

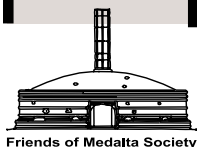
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Winter
2001

The Medalta Review

(A newsletter for Collectors of Alberta Made Pottery)

Celebrating
Alberta's
Ceramic
History



Friends of Medalta Society

From the Editor

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you. Hopefully you will find that special piece of pottery among the presents that you open Christmas Day.

Many of Medalta's customers placed their orders just before Christmas, and so I think it is safe to assume that they were acquired to give to their faithful patrons. Toshach's of Drumheller was one such merchant, and he gave gifts to

his customers
for most years
of the 1930s,



albeit not
all made by
Medalta.

The two hotel, gourd shaped ashtrays discussed in this issue were likely also gifts as the invoices were dated December.

Even Marwell, the original owner of Hycroft, appreciated the idea of giving gifts at Christmas, either to customers or perhaps his employees. So far only one of these plates has surfaced, a 10-inch coupe style dinner plate decorated with the pheasant scene of the Game Birds in Flight series. The sales records, however, indicate that

Continued on page 8



Renewal Time

As usual at year-end we ask you to take a moment to renew your subscription for another year. Once again we have tried to make it as easy as possible by including a renewal slip with this issue of the newsletter. Just stick the slip with your name on it along with payment in an envelope and send it off to The Friends of Medalta Society. The subscription rate remains the same at \$20.00 for the year.

You will receive an acknowledgment and receipt for your renewal, but in order to save extra postal costs this receipt will be sent to you with the Spring 2002 issue. And thank you once again for your support and interest in making the newsletter possible. •

The Medalta/Dyson 5-Gallon Jug

The jug that a Wyoming dealer emailed me about last March (see newsletter no. 14 for discussion) was recently listed on the ebay internet auction where for about \$250.00 Canadian. By the time the Alberta collector gets it home, I am sure that it will cost another \$60.00 due to its shipping weight.

The price is not really out of line for such a piece, I have seen 5-gallon Medalta Stoneware jugs priced at \$150.00 to \$225.00. Surely the Dyson stamp is worth another \$75.00 or so. In any case I am glad to see the piece find its way back to Alberta and I hope it arrives safe and sound. •



Contents

From the Editor	1
Renewal Time	1
The Medalta/Dyson 5-Gallon Jug	1
Medicine Hat Potteries' Square Footed Mixing Bowl	2
Check List of Merchants	3
A Few Recent Prices	3
More Hycroft Dinnerware Patterns	4
On the Cariboo Trail - by Bill Kellett	7
Measuring Cups : Follow-up	8
Birch-Bark Beauties	9
Don't Mess With Medalta Collectors	11
A Nat. Ludwig Pitcher by Medalta	11
Medalta Follow-Up: Gourd Ashtrays	12
A Round Flat Ashtray	12

Medicine Hat Potteries' Square Footed Mixing Bowl

This style of mixing bowl is often not picked up by collectors since it is never marked with the "Little Chief" trademark. Perhaps I should not say 'never marked', only that I have not yet seen one in the 50 or more I have examined (yet I always check in hopes of finding one).

When this bowl is acquired, it is often because of the Merchant/Flour advertising stamped in the bottom of the bowl. As the Royal Household Flour stamping is similar to that found on some of Medalta's bowls - differing in not having the word Ogilvie - new collectors often think that they have a Medalta item. Not so. Even though it is a Medicine Hat Potteries piece, in my opinion it is still well worth acquiring, and better yet, the price is usually somewhat lower than Medalta bowls.



As an advertising item, supposedly stamped to display the merchant's name prominently, the mixing bowl is a poor choice. No matter where you place the stamping, it just does not display very well when not in use. I guess on the interior in the bottom of the bowl was as good a choice for placement as anywhere, and so far all have been stamped in that location.

How do we know that this is a Medicine Hat Potteries piece? From several sources, one being a Lethbridge Herald newspaper ad dated April 19, 1940 as shown here. Secondly, it appears on the list of MHP products that were in production by August 1940.

This 1940 listing is also the first written confirmation of the sizes produced. It lists the 8, 9 and 10-inch sizes with product or shape numbers of 111, 112 and 113 respectively. Until this list, which was part of the Malcolm McArthur collection, appeared about June 2001, I only knew the sizes from those I had recorded in collections. Up until that time I expected that other sizes would be found (based on the presence of additional sizes in the other style of mixing bowl made by Medicine Hat Potteries).



Continued on page 8

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.

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Check List of Merchants: Square Footed Bowl

Most of my efforts in recording collections, especially ones comprised of more than 500 pieces, went towards photographing, listing and measuring Medalta pieces rather than those produced by other companies. For that reason, I am sure that there are many more merchant's names than what I have recorded herein. As usual, please let me know about the unlisted pieces that you have, and if any are on bowls other than 10-inch ones, please let me know about that as well.

Most pieces are presently known only from one or two specimens as indicated by the number given in brackets at the end of the entry. For the most part, I did not record the colour of the Ogilvie stamping but where I did it was in brown and the photos that I have received from various collectors also show it to be brown. From my photos, the lettering appears to be in the solid style as opposed to the open outlined style. Most have the merchant's name and location in capital letters, with T.A. Liden being the only exception so far.

- "KUBIK'S, BLAIRMORE, ALTA." arced around top & "PHONE 62" arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan format, 10-inch bowl (3x)
- "COMPLIMENTS OF" arced around top & "LOUIE HONG, CLUNY" arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan format, 10-inch bowl (1x)
- "M. PURCELL" arced around top & "DUCHESS, ALTA." arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (1x)
- "HANNA CO-OPERATIVE ASSN. LTD. arced around top & "HANNA, ALTA." arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (2x)
- "T.A. Liden, Holden, Alta." arced around top & "The Store That Serves You Best" arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (5x)
- "CASE MAARION" arced around top & "WINNIFRED, ALTA." arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (2x)



- "NAT. LUDWIG" arced around top & "BURSTALL, SASK." arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (2x)



- "M. NAIMARK" arced around top & "SCEPTRE, SASK." arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (3x)



- "A.B. PETRO" arced around top & "SIMMIE, SASK." arced around bottom of the central Ogilvie's advertising slogan, 10-inch bowl (2x) •



A Few Recent Prices

(in Canadian dollars)

-Medalta purity water filter, top half only, no lid \$201.00

-Medalta vase, style no. 1200 \$99.00

-**Medalta vase**, new style no. 105, mixed grey, blue and orange-browns \$167.00

-Medalta 1 pint Ogilvie's pitcher, Lemsford, Sask., cracked & with rim chip \$215.00

-Alberta Potteries (Yuill), El Rancho dinner plate \$28.00

-Alberta Potteries (Yuill), birch-bark pattern dinner plate wheel stamp \$24.00

-MHP white bowl, style no. 108 \$20.00

-Medalta corrugated bowl, maple leaf decoration \$225.00

-**P.I.E. vase**, yellow with small flowers \$368.00

-Medalta 4 gallon crock, no lid, 1922-1924 \$65.00 •



More Hycroft Dinnerware Patterns

In this issue we will illustrate another half dozen or so Hycroft patterns. We still have a long way to go to cover all of the known named patterns but eventually we will discuss all of them. In time I hope to produce a colour page showing Hycroft's patterns. Black and white illustrations do not adequately show the patterns.

Autumn: Pattern No. 2300

Autumn is an underglaze, handpainted, coloured leaf and stem pattern found on white, round, coupe-shaped dishes. The pattern is off a bit to one side but in spite of that it seems to fill the flatwares. It has no banding around the rim. The pattern which is more or less a realistic branch/leaf design is described in the March 1, 1959, Hycroft price list as "Black stems and Blue leaves" with the "Cereal and Cup [in] Solid Blue". In 1960 yellow and pink colours were mentioned and in 1961 green was also mentioned, all apparently referring to the colour of the leaves. So far only one colour of leaf has been found on a particular piece. The sample size is still less than 10 pieces in total, so perhaps two or more different colours of leaves will be found on the same piece.



The same ad that gives the cereal bowl and cup colour as blue shows that the 320-A style cup was sold with this pattern. And I am sure that you also would be able to get cereal bowls and cups in all four colours to match the colour of the leaves of the set that you bought. The saucers to go with the cups were decorated with the Autumn pattern.

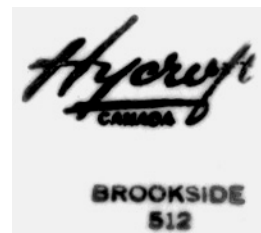
Autumn appears in the Hycroft invoice records from 1959 to 1963 and 20-piece sets sold for \$4.00 in 1959.

If you look at the Medalta Newsletter, Issue No. 7 you

will see an illustration of the Tree Branch pattern made by Medicine Hat Potteries. Autumn is a very close copy of that pattern which depicted black branches on a pink background.

Brookside: Pattern No. 512

This pattern was produced on the roundish Balmoral shaped dishes, the Balmoral shape being the one with a fluted or swirl design rim or exterior. As you can see from the pictures shown here, it has a gold lace decoration all around the rim with the floral decal being centered on the flatwares. The leaves are in shades of yellow and brown with dark tips on some, while the stems of small floral clusters are in a dark pink. There is no banding. The cup has a swirl pattern on the exterior although it does not show too clearly here, and the pattern number of that shape was B-12. Dinner plates were available in both the 9 or 10-inch sizes.



Sales records indicate that the pattern was sold only from 1956 to 1957 at which time 20-piece sets sold for \$3.85

Waterton Park: Pattern No. 518

This pattern is found



on the round coupe shaped dishes. The decal was the same floral pattern as used on the Brookside pattern, and it too was centered on plain white flatwares. The cup shape used with the Waterton Park dish sets was designated the B-8 cup. It is effectively the same shape as the B-12 cup but without the swirl pattern. The dinner plates were available in either 9 or 10-inch sizes.

The wholesale price of 20-piece sets was \$3.00. Few samples have shown up in the marketplace, likely a reflection of only being made in 1956 and 1957. Sales records indicate that it was no longer available by July 1957.

Wheat: Pattern No. 564

This pattern is one of the last to be described and illustrated in the little loose-leaf booklet from Malcolm McArthur. The page shows the decal as illustrated herein consisting of seven heads of wheat more or less symmetrically fanned out. It further states that it was on the round coupe style of dishes and that it had a 5/8" yellow band flanked on either side with gold lines. Unfortunately it does not say where the decal was placed.

Other Hycroft records indicate that it was introduced in December 1956 and a few 20-piece sets were sold in 1957 for \$3.25 per set. After that there is no further mention of the Wheat pattern until 1963, and the one sold at that time was apparently a different pattern. The reason the name Wheat does not appear in the sales records from 1958 to 1962, I believe, is because the name for Wheat #564 was changed to Reflection.



Reflection: No Pattern Number

I believe that Wheat pattern # 564 is the same pattern as Reflection and that for some reason or other the name was changed in 1957. As you can see from the illustration shown here, the Reflection pattern perfectly matches that given for Wheat 564.

The Reflection plate that the Friends of Medalta have is described as follows: "in the middle of a white plate a decal consisting of seven heads of wheat with 8 grass blades in yellows and browns, and 1/4" in from the rim a 3/8" wide yellow band with a gold stripe on either side". It measures 10-inches in diameter unlike the later dishes which were a half inch larger.

Reflection is only mentioned in 1957 so we must presume that it was not a very popular pattern, and it is certainly seldom seen in the marketplace. And lastly as you can see here, it had its own special backstamp as found on the saucer illustrated here along with the B-8 shaped cup.

Wheat: No Pattern Number

This wheat pattern differs from the original Wheat and/or Reflection pattern. It only has 5 heads of wheat that are leaning to the right as if 'blowing in the wind'. The decal is found on the coupe style of dishes, placed in the centre of a white plate with thick/thin gold banding around the rim and with another gold stripe within. The wheat stalks are in shades of yellow and brown.



The sales records indicate that it was in production from 1963 through to 1969 but in spite of that it is not seen in the marketplace very often.

In Hycroft's 1967 illustrated price list, the cups illustrated with the flatwares are the 320-A style and they too are decorated with the wheat decal.

Recently, this past September, the teapot shown here was found at a garage sale. It is Hycroft's pattern no. 350, and perhaps its price of about \$5.00 was due to the fact that it had no Hycroft stamp on the bottom. It is the first example of an accessory piece that I have seen with the wheat pattern on it. As you can see the decal has been trimmed to only three stalks of wheat and in this case they are leaning to the left. (Many of Hycroft's decals could be



placed one way or the other.) Here it is shown beside a Calico teapot, a pattern discussed in Newsletter issue # 8.

Maple Leaf: No Pattern Number

The Maple Leaf decal pattern was one of those pictured in Hycroft's 1967 illustrated price list. Produced on the round coupe style of dishes, the pattern consists of a number of maple leaves in browns, yellows and greens on white dishes finished with gold banding. The flatwares have the pattern set off to the left-hand side, and in addition to the gold rim banding, there is a gold stripe within broken by the cluster of maple leaves. On the 320-A cup, the nappies and larger bowls, the pattern is found on the exterior.

The Hycroft stamp found on the bottom of the larger pieces is the common 22 KT variety shown here, and it seems that Hycroft never had a stamp made with the Maple Leaf pattern name on it.



In spite of being available from 1962 to 1970, the pattern does not appear to have been very popular judging from the few entries in Hycroft's invoice records and the number of times you see the pattern in

the marketplace. If you want to acquire some pieces of Maple Leaf, I saw some for sale in the antique store in the old railway station in Medicine Hat some six months ago. Since then, the store has changed ownership and perhaps it is no longer available.



If you want the store's phone number, contact me and I will try to get it for you.

Serenada: Pattern No. 2700

A Hycroft illustrated brochure dated March 1959 describes this pattern as "black with blue or yellow leaves, blue or yellow band"

and with "cereal and cup [in] solid colour blue or yellow". It further shows that the saucer was decorated with the handpainted, underglaze pattern and that the blue or yellow/white lined cup was the 320-A style.

As you can see from the illustration, Serenada is made using the coupe style of dishes. It is basically a geometrical design comprised of crossing lines and arcs with the four so called leaves being tiny grain-shaped ones attaching to each of the curved black lines.



So far I have only recorded the yellow leaf with yellow rim band variety. No blue varieties have surfaced as yet. It appears on Hycroft invoices from 1959 to 1965, and in 1965 the 20-piece sets sold for \$3.75.

Recorded pieces have all had a Hycroft stamp on them, but never one with the pattern name as part of the stamp. •

On the Cariboo Trail - by Bill Kellett

Some years ago while browsing through one of numerous antique shops in Snohomish, Washington I happened upon what appeared to be a Medalta old style, hand-made beer stein sitting in a locked display cabinet. On its side was a logo that I had not seen previously on a Medalta piece. The logo consisted of an elk's head flanked on either side by the words CARIBOO and LODGE with the numeral 239 between the antlers, all above the letters B.P. and O.E. split by the face of a clock. The dealer who was selling the piece had affixed a tag to it that read "Elks Lodge, Anaconda, Montana," and the price was \$22.00 (in U.S. funds, of course.)



Upon locating the shop attendant, who unlocked the cabinet, I was delighted to discover that it was indeed a Medalta piece, bearing both the M.7 "MEDALTA" mark as well as the M.6 "HAND MADE" one. The piece itself was in excellent condition exhibiting only minor crazing. In light of this, I felt that the price of \$22.00 (at the time equivalent to about \$30.00 Canadian) was reasonable so, needless to say, I purchased it, all the while wondering if indeed the Anaconda Montana attribution was correct. Did an Elks Lodge in Montana order named wares from Medalta?

The spelling of the word Cariboo was my biggest clue that the Montana reference was likely erroneous. While this spelling is incorrect if referring to the caribou elk, it is however correct for the spelling of the Cariboo region of British Columbia. Upon returning home, armed with this tidbit of information, I consulted my 1934 British Columbia provincial directory and

specifically looked up communities located in the Cariboo. To my delight, I did indeed locate a reference to the Cariboo Elks Lodge #239 in Williams Lake B.C. The listing also stated that meetings were on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, and it even listed the secretary as C. Norquay.

Further investigation turned up a Charles Norquay, whose occupation is listed as a plumber residing at Williams Lake, who one presumes is the same person. Unfortunately I have not been able to locate any current Williams Lake residents with that surname who might be able to verify or dispel this.

However, a search of the internet has revealed that Cariboo Elks Lodge #239 (located at 1165 Moon Street) in Williams Lake is indeed still in service.



One might then wonder how a piece like this could end up so far from home, and with the incorrect attribution to boot! It would indeed be interesting to know the story of its travels. This is one of the many times I have wished pieces of Medalta could talk, as I am certain that the stories they could tell would be fascinating.

Editor's Note:

I have recorded three of these beer steins so far, all in the hands of B.C. collectors. They were all marked HAND MADE and measured 4 3/8" to 4 1/2" high. The sales records for this stein has not been identified as yet, but based on other samples of the same size, it dates 1930-1932. (There is a larger hand made beer stein which measures 5 1/8" to 5 1/2" high.) The value in today's market would likely fall in the \$150.00 to \$225.00 range. •

Continued from page 2

This style of mixing bowl usually has its size indicated by an impressed numeral on the bottom, but examples with no number can be found. The actual diameter across the top is usually about an inch more than its marked size (the size is an interior rather than an exterior measurement). For this bowl, I have recorded the following measurements plus or minus 1/8 inch:

8-inch: 4 3/4" h. x 9" dia.

9-inch: 5 1/8" h. x 9 7/8 dia.

10-inch: 5 3/4" h. x 10 7/8" dia.

Although I have not seen any price lists for this item, I presume it was a low-end bowl (it was fired in the kiln by stacking one upon the other, the top edge of the rim and underside of the collar are wiped free of glaze). The usual yellowish-brown colour of the bowl was achieved by employing a transparent glaze that revealed the clay colour (you can find samples that are more yellow than brown).

My notes indicate that Luke Lindoe designed this bowl, but just who passed this information along to me went unrecorded.

I have not seen any of these bowls in the marketplace within the past year, but traditionally they have fallen in the \$75.00 to \$125.00 range once an antique dealer gets them. I am sure that they would be much higher, perhaps 50% more, if they had a factory stamp on the bottom. •

Continued from page 1

many more are out there to be found. Invoice # 485 dated 29 December 1955 and billed to Marwell Construction Co. Ltd. of Vancouver was for various Game Birds in Flight sets with crest including 70, 20-piece sets; 16, 30-piece sets and 62, 40-piece sets. Perhaps all four patterns of the Game Bird decals were used, but so far the flushing pheasants is the only example that has surfaced.

Thanks to each and every one of you for making the newsletter possible. Please continue to show the newsletter to other collectors as we would like to see our subscription list grow. This year we had a total of 92 members and hopefully we will soon pass the one hundred mark. Also please keep me posted on your new finds and if you have a story that you would like to share with fellow readers, please send it to me. •

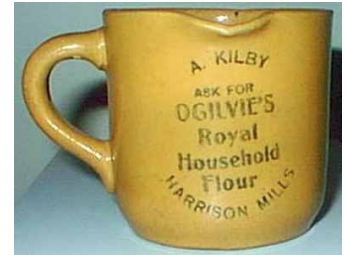
Measuring Cups : Follow-up

Thanks to several collectors I have three new measuring cup names to report and a few minor additions/corrections. The pictures shown here were kindly provided by a Saskatchewan collector, and while some of the letters are hard to read, I hope that I have reported the names correctly. The A. KILBY cup was listed in the last issue, but at that time I had no photograph of it. Please note that there is no B.C. after HARRISON MILLS. The count would now be two for this cup.

- W.R. BALL
WINDERMERE, B.C.
code 1-2 no **
not yet seen
- D.A. McKINNON & CO.
GRAND FORKS, B.C.
code 1-2 no **
- P. CAROSELLA
FERNIE, B.C.
code 1-2 no **
- A. KILBY
HARRISON MILLS
code 1-2 no **: 2x

In addition, it was brought to my attention that the Desbisay Department Store can be found with an r in the spelling of Desbrisay. As you can see from the photos, each has handles in the opposite direction, but whether such a correlation would exist for the whole order is unknown, and I think unlikely.

Presumably, one of the pieces is a misspelling of the name, but at present I have not taken the time to find out which is the correct one. •



Birch-Bark Beauties

Malcolm McArthur advised me that he was the originator of the birch-bark pattern set of dishes that you can find produced under the company names of Alberta Potteries Limited (Yuill), New Medalta Ceramics, Sunburst Ceramics and to a lesser degree Medalta (1966) Limited. As Malcolm moved from one company to the next, and he worked for the first three of the four mentioned above, he apparently took the rights for these dishes with him.

The birch-bark designation which many collectors use when referring to these plates comes from the barbeque set as designed by Malcolm McArthur. The plates of that pattern were decorated on top to show the growth rings, lateral lines and the bark itself. The bark is often seen in brown, gray and white shades. Other pieces, like the cream pitcher and cup, had twig-like handles.

This article is not about the barbeque set, but rather the 10-inch plates that were produced as colourful souvenir or decorative pieces to hang on your wall. In a future article I may illustrate other plates, but for now I am going to limit it to the animal series that most of us are familiar with.

The plates range in size from 10 1/8" to 10 3/8" in diameter and are generally round in shape but designed to simulate a cross-section through the trunk of a tree with the outer edge being moulded to take on the form of bark. The rim is usually glazed in a honey tone fading into the lighter center. The animal designs are placed in the middle of the plate and are generally in a round format. The multicoloured designs, usually in the natural colours of the animal and of the background setting, include images of a bull elk, a male and female elk, a big horn sheep, a mountain goat, a buffalo, a moose, a deer and an antelope. Some of the plates were made to be placed on view using a plate stand or a wire frame for wall mounting; other were made with two holes drilled through the basal ring at the back to attach wire or string for mounting the pieces on a nail.

All of the plates in the listing given below were made by Alberta Potteries Limited (Yuill) and when they were stamped (and most were) it was with the round Hand Decorated stamp shown here. The hand decoration likely refers to each piece being painted by hand, but I would suspect that it was following a sketch or template of the animal rather than being totally freehand. The animals show variation in colour and detail, but for the most part the size appears to be the same. Admittedly I did not try to measure each and every animal.



For example, the two moose plates illustrated herein are very different in colour. The Bowness one is mainly in browns while the Williams Lake one is mainly in black shades. Other than this marked colour difference, the detail of the moose, trees and the swampy ground is very much the same.

The patterns that seem to be the hardest to find are the deer and the mountain goat. I have only recorded single examples of each so far. At one time I thought that the buffalo design was the hardest one to find, but recently more of them have shown up. I have not yet obtained a picture of the deer, but as soon as one of our readers sends me a copy I will share it with you.

Just a few weeks ago, in fact, the buffalo design with naming for the town of Turner Valley sold at Hall's Auction in Calgary for \$90.00 plus GST and fees. The price realized more or less fell in the middle of the price range for these plates which usually sell between \$75.00 and \$125.00 at antique shows.

The dating of these plates is still problematical but my guess is that they were produced before McArthur set up his own com-



pany, New Medalta Ceramics, in 1958. Mac worked for Hop Yuill from 1946 to 1958, and according to Antonelli and Forbes in "Pottery in Alberta: The Long Tradition" page 154, Mac worked briefly at Yuill's Redcliff plant shortly after Medicine Hat Potteries was sold to Marwell and renamed Hycroft China Limited. I suspect that this is when these decorative plates were made. I still do not know enough about all of McArthur's movements from one plant to another to be absolutely sure of when he designed the birch bark barbecue set.

In ending this discussion, I would like to thank Edmonton collectors Gail and Gene Sabo for making this article possible. Some six or more years ago, when I recorded their collection, I noted that they had a kitchen wall covered with half a dozen or more of these plates, all but one or two of the different animals. I have wanted to show these plates for some time as I personally like them, and they were largely the ones who made it possible by taking pictures of their collection for me.



CHECK LIST OF NAMES

I do not have pictures for many of the items included in this checklist, and for that reason there could well be some errors in my listing. For example, collectors have advised me that the BANFF plates can be marked either ALBERTA or CANADA. I was not aware of that at the time that I made many of my recordings (I may have incorrectly recorded some).

Another likely area of mistakes being present is where I say 'elk' rather than 'pair of elk' or 'bull elk'. There is definitely a bull elk scene for Banff, but there well could be the pair of elk as well. As to the Turner Valley ones, I am not sure which elk pattern they are. As usual, I would welcome hearing from readers who have patterns or town names not found on this list. Also I would appreciate hearing about mistakes in order to get my listing corrected.

- BANFF, CANADA
- bull elk (6x)
- moose (2x)
- big horn sheep
- BANFF, ALBERTA
- big horn sheep



- BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA
- mountain goat
- THE BEAUTIFUL VALLEY BOWNESS, ALBERTA
- pair of elk (2x)
- big horn sheep
- moose (2x)
- CANMORE, ALBERTA
- pair of elk
- CARBON, ALBERTA
- big horn sheep
- moose
- antelope
- CLARESHOLM, ALBERTA
- big horn sheep
- buffalo
- CHILLIWACK, B.C./CANADA
- big horn sheep (2x)
- COALDALE, ALBERTA
- big horn sheep
- DAWSON CREEK, B.C.
- moose
- FOREMOST, ALBERTA
- deer
- HOLDEN, ALBERTA
- buffalo
- big horn sheep
- MANITOBA, CANADA
- buffalo
- MOOSE JAW, SASK.
- moose
- REDCLIFF, ALBERTA
- antelope (2x)
- ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, ALBERTA
- pair of elk
- SLAVE LAKE, ALBERTA
- pair of elk
- SYLVAN LAKE, ALBERTA
- buffalo
- TURNER VALLEY
- elk (3x)
- big horn sheep (2x)
- buffalo (2x)
- VAUXHALL, ALBERTA
- antelope
- WEMBLEY, ALBERTA
- moose
- WETASKIWIN/ALBERTA
- big horn sheep
- WILLIAMS LAKE, B.C.
- moose •



Don't Mess With Medalta Collectors

Some ebay sellers just have to learn not to mess with collectors the hard way. Take this crock for example. When it was first posted on ebay, the seller was obviously testing the market as he/she put a very high reserve price on it. Just what that was I do not know, but it was apparently over \$130.00 US (about \$200.00 Canadian), as the final bid of \$129.50 did not meet the reserve price.



The next week it was re-listed and this time the vendor posted it at 'buy it now' for \$125.00, and that's when collectors said 'the hell with you'. The crock only got one bid and while I do not know what that bid was, it apparently was not a serious one as it did not meet the new reserve placed on the crock.

Personally I was pleased to see this happen for a couple of reasons. Firstly, I believe that too many ebay sellers place ridiculously high reserve bids on pieces for which they have no clue of its value. In my opinion they misuse ebay to try to find out what something is worth. If they paid too much for it in the first place, or if they had a high personal value on it, then they should start the auction at that price. If no one shows interest at that



price, so be it, and keep the piece. Otherwise take your chances with the free market rather than wasting the buyer's time, not to mention making them angry. Secondly, I think the piece was overpriced. I would have placed its value at about \$125.00 Canadian tops.

As you can see from the picture above, the crock is marked "8" on the side suggesting that it was stamped that way in error as its true size by both the impressed "3" in the bottom and its measurements is three American wine measure gallons. The vendor thought he had a very rare piece, advertising it that way, but personally I think it is only one of those specially numbered crocks that were ordered by agricultural and forestry departments for controlled experiments. Several invoices that have survived show that orders were placed for a dozen or more crocks all the same size numbered from 1 to whatever in order to facilitate experiments. Please refer to Newsletter # 1, Spring 1998 for more information on these special orders.

P.S. After I wrote this article, the crock appeared on ebay for a third time, now at the starting price of \$24.99 US and buy it now at \$75.00 US. Medalta collectors are great. None bid on it at all this time. So there, take your crock and shove it! •



A Nat. Ludwig Pitcher by Medalta

Some of the merchants that acquired advertising pieces from Medicine Hat Potteries in 1938, or later, originally placed orders with Medalta. Nat. Ludwig was one such merchant. In 1927, he acquired named 7-inch special bowls and the next year 1-pint tankard style pitchers from Medalta. As you can see from the illustration, it advertised Ogilvie's flour.

This piece recently listed on the internet auction and quickly sold for about \$160.00 Canadian. It certainly was not a bargain since it had a bit of chipping around

the spout. Considering how rare Saskatchewan advertising pieces are, that price was not too much more than what I would have been prepared to pay if still buying for Glenbow. •



Medalta Follow-Up: Gourd Ashtrays

I am pleased to see that others also like to collect associated items. I think that related materials bring the piece to life. A picture of the building, a menu to accompany a named restaurant piece or perhaps a receipt book that advertises Ogilvie's Royal Household Flour, these are the type of pieces that I watch for. A while back I found a post-card showing the York Hotel to match a gourd ashtray, owned by a Calgary collector, from the same hotel.



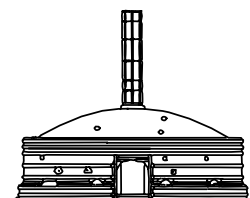
Not only were these two gourd ashtrays listed on ebay but they were also sold along with postcards of the hotels they advertised. \$200.00 Canadian each was certainly at the top end of the price scale, but they were Saskatchewan pieces, both from Saskatoon.

The Medalta sales records suggest that the orders for these ashtrays were quite small. The Western Hotel was billed \$8.56 for their order in December 1936, which likely would have purchased about 72 ashtrays or 1/2 a gross at 12 cents each. The Empire Hotel was billed \$7.21 in December 1936 for their order, so it too was quite small. •

A Round Flat Ashtray

This Leland Hotel ashtray sold for just over \$150.00 and in my opinion that was not too bad a price. It is only the second example that I have heard about. The Medalta records indicate that the order for 144 ashtrays (a gross) was filled in December 1937. I do not know the exact size of this piece but it is around 5 1/2" in diameter and the Medalta stamp on the bottom is the G.30.a mark as shown here.

It was in the usual colours of brown lettering on a honey glaze. •



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