia. top	4 1/8" dia. top	6" dia. top
12 1/8" high	10 5/8" high	11 1/8" high

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"MEDALTA WARE"
MADE IN CANADA
STONE CROCKS
JUGS, BOWLS, ETC.

TELEPHONE
ADEL. 2959

MEDICINE HAT POTTERY COMPANY
FOOT OF BATHURST ST.
NEAR FLEET ST.

TORONTO, 2
CANADA

June 25th, 1927



Medalta Potteries Ltd.,
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Gentlemen:-

We have your letter of June 20th enclosing enquiry from the Perfection Cooler Co.

We have secured samples of each of the jars, and are forwarding them to you by express. They require about equal quantities of each, and usually order two hundred of each kind at a time. You might let us know if you can make these, and at what price.

Yours very truly,

MEDICINE HAT POTTERY COMPANY

AWP/R

Mgr.



"MEDALTA WARE"
MADE IN CANADA
STONE CROCKS
JUGS, BOWLS, ETC.

TELEPHONE
ADEL. 2959

MEDICINE HAT POTTERY COMPANY
FOOT OF BATHURST ST.
NEAR FLEET ST.

TORONTO, 2
CANADA

April 1st, 1928.



Medalta Potteries Ltd.,
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Gentlemen:-

PERFECTION COOLERS JARS 1-A.

Please advise what progress you are making on these Jars?

Yours very truly,

MEDICINE HAT POTTERY COMPANY.

P/M

Mgr.

A PIECE OF P.I.E.

The Friends of Medalta Society recently received a lovely donation of a pair of lacquer coloured vases made by P.I.E. (Provincial Industrial Enterprises). While I do not yet know the style number assigned to this vase by PIE, it later became Medalta's style no. 92. The vases are finished in a stylized floral decoration consisting of two green stepped triangles hanging from a dull gold band about 2.0 cm. from the rim, each triangle with an orange and yellow flower and a few green leaves on it. The longer floral decoration between the two triangles has five green leaves near the bottom and a five-petal blue flower with an orange eye near the top. The background colour is a sandy (white mottles) yellow, and the vases have a dull gold stripe around the rim and another around the base. The vases are about 7 5/8 inches high and both are stamped on the bottom with one of PIE's oxide stamps.

The donor obtained the vases at a garage sale for the ghastly sum of \$1.00 which just goes to show you that you can still get lucky once in a while. Today, now that collectors are becoming more aware of PIE pieces and how hard they are to find, I would not be surprised to find a dealer asking around \$100.00 for each of them. •



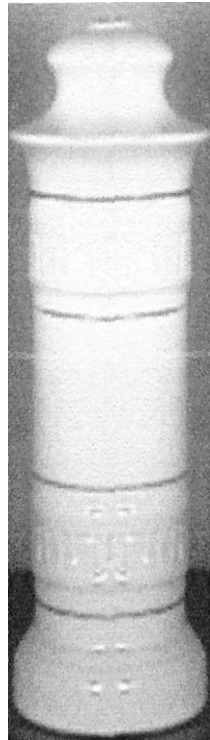
A COUNTERFEIT MEDALTA STAMPING

Someone out there is placing a fake Medalta stamping on otherwise unmarked pieces. So far at least two fake pieces have been reported to me by collector Bruce Douglas who published the booklet "Medalta Lamps

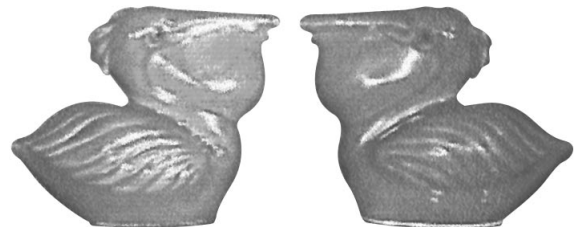
MEDALTA

of Vancouver." One of the items is a lamp base standing 12.5" high while the other is a pair of red glazed pelican-shaped salt & pepper shakers. Apparently the faked stamp has also been placed on a genuine blue-grey Medalta lamp base style number 406 which was seldom if ever marked by Medalta with either an oxide or impressed stamp.

How do you tell the fake stamp from the original G.14 stamp to which it is the most similar? by its size, the style of the font and due to the fact that it washes off, as it is only an ordinary ink stamp rather than a fired-on oxide stamp. The pictures I have are not the best for discerning the font differences, but the letter that seems to be the most obvious is the shape of the D. Medalta's D is more rounded than the phoney one, and the fake stamp is only 1.5 to 1.6 cm. in length while Medalta's is either 2.0 or 2.6 cm. long. While the stamp could well come off or at least all but disappear when washed with water, I should point out that the pair of pelican shakers had clear nail polish placed over the stamp giving it the appearance of being under the glaze.



It is indeed sad that this type of thing has to occur; but, now that we know it is happening, we can at least guard



A DISTINCTIVELY SHAPED HUMIDOR BY MEDALTA

Mel Vaselenak had the good fortune to acquire a rather unique tobacco jar or humidor. I cannot say much about it as his is the only specimen that I have seen or had reported to me, and so far it has not been identified in any of the Medalta records. It is quite different from what one would expect for a Medalta piece as the exterior is moulded to take on the appearance of bark or a piece of a branch. It stands 5.75" high and is 5" in diameter across the top and 4" in diameter across the bottom. The lid is recessed so that the knob does not extend above the top of the jar. The glaze is very dark at the top, almost black, leading to brown. My notes do not say if it was stoneware or earthenware, but it was marked with the Medalta M.3.b stamp indicating that it was designed around 1930.



against it. Maybe collectors will have to start carrying a small bottle of water, a piece of cloth and even some nail polish remover or acetone with them to test the stability of the stamp. You can buy packages of 12 individually sealed non-acetone, nail-polish remover pads made by Andrea. I picked mine up from Shoppers Drug Mart for \$4.27. The thin pads are only 3 x 2.75 inches in size and therefore they conveniently fit in a wallet or purse. •

MEDALTA ON TOUR

Glenbow's exhibit "Medalta Ware: The dream of an Alberta Pottery Industry" is now on tour. If you did not see it when it was on display at Glenbow, you should try to take it in. I do not know exactly what pieces are included in the touring exhibit, but when I saw it at Glenbow it included quite a few really stunning pieces, some of them one of a kind. The interpretation is excellent, sending you home with a good understanding of the Alberta pottery industry.

Check with the institutions listed below to confirm the dates of the show, hours of operation, admission fees or what have you.

Medicine Hat Museum & Art Gallery	3 Oct. - 5 Dec. 1998
Dunlop Gallery, Regina	23 May - 3 July 1999
Red Deer & District Museum	25 July - 26 Sept. 1999 •

ANNOUNCING

A MAJOR MEDALTA SALE

The Jack Harmer collection is going on the auction block. Many of you are aware of Jack Harmer's collection as he brought several hundred surplus pieces to the Wild Rose Antique Show and Sale in Edmonton a few years ago. Now the main part, if not the whole collection, is going to be up for grabs or should I say bids. In total Jack has over a thousand pieces of Pottery, about 650 of them Medalta, 250 Medicine Hat Potteries and the remainder from other potteries in the Medicine Hat area.

The sale will be handled by Hall's Auction, Calgary, on the evening of November 7, 1998. The first sale will consist of 250 to 300 lots, mainly Medalta but also some Medicine Hat Potteries' pieces as well. I have not yet seen a detailed listing, so all I can suggest to you is that you contact Hall's Auction to let them know that you would like a detailed listing when it is available. Write to: Hall's Auction, 5240 1A Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2H 1J1; phone 403-640-1244; fax 403-259-3682; e-mail hodgins@cadvision.com or web-site www.hodginsauction.com. The collection with pictures may be posted on their web-site, all you can do is check for it from time to time. Do not expect to see a listing of the sale pieces until after November 15, but do let Hall's Auction know that you would like a list when it is available. •

NEXT ISSUE

Souvenirs from East End, Saskatchewan

Medalta's dog dishes

Some new Sunburst finds

An Athabasca wall plaque

Hycroft's vases

RECENT PRICES



1.5 pt. ship style pitcher, G.A.D. Flitton, Port Alberni, with stencilled sailboat \$200.00

Cake plate, Ed Aman, Schuler, Alta. \$200.00

Cake plate, M.E. Kaminsky, Glen Bain, Sask. \$200.00



Vase no. 5, decoration 44, embossed floral design in gold \$185.00

Vase no. 61, Egypto, green glazed \$350.00



Bulb bowl no. 21/8", blue glazed ca. \$100.00

No. 39 lamp, solid green ca. \$325.00

1 pt. tankard pitcher, A. Donias, Rabbit Lake, Sask., with hand-painted cottage design \$175.00

1 gallon crock, Medicine Hat Pottery Co. Ltd. 1912-1914 \$75.00

1 pt. Ship style pitcher, iris decoration \$300.00 •

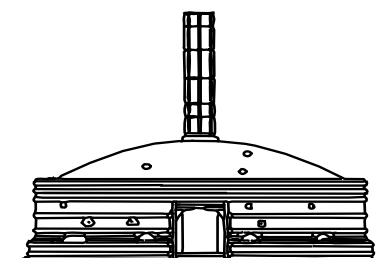


Follow Up:

MORE HYCROFT CHURCH PLATES

- Hillcrest Evangelical United Brethren Church, Medicine Hat 102, 10.5" plates at 1.25 each 1 June 1966
- 10th Anniversary, 1956-1966, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, Alberta
- 150, 9" scalloped plates at 1.20 each 28 October 1966 •

Box 204, 703 Wood Street
MEDICINE HAT, Alta.
Canada T1A 7E9
Phone/FAX 403-529-1070
<http://digitalfire.com/medalta>



Friends of Medalta Society