

More Hycroft Patterns

This issue of the newsletter lists the last of the Hycroft patterns that were given names. Some of these were assigned pattern numbers as given in the list below, but unlike the numbered patterns that we looked at in issues 7 and 8, the pattern numbers do not appear to have ever been included in the backstamp. Some may yet be found on the backstamps, particularly the 2267 Rose and the 6020 Shasta Rose since both of these patterns are known only from the Hycroft invoice records at present. I have not yet seen any dishes with either the name or the number on them.

- 2000 Swiss Dots, 1958-1969, name on backstamp
- 2100 Cubes, 1959-1971, name on backstamp
- 2200 Dolly Dots, 1958-1969, name on backstamp
- 2267 Rose, 1956-1957, no named pieces seen as yet
- 2300 Autumn, 1959-1964, name on backstamp
- 2400 Breeze, 1958-1971, name on backstamp
- 2500 Capri, (originally No. 537), 1956-1964, no named pieces seen as yet
- 2600 Idlewylde, (originally No. 545), 1956-1964, no named pieces seen as yet
- 2700 Serenada, 1959-1965, no named pieces seen as yet
- 6020 Shasta Rose, 1956-1957, no named pieces seen as yet

As you can see from the production dates, the even thousand numbered patterns were introduced in 1958 or 1959, and I think it is safe to assume that they were assigned sequentially whenever a new pattern was brought out. The few out of order are likely a sampling error as not all sales were listed by pattern name or number, and the ones originally given a 500 number explains their order. The other two, the odd-ball numbers 2267 and 6020, were introduced earlier and, in part, that is why I think the numbers could be found on the backstamp.

The next listing, given below, are the patterns which were named but never assigned pattern numbers. The names are found in price lists, illustrated flyers and even on the invoice records. Also, as far as I know, none of these patterns had the name on the item, but admittedly I have not yet seen samples of all the patterns. At present I have no idea what Candy, Colorbrite, Gaiety, Phillipine Rose, Ripple or Springtime may look like, and others like Autumn Leaves and New Wheat are still not 100 percent certain.

As you can see from the listing, some of the patterns date to the early formative years of Hycroft, 1955 to 1957, when pattern numbers were commonly assigned to each pattern as it was introduced. Why were some missed like Lattice, Indian Blanket, Gaiety and Dinnerama? Was it because they had their origins as a Medicine Hat Potteries' pattern and/or were so well known that they did not have to be given a pattern number for ordering purposes?

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What's New at Hycroft

If you are driving past Medicine Hat this summer be sure to stop at the Clay Products Interpretive Centre to see what is new.

I understand that you can now take a self guided tour of the Hycroft plant thanks to additional labeling scattered throughout the building and displays. There are even a number of computer stations for the curious and especially those who favour the electronic means



of communication. The Medalta Potteries Historic Site is still shown to the public by the trained guides that work for the Interpretive Centre.

One of the new exhibits at Hycroft is a display of the various dinnerware patterns made over the years. In part this was made possible due to the identification of the patterns that have been given in this and previous issues of the newsletters. In the past most of the pieces comprising this exhibit were in fact on display, but what was not given was the pattern name and number as that information, when present, was stamped on the backs or bottoms of the pieces where it could not be read. Now the information is on accompanying signage placed below a selection of the dishes.

In part this is what the curator had to say about the new exhibit.

"At the Clay Product Interpretive Centre we have set out to identify all the named dinnerware patterns that Hycroft China produced. We have created a display of sample arrangements of fifty-one known patterns to date. Hycroft used descriptive and often imaginative

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- Autumn Leaf, 1959-1968
- Blue Rose, 1960-1962
- Bright & Early, 1966-1967
- Canadiana, 1955-1956
- Candy, 1958-1961
- Chinook, 1961-1971
- Colorbrite, 1955-1957, also listed as Color Brite
- Daizy, 1964-1970
- Dinnerama, 1955-1957
- Eva, 1959-1969
- Freckles, date not known
- Gaiety, 1955-1963
- Indian Blanket, 1955-1958
- Lattice, 1955-1957
- Maple Leaf, 1962-1970
- New Wheat, 1957
- New York, 1964-1969
- Phillipine Rose, 1966-1968
- Ripple, 1959-1961
- Royal Anne, 1961-1968
- Roxana Rose, 1970-1975

The Medalta Review

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- Spray Rose, 1964-1973
- Springtime, 1959-1964
- Trees, 1963-1966
- Yellow Rose, 1962-1970
- Yellow Side Rose, 1965-1975

The two lists given in this issue more or less completes the listing of all the pattern names that I was able to glean from collection pieces and the records. The only ones that I have not presented are firstly, some from the 1955 records which were clearly old stock made by Medicine Hat Potteries that was still being sold such as Hibiscus and Rustic; and, secondly, pattern names that only appeared for one year and ones that were mentioned only a few times. I am sure that many of the thirty or so entries that I ran across are indeed valid pattern names, but others may well be nicknames or just descriptive entries such as coloured band, gold edge or mock orange.

Selected Hycroft Patterns

In newsletter issues #7 and #8 we have illustrated and discussed a dozen of more of Hycroft's dinnerware patterns. We will continue showing some of Hycroft's patterns in this issue and future ones as well, since we still have several dozen patterns that we have not yet discussed.

BLUEROSE Pattern

At present I do not know much about this pattern as I have seen it only on the No. 320-A cup. There it consisted of a single round bright blue rose and rose bud with grey leaves and grey pussy willow like clusters around. On larger pieces such as the dinner plates the pattern could well consist of more than one rose.

I should also add that I do not know for certain that this is indeed the Blue Rose pattern as the name is not found on the cups, but since it is the only blue rose



that has shown up I presume it to be that pattern.

My guess is that it will be found on the round coupe style of dishes and it is my hope that one of our readers will be able to confirm this. Surely one of our Hycroft collectors has a plate or soup bowl in this pattern! Please drop me a note or give me a phone call if you do.

The few 20 piece sets that showed up in the Hycroft invoices sold for \$3.50 in 1960 and \$3.75 in 1962

PINK ROSE Pattern

The identical pattern also can be found in pink but it is listed even fewer times in the Hycroft



invoices than the Blue Rose pattern. The pattern when found on the 320-A cup is identical to the Blue Rose except for the colour. In this instance, I think I have seen the dinner plate that goes with the cups but since it is slightly different I cannot be sure. The only listings I have for Pink Rose all date to 1962 and the 20 piece sets sold for the same price as the Blue Rose.

SPRAY ROSE Pattern

This pattern was advertised in Hycroft's 1967 price list as "our top line dinnerware featuring colorful decal-patterns with gold trim". It consists of a cluster of three open roses in dark and light shades of pink, four rose buds and





what I presume to be baby's breath around. The gold banding consists of a thick/thin banding just inside the rim with another gold stripe within roughly marking the lower edge of the rim.

As you can see in the illustration included here, taken from the 1967 price list, it was the round coupe style of dishes, and you could acquire accessories such as the 350 style teapot, the 342 creamer, the 341 sugar bowl, the 370 large oval platter and the 392 tall style salt and pepper shakers.

The dates that I recorded for this pattern were 1964-1973, but the decals were being used right through to at least 1983 as decoration on specially named pieces such as wedding anniversary plates.

Like the Blue Rose, the Spray Rose pattern also had a colour variant. It can be found in yellow but if it has a different name, I do not know what it was. There is a pattern called Yellow Rose, also illustrated herein, and as you can see it is not anything like the Spray Rose.

YELLOW ROSE Pattern

This pattern is also found on the coupe style of dishes, and it appears to have been trimmed with gold banding. This pattern is found in the centre of the flat wares, and it is best described as a brownish-yellow open rose with another opening rose nearby with stems and leaves, all mixed with some baby's breath.

In spite of its subdued colours, the Yellow Rose pattern must have been fairly popular as it was in production from 1962 to 1970. It is illustrated in the 1967 price list,



and for your interest a 53-piece set sold for \$27.25 in January 1968. Regrettably, I did not note other prices, especially the 1962-63 ones to show the increase in price over time.

The same rose pattern in the same colours and also on the coupe style of dishes is also found on the left-hand side of dishes. Whether or not it had a different pattern name due to the side location is unknown, but we do know that it was not called the Yellow Side Rose as we have a price listing illustration of that pattern.

YELLOW SIDE ROSE Pattern



This rose pattern is situated on the right-hand side of the flat wares although it can be found on the other side when used as the decorative pattern on an advertising, commemorative or anniversary plate.

It is a bright pattern when compared to the Yellow Rose pattern discussed above, and it consists of two open roses in different shades of yellow and a rose bud with a good number of dark green leaves around the roses. As usual, the domestic 20-piece place settings were trimmed with gold banding, and the set was produced on the coupe style.

BREEZE - Pattern No. 2400

Breeze was apparently a very popular pattern that was in production from 1958 to 1971. The 20-piece sets in particular were quite popular with the large department stores, and in one instance it was chosen as



a giveaway premium which I will elaborate upon a bit later.

While the Breeze Pattern was assigned the pattern No. 2400 for ordering purposes, it appears that the number was never part of the backstamp. The name Breeze was though as illustrated in the last issue of the newsletter.

On the larger plates, the pattern consists of 6 leaves gently floating to the ground. There are usually two each of yellow, blue and brown leaves, each with black stems, and they are pleasantly scattered over 2/3 of a plain white plate. The shape of the dishes is the orbit or oval shape which includes all the plates and bowls. The cup used with the set was the 320-A pattern and it was described as being in a solid blue colour. The saucer itself was round, and it may have been decorated rather than plain blue as I have seen one saucer with leaves on it. The cereal bowls were also listed as plain blue and so far I have not seen any with leaves on them.

The pattern was a hand decorated one as opposed to a silk-screened or a decal applied one, but at present I am not sure just how it was applied. Was it free painting or was it created all or in part using a stencil? That is just one of the many questions I still have to find the answer for.

I only recorded a few prices: A 20-piece set for \$3.25 in May 1958, a 53-piece set for \$11.85 in July 1958 and a 20-piece set for \$15.00 in October 1963.

The Breeze Giveaway Story

I mentioned at the start that the Breeze pattern was used for a special promotion. From September to November 1963 Canadian Propane Consolidated Limited, Calgary, bought over 150, 53-piece sets which were sent to individuals throughout the four western provinces. Most of the sets were the Breeze pattern but occasionally a set of Jack Straws, Swiss Dots, Lynn, Calico, Tartan, Denim, Cubes or Dolly Dots was shipped out. Most of the orders were for a single set of dishes, and as they were sent mainly to towns and villages throughout the West, I theorized that they were a gift from the head office in Calgary to each of their propane agents. Indeed it was the head office that was being billed for the sets at \$15.00 each, and not the individual dealers themselves.

With that in mind, I first of all looked up the company in the phone book and, of course, they were no longer listed. About my third or fourth phone call, I talked to someone at ICG Propane who confirmed that they acquired Canadian Propane Consolidated Limited sometime in the 1970s, including many of the staff. Next, I had to find an employee who was with the company in 1963, and that alone was not easy as almost 35 years had passed between the time of the promotion and my phone call. But I did eventually get the names of two employees, both retired. One was away on holidays for several months but I did get the other one right away. Unfortunately he was not much help as in 1963 he was in the service department and had never heard of anyone receiving these sets of dishes. Well that wasn't much help to me, but at least it showed that the dishes were not given to each of the company's employees.

While waiting for the other employee to return from holidays, I picked half a dozen towns not too distant from Calgary and looked up the phone numbers of the names on the invoices. I tried to pick unusual names in hopes of speeding up my quest. After all how many Anderbergs or Ducketts could there be in Brooks. Well I had no luck with the Anderbergs, but one of the Ducketts that I called was a relative of the one that I was looking for, and they advised me that they had moved to Chestermere.

After all that time, not to mention the cost

of the phone calls as there was no flat monthly fee then, I finally got in touch with a family that actually got a set of dishes. While they were fuzzy on the details, they did advise that it was a promotion, one where you got a set of dishes when you bought a propane appliance and got your tank installed. They didn't recall for sure what appliance they got but they thought it might have been a stove or a furnace as they had both on their farm near Brooks. Actually, at first, they did not even recall the dishes, but when I described the colourful falling leaves on oval shaped plates the memories came back for they still had some of those old dishes in their kitchen cupboard even though they hadn't been used for years.

To complete the story, I did get in touch with the other retired employee, and he too confirmed the giveaway although he could not add any details such as if you had to spend a minimum number of dollars or commit to buying so much propane over a period of time. Also, I talked to another recipient of the set of dishes and while he did not have any of the dishes, he did recall them. His comments were something like "I spent all that money and all I got was this cheap set of dishes that didn't last any time at all."

Later I got to look at the Hycroft correspondence regarding these dishes and unfortunately there was little additional information there. It did reveal that Hycroft shipped the dishes directly to the recipients on instruction from Canadian Consolidated Propane and that quite a number of those shipments went unclaimed due to the wrong spelling of the person's name or an incomplete address. One lady returned the whole set all because one of the 32 pieces was broken on arrival!

For your interest, it took a total of about four hours of time over a period of some three months to get the information recorded here. Perhaps that is why I wanted to share this story with you, so I would not feel that it was a total waste of time and money. Also, it was a good lesson for me as to how trying it can be to get the details on an event that only happened some 35 years ago. On the positive side, it was a lot of fun and I had some very pleasant phone visits with the people whom I contacted. •

Catch of the Year

A FUZZY OWL VASE

This beauty appeared in the Spring show in Edmonton. As is often the case at antique shows, the piece was acquired before the show opened to the public. As I heard the story, a couple of collecting friends who had been helping to set up tables decided to take a look at what was there. One went one way and the other in the opposite direction, and thank goodness for that or there well could have been an argument as to who saw it first. I'm sure that when A.B. spotted it he must have just about had a heart attack as there was no mistaking it for anything other than Medalta's fuzzy owl decoration. But where was the owner of the table? She was not in sight and since there was no way that A.B. could walk away and leave the vase there, he sat down to await the return of the dealer. In the meantime another dealer perusing the tables came by and saw it and probably gave A.B. the best advice received that day. "You'd better keep it in your hands until the owner gets back as there are others here who will grab it right out from under your nose if they see it."

Wait he did, and it was well worth the trouble and the chance of missing out on any other Medalta pieces that may have been for sale at the show as he was able to pick it up at a very reasonable \$385.00. I am sure that at auction today such a piece would go for \$1000.00 or more.

For the record the brown owls are accented against a cane background with the hills at the bottom in black and with the leaves of the tree in blues. It stands 12 inches high and is marked on the bottom with the G.19 and G.22 stamps.



Two Back Stamped Plates by Hycroft

For whatever reason several firms must have requested that the advertising or commemorative verse be placed on the underside of the plate rather than prominently on the top. It almost seems oxymoronic since the whole idea behind advertising is to place your name where the buying public can see it every time they look at the piece. And what is the purpose of marking a convention is you cannot readily read the text marking the event?

Laundry Owners Souvenir Plate

It was a pleasure to finally see a sample of the back stamped plate advertising the Laundry Owners Convention as it provided the name for another one of Hycroft's many rose patterns. The invoice for this order billed to the Medicine Hat Steam Laundry, Medicine Hat, Alberta, was for 144, 10" plates, Winston Rose #544, at \$12.00 per dozen, May 9, 1956, invoice number 1607. It gave the back stamp markings as "Laundry Owners/and/ Dry Cleaners/ Convention/Calgary/ 1956". (The slashes are mine indicating the separate lines of text.) As you can see from the illustration the markings are indeed as given on the invoice except for the upper and lower case instead of all capital lettering.

LAUNDRY OWNERS
AND
DRY CLEANERS
CONVENTION
CALGARY
1956

Hycroft
CANADA



While the pattern name and number was given on the invoice, it does not actually appear on the back of the plate. Rather it is marked with one of the plain Hycroft stamps as shown here or with no Hycroft stamp at all. I am sure though that in time samples will be found that have one of the named and numbered stamps as shown in Newsletter issue No. 7.

The Winston Rose pattern is a relatively large pink rose in the centre of a white plate

with a maroon rim trimmed with gold on either side and with another gold stripe just inside the inner edge of the rim. The pattern is produced using the Balmoral swirl edge style of dinnerware. The Laundry Owners verse is quite large measuring 5.3 cm. from the top of the first line to the bottom and it is executed in gold oxide.



J.J. Moore Advertising Plate

Twice now I have gotten lucky in being able to pick up the J.J. Moore and Sons Ltd. plate for just a couple of dollars. One of them was a Value Village special at 49 cents and the other was found in The Triple E store in Medicine Hat for just \$5.00. Neither had a Hycroft stamp on them, only the advertising. Few would know that they were indeed made by Hycroft, and perhaps I should not be letting the cat out of the bag as they will likely now be more expensive to buy in the future.

The invoice for this order indicates that 204, 8" plates, Holiday shape, with the Haliburton decal and the Moore back stamp were billed to the store at \$.25 each on Aug. 11, 1956 as per invoice no. 3455. The actual markings were not given as in the Laundry Owners plate, but everything else on the invoice matches the actual plate. The



round Holiday shape is also known as the Coupe design.

While the decal is the Haliburton one, it may not be the actual Haliburton pattern as the only piece with the pattern name on the back had a dark green band around the rim while this plate for Moore & Son Ltd. has no banding at all. I am not sure what the hazelnut bush looks like but one of the Hycroft letters suggests that Haliburton is most like the hazelnut. In the past I have described it as a leaf and flower pattern (thistle-like) in very dark green (almost black), lighter greens, brown, yellow and some white (veins of the leaves).



The back stamp which takes up a good portion of the plate's bottom measures 5.7 cm. in maximum diameter and is executed in gold oxide.

J. J. MOORE and SON LTD.
WELCOME YOU
TO
MEDICINE HAT
532 Second Street

For your interest Moore's placed another order for advertising wares in 1964. At that time they received 301 large safety ashtrays at \$.75 each. The advertising on this order lets us know that Moore's was a home furnishings business. •



Medalta's Cups & Coffee Mugs

This article examines the hotelware coffee mugs and cups made by Medalta over the years. Items such as the hot chocolate mug, baby ware cups, domestic and theatre giveaway patterns and beer steins will not be looked at now as each can serve as the focus for future articles. Also I will not look at the saucers that went with these cups as there is no way to be sure of what shape of cup went with what shape of saucer except for the pieces named to a specific restaurant.

Most of our readers are familiar with the fact that Medalta got into the production of hotelwares shortly after Ed Phillipson joined the company in late 1937. Within a year, he had developed the white burning clays located at Willows, Saskatchewan, into a product suitable for making hardy hotel china, and of course cups and mugs were one of the first service wares to be developed.

Medalta had been in the cup and mug business for many years. In fact they even thought about getting into the hotel china business as early as 1922 and produced a few wares to test their suitability. However that is another story and all I will do for now is show an ad promoting the sale of shares which I was advised was from the December 15, 1922, issue of the Moose Jaw Evening Times.

During the Depression, Medalta made a cup referred to as the relief cup, and it is my belief that this cup was one made for use in the work or relief camps that were established to give unemployed men work during the hardest years of the Depression. Unfortunately I do not know what this cup might have looked like.

Pages from Medalta's Hotel China Catalogue

The illustrated pages given herein are from the 1947 Medalta Hotel China Catalogue.

The first page discusses the Sanitas handle which at the time was a remarkable innovation for the ceramic industry. I wish

I knew what the whole machine looked like but unfortunately I have never run across a picture of it, and the machine itself is not among the original Medalta equipment preserved at the Interpretive Centre. When Medalta closed its doors in 1954, it was one of the few pieces of equipment that had any real value attached to it. Phillipson's patented method and apparatus for making the Sanitas cups and mugs was sold for \$110,000.00.

The ad really tells it all "No more handles separating from Cups and no more crevices around handles". Until the invention of this process,

cups were made in two pieces, the cup body itself and the handle which was then attached to the cup with a clay slurry. If the attachment was not just right you could get a separation of the two during the drying or firing stages of production. The poorly attached handles are readily recognizable as a crack or cracks appear in the glaze around the points where the handle attaches to the body. In extreme cases where the handle fully separates and falls off, the handle was basically only being held to the cup by the glaze and nothing else, likely because the melding slurry was too dry at the time of application.

Medalta's Cups

The next two pages show the shapes and gives the names of the cups marketed by Medalta from the mid 1940's onward. Some of these cups were undoubtedly made as early as 1938 or 1939 although the earliest actual reference I have is 1940. The Medalta records are all but missing for 1938

and 1939 but I believe that the Medalta stamps found on some cups confirms the earlier manufacture. The following summarizes the information that I have, but the dates could well be off by a year or two.

- Dominion cup, handled and unhandled, 1938-1954, various heights recorded
- Saxon cup, handled and unhandled, 1938-1954, various heights recorded
- Worcester cup, handled, 1947-1954, unhandled variety may be present but unrecognized due to similarity to the Dominion shape
- Ovide cup, handled and unhandled, 1938-1954
- Demi Tasse, handled and unhandled, 1938-1954
- Pacific cup, handled, 1947-1954, unhandled variety not yet recorded
- Kermis cup, handled and unhandled, 1938-1954
- Bouillon cup, handled variety only, 1938-1954

MEDALTA POTTERIES Ltd.
MEDICINE HAT

—The company now manufactures three-quarters of the pottery made in Canada.

—Their products are sold from coast to coast.

—A plant is to be built to manufacture White Dishes from Saskatchewan White Burning Clay.

—The public is being offered one thousand \$100 shares.

—Call and see sample of white dishes made in the plant.

OFFICE:
309 SCOTT BLK.
F. STEWART
Local Representative
C. W. SMITH
Direct Rep. of the Company

Medalta

THE CUP THAT CHEERS AND WEARS

No more handles separating from Cups and no more crevices around handles.

A TRULY SANITAS HANDLED CUP AT NO EXTRA COST

Dominion, Saxon, Ovide, Worcester and Pacific Cups and Coffee Mugs are now being made by Medalta with a truly Sanitas handle. This method of manufacture is being done by a Medalta patented process, as illustrated below.

The handle is an integral part of the Cup and eliminates the possibility of handles breaking from Cups, and what is more important there are no crevices on top and sides of handle to collect bacteria.



Medalta cups as they leave the forming molds — one piece of clay
(Dominion Shape illustrated)



Partly dried cup in "Green Clay"
Patented Medalta-designed machine shapes handles
Illustration shows partly formed handle



Finished Medalta Cup. One piece handle. A truly Sanitas handle — strong — neat — smooth — sanitary.
No crevices on top or sides.

Medalta

TEA CUPS, COFFEE CUPS, BOUILLON CUPS,
DEMI TASSE, UNHANDLED CUPS & COFFEE MUGSPlain White,
Green Band, Red Band
and Slip Coloured

Dominion Cups
7 oz.
CAT. No.
W100 - White
GB100 - Green Band
RB100 - Red Band
S100 - Slipware

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.



Saxon Cups
8 oz.
CAT. No.
W101 - White
GB101 - Green Band
RB101 - Red Band
S101 - Slipware

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.



Worcester Cup
6 1/2 oz.
CAT. No.
W102 - White
GB102 - Green Band
RB102 - Red Band
S102 - Slipware

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.

Ovide Cup
6 1/2 oz.

CAT. No.
W103 - White
GB103 - Green Band
RB103 - Red Band
S103 - Slipware



Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.

**Demi Tasse
or A.D. Cup** 3 oz.

CAT. No.
W106 - White
GB106 - Green Band
RB106 - Red Band
S106 - Slipware



Packed 14 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 50 lbs. per carton.

All Hotel, Restaurant China and Ovenware
are packed in convenient sized cartons for distribution

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All of the cups illustrated in the hotel china catalogue were likely being made by 1938 except for the Worcester and the Pacific shapes. But in addition to these shapes, the Medalta records mention several others. Just what they look like is still a problem, and to date I do not have three other shapes that may be these pieces. For the record, the names that I ran across were the Alpine, Alberta and Wycollar cups.

The name of the cup illustrated here is not known, and as the sample size is based on only three specimens at present, I do not know its date range. The stamp on all of the cups was the G.33 small variety which does not help date the pieces very well as that stamp first used about 1941 may have remained in use until 1954. In shape, the cup is similar to the Worcester in having fairly straight sides but the handle is quite different in not having the spur on the



Medalta

TEA CUPS, COFFEE CUPS, BOUILLON CUPS,
DEMI TASSE, UNHANDLED CUPS & COFFEE MUGSPlain White,
Green Band, Red Band
and Slip Coloured

Pacific Cup
6 oz.
CAT. No.
W104 - White
GB104 - Green Band
RB104 - Red Band
S104 - Slipware

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.



Kermis Cup
8 oz.
CAT. No.
W105 - White
GB105 - Green Band
RB105 - Red Band
S105 - Slipware

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.

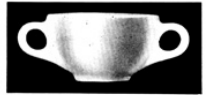


Unhandled Cups
Any of the preceding shapes Cat. No. same as handled cup with Suffix U.
Such as: Dominion unhandled W - 100/U

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.

Bouillon Cup
6 1/2 oz.

CAT. No.
W107 - White
GB107 - Green Band
RB107 - Red Band
S107 - Slipware



Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 60 lbs. per carton.

Small Coffee Mugs - 6 1/2 oz.

CAT. No.
W109 - White
GB109 - Green Band
RB109 - Red Band
S109 - Slipware



Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 70 lbs. per carton.



Large Coffee Mugs - 8 oz.

CAT. No.
W108 - White
GB108 - Green Band
RB108 - Red Band
S108 - Slipware

Packed 6 doz. to carton.
Shipping weight approx. 75 lbs. per carton.

All Hotel, Restaurant China and Ovenware
are packed in convenient sized cartons for distribution

4

lower side and in being more delicate. The cup measures 2 5/8" in height and is finished in the thick/thin/thin green band pattern.

The Glenbow Museum has another green band cup in its collection that is different from any of the shapes shown here. Unfortunately I do not have a picture of it, but if I can get one I will show it in a later issue.

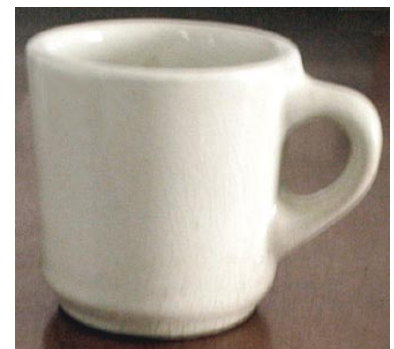
Coffee Mugs

As you can see from the illustrated pages Medalta had two shapes of coffee mugs. They are simply referred to as a small (6.5 oz.) and a large coffee mug (8 oz.) but I prefer to call them the straight sided and the flared base mug. In the next issue of the newsletter I will be giving a listing of the restaurant names that can be found on these mugs and I will be referring to them by my preferred names.

The straight sided mug appears to be a later addition as the stamps recorded on the samples which I have seen date it

from 1947 to 1954 only. The flared base or larger mug, on the other hand, dates from 1938 to 1954.

In addition to these mugs, the Medalta records make mention of a stacking mug. As you can see from the picture included here, the stacking mug is similar to the Saxon cup in shape. It differs in the sides being a little straighter and the handle more substantial. It also measures about 1/4 inch bigger in both its height and in the diameter across the top. The Medalta stamps found on stacking mugs suggest a date range from 1938 to 1947 which probably explains its absence from the 1947 hotelware catalogue. •



Results of Recent Hall's Auctions

April 24 Sale

The April 24 auction of the Pat Sonntag/Barry Shefernack pottery collection must of been a disappointment to the owners as in my opinion so many of the pieces went far too low. It was truly a buyers market for most pieces with many of the items going for half of what dealers would be asking for the same piece. On the other hand, some pieces went quite high. They, of course, were the rare and highly decorated pieces or ones with advertising on them.

I am not going to dwell on this sale as it is now old hat, but I will list the 14 pieces that sold for over \$300.00. My prediction that the teapot with the hand painted mill decoration would be the priciest item in the sale came true as it went for about \$940.00 including the buyers premium and GST. This, as far as I know, is a new high for a decorated teapot.

The Over 400 Club

- tankard style pitcher, mill decoration, advertising J.A. Watt, Sintaluta, Sask. \$501.00
- teapot with Lake Louise decoration, no lid \$456.00
- Betty vase, style no. 70, lacquered peach decoration \$525.00
- 3 gallon grey stoneware ice water cooler named to E.N. Moyer \$342.00
- Asia vase, style no. 2, 12" size, lacquered silver buffalo berry on green \$365.00
- 1 pint ship style pitcher, Kwong Hing Lung Co., Vernon, B.C., handpainted cottage design, lettering badly smudged \$342.00
- small sized refrigerator jar with lid, stencilled cottage design, unstamped \$365.00
- 5 gallon grey stoneware ice water cooler named to Moyer's School Supply \$456.00
- vase no. 69, lacquered silver buffalo berry on a speckled black \$353.00
- hat ashtray with embossed Stetson Hats advertising \$376.00
- 2 pint ship style pitcher, coal tipple decoration, advertising Toshach's \$427.00
- teapot with hand painted mill decoration \$940.00
- cracker box with lacquered stork decoration \$501.00
- 1½ pint tankard pitcher with black silhouette owl decoration \$399.00

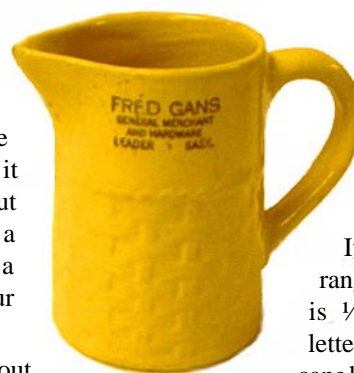
June 12 Sale

While I have no quick way to compare the outcomes of the two sales, I got the distinct feeling that the June sale was even better than the April one when it came to finding bargains. Many pieces went far too low at bargain basement prices. Some vases that normally sell in the \$75.00 to \$150.00 range went for \$50.00 or less. For example consider the following glazed vases: no. 64 unstamped \$35.00, no. 504 \$45.00, no. 90 Mikado but unstamped \$35.00, no. 75 \$23.00, no. 76 vase unstamped \$35.00, no. 97 \$35.00 & the sleigh shaped planter \$35.00. Lacquered ones were usually a bit higher but not always.



Can you imagine an Ogilvie's advertising pitcher going for \$23.00? Well one did. It was the style no. 84 basket weave pitcher with advertising just below the rim for the Hanna Cooperative Association. Admittedly it was cracked and chipped but nevertheless that was a ridiculously low price for a pitcher of which less than four examples are known.

I could go on for ever about the bargains at this sale as there were more good deals than anything else in this sale. The high priced items were few and far between but for the record I will once again list the ones selling for over \$300.00. I could make my list from \$200.00 onward as there were only another 10 or 11 items in the \$200-300.00 range, but rather I will use the space to illustrate some of the sale pieces.



The Over 300 Club

- 6 cup globe style teapot with silhouette owl decoration \$798.00
- square pitcher advertising Toshach's store and the 1939 Royal visit \$798.00
- vase no. 107, hand made, lacquered coloured sailboat decoration \$712.00
- vase no. 101, lacquered coloured



sailboat decoration \$542.00

- old style beer stein, 1937 coronation commemorative \$501.00
- vase no. 96, lacquered floral on black speckled with silver \$387.00
- pair of Indian heads made by Jack Fuller, "Made in Banff" on the back \$365.00

Some Highlights of the Sale

Not included in the 300 club was the basket weave pitcher advertising Fred Gans, General Merchant and Hardware located in Leader, Saskatchewan.

It just missed the \$300.00 range coming in at \$285.00. It is ½ pint in size and the lettering is in brown on a plain cane background. By the stamp on the bottom and the date of production for this product, it dates 1938-1940.

Another bargain in my opinion was the corrugated mixing bowl with the underglaze floral decoration. It was only \$240.00 and even though the white lining (interior) was chipped and stained it was still a very good buy at this price. In the not



too distant past a similar bowl with this floral decoration, also well used on the interior, sold for \$375.00.

I expected the owl teapot to go high and it did, but the real surprise, to me at least, was the Toshach square pitcher which tied for the top price of \$798.00. The teapot needs little comment other than its size and markings. The teapot is the round globe style, it is size 24 or 8 cups and it is marked on the bottom with C.22 and G.22 stamps. The production date would be 1930 to 1932.



I have included illustrations of the four advertising panels found on the Toshach pitcher. Three of the sides advertise the store itself and the products sold there, while the fourth panel commemorates the Royal visit of 1939. I am not sure if the 'Royals' were in the town of Drumheller or not, but likely they were with this panel being included on the pitcher.

The pitcher stands 6 5/8" high and likely holds 3 pints although I have never actually measured the contents to be sure. Both the spout and the handle have decorative incised work on them. The lettering is in brown accented against the honey coloured background. The Medalta stamp found on the bottom is the G.33 one.

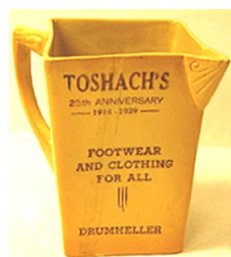
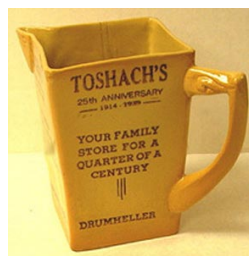
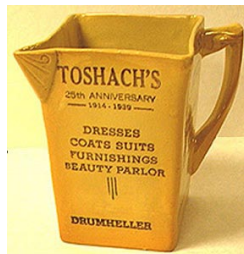
The reason for my surprise at the price realized was the fact that the pitcher had a hairline crack on one side running from the top right down

to the bottom. It had no chips, but nevertheless it seemed like a high price to pay for a cracked piece. In total I have recorded only 10 of these pitchers, and all but three of them had some chipping on them.

I should point out that I have never seen this pitcher in a plain colour or with any other advertising on it. It appears to have been an exclusive made this one time in 1939 for Toshach's. In one of my discussions with Ed Phillipson, he advised me that Medalta did not like to make pieces with sharp corners due to the extra time that it took to finish them. While it is true that the customer got billed for this time, such work was not encouraged as it took time away from

much more profitable endeavours. I also suspect that another reason for not making more of this style of pitcher was the fact that it was readily cracked, chipped or broken due to its relatively thin walls.

The last item which I will illustrate from the sale is the beer stein or mug commemorating the 1937 Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. It is produced in the sought after honey coloured glaze with the lettering being in brown. I have only recorded five examples of this 5 1/8" high mug to date, and all were marked with the same Medalta stamp, G.30.a. The same commemorative wording and layout except for slight size differences can be found on a teapot and on the two piece ashtray. •



Continued from page 1

names. There are Dolly Dots, Swiss Dots and Polka Dots as well as Fantasia, Indian Blanket and Doodles. The popular Calico is displayed in its assorted colors of pink, burgundy, yellow, blue and light and dark green. We acquired Top o' the Morn recently as well as the Reflection pattern."

In another area close by, the museum is soliciting the help of the museum visitors, and especially the local residents who worked in the factory, to identify the several dozen patterns for which the name and pattern number are presently unknown. Hopefully this endeavour will bear fruit and I will be able to pass along the names of some of these unknown patterns in future issues of the newsletter.

Restoration of the Medalta kilns is continuing but at least one of them is open for your viewing and it is worth a look see if you have never seen the insides of a downdraft kiln before. One of the Alberta Clay Product kilns is also open for viewing and it is found just a hundred feet or so from the front door of the Hycroft plant. •



Questions & Answers

A Crock From The Woods

Email May 11, 2000 from B.M.

Hello: I live in Miramichi, New Brunswick, and I hope you can answer a question for me. Yesterday while walking our dog in the woods nearby I saw a crock partly buried and when I dug it up it was in perfect condition except for a hairline crack (it doesn't leak as it held water all night at the same level). It's marked Medalta and on the side is number 3 with Imperial below. Can you tell me its age and approximate value? Thank for your trouble.

Dear Bessie:

Medalta Potteries Limited made crocks from 1924 right through to 1954 when the company went out of business. (Crocks made from 1916-1924) were marked with the previous company's name Medalta Stoneware Limited.) As yours is marked Imperial we know that it dates 1927 or later as 1926-1927 is when Medalta changed from the American wine measure to the British Imperial measure. The Medalta stamp placed on crocks did not significantly change over time so, at present, we cannot pin the date down more precisely.

Cracks or chips affect value and even though the crack on yours does not leak at present it may open and do so in the future. Perhaps the crack is presently being sealed by calcium carbonate or some other naturally occurring compound in the ground. For crocks in good useable condition

the value is in the \$35.00 to \$50.00 range in western Canada. A lid would increase the value by around \$15.00.

I am not surprised that the crock was in good condition in spite of being buried in the ground. One of the advertised advantages of Medalta's stonewares was that they were acid proof and therefore soil acids would have little effect upon a buried crock.

I hope that this information is helpful to you and thanks for letting me know about your find in the woods. *Ron Getty •*

Hycroft's Fluted Mixing Bowls

Email June 21, 2000 from Fran L.

Hi, I have a set of three mixing bowls and was wondering if you could provide me with any information about them? I know they were made at a plant in Medicine Hat. There is a 7" bowl in blue, a 9" bowl in green and an 11" bowl in yellow, as pictured below. They are in quite good shape, no chips etc. Is there a way to find out what year they were made and their value? I'm just curious. Thanks, F.L.

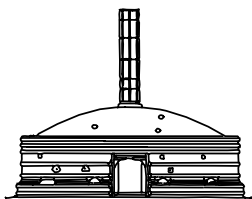


Hello Fran:

The bowls you have were made by Hycroft China Limited from 1960 to 1969. The colours that you have are the common ones and they were usually sold as a set of three nested bowls in those colours. The colours do not relate to size as any one size could be found in any of the three colours as indicated by some of the Hycroft invoices. I have also seen cane coloured bowls. They are seldom marked with the Hycroft name but some are, and others can be marked with just the name CANADA and the size.

The illustration of the nested bowls included here is taken from a 1957 Hycroft price list where the bowls are listed under the stoneware section. At that time they were listed at 20, 35 and 55 cents for each of the three sizes, and the colours mentioned included pink in addition to the blue, green and yellow which you have. The reason I have given the date range as 1960-1969 rather than 1957-1969 is that the spiral fluted bowls do not appear in the Hycroft invoices for the years 1958-1959 and I cannot be sure if there were any actual sales in 1957.

Hycroft is not yet collectable and even less so when no factory stamp or name appears on the piece. Price wise they go for \$25.00 to \$50.00 each, the larger ones at the top of the range as the 9 and 11" sizes are the ones that people use most. Personally I like the design of this bowl and its bright colours but for whatever reason you do not yet see them at antique/collectible shows. Hope this helps you. *Sincerely, Ronald Getty •*



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