



Merry Christmas Happy New Year



Let Your Pottery do Your Talking

Most of the pottery plants in the Medicine Hat area produced advertising pieces for businesses that gave the item away at Christmas time as a thank you for the patronage of their customers over the course of the year. Medalta made a few like the ship style pitcher for C.H. Nash which said XMAS 1934 on the side opposite the sailboat decoration, but the mention of Christmas was the exception not the rule. When you look at the Medalta sales records, you find that the majority of



orders for named wares came in the months from September to December. This

suggests to me that they were likely going to be distributed to customers in time for Christmas. This is often supported in the letters that have survived with the merchant

specifically mentioning Christmas in the letter, although it never made it to the naming as in the C.H. Nash piece.

All of the Toshach pieces for example were gifts given to their customers just before Christmas. When I interviewed some of the Toshach family members some 15 years ago, they vividly recalled having to help their parents deliver those pitchers and mixing bowls throughout the rural Drumheller area.

If the Medalta factory ever gave a piece with a Christmas wish on it to its customers or its staff, I am not aware of it, but its distributors

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From the Editor

Already it is December and Christmas is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that we now have another full season of the newsletter behind us. I am not sure that I would have bet that the newsletter would still be around, but thanks to our supporters it is. I could not do it without the help of you our readers who constantly update me on new finds and prices, send me photographs and ask the questions that lead to the articles herein. Thank you and please keep it up, and do show your copy of the newsletter to others as our circulation is still below the 100 mark.

I hate to single out any particular collector but let me take a moment to tell you about one of many, and please do not take this as any indication of less appreciation for your support. This collector came to the point where he had to

document his collection, and decided to do it the good old fashioned way by taking photographs. Real pictures not those digital ones that most of us are still not comfortable with. Since he was getting a print for himself, he thought why not get an extra one to send to Ron Getty?

Thus it came about that I have received some 600 prints from him and more are arriving weekly. What a wealth of information for the newsletter, especially since his collection covers all of the potteries in the Medicine Hat area. Thank you Bill. It was a great Christmas present starting last year about this time and still continuing today.

Will the newsletter keep going? Yes it will, and I look forward to exchanging and sharing information once again. In addition to general information, I still have dozens of rarely seen or one of a kind products that have been brought to my attention. At the risk of repeating myself, it still amazes me that new shapes, advertising names, colours and decorations keep showing up on a regular basis. Such finds certainly keep my interest high. Take for instance... (see The Blue Mountain Sale article).

Best wishes to each and every one of you. Hopefully Santa has been able to find that special piece to place under the tree, perhaps a fuzzy owl vase or pitcher, a lamp base, an Ogilvie advertising pitcher, an Hycroft church plate or a Sunburst corncob dish. •

As usual 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 2001 issue. And thank you once again for your support and interest in making the newsletter possible.

The Editor

Follow-Up

Another Hycroft Church Plate

This 10.5" plate showing the Central Park Church of God, located in Medicine Hat, was recently donated to the Friends of Medalta Society by a Medicine Hat resident. It is one that I have not been able to identify among the Hycroft invoices as yet. I would suspect by the subject matter that the run was over a hundred as many of the church members would have wanted the plate as a reminder of their hard work in paying off the church's mortgage. The actual wording on the back is "In Commemoration of the 'Mortgage Burning Ceremony' / June 17th 1962". The plate measures 10.5" in diameter and the church image is in black on a white plate with gold banding around the rim. Hycroft church plates are still selling in the \$20.00 to \$30.00 range when in mint shape. •



The Medalta Review

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

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

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Renewal Time

For those of you who have not already done so, please take this opportunity 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, but we may have to raise it next year as we are not quite at the break-even point.

Medalta's Figurine Planters

Whether it was Medalta or Medicine Hat Potteries that first came out with the animal and bird shaped planters may never be known, as the records from both companies are too few and far between. The majority of the Medicine Hat Potteries' records are still missing (the Friends of Medalta Society have a few but they take up less than two lineal feet) and the Medalta records are all but missing for 1938 and 1939 when these figurines first appeared which was also the formative years of MHP as most of you know. I suspect that it was MHP which led the way, forcing Medalta to quickly follow suit, but admittedly I have no proof to offer at present other than to wonder why they were not introduced earlier if it was Medalta's own idea.

This article is about Medalta's figurines only as I do not have the space to illustrate the products of the other companies at this time. The competition's products will have to be shown in a future issue but for the record Alberta Potteries (Yuill) made a rabbit which was very similar to Medalta's, and Medicine Hat Potteries made two different elephants, a dog, a monkey and a leaping rabbit. Medalta made seven figurine planters in total including a swan, shoe, baby sleigh, rabbit, donkey, elephant and deer.

My definition of a figurine planter, by the way, is a piece with an opening large enough to take a small plant such as a cactus or perhaps a violet. Solid figurines such as the buffalo shown under Hall's Auction will be examined separately sometime in the future

What was the sequence in introducing the



planters? The swan apparently was the first 'animal' shaped planter introduced by Medalta. According to Ed Phillipson, he introduced it in 1938, and if you have a copy of the reprinted Medalta 1939 catalogue you will find it illustrated there on page 9.

While I am not positive that the shoe was next, I suspect that it was. Regrettably I never asked Phillipson about it, and the notes from the Medalta papers are mute on when it was introduced. However, my guess is that it was introduced around

the same time as the swan, and the Medalta stamp found on many of the specimens supports an introduction date of 1938 or 1939.

The baby sleigh planter likely came next as we can date it firmly to the period when Medalta took over the P.I.E. v a s e m o u l d s (Provincial Industrial

Enterprises) in late 1939 or early 1940. Next came the rabbit, donkey, elephant and deer shaped planters assigned style numbers 123 to 126 respectively.

Only a few of the Medalta letters mention the figurine planters but they, coupled with style numbers higher than 126, show that the 123 to 126 series were available by

1941. I believe that they were introduced in late 1940 or early 1941. One reference that I have dated April 8, 1941, mentions bunnies and donkeys being in the kiln, so we know that they were designed by that time.

You usually find the figurines finished in solid glaze colours, but some have been recorded in variegated glazes and the swan can be found in a matt lacquer finish. For the record, I have recorded the following colours but I am sure that many of you will have colours not listed here.



- Swan, no style # (about 7" long x 5.25" high): glossy white, matt white and turquoise blue, beak and head may be accented in yellow and black

- Shoe, no style # (about 6.25" long x 3" high): white, medium blue, turquoise blue, marbled orange-brown/cream, pink and maroon

- Baby Sleigh, style # 89 (about 6.75" long x 6" high): pink, white, cream, turquoise blue and pinkish-mauve

- Rabbit, style # 123 (about 8.25" long x 3" high): light blue, turquoise blue, white, pink, pale yellow and cream

- Donkey, style # 124 (about 6.25" long x 7" high): grey, cream, turquoise blue and white, eyes and mouth may be accented in red



and/or black

- Elephant, style # 125 (about 7" long x 5.5" high): pink, white, blue and marbled blue/browns
- Deer, style # 126 (about 7.5" long x 6" high): grey, cream, yellow, white, turquoise blue, white, pink and pale yellow

One last comment that I would like to pass along is that the shoe planter came in pairs, but for what it is worth I have great difficulty seeing the difference.



As to prices for the planters they generally fall in the \$60.00 to \$100.00 range for the solid colours. The marbled ones

often bring a 50% premium as does the donkey as it seems to be the hardest one to find. At one time the baby sleigh was quite hard to find but in recent years I have recorded more than a dozen examples.



And to end this discussion, I will show you one of the letters that I ran across. It perhaps shows the popularity of the figurine pieces that Medalta made, but if not

that, then it clearly shows that if there is a quick buck to be made, why not let your whole showroom display go! •

Phone Wilbank 8949

PLANT AT MEDICINE HAT

MEDALTA SALES REG'D.

Distributors for

MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.

Manufacturers of
STONEWARE
STONEWARE SPECIALTIES
YELLOW WARE
FLOWER POTS
LAMPS
VASES
JARDINIERES
ARTWARE SPECIALTIES

101 MURRAY STREET
MONTREAL, QUE.

November 19th, 1940

Medalta Potteries Limited,
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Attention Mr. Phillipson

Dear Sirs:

In my office sample room, I had a very artistic display of Mountain Goats, Shoes, Deer Heads Buffalo Book Ends, Candle Sticks etc., besides an assortment of small type Vases in choice satin colorings. A customer of ours came into the sample room and gave us an order for well over a hundred dollars and looked at our display wondering if it was for sale. The outcome, he bought the works. Will you personally pick out another small assortment of the things I have just mentioned, possibly 2 or 3 of each and put them in a carton. Make sure they will come in first car to me. These are not so much to make any money, but for display purposes and help brighten up the sample room.

Yours very truly,

MEDALTA SALES REG'D.

per: 

LHM/L

HALL'S Auction

Hall's Auction will be selling the last of the Sonntag/Sherfenak collection on December 11 at 6:00 P.M. Please note the early time as his auctions usually start at 7:00. The reason for the early time is that there are only about 100 pottery lots. Frank Hall advised that the pottery will all be sold at the start of the sale followed by other items. As it turned out this was a smart move as the Calgary Collectors Club's Christmas meeting is the same night, so hopefully members will be able to attend both. This is probably the last of the collection that will be sold as I understand that they are going to keep some of their special pieces. To me



it was truly sad to see such a comprehensive collection broken up, but I guess that sadness has the compensatory side of knowing that others have had their collections enhanced.

I do not know if this newsletter will get to you before the sale as it is almost the end of November, therefore I will not spend much time discussing the pieces in the sale. Most of our readers already

know about the sale as Hall's is good in sending out flyers, and others have already heard about the sale from fellow collectors. Do check Hall's web site (www.hallsauction.com) to view the listing of the pieces in the sale and to see some of the choice pieces that are coming up. If

you do not have your own computer visit someone who does as the pictures of the pieces this time are quite good. You can also phone Hall's Auction for more details at 403-640-1244.

As I am always too wordy, I could not say what Hall's has put in his ad in less than two full pages, so rather than say anything at all, I have included the ad.



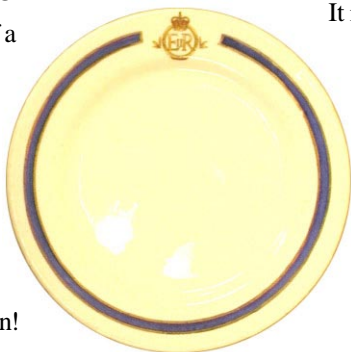
Advertising Wares: a double handled circular serving plate with stencilled sailboat decoration, on a cane glazed ground for M.E. Kaminsky, Glen Bain, Saskatchewan; a selection of stetson shaped ashtrays including: one for "CNE Exhibition, Toronto, 1945" with a yellow glazed finish, one for "Canadian Public Health Association Convention, Vancouver, 1948" with a white glazed finish, one for "The Windsor Room, Windsor Hotel, Hamilton, Ontario" with a yellow glazed finish, and one for "Yale Hotel, Calgary, Alberta"; a rectangular shaped lacquerware cracker box with stencilled crane decoration and advertising "Ask for Ogilvie's Royal Household Flour, Bestway Groceteria, Compliments of G.E. Hunt, Kelowna, B.C."; a one pint Ogilvie's Household Flour "Owl in Moonlight" design advertising pitcher for W. Blair Brisco and Edgewater, B.C. (chipped); a Medicine Hat Bonspiel mug (chipped); and an ashtray for Drink Gurd's Dry.

Coloured Hotel Wares: a Hotel Harwood segmented plate with yellow glazed finish; a Nanking Tavern cream jug with yellow glazed finish; a C.N.I.B. coffee cup and saucer; a Linda Mae's pink bordered plate; a V Lunch dinner plate; a C.N. oval serving plate with a yellow glazed border; a rare, hand painted one pint pitcher with "Windmill and Lake" decoration for RN Thorburn Hardware, Milestone, Saskatchewan; and more.

Lacquerware: an 8 1/2" vase with silver and red Buffalo Berry stencilling, on a green speckled ground, style 108; an 8" vase with lilies in water, style 71; a 9" vase with grape and vine decoration on a black ground, style 93; a scarce cookie jar with twist handles and "Cows in Moonlight and Windmill" stencilling, on a blue ground (chips); a bulb bowl with relief moulded fish and waves; a rare, 25" umbrella stand stencilled with lilies, on a green speckled ground (losses); a 9" vase in excellent condition, with yellow berries and green leaves on a black ground (with original paper label to base), style 69; a rare, hand painted 7" vase with sailboat decoration, style 104; a scarce, 5" pitcher decorated with multi-coloured floral stencilling, on a black ground, style 73; and more. **Vases:** four different 9" vases in a variety of coloured glazes, style 17; a 7 1/4" vase with a variegated glazed finish, style 68; double handled vases in a variety of styles and colours including styles 90 and 117; iced water pitchers in C.N.R. blue and yellow, with white lining (in miniature size also); table lamps; a spittoon; bulb bowls; planters; mixing bowls (some with vine leaf transfer decoration); saw-tooth rimmed refrigerator jars and bowls with "Cottage", "Windmill", and "Cows in Meadow" stencilling; a hand painted sailboat teapot stand and a three pint pitcher; a very rare, hand painted table lamp with house and pond decoration, on a white glazed ground; a hand painted Fuller buffalo; a hand painted Shaw bear and beer barrel ashtray; a Winston Churchill character mug, and more.

Some Special Pieces to be Presented at the Auction

The plates shown here are one of a kind as far as I know. The Canadian National is a banded plate rather than a yellow rim/white center one or a solid yellow one. I wonder who the ER crested plate was made for? It sure looks like royalty to me except for the crest being in brown!



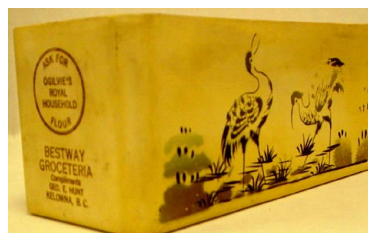
How about the PIE mixing bowl with the windmill decoration?

It is not marked with a stamp but we know it is theirs from the shape of the handle and the use of the classic Dutch windmill decoration.



I have only seen one other 104 vase that was 25 inches high.

It like this one was not stamped, but once again with the classic water lilies decoration how can it be anything but Medalta's. It has several large chips from it and lots of wear especially around the top, but it is still a good rare piece as far as I am concerned.



And, if you are still looking for a cracker box, this is a good one.

I think this will be a very lively sale and I will most certainly be reporting on the prices realized in the next issue of the newsletter and showing you some of the other rarely seen pieces. •



And, look at those lacquered pieces. The no. 69 vase is a very unusual decoration.

The baby plate shown here is a different shape from the usual two shapes that you see. It differs in the rim being very broad.



How many lacquered buffaloes have you seen? Well that's what this one is and boy is it stamped. Someone must have been in the sauce for they stamped it two or three times if I

remember correctly. Back about 4 years ago a buffalo like this one sold for just under \$600.00 at the Edmonton show. I wonder what this one will bring?



The Blue Mountain Antiques Sale

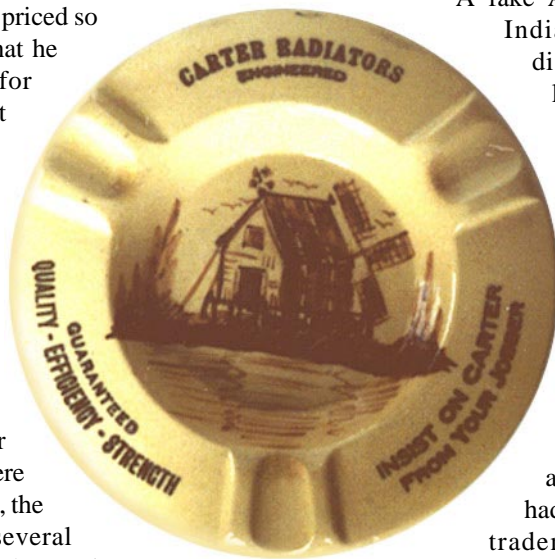
For those that live within driving distance, I trust that you did not miss the Blue Mountain Show in Calgary that was held September 29 to October 1. As usual there was a fair bit of Alberta made pottery available but there were few bargains. Also I did not hear about any truly unique pieces of Medalta: no owl vases or lamp bases this time. I did see a couple of miniature jugs, one advertising Medalta itself, but at the time I saw them, the dealer did not have them priced so I do not know what he decided to ask for them or, for that matter, if he even sold them at this sale.

Another dealer had a 1 1/2 pint decorated jug with Ogilvie advertising on it along with a flat ashtray for Carter Radiators. Both were in fairly bad shape, the pitcher having several spalls or chips from the exterior and the ashtray was a broken in two repaired one, but he was still asking some \$650.00 for the pair. Once again I do not know if they sold or not, but there were no takers on the first day for sure.

The best vase that I saw was a multicoloured Indian and Maiden decoration on a 103 vase. The lacquer was in very good, almost

mint, condition and I would be surprised if it did not sell as the price of \$275.00 was OK for one in that condition, albeit at the top of the range.

Another fairly hard to find piece was a one gallon chicken fountain with no reinforcing clay around the cutaway hole. It was made by Medalta Potteries Limited suggesting a date of 1924 to perhaps 1928 at the latest. The asking price of \$75.00 would have been OK for one in good condition, but unfortunately this one had a chip from the edge of the cutaway hole. Again all I know is that it did not sell the first day.



A fake Andy Anderson Indian head as discussed in the last issue of the newsletter was at the sale, but it too may not have sold. Another Andy head just like (or should I say similar to) the fake one was also there but it had the Little Chief trademark on the bottom. In my opinion it

was 100% genuine as it was being offered by Mr. and Mrs. Kelly who are selling the duo-tang booklet which they put together drawing upon their personal knowledge of Fuller, photographs of his products and, of course, their own collection. The Kellys knew Jack Fuller and were aware of his relationship with Andy Anderson, and since this particular Andy head with the MHP trademark on its back has been in their collection for many years, I cannot see how it possibly could be a fake stamp on the back. Admittedly, it is the first Andy Anderson piece that I have seen or heard of that was marked with the MHP trademark, but nevertheless I believe it to be genuine.



A Covered Sugar Bowl by Medicine Hat Potteries - Style No. 202

The nicest surprise of the Blue Mountain fall sale was the sugar bowl illustrated here. Perhaps others have seen this piece before but I have not. In overall form and measurements it is quite similar to the covered sugar bowl illustrated in Medalta's 1947 Hotel ware catalogue. It stands 3 inches high (without lid) and 4 5/8 inches high with the lid in place. The diameter across the top of the bowl to the outside walls is 4 3/4 inches and its colour is plain white. The style no. 202 is impressed in the bottom and nearby is the Little Chief stamp in black oxide.

As to its date, I can only make a guess. I suspect that it dates 1938 to 1945 or thereabouts. Plain white was the colour of the wares produced for the Canadian Military during W.W. II and it seems likely to me that MHP would have made an accessory such as this for use with the mess hall dishes. The price of \$40.00 seems low to me for a one-of-a-kind piece but to others it may well seem high as after all it is only "Whiteware". •



Continued from page 1

did. Medalta Sales B.C Ltd. and Medalta Potteries Sales (Eastern) Ltd. both gave a calendar plate away around December 1951, and the 10-inch white hotelware plate was used in making these pieces. Both were dated 1952 in the centre, decorated with the holly decoration on the left and right-hand sides and said Season's Greetings at the top.



Speaking of Christmas Gifts the Friends of Medalta Society received several this year. The earliest one announced in late September was the promise of \$2,000,000.00 from the provincial government to go towards the restoration of buildings at both the Medalta and Hycroft sites. The second one was a donation of some 800 pieces of Hycroft commemorative and advertising pieces. Perhaps in the next issue I will be able to give you some more details in just how the two million dollars will be spent. All I know at present is that the funds have to be used for the restoration of the buildings. •

Medicine Hat Potteries produced a few with Season's Greetings such as the S.E. Gust store pitcher and the High River Furniture



store candy bowl, the candy bowl being available in both 3-inch and 5-inch sizes.

Hycroft was more prolific when it comes to Christmas wishes as you can see from the selection shown here. In addition to the ones pictured I am certain that they made many more for specific businesses and at the request of individuals wanting to give a friend or relative that special piece.



Pierre Elliot Trudeau

1919-2000

The passing on of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, a Canadian icon, brought to mind that I had read about and seen a plate with his image on it. I now have an image of that plate to share with you. As you can see it was titled "Prime Ministers of Canada" and it was indeed nice that Trudeau was the central figure with the others all around.

The plate is only a 10.5 inch one and the images are in black against the white background. Gold banding runs all around the edge. Each Prime Minister is identified below both by name and his term in office. This is the description of the plate as I recorded it:

"In the centre the image of 'Pierre Elliott Trudeau/1968' as given on a ribbon below with 'PRIME MINISTERS OF CANADA' arced above and with a red maple leaf just above each shoulder. All around the outer area of the plate the image of all the other prime ministers of Canada giving their names and dates of office on the inner side of their image. All images and naming are in black except for the two red maple leaves. The plate is white with thick/thin gold banding just inside the rim and with a partial gold stripe around the bottom half of Trudeau's image. The images around the outside starting about the 8 o'clock position include: SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD 1867-1873 1878-1891, ALEXANDER MACKENZIE 1873-1878, SIR JOHN ABBOT 1891-1892, SIR JOHN THOMSON 1892-1894, SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL 1894-1896, SIR CHARLES TUPPER MAY-JULY 1896, SIR WILFRED LAURIER 1896-1911, SIR ROBERT BORDEN 1911-1920, ARTHUR MEIGHEN 1920-1921 1926, RICHARD B. BENNETT 1930-1935,



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MACKENZIE KING 1921-1926
1926-1930 1935-1948, LOUIS ST.
LAURENT 1948-1957, JOHN
DIEFENBAKER 1957-1963 &
LESTER B. PEARSON 1963-1968."

A plate like this is a great way for Canadians to become familiar with Canada's Prime Ministers over the years. It might be a good idea for every school in Canada to have one of these plates displayed in its library, but admittedly it would be far more effective if produced on Hycroft's 14" platter.

For the record, I searched my date base for other references to Pierre Elliott Trudeau and came up blank. If Harry Veiner sent him a complimentary ashtray, beer stein or what have you, I have not been lucky enough to find it in the records. (But John Diefenbaker got a 14" platter marked "Presented to the Rt. Hon./John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, from the City of Medicine Hat, on the occasion of his visit to Medicine Hat on Friday, May 11th, 1962.")

A search of the Hycroft invoice records only revealed one reference to the Trudeau plate. Mrs. Gloria Morand of Edmonton was billed for 100, 10.5" plates at \$7.50 each on 8 November 1977 and the plates were shipped to Metro Ford Sales Ltd., Calgary.

What would this plate be worth today? I really do not know. Up until a few months ago it would fall in the \$20.00 to \$40.00 range, but perhaps it would now be worth quite a bit more as a Trudeau collectable. •

Medicine Hat Potteries' Fashion Ware

I always take a look through any catalogues that I run across as oftentimes they make mention of products made in the Medicine Hat area. I have run across illustrated items in Eatons, Simpson Sears, Macleods, Ashdowns and William Brothers among others. The page illustrated here is from a 1953 Marshall-Wells catalogue, and I was pleased to run across it as so many of the pattern names which I have for Medicine Hat Potteries are not yet married-up to actual pieces.

As you can see from the illustration, the dishes are basically the flat rimmed wares that were produced during the war years. I have not taken the time to really compare the plain white wartime production pieces against these solid coloured dishes so it is quite possible that new templates were made. There may be minor size differences and perhaps even in the profile as well.

Part of the problem in comparing the two is that

I have not had the opportunity to view any major MHP collections other than what is held by the Glenbow Museum. I only know a few collectors who have more or less specialized in collecting the wares made by Medicine Hat Potteries, and so far I have never taken the time to record the pieces in their collections other than the ones that I have not previously seen. At present I do not even know how many pieces of Fashion Ware have survived in collections, but I certainly have not seen very many of them as yet.

While the flat rimmed pieces are similar to the wartime wares, the cup is certainly a new design, and at present I have only seen a couple of them. Shape wise it is similar to the style No. 288 Matina cup but without the swirl pattern.

The price of \$5.49 for a twenty piece set (one

of each colour of a cup, saucer, cereal/soup bowl, side plate and dinner plate) indicates that the factory sold these sets to its distributors for around \$2.75 as the mark-up was usually 100%.

I really cannot add to what you see in the illustration, but don't you just love the power of words? The colours are not just yellow or green but Spruce Green, Jonquil yellow, Old Rose and Pewter Grey. To me, grey is grey and I do not care what you call it, it is not going to look any better on your table due to its name! •

The New Medicine Hat Fashion Ware



In the New Fashionable Colors of:

• **SPRUCE GREEN** • **PEWTER GREY** • **JONQUIL YELLOW** • **OLD ROSE**

Here is a line that will appeal to your customers. Medicine Hat Fashion Ware's modern colors give meals light hearted informality with the beautiful shades of Spruce Green, Jonquil Yellow, Pewter Grey and Old Rose. Colors may be mixed up, or one color can be used for each place setting. Medicine Hat Fashion Ware comes neatly pre-packaged in cartons containing one place-setting in each of the four colors.

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1 Luncheon Plate, Old Rose.
1 Bread and Butter Plate, Spruce Green.
1 Bread and Butter Plate, Jonquil Yellow.
1 Bread and Butter Plate, Pewter Grey.
1 Bread and Butter Plate, Old Rose.

1 Cup and Saucer, Spruce Green.
1 Cup and Saucer, Jonquil Yellow.
1 Cup and Saucer, Pewter Grey.
1 Cup and Saucer, Old Rose.
1 Oatmeal, Spruce Green.
1 Oatmeal, Jonquil Yellow.
1 Oatmeal, Pewter Grey.
1 Oatmeal, Old Rose.

Medicine Hat Fashion Ware—20 piece set.

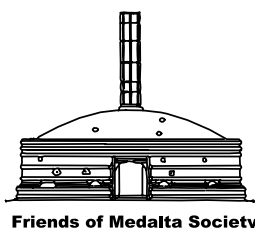
Per Set..... 5.49

NOTE . . . Please check with your Marshall-Wells salesman for any item you want and cannot see in this catalog. If it is available he will be glad to get it for you.

Want Ads

Wanted: A sponsor to fund a special issue of the Newsletter. Last year we sent out an extra issue of the Newsletter at Christmas time, namely a 1953 Medalta hotel china price list. We would like to send out another special this Spring, this one showing the letters and the products relating to the Malibu Club at Princess Louisa Inlet, B.C. However, each issue of the newsletter costs over \$200.00 by the time you add the cost of stamps, envelopes, printing charges, layout and so on, so we need your help.

If you would like to help fund this special issue please send a cheque to The Friends of Medalta Society advising them that your gift is for this purpose. Not only will you receive satisfaction from helping to get this information out to our members, but you will also receive a tax receipt for your charitable contribution. And, should we be lucky enough to receive over \$200.00, the additional funds will go towards future specials. •



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MEDICINE HAT, Alta.
Canada T1A 8A9
Phone/FAX 403-529-1070
<http://www.medalta.org>

Questions & Answers

E-mail from S.B., Calgary

Dear Ron:

We have just purchased this plate and were wondering if it had some special history. It measures 9 1/4 inches across and is in very good condition with one tiny chip at about 2 o'clock on the rim (barely noticeable). A small piece of masking tape has been attached to the back and, as best as we can tell, the handwriting on it reads: "Ern & Edward when on the ranch at Medicine Hat 1956".

We're very curious about what the brand means and whether the plate was specially commissioned.

Thank you for your time, it's greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Sharon

Hello S.B.:

I was advised by a friend of Mr. George Murray that this set of dishes was the pattern ordered by him. Mr. Murray acquired a set of branded dishes, and then he got a set for his friend, the one who told me the story. His friend's set had the flying W brand on the Hereford bull.

Among the Hycroft invoice records was one where Mr. George Murray, Medicine Hat, was billed for four sets (each comprised of 183 pieces as listed on the invoice) with the Hereford bull decoration and brand, at \$50.00 per set on 24 Aug. 1955 (7918); two sets with the brand of a heart with a bar beside it and two with a heart with the bar below.

The piece you have could well be from this set even though it is stamped with the Little Chief trademark of the Medicine Hat Potteries rather than with a Hycroft stamp. August 1955 was just a few months after Hycroft took over ownership of the MHP factory, and the records clearly indicate that for a few

months wares were produced under the MHP name.

Presently, I do not know who Ern & Edward might be, but they are likely relatives or friends. Perhaps the note indicates that they received the plate when visiting the George Murray ranch.

Prices in Canada would be in the \$30.00-\$50.00 range for a plate in good shape. I see that it is listed on ebay so it will be fun to see what it fetches when it is opened up to the US market. Ranch items seem to be more collectable down there.

Sincerely, Ron Getty

P.S. I hate email. I much prefer the phone as you can cover so much more ground and get a true two way conversation going. In this instance I typed up my reply to Sharon (and I am not a fast typist) and did all the right things to send it to her and all I got was some sort of message advising me that it was undeliverable. After the third try I gave up and tried the phone book, and thanks to having a relatively uncommon last name got her on the second number that I tried.

P.P.S. I later heard from the collector who acquired the plate and he advised that with the dollar exchange and shipping charges that the total price was just over \$50.00 Canadian. •

