



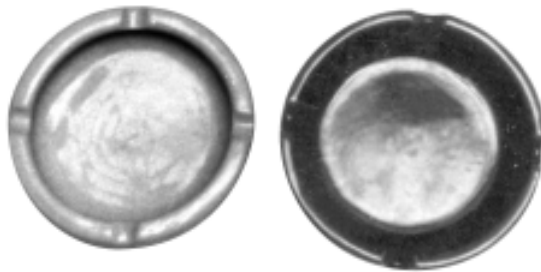
THE HARMER AUCTION

The second sale of Jack Harmer's collection was almost as interesting as the first one. The total realized from the sale, just over \$26,000.00, was almost as high as the first sale which came as a surprise to me as there were not as many one of a kind pieces as in the first sale. I had expected the final total to come in around the twenty thousand mark. It was my guess that prices would be somewhat lower than the first sale since so many pieces duplicated ones in the first sale except for a difference in colour.

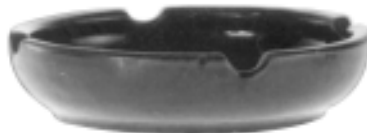
In total there were 271 lots and only two or three were passed due to lack of interest or perhaps just to try to get the bidding moving along at a faster pace. The majority were once again either Medalta or Medicine Hat Potteries along with a few from other companies in the Medicine Hat area such as Medalta Potteries (1966) Ltd., Alberta Potteries Ltd., New Medalta Ceramics and Hycroft China Ltd.

As in the first sale, there were not too many bargains. The few that were there came late in the evening as the sale did not end until 11:00 PM. The crowd appeared to be a few more than at the first sale, perhaps, around 175 attending, and I had the distinct impression that more people were bidding at this sale.

Once again there were few pieces being bought by dealers as the prices were generally too high to allow any mark-up. The bargains that were there, such as lamp bases and no. 132 ashtrays, possibly served as a warning to dealers that there is not much of a market for



certain items. I acquired one of these ashtrays, a yellow one, a couple of weeks later from the dealer who got it for \$12.50 at the sale, and he was only asking \$24.00 for it. At that price I thought it was a bargain as it was the narrow rim variety of the no. 132 ashtray. The wide rim variety is far more commonly seen.



Glazed vases were, as usual, some of the most popular items and many of them sold in the \$150.00 to \$200.00 range. A few were over \$200.00 and one, the Egypto vase, style no. 61, went for \$380.00. Certain colours are always more popular than others and at this sale the

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FROM THE EDITOR

This looks as if it is a bad start to the new year as I did state in the last issue that I would try to get the newsletter out on time, but actually I have an excuse for being tardy this time. I delayed sending it to the printer as I wanted to see what appeared at the Blue Mountain Antique sale.

In particular I wanted to see what effect, if any, the Harmer sale had on prices, and the effect was certainly noticeably there as some dealers were reaching for the stars. It never ceases to amaze me how fast the word gets out to dealers when new highs are set as was done at the Harmer auction. They must phone one another immediately after the sale and pass the word from dealer to dealer until it spreads all across Canada, as most of them seem to know the prices realized long before Hall's Auction Ltd. gets around to posting them on its web page.

As usual some of the best pieces changed hands before the Blue Mountain show officially opened, but from what I heard most of the pieces were spoken for weeks before, and the show was only a convenient way to deliver the pieces to the new owner. One of these was a real gem, I heard, as it was a large 5 or 6 cup teapot with the Lake Louise image on it. I am going to try to get a photo of this one for a future issue of the newsletter.



Two of the best pieces at the show were a pair of 8" plates (the Jiffy Dinner style of plate) with fully coloured lithograph images, one of Jesus and the other Mary. (The other one in this set is the Last Supper scene and it is the one that is more commonly seen.) The asking price for these two plates was \$750.00, and while there was lots of interest in them on the first day

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of the sale, no one was willing to go that high.

Another item of interest was a 15" high, no. 119 lawn vase, the next size down from the one shown elsewhere in this newsletter under the Harmer Auction. This one was finished in a maroon glaze with a white flow (looks pink) from the rim to just over the shoulder. The asking price was \$800.00 and again it had not sold by the end of the first day.

The same dealer from the west coast also had two baby ware pieces, both priced at \$300.00. One was a regular baby bowl while the other was a rimmed soup bowl with a bright blue border with the nursery rhyme decal in the bottom. I think they might have sold relatively quickly at half the asking price, but who knows, they

might still go for that price at either the Blue Mountain or the Edmonton show.

Once again there were some high prices being asked for repainted lacquered vases. One no. 110 jardiniere with the storks design, obviously repainted by an amateur, perhaps a child, was offered at \$110.00. A broken and poorly repaired "Grand Lodge of Al-

berta, 1939" flat round ashtray was priced at \$85.00. I sincerely hope that they went for much less as broken pieces just will not hold their value relative to pristine pieces.

I could go on and on about the Blue Mountain show but perhaps I will save further comments for the next issue.

Ronald M. Getty, Editor

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Phone enquiry:

I have just run across a one gallon jug with the name Rose and LaFlamme stamped in black on the side that looks like it could have been made by Medalta. Did Medalta make jugs for this company?

Unknown call from Ontario

Dear Caller:

Yes, Medalta made jugs for Rose and LaFlamme but other than that fact I can tell you very little. I have not yet seen or heard of a jug bearing their name as well as Medalta's. The only one gallon jug which I have actually seen showed up in an Alberta antique store almost ten years ago. It like the one you have mentioned was also unmarked as to its maker, but it did indeed look like a Medalta jug both in shape and colour. The asking price was \$125.00 according to my

notes, and I would have gladly paid the price if it had been marked Medalta, but I was not prepared to go that high for an unmarked piece. (I was collecting for the Glenbow Museum in Calgary at that time.)

The best reference which I have for Rose and LaFlamme marked items is the invoice shown here. It is dated July 16, 1926 and lists a variety of jug sizes ranging from 1/4 to 5 gallons. This invoice indicates that 240 five gallon jugs were stamped with their name. The others listed on the invoice were presumably unstamped and simply sent to H. Morgan & Son in Montreal to add to their general stock. H. Morgan & Son was Medalta's distributor in Montreal at the time, and for that reason I would suspect that Rose and LaFlamme was located there also. The other reference for Rose and LaFlamme jugs is an invoice dated 16 August 1926 but it does

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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1415

July 16th., 1926.

Messrs. H. Morgan & Son,
914 Gault Avenue,
MONTREAL, Quebec.

2% 30 days - 60 days net.

JUGS FOR MANUFACTURERS

* 200 Only 1/4 Gal Jugs	09 1/2	28	50
200 " 1/2 " "	13 1/2	29	75
500 " 1 " "	17 1/2	67	50
100 " 2 " "	25	35	00
100 " 5 " "	67 1/2	67	50
240 " 5 " Jugs (Stamped ROSE & LAFLAMME)	18	216	00
		494	25
Less freight on above goods, 18600 lbs. @ \$1.00 per 100 lbs. amounting to		166	00
		328	25
Less 5% Discount		16	41
		311	84

Continued from page 2

not say stamped. At this time H. Morgan & Son was charged \$.17 each for 1000, 1 gallon jugs and \$.175 each for another 315. The extra charge for the separately listed 315 jugs could well be for naming on them.

Perhaps one of our readers has a Rose and LaFlamme piece in their collection which gives the location of this company and if

anyone has a piece with Medalta's name on it I would welcome a photograph of it to share with our other readers.

Out of interest, this invoice also shows the cost of stamping these jugs. Plain five gallon ones were \$.875 each while the marked ones were \$.90 each. The entries given on the invoice are a bit confusing as the plain ones are listed by the cost of the jug (\$.875) while the stamped ones are listed by the cost per gallon (\$.18).

Anyway, that is the story of Rose and LaFlamme. Medalta made five gallon jugs for them for sure, and I suspect that they made other sizes as well. The Medalta letters and invoices that have survived are so few that they only give us a glimpse of the plant's activities, and when the arrangements are through a distributor like H. Morgan & Son, it is seldom that the specific details are provided.

Ron Getty

A HYCROFT PRICE LIST

I recently ran across a price list dated 1 March 1959 that illustrates several Hycroft pieces which I had not previously seen in any of the company's literature, pieces such as the 40a creamer, 41a covered sugar bowl, 93 jumbo shaker and the 92 regular shaker. It is a single page, printed on both sides, measuring 8 1/8 x 11 inches. The illustrations are an off-white against a greyish-brown background while the style numbers and text are in black, the whole printed on a plain white sheet.

In addition to showing the illustrated pieces, another reason for reprinting this price list is to familiarize the collector with Hycroft's style numbers. From time to time we will be including Hycroft invoices in this newsletter, and when style numbers are mentioned you will now know what the piece looks like.

The prices given on this price list are for the most part for plain white wares, and they are given for lots of a dozen. Where colours are mentioned, it is for solid colours and does not include any additional embellishment such as gold banding or special naming. I have never seen any specific listing of special naming for either a person or a company, and from what I have seen in Hycroft's invoices, it seems unlikely that they had any. The cost appears to have been left open as it was so variable depending on the amount of special naming requested, the colours selected and whether or not any special image or decal was added.

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MICHIGAN HAT, ALBERTA		HYCROFT CHINA LIMITED		MARCH 1, 1959		
		"WHITEWARE"		F.O.B. POTTERY LISTINGS		
"300" Line Holiday Shape (Coupe Design)		Stock Nos.	Item	F.O.B. Factory Pkg. Included Tax Extra	No. Per Carton	Approx. Wt. Lbs.
312		320a		1.20	36	15
310		321		.70	36	15
309		322		1.20	36	15
308		321		.70	36	15
307		307	7" Plates	1.10	36	17
		309	9" Plates	2.00	36	35
		310	10" Plates	2.50	36	52
		312	12" Plates	4.10	12	30
		301	Fruits	.90	36	17
		302	Cereals	1.10	36	18
		304	Soups	2.00	36	28
		360	Vegetable	3.60	12	17
		361	Veg. Cover	3.60		
		225	Coupe Soup (Not Shown)	2.00	36	28
		40	Creamer	4.20		
		40	Tall Creamer	4.20		
		40a	Creamer	7.20		
		41	Covered Sugar	4.50		
		41a	Covered Sugar	8.40		
		43	Open Sugar	3.60		
		14	14" Platter	8.20		
		70	13 1/2" Oval Platter	8.20		
		90	Gravy Boat	7.20		
		91	Gravy Boat Stand	4.20		
			WHITE			
		M3	Coffee Mugs	1.50	48	42
			COLORED			
		M3	Coffee Mugs	2.00	48	42
			White Hat Ash Trays	6.60		
			Colored Hat Ash Trays	7.80		

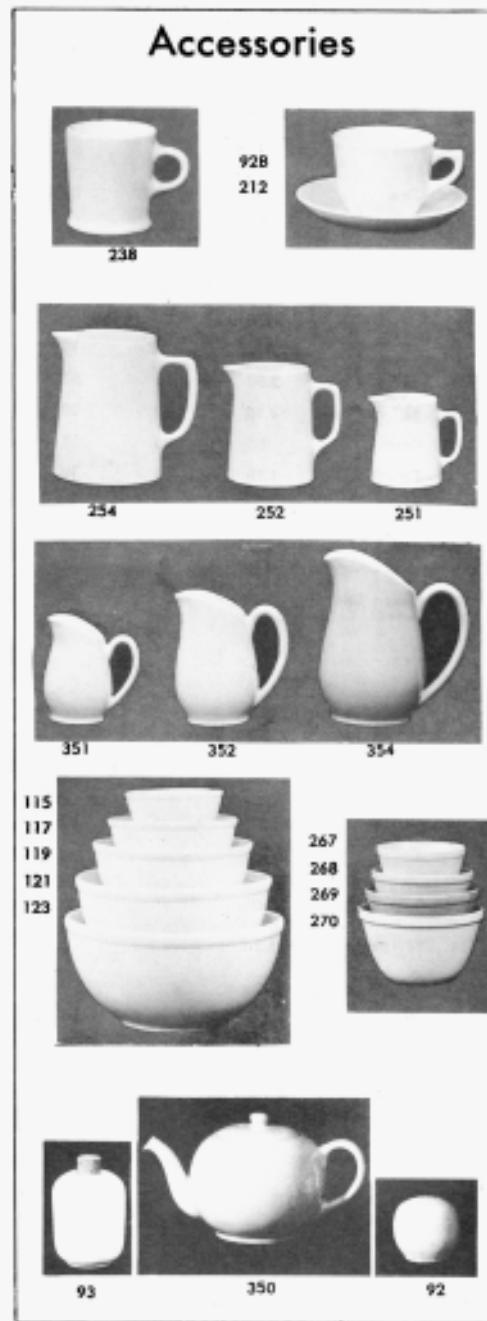
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For example, naming using 22K gold oxide was more expensive than plain brown or black lettering.

The price list gives the style numbers with each item illustrated. On the first page, lower half, the numbers which are given for each piece (excluding the M3 coffee mug) have the numeral 3 dropped from it. Number 14, 70 and the rest through to 40 Tall were also sold as the 314 platter, the 370 oval platter and the 340 Tall Creamer. On the second page the only pieces where the 3 was dropped are the 2 styles of shakers. The rest of the style numbers are complete including the 92B cup which in fact has that number impressed into its bottom.

Why the pieces were sometimes listed one way and at other times the alternate way seems to have been a matter of choice or perhaps expediency when it came to typing up an invoice. It certainly was not date related as you find separate invoices issued on the same day using the different listings, and you also find both numbering systems in use for pretty well the whole time Hycroft was in business, but admittedly many of Hycroft's invoices never even bothered to list the style number along with the specific piece.

If you would like a copy of this illustrated price list, you can order it from the Friends of Medalta Society for \$4.00 (price includes postage and handling) or you can find it in the FOMS gift store when you visit the Medalta/Hycroft plants at Medicine Hat this summer. •



Stock Nos.	Item	F.O.B. Factory Pkg. Included Tax Extra	No. Per Carton	Approx. Wt. Lbs.
WHITE				
92B	Cups	1.20	36	17
212	Saucers	.70	36	15
COLORED				
92B	Cups	1.30	36	17
212	Saucers	.90	36	15
WHITE				
238	Coffee Mugs	2.50	48	40
COLORED				
238	Coffee Mugs	3.00	48	40
WHITE				
251	10 oz. Jug Tankard	3.20	36	18
252	20 oz. " "	4.20	36	34
254	40 oz. " "	6.60	36	52
COLORED				
351	½ pt. Pitcher	3.60	12	9
352	1 pt. " "	4.80	12	16
354	1 qt. " "	6.60	12	23
WHITE				
267	4" Pudding Bowl	1.50	36	20
268	5" " "	1.60	36	26
269	6" " "	2.00	36	40
270	7" " "	2.50	36	46
115	6" Mixing Bowls	2.50	24	33
117	8" " "	4.20	12	33
119	10" " "	6.60	6	30
121	12" " "	10.80	1	8
123	14" " "	16.20	1	10
4-Pc. Colored Mixing Bowl Nest				
4" Pink Bowl)		14.40	6 sets	28
5" Green Bowl)				
6" Yellow Bowl)				
7" Blue Bowl)				
WHITE				
350	Teapot	9.60	12	22
COLORED				
350	Teapot	14.40		
92	Reg. Shakers	.60 pr.		
93	Jumbo Shakers	.90 pr.		

NOTE: COLORED WARE:
Standard Colors - Pink, Green, Yellow, Blue.

EXHIBITIONS

For our Regina area readers, please note that Glenbow's exhibit "**Medalta Ware: The Dream of an Alberta Pottery Industry**" will be on display from 23 May to 3 July 1999 at the Dunlop Art Gallery in Regina. If you did not see the exhibition when it was on display at Glenbow, you should try to get down to Regina as comments about it have been quite favourable. You are bound to see items that you have never seen before.

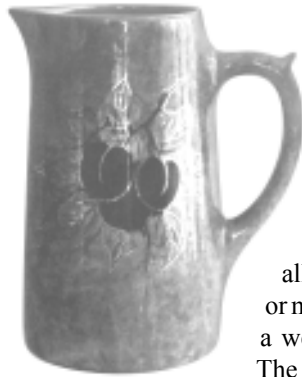
Please check with the institutions to confirm the show dates, hours of operation, etc.

Dunlop Gallery, Regina
23 May - 3 July 1999

Red Deer and District Museum
25 July - 26 Sept. 1999 •

MEDALTA'S SHIP STYLE PITCHER (1932-1938)

The Ship Style pitcher available in 1, 1 1/2, 2 and 3 pint sizes was selected to replace the once popular Tankard Pitcher made in the same four sizes. The tankard pitcher was the first one to be decorated using the hand painted mill, cottage and owl decorations, starting in 1930, and it appears that only hand painted decorations were used on the tankard pitcher. The ship style pitcher on the other hand was decorated with the hand painted designs when it was first introduced in 1932, but within a couple of years the stencilled sailboat decoration replaced the more time consuming hand paintings. It was likely the practise of decorating these pitchers with the sailboat design that lead to the use of the name "Ship Pitcher" for this particular shape, but that is only a guess on my part as the records are mute on the actual naming. If it has the appearance of a ship, it totally escapes me!



Mr. Cuming wishes you to get in touch with Mr. Easman of the Hudson' Bay Co. and sell the lot at a straight price of 15 cents net."

The sizes (1, 1 1/2, 2 and 3 pint) and Medalta's name (stamp no. M.22) appear as impressed markings on the bottom of the pitchers. The Medalta name is seldom found as an oxide stamp and therefore it is difficult to date items more precisely than within the given range. Occasionally the stamping is very hard to read or missing but I am sure it is due only to a well-worn mould or a heavy glaze. The size is given as a numeral followed by the pint abbreviation PT.

As was usual for the 1930s, the pitcher could be obtained in solid colours of yellow, green or blue and a variety of decorations including the owls in tree, cottage, mill and sailboat. Most of the decorations can be found in hand painted or stencilled varieties. In one instance, the usual mill was re-

placed with the classic dome-shaped Dutch windmill with its four large blades. Other decorations that can be found include the iris and the coal tippie on the Toshach pitcher.

The ship style pitcher was a popular advertising premium. Ogilvie's merchants used it in the one pint size, and so far about 20 different stores have been recorded. The owls in tree was the most popular decoration with eleven occurrence, the mill was next with six uses and the cottage, sailboat and Dutch windmill were

each recorded once. I do not know for sure what year Ogilvie used this pitcher but it was likely 1932-1935. In the next issue of the newsletter I will provide a listing of Ogilvie's ship style advertising pitchers and show the range of variation in the slogans that can be found.

The ship pitcher was also a popular general advertising item and so far it has been recorded for over 22 merchants. Most were general stores but it was also used by an elevator company, a dairy, a plumbing firm, two hardware stores and three garages. The dates of use for this group of businesses cover the period 1934 to 1938. The most commonly selected sizes were the 1 and 1.5-pint but at least two firms

used the larger 2-pint pitcher. So far, I have recorded no use of the 3-pint pitcher as an advertising premium.

"ALFRED AMES TRADING COMPANY, ALTA." with stencilled sailboat, size and date not known

"Compliments of/The

Bellevue Dairy [in larger letters]/BELLEVUE, ALBERTA" all in solid lettering, 1 1/2 pint, likely 1937-38

"With the Compliments of [old English style]/OSCAR G. BRENNER/SPALDING/GARAGE/[I].H.C. SALES & SERVICE" all in solid lettering, 1 pint, 1934-1935

"Compliments of/Cardiff & Jeffery [larger letters]/WASECA, SASK." solid lettering with stencilled sailboat design, 1 pint, likely 1937-1938

"SOUVENIR OF/EASTEND/SASK." in black within a rectangle with notched corners and with hand painted windmill, 1 and 1 1/2 pint sizes, 1932-1935

"Compliments of [old English style]/J.A.



Its introduction is documented from the 1932 stock ledger where it is listed as the new shape pitcher. As far as I can tell it was discontinued by 1938 as it does not seem to be mentioned in the Medalta letters after that date, and there are no advertising pieces dated after December 1937. The one definite reference I have is found in a letter dated October 28, 1938 which discusses getting rid of old stock.

"The following is the stock of ship pitchers, which we have in the old warehouse.



ELANDER/MERCHANT/KETCHEN, SASK." solid lettering, 1 pint, 1934-1935

"G.A.D. Flitton, General Store" around top and **"Port Alberni, B.C."** around bottom, all in solid lettering with stencilled sailboat, 1 1/2 pint, 1936

"A Prosperous 1936 [old English style]/**WILLIAM GAUK/General Merchant/YELLOW CREEK - SASK.**" solid lettering with stencilled sailboat on opposite side, 1 pint, 1935 as per order letter

"BUY IT AT/ELFORD'S/Irma Trading Co. Ltd." solid brown lettering with stencilled sailboat, size not known,

"WITH BEST WISHES/P.B. JARVIS/OILS/RED DEER, ALTA." solid lettering, 1 1/2 pint, 1937

"McGILL & STEENSON/GROCERS - SASKATOON" solid lettering arced around **"With our/Compliments** [old English style]" in the centre, black lettering, 1 pint, 1934-1935

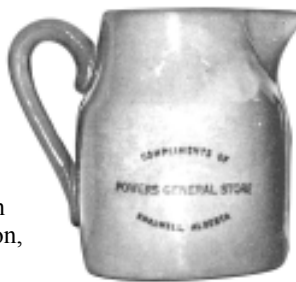
"MOOSE JAW/HEATING & PLUMBING CO." solid brown lettering, with stencilled sailboat design on opposite side, brown on honey, 1 1/2 pint, 1937

"COMPLIMENTS OF/THE MORRIS STORE/1934/DELBURNE, ALBERTA" solid lettering, with stencilled sailboat on opposite side, 1 1/2 pint, 1934

"HAVE ANOTHER DRINK/ON/C.H.



NASH / XMAS . 1934." solid lettering with stencilled sailboat on opposite side, 1 1/2 pint, 1934, Nash had a store at Carbon, Alberta



"BEST WISHES" and **"SEXSMITH"** arced above and below **"JACK NEYS/ GARAGE"** in solid brown lettering with stencilled sailboat design, 1 pint, 1937



"COMPLIMENTS OF/POWERS GENERAL STORE [larger letters]/**SWALWELL, ALBERTA"**

solid lettering in lenticular format around store's name and with stencilled sailboat on opposite side, 1 1/2 pint, 1934



design on opposite side, 1 1/2 pint, 1937, located in Saskatchewan as per letter 192611



"COMPLIMENTS OF THE/PRINCE/ALBERT/ELEVATOR/CO.LTD./GRAIN, FLOUR/ &

FEED" solid lettering, with hand painted sailboat design, 1 pint, 1934-1936

"RIVERSIDE/HARDWARE/Hardware, Paints/Crockery/17 Fourth St., N.E./PHONE R.2272" with stencilled sailboat, 1 pint, 1934, located in Calgary, Alberta

"COMPLIMENTS OF/THREE HILLS HARDWARE/Phone 42/"Your Satisfaction is Our Hobby" solid black lettering



ing with stencilled sailboat design on opposite side. Located in Drumheller, Alberta, 1 pint, 1937. •

with stencilled sailboat on the opposite side, 1 1/2 pint, likely 1937-1938

"COMPLIMENTS/OF/E.A.TOSHACH/DRUMHELLER, ALTA." in circle and below **"E.A.Toshach's 20th Anniversary, 1914 to 1934"** with scene of a coal tippie on the other side, 2 pint size, 200 jugs were ordered 27 December 1934

Veiner and Son, Lemsford, Saskatchewan, 1 pint pitchers with ship decoration quoted November 22, 1935; sample not yet seen

"Compliments of/WALDECK/GROCERY" solid lettering with stencilled sailboat design on opposite side, 1 1/2 pint, 1937, located in Saskatchewan as per letter 192611

"Compliments of/L.A. WASS/ McLEAN, SASK." solid lettering with stencilled sailboat design on opposite side, 2 pint, likely 1937-1938

"BEST WISHES [arced]/**WALTER REVITT** [horizontal]/**WYE GROCERY** [arced]" solid lettering

WANT ADS



Wanted: A one pint size bean pot marked made by Medalta and with "ROSAIRE" embossed on the side in large lettering. Contact Ronald Getty, Newsletter Editor, at 216 Maddock Way N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2A 3X3, 403-273-1132, e-mail: gettyr@nucleus.com

Wanted: Ice water coolers and cookie jars - also any Alberta Potteries Crockery with Beaver stamp. Tel 403-527-7253

Place Your Ad Here

For those who have renewed their subscription, please remember that you get one ad per year, up to three lines long, free with your subscription. Other ads \$1.00 per line, or partial line. Pictures with your ad extra at \$1.00 each. Advertise for wanted items, items for sale, items for trade, requests for information or any other matters related to the collecting/documenting of pottery. •

Harmer Auction - Continued from page 1

cream and orange-brown marbled glaze was particularly hot.

The Top Twelve

(all Medalta except the last one)

- 1 pt tankard jug, metal lid, mill decoration, McDonald & Rutherford, Redvers, Sask. \$920.00
- 1 pt ship style, owls, Ogilvie's Flour, B.R. Clark, Grindrod, B.C. \$775.00
- lawn vase, style no. 119, 18" high, green glaze \$630.00
- 1 pt ship style pitcher, hand painted sailboat \$545.00
- 2 pt ship style pitcher, hand painted sailboat decoration \$480.00
- beer stein, early style, MHGC 19th Hole \$460.00
- 1 pt ship style pitcher, hand painted sailboat \$450.00
- vase no. 111, lacquered Indian and Maiden decoration, some wear \$445.00
- vase no. 63, lacquered iris decoration \$430.00
- "COOKIE" jar, lug handle style, brown glazed with black wash at top \$425.00
- vase no. 102, Gondola scene, significant wear of lacquer \$415.00
- MHP plaster buffalo ashtray, Calgary Brewery, made by Jack Fuller \$415.00

More Prices from the Harmer Auction

(Medalta unless stated otherwise)

- 3 pt ship style pitcher, stencilled sailboat design, repaired \$400.00
- spigotted barrel on a log shaped base \$400.00
- scented oil burner, variegated brown/green/beige glaze \$245.00
- Betty vase, style no. 70, 8" size, blue/green/brown glaze \$240.00
- Egypto vase no. 61, mottled caramel glaze \$380.00
- Rosetta vase no. 62, satina green glaze \$195.00
- vase no. 122, variegated brown/green/beige \$275
- jardiniere no. 109, lacquered Indian and maiden decoration, minor chips \$345.00

- churn w/lid and dasher, 6 gallon size \$250.00
- miniature jug advertising Medicine Hat Pottery Co. \$310.00
- cracker box, Ogilvie's Flour, Quality Grocery, Cranbrook, B.C., poor condition \$185.00
- Polygon mixing bowl, 12" size, green \$230.00
- miniature ice water pitcher, yellow \$205.00
- basket-weave pitcher, style no. 84, 1 1/2 pints, cows decoration, minor chip \$250.00
- silver foam ashtray, hand painted mill scene \$170.00
- silver foam ashtray, rubber stamp mill scene \$160.00
- flat round ashtray, Cecil Hotel, Medicine Hat \$170.00
- hat ashtray, Calgary Stampede \$160.00
- MHP wall vase, style no. C-106, relief floral decoration, yellow \$190.00
- MHP wall vase, style no. 107, double leaf decoration, yellow \$98.00
- MHP wall vase, style no. C-107, single leaf decoration, yellow \$45.00
- MHP cuspidor, green glaze \$250.00
- New Medalta Ceramic vases, glazed, black wash on off-white \$115.00
- New Medalta Ceramic beer stein, RCAF Claresholm, 1958 \$80.00

A Medalta Selection

The most unusual piece in my opinion was the fully glazed barrel/log shaped dispenser that went for \$400.00, just missing the top twelve. I had thought that it would be the most expensive piece of the evening as it was not only one of a kind, but also it was well marked and fairly attractive in form. Perhaps the reason for the price being lower than expected was the fact that Hall's Auction had listed it as a Medalta Redcliff



piece, and presumably many of the collectors did not bother to pick it up to look at the markings on the bottom.

The dispenser measures just a bit under 12.5" high and is about 7.75" inches across the base. While the item is actually one piece, it has the appearance of being two separate pieces. The top barrel-shaped half is open at the top and moulded to take a lid as well as having a solid bottom separating it from its bottom half. The yellow glazed exterior is decorated with an embossed wood grain design and has four evenly spaced black bands running around it. A reinforced hole to take a metal spigot is found on the side near the bottom. (The wooden spigot that came with it appeared to be too big to have been the original style of spigot for this piece.) The lid which was broken was likely not the original lid for this piece either. It looked like it may have been a refrigerator jar lid.

The bottom half fully melded to the top part was shaped like a log which had been squared off at the base. It, like the top was decorated with a wood grain finish, including several knots, and was glazed in brown. The bottom of the base had four small holes in it along the outer edge and a large central hole that likely took a cork. While it is clear that the top half held some sort of liquid, it is not so clear as to what the hollow bottom half held. Did it hold hot water to keep the contents of the top half warm, or was it filled with something such as lead shot or sand to add weight to the piece to keep it from tipping over?

Unfortunately, I did not take a photograph of what turned out to be the most expensive piece at the sale. It was the 1 pint size tankard style pitcher decorated with the hand painted mill scene and named to McDonald & Rutherford of Redvers, Saskatchewan, the advertising



placed within a circle. The selling price of about \$920.00 surprised almost everyone attending the sale. I can only presume that it went so high due to the metal lid which had been attached to it or perhaps because it has special significance to the bidder. Out of interest the McDonald & Rutherford store was billed \$2.50 for a rubber stamp and \$62.92 for the order in November 1930 as per Medalta's accounts ledger. The order was quite large as 1 pint decorated pitchers sold for \$2.00 a dozen and the cost of the stamping would have been only two cents more at the most. The order was apparently comprised of mixed decorations, although the size appears to have been the same, as I have recorded the same advertising on the owl decorated pitcher.

The second highest piece was also an advertising item, this time the one pint ship style pitcher with the owl decoration. It was an Ogilvie Flour advertising item named to B.R. Clark of Grindrod, B.C. It is my understanding that Grindrod is all but a ghost town today and perhaps that is why the price realized was so high, especially since it was not in perfect condition.

The other surprise to many at the sale was the competitive bidding on the ship style pitchers with the hand painted sailboat decoration. The three which were sold all brought over \$400.00 each, a new high for ones that have no advertising on them. These pitchers although fairly hard to find are not that scarce, and in my opinion they sold for twice what they should have, and I would be surprised if dealers can get such high prices at future antique shows. The 3 pint pitcher, professionally repaired, which sold for



\$400.00 was decorated with the stencilled sailboat. If it had been a hand painted one, I wonder what its price would have been as they are so hard to find?

The large lawn vase, style no. 119, 18 inch size, brought a good price as was expected. The \$630.00 paid for it was only about \$80.00 more than a smaller one which was sold in Edmonton about 18 months ago. It was first produced in 1941 as indicated by the Medalta letters, and it came in 12, 15 and 18-inch high sizes. All sizes are still considered rare as so few samples have shown up. So far I have recorded two each of



the smaller sizes and three of the 18-inch ones. This one was finished in a plain dark green glaze. Other colours that I have recorded for these vases include a solid blue and a sage green with gold around the rim.

Another surprise was the thick and heavy early

style of beer stein

marked with the entwined/superimposed letters MHGC (for Medicine Hat Golf Club) and 19th hole that sold for \$460.00. I have now recorded six of these steins that date to 1930 or 1931. They all have the M.6 and M.7 stamps im-



pressed in the bottom indicating that they were hand thrown, and one of them had initials, presumably the owner's, hand lettered on the opposite side to the MHGC lettering.

The one in this sale was not named to anyone and was finished in the typical manner

of having coloured lettering (red and green) on a cane background.

Just when you think you have seen all possible variations for the Dutch children decoration on a vase, a new one shows up. The 11" high style no.

101 vase in this sale was finished by accenting the Dutch kids and background detail of mill, trees, birds, etc. in gold, all on a flat black background.



This is the first recording which I have for this colour combination. Usually the pieces are either multicoloured, particularly the kids, or fully finished in gold, silver or bronze with some black accenting. It sold for about \$220.00.

The hat ashtray marked CALGARY STAMPEDE was a good buy at \$160.00 as Stampede collectibles of this age are so hard to find. It was finished in the usual colours of brown lettering on a honey glaze.



The colour and Medalta stamp dates

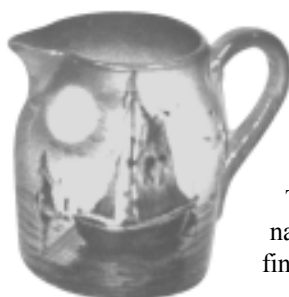
it to about 1938

and it could well have been one of those ordered by the T. Eaton Company, Calgary, on the 6 July 1938.

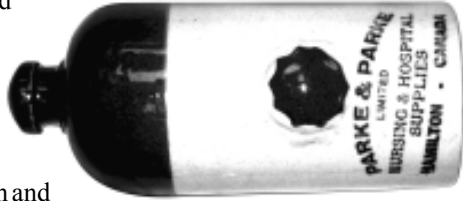
The Parke & Parke bed/foot warmer with the bean-pot brown end and marked with Medalta's G.5.d stamp on the bottom sold for \$115.00. About 18 months ago a similar one appeared at the

Blue Mountain sale in Calgary, and the asking price for it was \$110.00. The one order I found in the Medalta records dated to December 7, 1927, when the company was invoiced for 300 foot warmers. There is, however, two different namings for this bed warmer, suggesting that more than one order was placed.

Another prize was the lug handled style of



cookie jar that sold for \$425.00. It was glazed in an reddish-brown with a fairly heavy black wash around the rim and with a very light black wash around the base. The word "COOKIES" was in black stencilled lettering. This is only the second example of a jar marked COOKIES which I have seen, and the colour of the other one was the lighter cane and honey coloured glaze.



The pair of SILVER FOAM flat round ashtrays went for \$170.00 and \$160.00, the hand painted one shown on the right hand side fetching the higher price. I have included a picture of this pair to show the different layout of the wording, a variation that I had not noted before, as the lettering



around the bottom 2/3rds of the ashtrays is reversed. These ashtrays were made for the Sudbury Brewing and Malting Company and reference to various orders is made in the Medalta letters dating from 1935, 1938 and 1940. The only order filled where quantity was mentioned is the one from 1938 and it was for 5000 ashtrays.

Medicine Hat Potteries

The rarely seen "Little Chief" spittoon in this sale went for \$250.00 which many thought was too high. Personally, I thought it was reasonable considering that this is only the second one that I have ever recorded. This one, impressed 7 1/2 in the bottom, was finished in a solid dark green glaze and measures just over 4-inches high and just under 8-inches across the top. The geometric embossed decoration repeats itself four

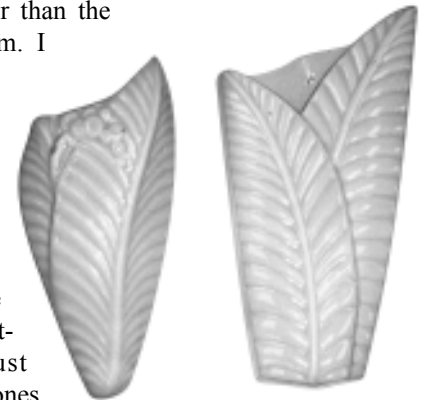


times around the body. The other MHP cuspidor recorded was part of the Richard and Jean Symonds collection (now the National Museum of Canada collection) and it was finished in a blue glaze. Medalta made a dozen or so different spittoons, but so far we have seen only one style made by the Medicine Hat Potteries.

Another hard to find MHP item is its custard cup. The one in this sale even though it was cracked still sold for about \$57.00. It measures just over 2 inches high and about 3 3/8 inches in diameter across the top. MHP's custard cup has a vertically embossed rib-like decoration repeating itself four times around the exterior, and the one in this sale was finished in a yellow glaze. The only other colour recorded so far is blue, and this is only the third specimen which I have recorded.



An old mystery was cleared up for me at this sale as the two MHP wall vases marked with style no. 107 on the back were both present. Both are similar in being leaf shaped but one is larger than the other with a flatter bottom. I thought I had recorded the wrong style number for one of these vases but indeed they are both no. 107. The smaller one is number "C-107" while the larger one shown on the right-hand side is just "107". Both of the ones sold here were yellow in colour with the larger one "107" going for \$98.00 and the smaller one for \$45.00.



The cylindrical wall vase with the large stylized embossed flowers on the side, style no. C-106, sold for \$190.00. It, like the other two vases was finished in a yellow glaze and it stands 9 7/8" tall.

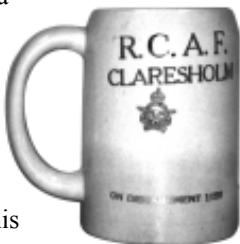


New Medalta Ceramics

The pair of vases available at this sale went for \$115.00 each which I thought was a fairly reasonable price considering how hard it is to find pieces made by Malcolm McArthur's company. One was marked with the maker's name New Medalta Ceramics while the second one was unstamped. The vases are 12 3/8" high and glazed black at the top leading to a speckled black and then into the off-white base.



The second New Medalta Ceramics piece was a 5 1/2" high cane coloured beer stein bearing the blue crest of the Royal Canadian Air force. It is marked "R.C.A.F./CLARSEHOLM" in gold above the crest and "ON DISBANDMENT 1958" below the crest, also in gold. To me, the price of \$80.00 was a bit low considering the scarcity of this company's products and it being a nice military collectible. I have only recorded one other example of a beer stein with this naming on it.



THE FINAL HARMER AUCTION

One can only wonder and wait to see what the final third of the Harmer collection holds in the way of surprises. My guess is that there will be no one of a kind pieces but I could well be wrong. If I was a collector, I certainly would not want to miss it as the variety and quality of pieces in the previous auctions has been so high. Once again I have no details but it will be held by Hall's Auction in Calgary on the evening of Monday, May 3, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. Presumably the sale is limited to pottery items and I suspect that there will once again be about 300 separate lots for sale. As requested for the last auction, please contact Hall's Auction to let them know that you would like a detailed listing when it is available. Write to: Hall's Auction, 5240 1A Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2H 1J1; phone 403-640-1244; fax 403-259-3682; e-mail hodgins@cadvision.com and check the web-site www.hodginsauction.com from time to time. Hopefully pictures of the collection will once again be posted on their web-site. Also please keep in mind that a listing and pictures, if included, will not be available until about 2 weeks before the sale. •

RECENT PRICES: ONTARIO

Thanks to an Ontario collector, I can limit this issue's prices to those realized in eastern Canada. The list e-mailed to me is accompanied by his comments as to where they were acquired and condition.

The items below were bought mainly at antique supermarkets; a few were bought from the traditional individual antique shop. Prices include taxes. Condition unless otherwise indicated is excellent with no noticeable blemishes chips etc.

- Medalta #9 lamp, fuzzy owl, various browns \$254.00
- Medalta #19 lamp, sponge burgundy \$20.00
- Medalta #16 lamp, black \$71.00
- Medalta #33 lamp, mottled red \$19.00
- Medalta #40 lamp, mottled blue/green \$90.00
- Medalta #50 lamp, cream/beige/brown \$10.00
- Medalta lamp (converted from oil lamp) mottled blue/green \$90.00
- Medalta #1 vase mottled blue/green, 2chips from base \$6.00
- Medalta two-handled # 66 vase, unmarked, crimped top, cream/beige/brown \$75.00
- Medalta # 108 vase, camels, slight paint



chipping \$161.00

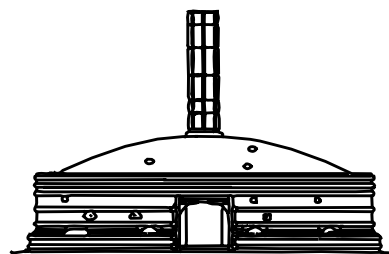
- Medalta elephant planter, some damage \$30.00
- Medalta ice water pitcher, blue-grey \$75.00
- Medalta yellow candlesticks, pair, one unmarked one very slightly chipped on top \$47.00
- Medalta Stoneware butter churn (4 gal)+lid very small chip to base \$100.00
- Medicine Hat Potteries, 8 1/2" deco light blue vase \$75.00
- Medicine Hat Potteries, blue wall pocket #107 \$45.00
- Medicine Hat Potteries, small deco-style turquoise milk pitcher \$22.00
- Medicine Hat Potteries, stoneware jug style #257 \$100.00
- Medicine Hat Potteries, turquoise teapot, lid slightly chipped \$7.00
- Medalta (1966) Ltd., Redcliff, cream+sugar set, cream/mottled brown \$11.00
- Medalta (1966) Ltd., Redcliff, mottled blue/black casserole \$19.00

As you can see from the listing there are still some good bargains back east when compared to western Canadian prices. A fuzzy owl lamp for only \$254.00, now that was the find that we all wish we could make! Maybe we should all be planning to take our holidays in Ontario. •

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