

The Best of the Show

As is usual for the Spring issue of the newsletter, I am running two or more weeks behind. In part I have been a bit tardy, but mainly it was by design as I wanted to see what interesting pieces showed up at the Spring Blue Mountain sale. I should not have waited as from the reports that I received, the show held Easter weekend in Calgary was a major disappointment as there were no unusual pieces to be found.

The best items that I saw and/or heard of were a group of four miniature jugs that a Saskatchewan dealer had on his table. When I saw the grouping it was down to three jugs as the most unusual one, perhaps a previously unrecorded variety, had already been sold. It was described to me as one of the Medicine Hat Potteries, Toronto, jugs differing from the usual ones in having a rectangular border around the naming. I will try to track down the owner to see if I can get a picture of it to share with you.



The other three were ones that I had previously recorded and included in Issue No. 2 of the Medalta Review where I discussed Medalta's miniatures. You can still get a copy of this and other past issues of the newsletter from the FOMS if you do not have a full set of the Review.



I am not sure whether all four of the miniatures sold or not, but at least three of them disappeared on the first day of the sale. The asking price was at least \$325.00 for each of them, but I understand that the dealer was willing to accept \$300.00 for them.

Another dealer had one of the Cattle Country miniatures jugs at the show, as shown here, and I heard that it sold for \$325.00

About a month or so before the Blue Mountain show, the First Canadian Collector's Club held their members show at the Thorncliff Greenview Community Association Hall. Once again not very many pottery surprises showed up, but the two that I spotted are worth sharing with you.

Not Just Any Old Crock

About a year ago I obtained pictures of this 5-gallon crock thanks to the dealer who let me photograph it before placing it on his table for sale. I doubt that

many collectors actually saw the piece, as I understand it was being held for a person specializing in dairy products. I later heard that it sold for \$500.00 and I am sure that not many, if any, Medalta collectors would be willing to pay that much for it.

It dates to the 1916-



1920 period by the round Medalta stamp on the side, and the paper label is quite plain with brown lettering on one white paper, now yellowed. Much of the label is gone but you can at least see the name COCHRANE CREAMERY clearly. •



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I think the best piece at the show was this comport dish bearing the brown maple leaf crest of the Canadian National railway. The asking price of \$135.00 was very reasonable, I thought, and I was prepared to pick it for that price if it lasted to the end of the day. However, as expected, it did not stay on the table for more than an hour or so. My thanks are extended to the new owners who so kindly sent me some pictures of the fruit comport.



The piece is finished in the typical Canadian National colours of yellow and white with the maple leaf crest itself being in brown which shows up so well against the yellow rim. Between the rim and white center of the top is a thin black band. The underside of the bowl part is plain white while the pedestal-style base is finished in yellow to match the rim. It stands about 5-inches high and measures 8-inches across the top.

The second piece that caught my eye was a 9-inch dinner plate made by

Medicine Hat Potteries. The daffodil pattern is one that I had not previously recorded. The asking price of \$90.00 appears to have been a bit too high for most collectors as I later saw it at the Blue Mountain show.

The pictures here do not really do it justice as the daffodils look so much better when you see the actual piece. Perhaps it is the subtle colouring that was hard for the camera

to catch as the whole top is finished in shades of yellow. The flowers themselves stand out a bit against the yellow

background thanks to a lighter shading of the yellow around them. •



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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A Medalta Creamer

Just over a year ago this creamer showed up at the Blue Mountain Sale. As you can see from the picture it is basically an Ovide cup that has been turned into a creamer by pinching a spout at the one end. It is a white-lined cup finished in Moorcroft blue, a royal blue speckled with black.

Perhaps such cup-style creamers are common and many of you have examples in your collections, but for me it was first.

I have not previously recorded this style of creamer and to find it in the Moorcroft blue was just an added bonus. Personally I thought the price of \$20.00 was reasonable, but other collectors apparently did not as it went unsold the first day of the show. •



Hycroft's Vases

This article will examine the vases that Hycroft produced over the years, however as vases are so seldom mentioned in the Hycroft invoices, there is not a lot of information available about them. Perhaps other Hycroft records mention vases more often, but so far I have only taken time to examine the invoice records that are being preserved by the Friends of Medalta Society.

One record suggests that Hycroft had five different vases, but regretfully no shape details were given, and for all I know, the different numbers and prices could be due to different finishes or decorations. Specifically all this record said was that 12, #I vases (\$.25 each), 22 #II vases (\$.25), 23 #III vases (\$.40), 10 #IV vases (\$.70) and 6 #V vases (\$.70) were sold to the Army & Navy Dept. Stores, Moose Jaw, on June 3, 1960, under invoice number 6907. Vase No. 1 is the only known shape for sure as it is identified in the order for the corrugated or stepped vase with the MANITOBA CANADA naming on its side (see below).

Because Hycroft was in fact a continuation of Medicine Hat Potteries, effectively only a name change when new owners acquired the plant, I would have expected to see a much wider range of vases being produced by Hycroft. We know from the pieces found in the marketplace that Medicine Hat Potteries had more than a dozen vases in its product line, but I am not aware of any of those pieces later being produced by Hycroft China. All of the Hycroft vases that I have recorded appear to have been developed by Hycroft as not one of the shapes seems to have had its origin as a Medicine Hat Potteries' piece.

Hycroft's vase line was extremely limited.

So far I have only recorded four different shapes, but one of those shapes came in two different sizes bringing the total to five. In addition, two of shapes may well be one of a kind as both were hand-made and so far only a single example of each has been recorded.

The first vase shown here is a large one standing about 18-inches high. Regretfully, I do have exact measurement as it was on display in a showcase at the time I took the photographs, and for that reason I am also unsure whether or not it had a Hycroft stamp on the bottom.



Basically the vase is white with gold trim around the rim and down the handles. The roses covering the vessel are executed in pink with their stems and leaves in green, while the writing on the one side is in gold stating "TO/MOTHER/FROM/THE CHILDREN/AND/GRANDCHILDREN/1959". Reportedly, it was specially made to present to Harry Weiner's wife.

I have no idea what its market value

would be, as one of a kind pieces are so hard to judge until they actually sell; but, if I were still buying for the Glenbow Museum, I would definitely be prepared to go as high as \$300.00 for this piece.

The second vase shown here is also a hand-thrown one, and while it is presently one-of-a-kind, it was marked on the bottom with a Hycroft stamp. There may well be other examples in the marketplace, but surely not too many as hand throwing would have been much more expensive than slip casting.

The vase, now in the FOMS collections, was acquired from a Calgary antique store for the price of \$85.00. At the time I thought that the price was high, but now, since no other examples have been found, perhaps it was not.

The cylindrical vase stands just under 10-inches high and it measures about 3-inches across the rim. The interior of the vase is white while the exterior is glazed in a rich, bright blue heavily covered with horizontally placed gold streaks.

The next vase can best be referred to as the corrugated vase as it is comprised of seven fairly evenly spaced steps from the narrower bottom to the wider top. Its height is just over 7-inches and it measures 4-inches across the top. I have seen several examples with no naming on them. Some in the Hycroft warehouse are plain white while others I have seen in the marketplace are lime green/white lined or blue/white lined.

So far I have recorded two examples of this vase with naming on the side. One has an

oval shape on the side with MANITOBA CANADA around a maple leaf. The vase itself was lime green/white lined while the naming was in brown. The Hycroft invoice record "1000 #1 vases, with "MANITOBA/[maple leaf emblem]/CANADA", at \$.80 each, sold to Hamiota Medical Group, Hamiota, Manitoba, in October 1960. The artwork and silkscreen cost \$40.00 extra.

The second example shown here has not yet been identified among the Hycroft invoices.

The one in the FOMS collections is described as follows: "on one side in dark reddish-brown shadowed block letters "ISC", each letter stepping downward to the right and partly being overlapped by the letter above, behind the letters a vertical line design, all on a pink/white lined vase with gold banding around the rim and with a gold stripe



Continued on page 4, col 2

An RAF Dominion Style Cup

Perhaps some of you have seen this variety of Royal Air Force cup before, but for me it is a first. Medalta did not use gold very often on its crested items, likely due to the high cost of the gold oxide, but on this cup they did.



The cup is otherwise a plain white, not even with any rim banding, but the crest on the side is in gold and it is clearly applied.

The G.36.b stamp on the bottom indicates an early wartime issue, and therefore it seems likely that it was ordered by one of the many air force training bases situated in western Canada. Some of these bases were classified as RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) bases and others as RAF ones. To date I have not looked into which bases were RCAF or RAF ones and the reason for the different designations.



The cup showed up at a Red Deer Auction where it was one of a batch lot comprised of about ten cups or mugs. The works sold for \$50.00, a very good buy, as this cup alone must be worth that. •

A Decaled Coffee Mug

The first little gem that showed up at an auction in southern Alberta was this lovely Medalta coffee mug decorated with an antique car decal, an 1899 Packard. The coffee mug (flared base variety) is white with a gray-blue band around the rim, while the image of the car itself is mainly black with a gray undercarriage and with just a touch of brown on the seat and some yellow highlighting. The caption below the car states "First Packard Automobile, 1899", and the green G.51 Medalta stamp on the bottom indicates that it was made 1947-1950.



The successful bidder got the mug for \$17.50, a super price in my opinion. I guess we will all have to start checking those automobile decaled mugs more carefully. Over the years I have looked at a few of them, but they have all been marked USA. Until this one showed up, I had no suspicion that Medalta even used the automobile decals.



I suspect that this mug may have been a prototype rather than a production item. Surely we would

have seen more of these mugs if an order had actually been landed! I have been told that the USA ones were a premium placed in a bag of flour, and perhaps Medalta made up a few decaled mugs in hopes of getting a contract. •



Bargains Can Still be Found

Why could it have not been me who walked into that thrift store to find this Medalta teapot stand just sitting there for the first person to come along with a quarter in their pocket? Who would want it anyway? Just look at that dull finish on the top where the clear glaze is largely worn off, not to mention those two large chips from the basal ring. It probably would not even sit flat anymore.

As you can see the trivet is the hand-painted sailboat variety marked with the round Medalta stamp designated stamp no. G.9. The boat as usual is finished in browns against a dark honey or golden-brown background, and it likely dates 1930-1932.

What is this piece worth, even with its damage? My guess is about \$75.00 as a similar undamaged trivet sold at the recent Blue Mountain show for \$125.00.

I seldom go to garage sales, and I only drop by thrift stores when they are on route to some other destination, but perhaps this little find will stimulate me to get out more often. Perhaps next time it will be my turn. •



Hycroft Vases: Continued from page 3

on the side just above center broken by the ISC. Presently I do not know what ISC stands for.

The last two vases of the five known shapes are the ones that are basically the same vase except for the size difference. Here they are shown side by side in plain white. The larger one stands 9.5 inches high while the smaller measures a little less than 7.25 inches in height.

I have not seen very many examples of the larger size, and for that reason I cannot be sure that it came in the same colours as the smaller, but it likely did. The smaller one can be found in plain white or in pink, blue, yellow and lime green. The only other colour variation noted so far was a white vase with a reddish-brown wash around the top quarter of the vase.

The smaller vase was the one regularly named to a specific business or organization or decorated and named as a souvenir for a city, town or event. And, while the listing is in fact not too long, I am going to save it for the next issue of the newsletter. •



A Medalta-Made Reliance Ink Jug

I have a weakness for paper labeled items as they tell so much about the piece. When this piece was listed on the ebay auction I took particular notice of it as I had some letters in my files regarding jugs made for the Reliance Ink Company by Medalta. One of those letters is reproduced herein.

I thought the price was very reasonable at about \$87.00 as most dealers list plain stamped ones from \$60.00 to \$75.00. Personally, if I were still collecting for the Glenbow Museum, I would have been prepared to go as high as \$125.00 without thinking twice about it.

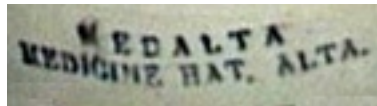


As you can see the letter is an order for 100 jugs, but ones with a lip, not the one illustrated herein, and the size is not even indicated. Nevertheless it shows that J.B. Carter, Medalta's Winnipeg agent, was trying to land further business requesting quotations for containers in 32, 16 and 2 ounce sizes. The smallest was probably the equivalent of an ink bottle, and the yearly market was estimated to be 8000-10000 bottles.

Did they ever land such an order? I doubt it as surely we would have seen some by now unless they went unstamped. Over the

years I have heard rumours of a Medalta ink bottle but I have yet to see or even hear of a confirmed piece. On the other hand for an order of this size, I would bet that samples were definitely made up.

But back to the letter. It does show that an order for 100 jugs with lip was placed and even though we do not know the size, the jug shown here might well of been what was produced to fill this order. The G.7 Medalta stamp found on this jug was used between 1920 and 1930, and this order was placed July 28, 1926.



July 28th, 1926.

Medalta Potteries Limited,
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Gentlemen:

Attached find an order from Reliance Ink Company, Winnipeg, for 100 Jugs with lip. Please make same quick as possible and advise us when they are ready to ship.

These people can use approximately the following sizes and quantity of containers per year.

7 - 1 1/2 150 Gross of 16 oz. Jugs with lip, handle not necessary,
9 - 1 1/2 90 " of 32 oz. " " " With handle
3 - 1/4 2 1/2 10,000. gross of 2 oz. containers.

This strikes us as business worth while. How about it? The 2 oz. container to be exactly same as glass bottle in mail to you, with exception that the mouth of the bottle is to be 3/4 of the size of the glass mouth, so it will take a small cork. These people sell their product in fairly steady quantities all year round, so you could arrange a fairly good monthly schedule in manufacturing these containers.

Likely the moulds for above will cost money but let us have quotation on all sizes anyway and see how our prices would interest this customer.

Yours very truly,

JAMES B. CARTER, LIMITED.

James B. Carter
President.

JBC:PD.

The jug was made using grey stoneware clay, and the label from the ebay pictures appears to be black lettering on yellow paper. •



Think Summer

With the greening of my lawn and the bulbs just starting to break through the soil of my flowerbeds, it is time to get the propane barbeque out of the shed in anticipation of those pleasant days ahead. Can you believe it! Here it is almost mid-April, there is still snow on the ground, frost on the car windows and just a week or so ago a new all-time low temperature for an April day was set in Calgary. Spring has yet to come, and may not as they are predicting more snow and minus seven degrees for the week of April 21-27, so I am doing my part by seriously wishing for summer to arrive.

These platters help to set the mood. The first, a 12-inch platter, shows some common kitchen utensils such as two stirring spoons, a ladle, a flipper and a barbeque fork. The second depicts a picnic table set with all the makings for a friendly evening visit with friends. A pepper mill, vinegar

cruet, wine carafe and ukulele are found on the table with a basket of grapes and a chair nearby. Both date 1955-1960 by the Hycroft stamps on the bottom and both are multicoloured on plain white. •



Repatriation of a Special Trivet

Some days I wish that I were not so free in sharing the information that I have compiled over the years with so many collectors. The Nancy Reagan trivet was one of those pieces.

When this piece came up for sale on ebay listed under Hycroft, it appeared to receive no notice whatsoever except that given it by pottery collectors. I can only presume that no collectors of political memorabilia, particularly Ronald Reagan items, realized that this was a piece sent to the Nancy Reagan and none were prepared to take a chance that it might be. After all, there must be ten thousand individuals with the name Nancy Reagan in the USA, never mind the whole world.

Thank goodness that they did not though, as I am sure that it would have gone much higher than \$90.00 US.

As soon as I saw who the high bidder was, I contacted him to see if he would place some inquiries with the owner in hopes of discovering how it came to be in his or her possession. Regretfully, it had already gone through several hands and whatever story might have been there was lost. I was hoping that Nancy had given it to her maid or one of the other ranch workers, or perhaps a charity auction or some similar event. Even hearing that it was acquired at a rummage sale at the ranch would have been interesting. But no such luck. No story at all. How disappointing!



What we do know from the Hycroft records is that Harry Veiner sent this piece to Nancy Reagan in December 1973, sending it to a Sacramento, California, addressed to Governor Ronald Reagan. Harry was always sending pottery gifts to friends, acquaintances, fellow politicians and well-known personalities. (See Newsletter, Issue No. 11 for more information on Harry Veiner.) It was his way of promoting Medicine Hat when he was Mayor of the city, and it could of course be done cheaply as it was his own pottery that he was giving away.

His choice for the men was either an ashtray or a beer stein and in this case Ronald Reagan was sent an ashtray, likely the large safety one. The womenfolk usually got a trivet, as did Nancy.

The specific note for this piece dated December 4, 1973, stated "3 ashtrays to GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN, SACRAMENTO CALIFOR-

NIA, HARRY R. KLIEN, ASSOCIATED WHOLESALE BROTHERS LTD., SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA and LOREN A. STORMS; 3 teapot stands for MRS. NANCY REAGAN, MRS. BETTY ANN KLIEN and MRS. KATHLEEN STORMS; all may have "FROM-MAYOR HARRY VEINER" on them." •



Jumping to Conclusions

A few weeks ago this ashtray measuring about 8 3/4 inches in diameter appeared on ebay where it was advertised as an item made for the Canadian Rodeo Association. Admittedly C.R.A. could stand for that, but as far as I know they used the acronyms C.R.C.A. (Canadian Rodeo Cowboys' Association) or C.P.R.A. (Canadian Professional Rodeo Association).

Thanks to the Hycroft records we know exactly what C.R.A. stands for, Canadian Restaurant Association. I will give the ebay seller benefit of the doubt that he honestly believed this to be a rodeo related ashtray even though there was no imagery to suggest such a use. Surely he would not say Canadian Rodeo Association in hopes that it would bring a better price!

The order was actually quite large as the Canadian Restaurant Association, Saskatchewan Region, Saskatoon, was billed for 650 small safety ashtrays (white with red lettering and gold trim) at \$1.00 each on March 21, 1968, under invoice no. 4088. The ashtrays themselves were actually shipped to the Royal York Hotel in Toronto; presumably a conference orga-



nized by The Saskatchewan Region of the C.R.A. was held there. Regretfully, I did not follow-up on this item and as a result I do not know what it sold for.

This order also helped to identify another piece, one of the flat-topped western style hat ashtrays made by Hycroft China Limited. This hat is marked "'HOWDY' C.R.A. 'FRIENDS'" at the back and "HUGH CRAIG" at the front. All lettering is in gold, and the hat is finished with gold trim around the edge of the rim. It lacks a gold hatband as often found of Hycroft hats.

The Hycroft invoice for this order indicated that 250 white hats with "Howdy, C.R.A. Friends" on the top & "Hugh Craig" on the bottom in gold lettering, were billed to Mr. D.H. Mackay of Calgary, at \$.75 each, on the 25 Feb. 1960. There was an extra

\$10.00 charge for two rubber stamps used to place the back and front naming on the hats. The hats themselves were shipped to D.H. MacKay at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

As is so often the case, I have not found the time to track down whom Hugh Craig or D.H. MacKay were.



Selected Hycroft Hats

Calgary Stampede Hats

As most of you know, I do not bid on ebay very often, especially when it comes to pottery. As archivist for the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, I bid on postcards, documents and the occasional three-dimensional piece such as the Hycroft hat named to the Calgary Stampede that was recently auctioned.

I thought I was going all out to get this piece as I bid as high as \$40.00 US or about \$65.00 Canadian, but believe it or not I was outbid by another collector. I think the high bidder was interested in Western items in general and was not bidding on it as a piece of pottery made in Alberta.

It was listed on ebay as Medalta Hycroft and perhaps some bidders thought that it was a Medalta piece as the image was not the best due to being so dark. The high rounded top typical of Medalta hats, as opposed to the flat-topped Hycroft hat, was not clear as the piece was black in colour making the details difficult to see. The naming CALGARY STAMPEDE arched around the top or back of the hat was in gold as was the image of the cowboy riding a bucking bronc at the front.



Why I wanted it, besides being a Stampede piece, was due to its colour. Hycroft's black coloured hats are seldom seen and perhaps we now know why. Few colours other than gold or white would show well against the jet-black background. In order to bring out the image here, I had to lighten the piece quite a bit.

The only Hycroft order that I have found which seems to match this item is one for 42 hat ashtrays with "CALGARY STAMPEDE", in assorted colours of 12 black, 12 white and 6 each of green, blue and yellow, sold to Ceramic Sales Co. of Medicine Hat at \$.45 each on June 13, 1958, and shipped to Simpson Sears, Calgary. If this is indeed the only order for black hats than it might have been a good buy at \$60.00, but I suspect that it was not.

Other Calgary Stampede hats can be found in the marketplace and I presently have two pictures to share with you. The one with the bucking bronc

rider

at the front may well be from the same order as the black hat as it appears to be identical in all respects except for the colour. It has gold naming on a bright yellow hat with no further embellishment of either a hatband or gold trim around the rim.

The other hat, the one without the bucking bronc rider, has the same



naming in log-style letters placed on a white hat with both the gold hatband and rim trim. It likely dates later than the other two hats, but as yet I have not been able to identify the specific order.

Whoops: There Goes A \$1000.00 Hat

I also learned the hard way to take a second look at what you bid.

A couple of Hycroft hats that were not getting any bids on ebay caught my attention because the FOMS did not have the one named to the Green Acres Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge. So with 10 minutes to go in the auction, I threw in a bid of \$10.00 US for the pair. When the confirm bid line came up, I took a quick glance and saw \$10.00 and typed in place bid. Much to my surprise, or should I say dismay, the maximum amount that I had bid came up as \$1000.00 not \$10.00 as I had typed in a comma instead of a period.

Instant heart failure! What if someone else really wanted these hats and typed in say \$200.00

to make sure he was the high bidder? I would be the proud owner of a pair of hats worth no more than \$25.00 Canadian each for some amount just over \$200.00 US. How do I change or retract my bid? Only eight minutes to go. I spent the next minute trying to find out what to do and could not, so I quickly called a friend who talked me through all the steps that you had to do to retract a bid. Thank God I found him at home instead of out searching second-hand stores.

One of the questions asked by ebay is Why the Retraction? That was really easy to answer although it might have looked a bit strange when I typed in "Missed a period".

The Calgary Downtown Kiwanis Club Hats

The Calgary Downtown Kiwanis Club apparently placed various orders for hats over the years starting in 1963 and ending in March 1982. The naming details are lacking on the orders, and so far I have not looked at other records to see if they give more details. Only a couple of the invoice records specifically mention the Downtown Club, one being the 1963 order which suggested that the markings on the hat stated "COMPLIMENTS OF/KIWANIS CLUB/(DOWNTOWN)/CALGARY". If this records the markings accurately than I have not yet seen a hat from this first order as none of the recorded sample say Compliments of.

The orders for the Downtown Kiwanis Club hats that were sent to Calgary include the following: 50 at \$1.00 each December 17, 1963; 50 at \$1.00 each May 11, 1967; 50 at \$1.10 each July 7, 1969; 50 at \$1.25 each August 13, 1970; 50 at



\$1.45 each November 28, 1972; 50 at \$1.75 each December 7, 1973; 50 at \$2.75 each December 23, 1975; 50 at \$3.00 each November 30, 1977; 60 at \$4.85 each November 28, 1980 and finally 60 at \$5.35 each March 8, 1982. And, there were likely other orders that I did not spot in my hasty perusal of the Hycroft invoices.

In addition there were other orders just addressed to the Calgary Kiwanis Club, and it is possible that some of these were named for the downtown club. As there was also a South West Kiwanis Club (both named pieces and invoice records have been found), I cannot be certain which club, or perhaps even another branch, received these general orders.

So far I have recorded three name variations for the hats made for the Downtown Kiwanis Club. At present, I am a bit uncertain as to the specific dates, but the Hycroft stamps suggest the following sequence: the one with the blue Kiwanis logo at the back was followed by the one with the markings only at the front, while the latest one was the one that came with the Green Acres ashtray. The catalogue records give the descriptions as follows:

1) at the back (top) the Kiwanis logo in blue consisting of "KIWANIS" arced over & "INTERNATIONAL" arced under a large central "K" all within a rope-style circle & at the front "KIWANIS CLUB [slightly arced & larger]/DOWNTOWN [horizontal]/ Calgary, Alberta [slightly arced]", all but the logo in gold on a white ashtray with gold trim around the rim & with a gold hatband.



2) at the front (bottom) "KIWANIS CLUB [slightly arced]/ DOWNTOWN [horizontal]/ Calgary, Alberta [slightly arced]", all in gold on a white ashtray with gold trim around the rim & with a gold hatband.



3) arced at the back "Kiwanis Club/-Downtown-" & placed horizontally at the front "CALGARY/CANADA [smaller]", all in gold on

a white ashtray with gold trim around the rim & with a gold hatband.

Green Acres Kiwanis Club Hat

The Green Acres hat ashtray has the naming at the back in brown while Lethbridge Alberta at the front is in black, all on a white hat with gold trim around the rim and with a gold hatband. The order was a fairly small one with the invoice recording the sale of 100 white hats at \$.85 each on January 4, 1961, with the silkscreen cost-



ing \$15.00 extra. The Green Acres Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge, Alberta, via Mr. J.C. Barnes, was billed for the order.

The C.C.T.A. Hat

The style of lettering on this Hycroft hat is unlike any other that I am aware of. Fortunately, I was able to find the Sales record for this piece otherwise we might never know that C.C.T.A. stood for the Canadian Cable Television Association.



The actual billing was to the Canadian Cable television Association, Ottawa, c/o the Banff Springs Hotel, presumably the hotel at which the meeting was held. The order was quite large as they were invoiced for 475 white hats with the gold imprint "C.C.T.A. Banff, Alta. 1972" at \$1.25 each on July 5, 1972, with the silkscreen costing \$10.00 extra.

In addition they received four 10.5" plates, decorated with the Alberta map, with the rim of the plates shaded in brown and trimmed with gold banding, each marked "C.C.T.A." plus the names "Bob Short", "Vic Reed", "Pierre Juneau" and "A. Gotlieb". These plates cost \$10.50 each. •



Follow-Up: Another Hycroft Hat

In The Medalta Review, Issue #13, I mentioned a high style hat that advertised Hycroft China itself. At that time I was relying on memory and now that I have an actual picture of the piece, I can accurately describe it. The hat is basically white as I said before, but in addition it has a green wash around the rim. At the back it bears the Hycroft stamp that I have designated stamp no. G.1 that simply states "Hycroft/CANADA", and slightly arced at the front it says "MEDICINE HAT/ALBERTA". The coloured picture that I have indicates that all the lettering is in a lime green.

I have not been able to identify the order for this item in the Hycroft records, but we can be sure that it dates somewhere in the range 1955-1957. •



Pitchers From North Western Ontario

Souvenir of Port Arthur

A recent ebay auction reminded me that I have never shown these pictures which a collector sent me a year or so ago. They are truly beauties in my opinion and ones that seldom appear on the market. In fact every one of these four has appeared on ebay. I have yet to hear of one making its debut at an antique show. I do not know if all of them came from the US or not, but some of the early ones did for sure.

The one that just sold recently went for about \$540.00

and it seems that it went to a new player in the field. The ebay code name was a curious one, and I think a very innovative one as it read "hoof.hearted". (Say it fast a few times and I think you will see the humour in it.)



The pair that I have shown here sold on ebay 2-3 years ago. The decorations are the black silhouette owls and the mill. Both had the small Medalta maple leaf stamp on the bottom, G.23, and both were the 1-pint.



Souvenir of Fort Francis

The other pitcher is one that you likely did not even see as it was listed on ebay for less than a day. It was suddenly de-listed because it inadvertently got broken. Perhaps it really was broken, but many times when items are pulled from ebay it is because someone emailed the owner an offer that they could not refuse.

As you can see from the pictures presented here, it is finished in the handpainted cottage decoration with the souvenir message on the opposite side within an oval format.



Once again I am not sure of its size or markings, other than knowing that it did have a Medalta stamp on the bottom. •



Hycroft's High River Furniture Plates

At the just passed Blue Mountain antique show in Calgary, I picked up another High River Furniture plate made by Hycroft. It looked different to me than the others ones that I had previously catalogued for the FOMS, and indeed it was when I got around to checking it against my picture files.

I am now wondering just how many floral designs were used in filling this order. We now have four different as I have shown here, and perhaps some of our readers will have other varieties that they can bring to my attention.

The order was fairly substantial as 313, 9-inch decorated plates in the holiday shape, with a floral center and stamped "SEASON'S GREETINGS HIGH RIVER FURNITURE", were sold to High River Furniture, High River, Alberta, at \$4.21 per dozen on December 19, 1955. No mention was made of different floral centers, but as far as I am concerned there is no doubt that the plates which have shown-up are all from the same order for several reasons. Firstly, only one invoice has been found; secondly the plates are all the 9-inch diameter ones; and, thirdly, the Hycroft stamp on the back have all been the G.1 stamp, the one that has the word Canada in very small block letters below the larger word Hycroft in script style. The diameter of the plate is an important date indicator as Hycroft only used 9-inch plates for a year or two after which they switched over to the more familiar 9.5" size.

I do not know my flowers well enough to identify them, except for the rose. I wish we had more space to show them in a larger size, and if only we could show them in colour. The flowers simply do not show well as black and white

images. Personally, I think these plates are quite attractive with the floral pattern contrasted against the white plate with gold trim around the rim. And the gold lettering saying "Season's Greetings FROM HIGH RIVER FURNITURE" also shows well. •

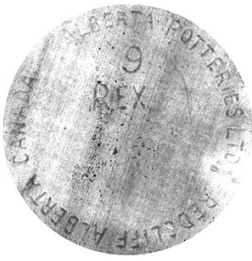


Questions and Answers

Email: From Keith, Victoria B.C.

Hello Ron:

I wonder if you can tell me about Alberta Potteries Ltd., when they were operating and where. The bottom is marked Redcliff Alberta so I assume that is the location on the plant. I have attached a few photos of a mixing bowl. Do you know what the "9 REX." stands for? Thanks for your time.



For more information, you might try your library to see if they have or can get my book "The Kilns of Southeastern Alberta". The following scan if it goes through OK is the section on Wyatt's company.

By the way, no pictures came through but if there are no cracks or chips on your bowl, the value is usually in the \$40-\$70 range.

Ron Getty

Email: Appraisal request from Steven, Windsor, Ontario

This is a Medalta #3 size bean pot with lid, a mid brown, perfect condition, although the colour seems to have run at the factory before the glaze was applied. It was my great-grandmother's and we still use it for beans (every two or three years) and



I was wondering if I should stop using it and consider it an heirloom. Thanks.

Hello Steven:

Medalta bean pots are fairly common and even though the 3-quart is a bit harder to find than the 1, 2 or 4-quart sizes, the price range is only \$30.00 - \$60.00 as a rule. If it was all gray instead of brown then it might fetch \$100.00 or more, as I know several collectors that are looking for that size in gray. The larger sizes, 6 and 8 quart ones, also sell for a bit more as they too are hard to find. I should also point out that the price depends upon completeness (a matching lid being present) and no staining, cracks or chips. Any damage on a bean pot drops the price by 50% or more. You describe yours as perfect except for some glaze runs and they should not affect the price unless they are particularly disfiguring.

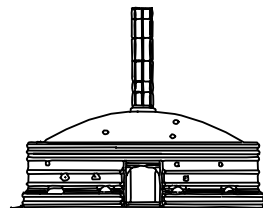
I cannot date the piece without seeing a picture of the Medalta stamp, and even then the range would likely be wide as many of the stamps found on bean pots were in use for a long period of time. Bean pots with factory stamps on them were made by Medalta from about 1924 through to 1954.

Should you keep on using it? I would say yes as that is what they were made for and stoneware is very hard to damage. And if something did happen to it, you should be able to find a replacement without too much trouble.

If you have any further questions, please drop me another email or you can phone me at 403-273-1132. Sincerely. Ronald Getty •

RAF Coffee Mug

If my memory serves me correctly another wartime cup sold in one of the Sonntag/Shefernack auctions brought a very high price, although I do not recall the exact amount. It too was one of a kind and still is as far as I know. As you can see from the pictures, the crest is similar but different in having a stenciled appearance and being executed in a blue oxide against the plain white of the flared base coffee mug. •



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