

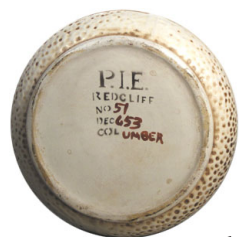
## A Couple of PIE Finds

Since the last newsletter, a couple of vases made by Provincial Industrial Enterprises, or PIE as most of us know it, have been found by collectors. The first one shown here was found at the antique show held at Tsawwassen, British Columbia. Even though it has been broken and repaired at the rim, it is nevertheless a nice piece, especially at the bargain basement price of \$10.00.



The dealer obviously did not know what he had as, in my opinion, even a broken vase would be worth \$100.00 or more as they are so hard to find.

The vase stands 9 1/4-inches high and is finished using coloured lacquers.



The base colour is cream with the low areas of the relief design filled with a brown wash accenting the hammered brass decoration around the base, the rose and

leaf decoration on the bulbous body and the geometric pattern (perhaps a stylized floral design) on the neck.

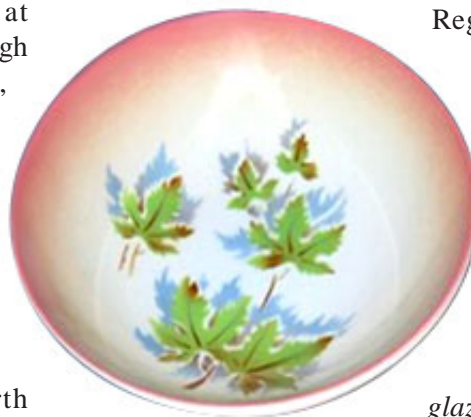
The markings on the bottom are pretty well self explanatory with the style number being 51, the decoration number 653 and the colour UMBER. The PIE stamp itself is in black with the added markings in a brown, likely umber.

Previously I had recorded one other example of this vase, one in the collections of the Glenbow Museum. It was similarly stamped giving the style/decoration and colour code as "51, 652 and SILVER".

The second piece was obtained at a garage sale in Calgary, and it too was broken, in fact more so than the B.C. find as it has several cracks running from the rim to the bottom where they encircle the base. In addition it has two old chips from the rim and also some

## An Attractive MHP Pattern

I truly enjoy watching ebay, not to see what pieces sell for, but rather for the new shapes, patterns, and decorations that continue to surface. This 6 1/2-inch cereal bowl is one such item.



Regretfully a black and white picture does not do it justice as it really is quite colourful. The vendor did a good job of describing it as having "an excellent peach glaze around the inside edge that fades to a beige

at the bottom. The leaf clusters are in blue, green, rust and some light brown. The exterior is white and the pin firing marks are at the rim. The logo is in great shape. Overall condition is Excellent to Mint. No chips, crazing, cracks or fading."

What he described as peach looks pink to me and I might have mentioned that the blue leaves are actually shadows of the green and brown maple leaves.



Presently, we know far too little about the decorative patterns produced by Medicine Hat Potteries. Few pieces actually have pattern names on them, including this one. •

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loss of the lacquer paints on the decoration side. But once again, it is still a good find at a couple of dollars and in my opinion still worth about \$75.00 as the breaks were clean and the pieces were carefully and tightly glued back together.

The finder, B.G. of Calgary, generously donated this piece



to the Friends of Medalta Society. In spite of its cracks, it is still a good reference and display piece. This brings the number of PIE pieces in the FOMS's collections to four, comprised of three different shapes.

Once again the PIE stamp is in black, but in this instance the added markings are in gold.

The markings are 4, 598 and 504 for the style no. or shape, decoration and colour respectively. The catalogue description is as follows:

*Style no. 4 vase, Provincial Industrial Enterprises, later taken over by Medalta and assigned style no. 93 by Medalta, lacquered geometric decoration with each of the geometric patterns edged in gold, starting from the rim is a dark blue drape background, the dark blue drape ending in rectangular bars, balls and V-shaped, on the dark blue a bright red in irregular geometric shapes, extending from the bottom of the blue drape other geometric shapes in green comprised of V-shaped, chevrons, balls and a bar, the whole placed over a lighter blue base covered with small white mottles (Medalta would likely call the colour sandy blue), gold trim around the rim and another gold stripe around the bottom of the neck separating the neck from the globular body, 6.75" high. •*



## Yet Another Medalta Vase

Holy Smokes, you never know what will come out of the attic. Just look at this beauty finished with the brown handpainted mill decoration against the usual honey background.

Even if it was not marked on the bottom with the large, maple-leaf stamp, one would just know that it was a Medalta piece.

I really cannot tell you much about it, other than the fact that it showed up at a garage sale in the City of Calgary, and it was not alone. It was one of a pair, this one in mint condition while the other one was cracked. Originally it was priced at just a buck, but that quickly jumped to \$250.00 which, in my opinion, is still an exceptional bargain.

The vase stands 8 1/4-inches high and measures 2 1/16-inches in diameter across the base.

I must presume that the pair of vases was made as prototypes that never went into full production or surely we would have seen the shape before now. If not prototypes, perhaps they were made for personal use by an employee, or made to fill a special request. What we do know is that they were hand thrown and that they date to the early 1930s. Present evidence suggests that the mill decoration was introduced in 1930 and discontinued by 1934.

What happened to the cracked second one? I do not know, but it is out there somewhere for a lucky collector to pick up some day.



## 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 usually includes a Hycroft and Medalta section. Other columns will bring you reports regarding Alberta Potteries (Wyatt and Yuill), Athabasca Potteries, Medicine Hat Potteries (Little Chief), Medalta (1966) Ltd., Provincial Industrial Enterprises (PIE) or Sunburst Ceramics, and our question and answer column will reply to inquiries from our readers and museum visitors.

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## Hycroft's Safeway Collectibles

The low Stetson hat shown here recently sold on ebay for about \$13.50 Canadian, but what caught my eye was its fanciful description. If you have no idea what the markings on a piece stand for, just make it up as you go! Below is the description as given by the seller,

*"...Here is a wonderful piece of Hycroft Pottery of Medicine Hat, Alberta. It is a very nice souvenir Cowboy Hat advertising the Safeway logo on the front along with the name of Eugene Woronchuk with W.C.F.P.B.A. and dated Calgary 1966. I do not know what the initials stand for but being a cowboy hat, I assume it has something to do with The Calgary Stampede, but I could be wrong.*

*Being with the Safeway logo I would also guess this guy is a Chuck Wagon racer at the Calgary Stampede. Who Knows??? If you collect Hycroft Pottery, this would make a wonderful addition to your collection and an older piece as well being 1966. A great advertising piece. It's in great condition with no chips or cracks. The buyer adds \$5.50 for p&h for safe wrapping..."*

Presumably, the seller thought the item might get more bids, and perhaps even higher ones, if it was listed as a Stampede item as well as a Safeway collectible, but that does not appear to have been the case as \$13.50 is well within the average price for Hycroft hats.

After the auction, I contacted the buyer to let him/her know what

W.C.F.P.B.A. stands for, as well as the number of hats ordered at the time. Invoice no. 8505, dated 25 March 1966 and sent to the Western Canada

Five-Pin Bowling Association, Calgary, was for 405 white hats, with lettering in gold, at \$.75 each. It describes the markings as having the Safeway "S" brand on the crown of the hat along with "W.C.F.P.B.A., CALGARY 1966" on the hat.

A private collector has several similar hats that are likely marked the same as the one shown here except for the date. Unfortunately, his collection is packed in boxes preventing me from checking the actual layout and getting a photograph of the pieces. However, his computer lists one of the hats as "W.C.F.P.B.A./CALGARY 1960/M. TRELEVAN" but it does not mention the Safeway logo or give the specific placement of the markings. The order for these hats, billed to Safeway Stores Limited, Calgary, was for 300 white hat ashtrays with the red Safeway crest & individually personalized (no details given) at \$1.10 each on the 28 March 1960 (6316). In addition another 24 white hat ashtrays with gold and the Safeway crest, but not personalized, were billed and sent to Mr. C.C.

Baldwin of Calgary on March 28, 1960 (6315) at \$1.00 each.

The last Hycroft-made Safeway collectible that I have recorded is an M-3 cof-

fee mug. Three of these mugs were donated to the FOMS in the year 2000, two in yellow as shown here and the other in blue. The catalogue description is as follows:

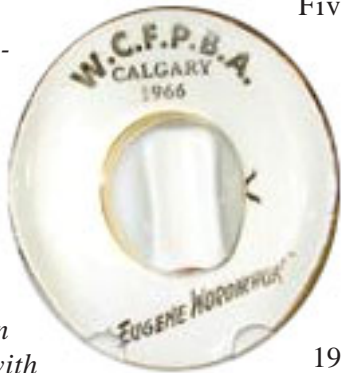
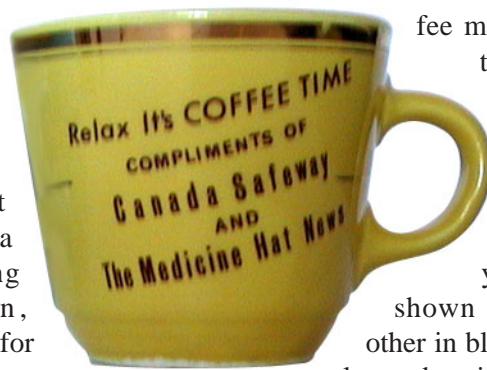
"on one side angling upward to the right "Relax It's COFFEE TIME/ COMPLIMENTS OF/Canada Safeway/AND/The Medicine Hat News" all in brown on a yellow/white lined mug with thick/thin gold banding around the rim & with another broken gold stripe around the middle, in the bottom are the words "HAPPY/SHOPPING" in gold."

All were marked with the common 22K gold Hycroft stamp.

So far I have not been able to identify the invoice record for these mugs. If Safeway had been billed for them, I be-

lieve that I would have found the invoice. Therefore it seems likely that the billing was to The Medicine Hat News and its orders number several hundreds, most with few or little details given.

I phoned the donor Mrs. J. T., September 2003, and she reported that the items came from a cabin that they bought in Elkwater just a bit before the donation was made. All were found in the kitchen cupboards left there by the previous owner, now deceased. The three Hycroft "Happy Shopping" mugs were in the back of one cupboard and they looked as if they had never been used. She suspects that they were a special promotion, but she has no actual knowledge of their origin. •



## Three Stoneware Oddities By Medalta

by Bill Kellett

Throughout Medalta's almost forty years of pottery manufacturing, stoneware items (largely crocks and jugs) constituted the greater part of the company's production. One commonly finds crocks of varying sizes as well as jugs, bean pots and hot water bottles (sometimes called 'pigs') in antique shops and shows, and the frequency with which they are found certainly attests to the prodigious numbers in which the items were produced!

Every now and again, however, a piece turns up which is of a very specialized nature and was thus produced in very small quantities. Here are three such pieces that I thought other collectors would like to know about, since I've never seen any of these items in any other collections that I have viewed.

### Item One

This unmarked piece stands slightly over nine inches tall and appears to have been made using Medalta's half gallon jug mould. Its colouring and manufacturing method

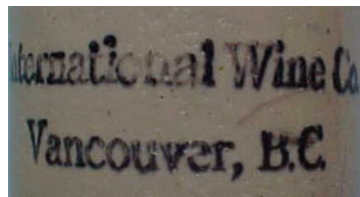
is consistent with those used by Medalta. Perhaps its intended use was as a feeder of some sort, since it has a hole located near its base. It also has a knob on top which is similar to



those used on Medalta's hot water bottles. If this item is a feeder, however, one would expect the piece to have no bottom; instead this piece has a bottom exactly like one would find on a regular Medalta half gallon jug. So the big question, then, is "What the heck is it?" I would certainly be interested in hearing from anyone who can assign a use to this piece!!

### Item Two:

The second item is also unmarked, but Medalta is known to have produced one hundred wine coolers for The International Wine Company of Vancouver in 1928, and I am quite certain that this is one of those one hundred coolers!



The piece stands about nine and three quarter inches in height and measures about three and one half inches across. It too has a hole (measuring about three quarters of an inch) near its base, which presumably was intended to accommodate a spigot. I've attempted to find a listing for The International Wine Company in my 1934 British Columbia directory, but the company does not appear to be listed in that year.

### Item Three

The third item I would like to share with you is a half gallon crock that bears a Sunburst, Medicine Hat oxide stamp. This is unusual since the mark is rendered in red oxide, which is uncommon

for Sunburst items. It also bears a Medalta impressed mark in its underside! This is obviously one of the Medalta moulds utilized by Sunburst after they began production in the Medalta plant. Like the two items previously discussed, this piece also has a hole near the base probably intended to accommodate a spigot.



While this piece actually is marked with a Sunburst stamp, it should still be of interest to Medalta collectors since it is obviously from a Medalta mould! Incidentally this item was acquired on ebay and there was one bidder other than myself who placed a bid on this item, which, due to its rarity, I find most surprising!!

It would be interesting to hear about stoneware oddities that other collectors have turned up. I am also interested in information on any of the three items covered in the article.

Anyone with information to share can contact Bill Kellett at 604-859-0753, and thanks for the article Bill. The editor.

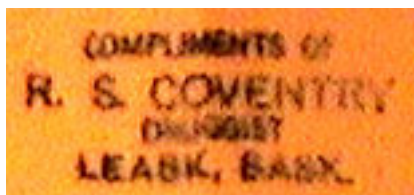
## COP's Best

It almost seems like an old story now to mention the Canada Olympic Park Antique Show held in mid July, but I think one piece found at that show is rare enough to share with you.

I will have to call this the best of the show as I did not see or hear about any exceptional pieces of pottery made in Alberta. I did look at a couple of other interesting pieces that were likely advertising pieces made by Jessie Wyatt, but as they were unmarked and not even a known shape made by Wyatt's Alberta Pottery Limited, I cannot be sure of their origin. These two pieces were what can best be described as Azalea or flower pots.



Recently, I talked to the new owner of these pots and thanks to the pictures and information that was sent to me, I can now show them to you. Both are made using a yellow-burning clay, both have a central hole in the bottom and both have an impressed number in the bottom, one '5' and the other '6'. The advertising on the side is identical, although the smaller one has smudged lettering. They say "COMPLIMENTS OF R.S. COVENTRY/ DRUGGIST/ LEASK, SASK."



Why do I attribute these to Wyatt? Several reasons: firstly the overall design, then their colour and finally the fact that they were glazed. Applying a clear glaze to bring out the natural colour of the clay was a decorative technique used by Wyatt, but if Medalta ever glazed their yellow flowerpots, I have yet to see one. Also, I am not aware of any advertising flowerpots made by Medalta.

Why a druggist would select a flowerpot for a giveaway escapes me, but I am sure that there must have been a good reason. Perhaps he felt it was inappropriate to give out ashtrays, or maybe it was just a matter of cost as I

am sure that flowerpots would have been much cheaper than other items such as a mixing bowl.

However those pots are not what I wanted to show you. What I thought was the best piece was an early bulb bowl made by Medalta. As you can see it is

the bulb bowl that is finished on the exterior with what I call the hammered brass design and decorated around the top half with 4 embossed shield-shapes, each shield with three floral rosettes and leaves within its borders. It sits on three little conical-shaped feet extending from the base, and measures 3 5/8-inches high x 6 1/4-inches in diameter across the opening at the top.

To show the design more clearly I have also included a picture of the

same bulb bowl finished in coloured lacquer paints. It is basically an off-white with the low areas of the hammered-brass body in brown, with the outline of the shield in green (as are the leaves within) and with the three flowers in red.

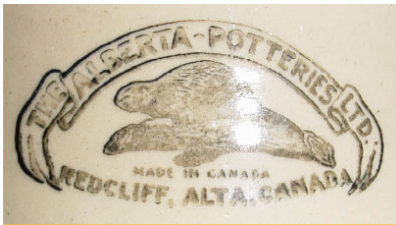
The one at the show however was a glazed one, and not only that, but also glazed in Medalta's royal blue or cobalt. Previously I had recorded five of these bulb bowls, but all were in lacquer finishes. This is the first glazed example that I have recorded and that really is what caught my eye at the show.

As there was no maker's mark on the bowl at all, the dealer did not even know what she had. In fact she thought it was an early English piece and advertised it as such. Her asking price in spite of no identifying marks was fairly high at \$225.00, but for a glazed example of Medalta's early bulb bowl, I do not think it was out of line. •



## A Puzzling Alberta Potteries (WYATT) Piece

What is this? That is the question that one of our readers asked me and as is often the case I had no idea. I fully expect to run across new decorations, and new advertising, but after some 25 years of looking at Alberta made pottery I am truly surprised that altogether new forms are still showing up.



As you can see from the picture it is more or less shaped liked a shouldered jug, but it is open at both ends. Without a closed base, it is obviously not a vessel to hold liquid of any sort, and it appears to be the wrong proportions for a funnel, not to mention that the beaver stamp would be in the upside down position if used as a funnel. Another puzzling fact to me is the groove encircling the neck just below the rim.



In the search for an answer, I asked our reader to share a picture of this item with our resident stoneware expert, Tony Schlachter. Tony has more stoneware than any other collector I know (although there are a couple of collectors that are at least close in Medalta's stoneware), but he too was stumped by this one.

So now we ask the rest of you to share any information that you might have on this piece with the rest of us. Hopefully someone has run across an illustration of a similar piece made by some other pottery company that would help to explain the purpose of this item.

For the record it stands a total of 13 inches high, with 8½ inches of that being the height from the base to the shoulder. The diameter at the bottom

*Cont'd on page 7*

## The International Wine Co. Letters

This is a good time to share the letters pertaining to the International Wine Co. order with you. Perhaps other orders followed later, but for sure, we know that at least one hundred were made and shipped to Vancouver. Several other letters mention the Wine Co. jar, but as they did not add to the description, they were not reproduced here.

As I cannot really add anything to what is in the letters, I will let them speak for themselves. •

A. G. RAMSAY

TELEPHONE SEYMOUR 1099

J. I. MUSGRAVE

### INTERNATIONAL WINE CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
FAMOUS GOLD BAND BRAND  
CIDER, NON-ALCHOLIC WINES & FOUNTAIN SYRUPS

1004 MAINLAND STREET

VANCOUVER, B.C., Feb. 4 1928

Messrs. Medalta Stoneware Products Ltd.,  
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Dear Sirs,

Can you supply us with plain round glazed stoneware jars, 3 1/2 inches inside diameter, 10 inches tall, with 3/4 inch hole about 1 1/2 inches from outside bottom, as per sketch attached?

We require them for cooling chambers in connection with beverage coolers. Possibly you may stock a similar jar which we could adapt to our purpose. If so kindly describe.

Eventually we expect to need a large number of these, but for the present kindly quote us on lots of one hundred, three hundred and five hundred respectively, and let us have some idea of how soon you could ship after we place an order with you.

We can obtain these from the United States but prefer to buy in Canada if we can obtain what we want in a reasonable time. A prompt reply will be very greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

International Wine Co.,

per

AGR/J

Cont'd from page 6

## Follow-Up: Ash Tray, Hanging Basket

is 6¼ inches and 7¾ inches for the inside and outside measurements. The top measures 1 1/8 inches by 1 7/8 inches, inside and out, while the 5/16 inch wide groove around the neck is placed 5/8 of an inch down from the top. It is fully glazed gray stoneware.

As to its selling price, it cost \$100.00. I suspect that the dealer had no idea that it was one of a kind, but anything with Wyatt's beaver stamp on it tends to sell well. •

### The Kamloops Ashtray:

Within days of the printing of the last newsletter, one of Hycroft's small, round, flat ashtrays that was listed as not yet seen showed up on ebay. It was the one for Kamloops, British Columbia, and in this instance the naming was in red, horizontally placed across the top rim segment of the white ashtray. The black Mountie decal was placed in the centre as was typi-



cal for such ashtrays, the rim was trimmed with gold and the factory back-stamp was the common "22K GOLD" one used by Hycroft.

The ashtray effectively got no bids as it, along with a 9 1/2-inch plate sold for about \$6.00 Canadian. Considering that the only order that I found was for just 12 of these ashtrays, someone got a scarce item at a very good price.

### Medalta's Hanging Basket:

It was a pleasure to see a Medalta hanging basket show up at the recent Blue Mountain Antique show in Calgary, especially since it was the smallest one, the size I had not previously had a chance to record. The asking price was \$80.00 but apparently the dealer settled for about \$20.00 less.

Previously, I had recorded the 12 and 14-inch sizes as about 13 1/4-inches and 14 3/4-inches in diameter respectively with both standing about 6 1/2-inches high (see newsletter no. 20). This, the 10-inch size, measures 10 3/4-inches in diameter by about 5 1/2-inches high. It, like all other samples that I have seen, was made using a yellow-burning clay that was left unglazed, although thanks to extensive use it is presently more brown than yellow.

Out of curiosity I asked the vendor if she knew who made the basket, and she quickly replied that it was probably Medalta as they made most things like that found in Saskatchewan. I was hoping that she had become knowledgeable on the subject thanks to the newsletter, but that was not the case. •



### CASSIDY'S, LIMITED

IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS

FINE CHINA, RICE CUT GLASS, SILVERWARE, CROCKERY, LAMP GOODS, GLASSWARE  
KITCHENWARE, DOLLS, TOYS, FANCY GOODS

CORNER DAVIE AND HAMILTON STS.

VANCOUVER  
CANADA

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COMPANY  
IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO FILE NO

February 12th/1928.

Medalta Stoneware Ltd.  
Medicine Hat, Alta.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to Correspondence in connection with Stone Cylinders similar to those used by the Dalton Spice Company of Toronto, on receipt of your letter today correcting former quotation on the moulds, we discussed the matter with the International Wine Company and have received a trial order for 100 only cylinders as per the following specifications:-

Height 10"; Inside clearance must be net less the 3-3/8" and as near round as possible. Bottom end closed entirely, top open. Grooves at base for drainage underneath. Tap hole 3/4" wide exactly 1" from lower edge of hole to outside bottom of cylinder, on one side of cylinder only. Each cylinder to be stamped in black letters as indicated 1/4" in size "International Wine Co. Vancouver. BC".

We are returning sketch with corrections as quoted above, and would ask you to kindly proceed with this order immediately, and ship as soon as possible L.C.L. to us here, advising by return when we may expect delivery. Customer anticipates future orders, but has limited this one, pending definite decision as to the actual type of cylinder suitable for purpose required.

Trusting the matter will receive your prompt attention, and awaiting your advice as to delivery.

Yours very truly,

CASSIDY'S LIMITED,

*[Signature]*

## Two New Medalta Ashtray's

No, they are not new shapes, just newly found advertising pieces, one on a Stetson hat and the other on a round flat ashtray. One surfaced in Ontario while the other was an ebay sale. Both ashtrays were finished in the popular honey coloured glaze with the writing in brown. Firstly, I will share the story behind the Stetson with you.

About a month ago I received an enquiry from a woman in Ontario who had recently found a Medalta hat and wanted to know what it might be worth. Without pictures, I was not prepared to hazard a guess as it could have been anything, perhaps one of the Canadian National Exhibition hats or the Windsor Hotel, so I asked her to send me either a digital picture or photograph of the piece. What arrived via email within a couple of days was a total surprise as it was a hat made as a souvenir for Toronto, Ontario.

It was executed in the usual honey glaze with the open block-style lettering being placed on the piece using a brown glaze. The word TORONTO is arced at the top and CANADA at the bottom, and the back is stamped with the usual G.31 or Reg'd Design stamp.

As she reported the piece to be in mint condition, and indeed it looked that way in the pictures that she sent me, I advised that such pieces have been selling in the \$175.00 to \$250.00 range recently. Later I heard that a col-

lector had picked it up for \$200.00.

The second piece was an ebay sale with the item going for about \$170.00 Canadian. For an unknown ashtray in what appears to be mint condition and dating to 1937, I think it was a good buy.

In newsletter no. 3, Fall 1998, I illustrated and listed the round flat ashtrays that I was aware of to that time. This one, named to Zabel & Heffernan, was not on that listing as I did not know whether the order was for an hat ashtray or a round flat ashtray. Now we know, and we also know that the order was for 144 ashtrays.

Medalta's sales records for November 1937 (picture on next page) record a billing for these ashtrays in the amount of \$21.50, the going price at that time for a gross of ashtrays.

Just in case the markings are not plainly visible they say "Best Wishes/ Zabel & Heffernan/ Peace River" on the three segments of the rim, and in the middle is the letter V with an 8 within. The style of ashtray is what I have designated the ridged back variety as there is an encircling ridge just inside the elevated bottom ring. The stamp within that ring is the one designated G.30.a, and it is applied using a brown oxide.

Thanks to Lois Stranaghan of the Peace River Centennial Museum I am able to provide a bit of history about this business. As I suspected from the V8 symbol in the center, Zabel & Heffernan

was in the car business as indicated by the brief history sent to me.

*The firm Zabel and Heffernan was a "Cars and Accessories" business ... that stood on the corner of 101 St and 100 Ave (SE corner) in the town of Peace River. The partnership was dissolved by 1936 or so, Mr. Heffernan going to*

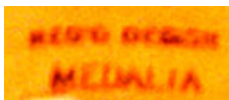
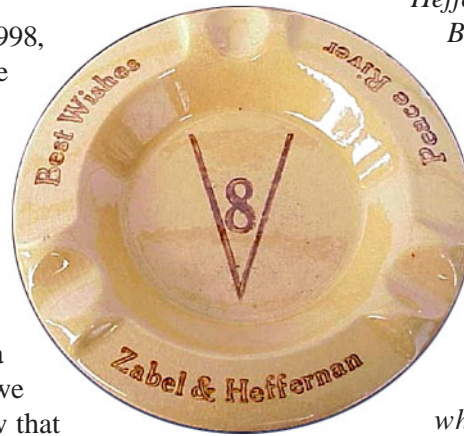
*Berwyn to run a garage there and Mr. Zabel staying in Peace River to run "Zabel's Garage" in a building which stood at*

*the corner of 100 St and 102nd Ave, back toward the Heart River, in Peace River Town. This business was sold in the mid forties, I believe, but continued to be the site of a garage for many years.*

*We have a picture of the building on 101 St and 100 Ave., and it has a "Ford - The Universal Car" sign on the roof.*

*We will search further and see if we can establish dates of some sort for this business. Hope this is some small help.*

In closing, I would like to mention that this is only the second ashtray that I have recorded making use of the V8 symbolism. The other, mentioned in Newsletter No. 3, was named to Whyte Motors of Red Deer. Also due to the November date, I believe it is safe to say that this ashtray was ordered as a year-end gift for the valued patrons of Zabel & Heffernan. •



## Hycroft's Eggcup

Did you know that Hycroft made an eggcup? I would bet that you did not as it seems to have been made only once, albeit a fairly large order.

The only reason, I know about the eggcup is due to the invoice record for it that I ran across in the Hycroft records. I have since heard of three examples that have been picked up by collectors and not one of them was marked with a Hycroft stamp.

As you can see from the picture shown here, the double style eggcup was chosen to produce this piece. The smaller

portion has "CKWX/DIAL 1150" on it, and the larger lower half says "Breakfast/with/Barton" and below that "every morning six to eight thirty". All the writing is in red and it stands out well against the white background.

Bill Kellett, one of the collectors that owns one of these eggcups, was raised in the Vancouver area and he remembers the radio program well. John Barton was the host, and for two and a half hours every morning he presented a mixed family program comprised of commentary, music and contests for

both adults and children. Bill told me that the radio station is still in business today, but now it is effectively a 24 hours news station. He remembers that John Barton was a game show host for a while, but what eventually happened to him is unknown.

The actual billing was addressed to Mr. Bill Saviak, CKWX Radio Station, Vancouver, and it was for 1050 egg cups, personalized (but no details given), at \$.65 each May 1, 1964, invoice no. 2032.

When I first saw this eggcup, it was not beside a Medalta one as shown here, and I was perhaps too presumptuous in thinking that Hycroft took over Medalta's moulds for the double eggcup. Now after seeing the two side by side, the differences in both shape and size seems to be too great to fall within the range of variation found for Medalta eggcups. Therefore it seems likely that they either made their own mould or acquired a commercially available one.

Other than this single order, the only other references that I ran across for eggcups were a few sales made to Hycroft staff members, most in 1964 and 1965 but one as late as 1967. As far as I can tell, the eggcup was never offered to restaurants or used to make any other giveaway. •

SALES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1967					
NAME	Amount	Gov. Sales Tax	Mfg. Sales	8% tax	
Walter Ramsay Limited,	16 55	15 32		1	23
St. Regis Hotel	23 22	21 50		1	72
Kerrison & Adams	21 88	20 26		1	62
Mr. D. W. Hays	59	55			04
Dr. Moore	1 43	1 32			11
A. Bell	43 20	40 00		3	20
R.A. Scott Triangle Greenh.	4 36	4 04			32
Reid & Coates Limited	13 30	12 32			98
H. O. Rorke Hardware	3 51	3 25			26
M. L. Bent (Florist)	20 03	18 55		1	48
Peachland Mercantile Co.	3 32	3 07			25
J. J. Moore & Son	5 28	4 89			39
Medicine Hat Rotary Club	10 52	9 74			78
Importex Company	163 20		163 20		
Poole Construction Co.	1 44	1 33			11
W. J. Steel, Florist	13 87	12 84		1	03
J. C. Beveridge Limited	6 67	6 62			05
Hills Nursery	6 42	5 94			48
Mrs. E. F. Fister	12 96	12 00			96
Mr. F. Foulston	1 16	1 07			09
Lacombe Furniture Store	5 99	5 55			44
B. S. Cameron	11 48	10 63			85
Webaskiwin Furniture Store	8 59	7 95			64
Black Hardware Limited	4 06	3 76			30
Medicine Hat Pottery Co.	78 56	72 74		5	82
Brooks Lamp & Shade Co.	178 76		178 76		
The T. Eaton Co. Limited	7 37	6 82			55
Heffel's Cafe	16 47	15 25		1	22
Jack Neys Garage	34 02	31 50		2	52
Mr. George Vagt	48 37	44 79		3	58
The Ark Store	16 16	14 96		1	20
Scott & Company	6 52	6 04			48
Lundbreck Trading Company	2 25	2 08			17
James Moore's Greenhouse	3 89	3 60			29
Creston Valley Co-op. Assn.	4 96	4 59			37
Creston Farmers' Limited	14 64	13 56		1	08
J. H. Coventry	12 61	11 68			93
A. F. Maxey	1 50	1 17			09
Fowler Lumber Company	23 22	21 50		1	72
Minburn Garage	16 47	15 25		1	22
C. J. Stack	23 22	21 50		1	72
Waldorf Hotel	69 66	64 50		5	16
Mr. E. F. Cowan	4 03	3 73			30
Sanctuary Hotel	9 18	8 50			68
Brownvale Hotel	11 61	10 75			86
Oscar Johnson	23 22	21 50		1	72
Athabasca River Lumber Co.	23 22	21 50		1	72
Zabel & Heffernan	23 22	21 50		1	72
Waldorf Hotel	23 22	21 50		1	72
Stauffer's Garage	23 22	21 50		1	72
Arlington Hotel	23 22	21 50		1	72
Roxy Hat & Cap Shop	12 96	12 00			96
Ben's Service Station	23 22	21 50		1	72
Hyle Hotel	23 22	21 50		1	72
Ponoka Metal Works	34 83	32 25		2	58



## The Blue Mountain Show

Once again I was not overly impressed with the September Blue Mountain Antique Show as far as Alberta made pottery was concerned. If there were any unusual or outstanding pieces, I did not hear about them.

I was advised that before the show opened to the public a pair of St. Regis Hotel, Calgary, gourd-shaped ashtrays sold for \$70.00, and I also heard that a round flat ashtray marked "ALAZHAR | CALGARY | JULY, 1940" on the rim around the central Masonic emblem was sold at the show. It was priced at \$135.00 but most likely sold for a few dollars less.

One collector also picked up a plain style beer mug made by Medalta that was finished with a geometric hand-painted decoration. While I will share a picture of it with you herein, I am going to save the details for a future article dealing with Medalta's beer steins.



### Toilet and Sink Set:

One thing that caught my eye was a small free standing sink and toilet set made by Medalta Potteries (1966) Limited of Redcliff. As you can see from the pictures, thanks to Scott the new owner, they were separate pieces. Both were finished using a bright blue glaze with the sink having its top accented with mottled brown.



The sink stands 2 3/4-inches high while the toilet is about half an inch shorter. The toilet, open at the bottom, effectively had no place to put a factory stamp, although there is a remnant of a stamp along the 1/8-inch wide base. The sink had enough space to place the factory stamp shown here on the bottom.

As to the date of these pieces, all I can give is the range 1966 to 1986. In time



we may find out more about these items as the factory's business records have survived and are preserved by the Friends of Medalta Society.

MADE BY  
MEDALTA  
REDCLIFF  
ALBERTA

### A Vase by New Medalta Ceramics

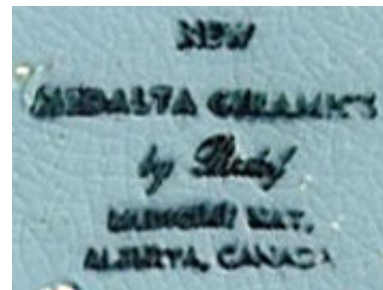
One piece that I and many other collectors missed was a vase made by Malcolm McArthur's company New Medalta Ceramics. This short lived company was only in business for about six months in 1958 and, therefore, its pieces are fairly hard to find.

The price in this instance was quite reasonable at \$75.00, as I can remember paying that for New Medalta Ceramic vases in the mid 1980s.

The vase, which is glazed, has a bright baby-blue background with the hand-painted, leaf-like decoration applied on one side from top to bottom. The leaf pattern is mainly comprised of crossed or overlapping pairs of leaves in black and reddish-purple. In addition many of the sets have a more subdued beige-coloured leaf in the background, one that gives a shadowed effect.

The vase stands 11 3/8-inches high and is well marked on the bottom with the factory stamp as shown here. The stamp is fairly clear except for the artist's name, and while I have seen other examples of this stamp, the name has not been clear on any of them.

What it appears to say is "NEW/MEDALTA CERAMICS/by Rolof/MEDICINE HAT,/ALBERTA CANADA". If any of our readers can tell me what the name is for sure, I would welcome the information. •



## More Mounted Police Items

In the last issue of the newsletter I discussed the mounted police imagery used by Hycroft China Limited. What I did not share with you was the fact



that some of the other potteries in the Medicine Hat area also made a few Mounted Police items bearing the crest of the

force. I will now take a brief look at those items.

### Medalta:

The story that I have heard from several sources over the years was that Medalta was commissioned to make a set of dishes for a member of the force who at the time either lived in Red Deer or moved there shortly after acquiring the dishes.

I also heard that two sets may have been made and from what I have seen in the marketplace these stories are probably based in fact, perhaps a statement from Ed Phillipson himself. Regrettably, I never asked Ed about these dishes, but the reason I believe the stories that I have heard is due to the fact that the pieces are so hard to find. If the dishes had been ordered by the force itself, then one would expect to see many more of the pieces.

The beer steins, on the other hand, may have been made as extras to the set of dishes, as two different styles of beer steins have shown up in the marketplace. In addition I have heard of about four beer steins so far, which suggests that they may be more readily available.

What I have recorded only includes a 6 3/4-inch rimmed soup/cereal bowl, a plain celery dish and a couple of beer steins. The dishes were basically white with blue rims, each with a gold band



between the blue rim and the white center. The beer mugs were blue on the exterior with white interiors.

In all cases, the crest of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was applied overglaze in gold, and as we all know overglaze decals are quite readily scratched and even worn off.

The cereal bowl exhibited such wear while the celery tray was in quite good shape,

likely a reflection of the use that each type of dish would get. The cereal bowl was priced by the

dealer back in the mid 1980s at \$120.00 which is why I did not acquire it for the Glenbow's collection. The celery dish was a steal as it was tucked away in a box of some twenty pieces of Medalta's common plain white or green band hotelwares, with the whole lot selling for \$35.00 at a Hall's auction. As to the beer steins, my notes do not include what they sold for, but in today's market they would likely fall in the \$75.00 to \$150.00 range.

As you will notice from the pictures,



the steins are different in shape, the one relatively plain while the other has ribbing around the bottom half. The plain one stands about 4 1/2-

inches high while the fancy one is 1/4-inch higher. The fancy stein, cereal/soup bowl and celery dish were all marked with the G.51 stamp dating the pieces sometime between 1947 and 1950. The plain stein was marked with the G.55 stamp indicating that it was made in 1951.

The only other Mounted Police item that I have recorded is the Medalta

no. 1 vase shown here. The Mountie is in full colour wearing a scarlet tunic, blue breeches and dark brown



knee-high boots, and there are tufts of green grass around his feet. While he is wearing a Stetson hat, both it and the man's face are but worn off.

*Cont'd on page 12*

## Two Beauties

A couple of nice lacquer finished vases appeared in Ontario this past summer. The first is the highly prized Egypto vase, style no. 61, it was finished with



a multicoloured floral decoration against a black background. The vase has paired images on the front and back as well as on each side. From the picture that I received, the front flowers appear to be in white and blue

with green leaves around the base, while the side flowers are in yellow. The selling price was \$250.00 but considering its mint condition I think it was a good buy.



The second vase was a style no. 108 vase and it sold for the bargain basement price of \$35.00. The dealer must have been totally clueless as to what Medalta was to have priced it so low as it was well marked with Medalta's usual impressed M.22 stamp as well

as the multi-coloured maple leaf sticker, designated the P.1 (paper label) stamp. In addition it had the decoration number 1570, in white oxide, appended to the impressed number 108.

Once again black and white pictures do not do this vase justice, as it has a bright blue top and bottom with the sail of the central sailboat being accented against the yellow sky. The boat itself is in shades of black brown and grey, and in this instance the number on the sail is N4.

Its condition is not perfect as there is some lacquer loss around both the rim and the base, but surely not enough to drop the price to \$35.00. In my opinion, from what I can see in the pictures of it, it would usually sell in the \$175.00 to \$225.00 out here! •



*Cont'd from page 11*

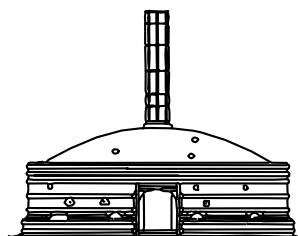
## New Medalta Ceramics:

The other company that made a Royal Canadian Mounted Police item was New Medalta Ceramics. In this case the Mounted Po-



lice crest was placed around the middle of the beer stein four times. The crests were executed in gold on a cane coloured stein which was additionally banded with gold near both the top and bottom. The factory stamp found on the bottom is shown here, and it simply says "New MEDALTA CERAMICS CANADA" in four lines.

So far I have seen two of these steins and both measured 5 3/8-inches in height. I paid \$75.00 for the one that I bought for Glenbow in the mid 1980s, but today I suspect the price might be double that. •



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