

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #47

From
Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson

September 2009

Newsletter #46 covered about half of our trip to the U.K. last winter, finishing up after a successful day out in London on February 18th. However, in continuing the story, we first have to backtrack to the previous weekend when we were invited for dinner on Saturday, February 14th by **Heather & Ray Goddard** in Haywards Heath, West Sussex. It is always a delight to visit **Heather & Ray**, not only to enjoy the wonderful Thai meal that we know they will have prepared for us, but also to see what additions they have been able to add to their amazing collections of the **Mallards** and **WILD DUCK** patterns. Somehow, they seem to be able to add a new shape, or a different size, or even a new colourway to their ever expanding collection. Just as they might seem to be nearing the completion of these two patterns, they branch out into other "bird" patterns. They now have a fast growing



collection of the **PARROTS** pattern, set into a fireplace and surrounded by all sorts of other birds on the mantel. In another cabinet are three shelves of **Mallards** pieces in **NOIR & VERT ROYALE**, **POWDER BLUE** and other



colourways, and a **WILD DUCK** boxed coffee set in cream. Does anyone have a spare lid for a **RITA** shaped coffee pot? As you can see (centre shelf) **Heather & Ray** need one in **POWDER BLUE**.



These collectors really love birds! More pictures of **Ray & Heather's** bird collection, including **Bonnie** sitting on her eggs and **Clyde** keeping guard on all the pots from the top of the door!





On Thursday, February 19th, we drove to the ancient Kentish town of Rochester. This cathedral city on the Medway dates back to Roman times but as recently as the 19th century it was a favourite of Charles Dickens and various locations throughout the city are mentioned in his books. The city centre is compact and walkable and well worth a day out. The cathedral dates back to 1080 and the Norman Castle to 1087. However, it was the Victorian high street where we first stopped. There are several antique shops and markets, second hand junk

shops and charity shops along this cobbled street and we were lucky on our first two stops. They were both second hand shops and, because the first one was small and overloaded with unreachable stock, we asked the owner if she had any Carlton Ware. She said she had and she reached up onto a shelf and passed us down an 8½" **PARROT** plate in a lovely dark green colourway, pattern number **2014**. This wasn't something that we collected but we knew someone who would want this plate, so we bought it and later passed it on to **Heather & Ray**.



The next shop was mainly secondhand furniture but we ventured in anyway. We were glad that we did as we found a most interesting pair of framed tiles.



They were very stylish although the frames were a bit rough; however we thought they would go well in our 1950s style media room, so we bought them for the grand price of £10 the pair! Unfortunately, our luck ran out at this point and we didn't find anything more to buy, even though there are plenty of shops to visit on both sides of the high street and many pubs and cafes to choose from for lunch.



On Saturday, February 21st, we attended another DMG showground fair at Detling, again in Kent. It was a beautiful day and the car park was filling up when we arrived and there were plenty of people milling around the outside stalls. We browsed the stalls as we made our way towards the first of the two indoor sales areas but didn't find anything to buy. Inside the first room, the crowds were busy and in some cases it was hard to get close to the tables. The type and quality of merchandise here was similar to the DMG fair at Shepton Mallet but, although there was a good selection of Carlton Ware to be found, there was nothing for us to buy in either room. So we made our way out and continued looking at the outside stalls. In the end, we did find something to buy; another piece of Carnival Glass! Although this had not been a particularly successful day, we would still attend this fair again and would certainly recommend it. It is a well laid out showground fair with plenty of parking and a good selection of merchandise for sale.



It was time for lunch by the time we left the showground and by chance we pulled off the main road into the town of Detling. No sooner had we turned than



we passed a charming old pub, The Cock Horse. We pulled into the car park and noticed a sign saying "Food Served All Day" which was promising. Inside was a very welcoming host and, although it was busy, we soon had a table and our drinks. The food came along soon after and we enjoyed very tasty baguettes, one smoke salmon and the other prawns with Marie Rose sauce. If you go to the Detling fair, don't bother with any of the fast food sellers at the showground; stop off at this pub in the town of Detling. You won't be disappointed!

On Monday, February 23rd, we drove down to the ancient city of Rye in East Sussex. This is another charming old cobbled stoned town dating back prior to Norman times. Like Rochester, it also has some interesting literary connections; its most famous being E. F. Benson, whose fictional town of Tilling, immortalized in his delightful Mapp & Lucia novels (and Channel 4 series), is based on Rye. If you have never read these books or seen the series, you are truly missing something worthwhile.

There are quite a few antique shops in Rye and conveniently they are all located in the central cobbled streets area. The town centre is built on a hill so be prepared for a climb. However, we found it very worthwhile. In the first shop we stopped at along Watchbell Street,



we found some more Depression Glass, similar to what we found at Alexandra Palace. This was a small, two room shop that was full of stock. To be honest, if we had spent more time poking around the crowded shelves, we probably could have found other things to buy. However, we continued on our way along Church Square, where there are a number of shops in converted



warehouses and stables. Here we struck lucky in one shop, finding two pieces of Noritake, a Japanese pottery company. The comport and bowl were both in a dessert scene with heavily gilded edges. This company's best period was 1891 – 1921 and pieces are sometimes backstamped Nippon or, in the case of this pattern, Camel China. We continued looking through several shops and then Jerry spotted a piece of Carlton Ware in the window of one shop along West

Street; so in we went and asked if we could inspect the piece. It was beautiful, a 6" vase in **Jazz Poppy**, pattern 3503, a variation of the **Icelandic Poppy** pattern with a jazzy zig zag background. Of course we bought it! Also in the window of this shop was another piece of Noritake we bought; a lovely biscuit barrel in a sailboat pattern.



By this time, we were ready for lunch and just across the street was The Old Bell; a pub reputed to be the oldest in Rye. Here we are, outside with our recent purchases!

Inside it was quaint with several small bars. As it was February, we found seating reasonably easily; however, in the height of the tourist season, this place would get packed pretty quickly. Nevertheless, it was a good place for lunch and for chatting about the success of our day.



The next day, Tuesday, February 24th, we had two fairs to attend. Twice a month, on the 2nd and last Tuesday, there is a big antiques market at the Kempton Park Racecourse in Sunbury, Middlesex. The fair opens early, at 6.30 a.m., and trading starts right away. The show closes at 1.30 p.m. but some dealers start packing up long before then; so the earlier you get to this show the better. We have attended this fair on several occasions and try to arrive sometime between 9 and 10. Admission is free and there is plenty of free parking so this market is well attended. There are at least three indoor areas and the largest one is closest to the parking. If the weather is good, there will also be a large contingent of outside stalls that are well worth walking through. There is a very good selection of merchandise here, although not too much in the higher end of the market. On this particular morning, we found some more Depression Glass. It looked like the dealer had just dug it up that morning – it was that dirty! But that's the kind of market this can be.

In the afternoon, we went to Ardingly in West Sussex, the second time DMG had a show there during our trip. The weather on this occasion was very nice; the complete opposite to the frigid day we were there in early January. This was opening day and admission was £20 – luckily we had a pass. The ads for the show said there would be 1700 exhibitors in attendance and, due to the weather, this was probably true. The inside sales areas were full and there were far more outside tables and tents than we had time, or energy, to visit. However, we lucked out once again with several pieces of Carnival Glass, including this beautiful Northwood bowl in the Peacocks On The Fence pattern in a lovely pastel marigold colourway. This is probably the most popular of all the Carnival Glass patterns.



On Wednesday, February 25th, we drove up to south west London to the Northcote Road Antiques Market in Battersea. This is a small market with vendors on two levels. Jonathan Daltrey of Banana Dance has had a stall here for many years with his large display of Clarice Cliff. However, he can usually be relied upon to have a few good pieces of Carlton Ware. On this visit, he had a pair of **JAZZ** vases. They were quite small, about 4½" high and in the **RUBY LUSTRE** colourway, pattern **3352**. The price tag was hidden from view so we asked an assistant to unlock the cabinet. They were very pretty little vases but at £1,650 we felt they were top price for vases of this small size; so we didn't buy them. Other than Jonathan's stall, the rest of the market is a bit mixed but is still worth a look in if you are in the area.

From south west London, we drove to Greenwich in south east London. As the crow flies, this is not a vast distance but the traffic on the south side of the Thames is dreadful. This is due to the £8 congestion zone charge that starts as you cross the river into central London. Therefore, to avoid the charge, drivers stay on the south side of the Thames and drive around London, so the congestion has just moved out from the centre! For most of the journey it was bumper to bumper. At some point, we got photographed entering a bus lane and got charged an £80 fine!!! The trip, which was roughly 8 miles, must have taken us the best part of 2 hours and the end result was not worth it. We were heading for the Greenwich Antiques & Interiors Centre, which turned out to be an auction house that had a market attached, but was only open on auction days, which were pretty infrequent. However, we complained to the owner that we had come all the way from Canada and wouldn't be back in this part of London again. So, he did let us wander around the market; which actually looked to be made up of stuff that hadn't sold at the auction.

Before we left, we asked the owner where we could get some lunch and he suggested a pub just down the road by the Thames. In much need of a pint and something to eat, we wandered down to the river in search of his suggestion and the pub turned out to be the world famous Cutty Sark. Inside, it was almost empty with more staff than customers. The interior was dark and there were

bars on three floors, although only two were open. For some reason, there were no tables anywhere close to the windows, which should have been prime seating areas with their amazing views of the river. Nevertheless, we got our drinks and ordered our food and found a table. The food and drinks were o.k. but this place could have been so much



better. Outside was a forecourt with an unsurpassed view across the Thames. To the right was the O2 (formerly the Millenium Dome) and straight across was Canary Wharf, the new City of London in the Docklands. We understand this pub is packed on the weekends but, in this location, it should be busy all the time.

On Friday, February 27th, we drove to the Cotswolds where we had booked into a cottage for a long weekend break. We had always wanted to visit this part of the country so we went on line to find a cottage to rent for a few days so we could explore the area. What we found was a delightful cottage called The Old Chapel in the tiny village of Paxford near



cottages and that was it! We settled in and then went out to explore the village. Of course, that didn't take long, however we did find out that the pub, The Churchill Arms, only opened in the evening but did serve full course meals. We then drove to Morton-in-the-Marsh, another close by town, for lunch and a look through any antique shops that we could find. In the evening, we went for dinner at the Churchill Arms and were highly delighted with the food that we were served. This was hearty English food with such things and belly of pork and



Chipping Campden. As the name implies, the cottage was an old converted chapel that had two bedrooms on the main floor, both en suite, and an open plan living room, dining room and kitchen upstairs. It was perfect and the little village had a pub, a church and a few other



lamb shanks on the menu and lovely deserts covered in English custard! We were so pleased with the quality of food that we decided to have dinner there again the following night.

On Saturday, February 28th, we drove to Gloucester to visit the Gloucester Antiques Centre. This is a very large market in an old warehouse on the historical quays, part of the River Severn. The market covers five levels of the building and there is a huge amount of merchandise on sale, including a fair amount of Carlton Ware. However, we didn't find anything to buy but this market is still worth visiting if you are in the area. We understand that, since we were there, the market has moved to another warehouse location in the quays and is now even bigger and better (of course, that's their advertising boast!). From Gloucester, we drove back to the Cotswolds and to Chipping Campden, the town closest to our cottage. This is a beautiful little market town with a main street built between the 14th and 17th century of locally quarried limestone, as are most of the properties in the Cotswolds. The main street even has a Butter Market, which reminded us of the Carlton Ware model in the Village series. Along the main street are several antique shops and one in particular attracted us as they had a pair of **Medley** bookends displayed in the window. Unfortunately, upon inspection, they turned out to be damaged so we declined to buy them. The next morning, Sunday, March 1st, we returned to Chipping Campden again as an exhibition and sale was opening at the



Court Barn Museum of pottery by Martin Brothers, William de Morgan, Ruskin, Doulton Lambeth, Moorcroft, Wedgwood and other art pottery; unfortunately, nothing by Carlton Ware. We asked the organizers of the exhibition why they would not include Carlton Ware as it was contemporary with the Wedgwood Fairy Land Lustre and other lustre pottery that they were exhibiting. We did not get a satisfactory answer. Even though our favourite factory was not included in the exhibition, it was well worth attending just to see the amazing examples on display. Several pieces were indicated to have already been sold, including this amazing rare Martin Brothers triple bird group that had a price tag of £47,000. For information on future exhibitions by this group, see their website at www.adantiques.com.

We then drove to the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, to attend the Malvern Antiques & Collectors Fair, a show run by **Helen Martin**, formerly of Carlton Ware Collectors International. The fair was advertised to have up to 200 quality stands, although there actually looked to be more than that. It was a very busy fair and the standard of merchandise was pretty good, however once again we didn't buy anything. About half way round the fair, we bumped into **Helen** who was handing out fliers to the vendors for future shows. It was good to see **Helen** again and we chatted for a while before carrying on round the show. Just before we left the show we bumped into **Dave Forgan**. As it happened, we had previously spoken to **Dave** about visiting him that afternoon to see his collection. So we told **Dave** that we would have some lunch and see him shortly after that. **Dave** lived close to the Malvern Hills in the delightful village of Upton-upon-Severn.



We had a nice lunch in a pub along side the river and then headed over to **Dave's**. Now, **Dave's** collection can only be described as amazing; on entering his house, you are immediately taken with the amount of Carlton Ware on display everywhere. Tables are completely covered with pieces, as are shelves and cupboards and even the stairs! **Dave** has concentrated particularly on the chinoiserie patterns, like the outstanding 13" **CHINALAND** ginger jar pattern number **2948** above, although he does have a few pieces from other areas of the factory's production. However, we will let the following pictures tell the story:



Yes, purists will note that there are pieces from other factories. Like us, **Dave** is not exclusively a collector of Carlton Ware, having started out collecting lustre pottery from various factories, such as Crown Devon and Wilton Ware, before concentrating mainly on Carlton Ware. We were also most interested to see that **Dave** had a large and interesting collection of Carnival Glass (not photographed here). We could have spent hours looking at this wonderful collection, there was so much to see and enjoy, but all too soon it was time to leave and head back to Paxford to get ready for dinner.



The previous night, after dinner at The Churchill Arms, we found out that the pub did not open for dinner on Sundays. So we asked the owner if he could recommend anywhere else in the area. He told us to try The Crown Inn in the village of Blockley, less than 10 minutes drive away. So we accepted his recommendation and made a reservation. Blockley is a larger village than Paxford

but we found the Inn easily enough and were welcomed into a bar with a lovely log fire. The restaurant was equally as comfortable and the food was outstanding. To say that it would be equal to any 5 star hotel in London is no exaggeration. The menu consisted of items such as rack of lamb and roast duck and the portions served were more than ample. When we left, we made reservations for the following night, our last night in the Cotswolds.

On Monday, March 2nd, we drove to Rushwick in Worcestershire to visit **Ian & Pat Clargo**. We met **Ian & Pat** back in the 1990s at the annual C.W.C.I. meetings in Stoke-on-Trent. We were aware that their main area of collecting was the early **PEACH BLOSSOM** pattern number **2030**. However, we had no idea of the size of their collection of this particular pattern. See for yourself:



The collection includes duplicates of several pieces and the symmetrical display is extremely well done. As well as **PEACH BLOSSOM**, **Ian & Pat** have a small collection of the **MAGPIES** pattern in several different colourways as well as many other interesting pieces, including this display of lustre egg cups, some complete with their individual salt and pepper pots, and a most unusual pair of lustre lidded pots (top shelf), inscribed on the base "Ye Olde Windermere Can". We had a lovely afternoon viewing their collection and **Ian** was also most proud to take us out into the garden to see his wonderful display of Hellebores, not something we can grow in Calgary!

The next morning, Tuesday, March 3rd, it was time to check out of our delightful cottage and drive back to West Sussex. As well as the towns and villages that we have already mentioned, we also visited antique shops and markets in several other equally pretty Cotswold and surrounding towns, such as Stow-on-the-Wold, Broadway, Burford, Cirencester and Tetbury. Unfortunately, we did not have much success in finding anything to buy. There is plenty of stuff for sale in these towns, even some Carlton Ware, but, on the whole, prices are on the higher side due to the tourist nature of this part of the country. Nevertheless, we highly recommend a visit to this part of England if you have never been there before.



We walked around the whole fair but spent quite a bit of time at these tables, trying to decide what pieces to buy. It was like being back at the Carlton Ware fairs at the annual Stoke meetings, where there were 20 or more dealers selling nothing but Carlton Ware. There was just too much choice! In the end, my sister, who was with us and also collects Carnival Glass, bought this beautiful amethyst Grape & Cable double handgrip plate (above) and we bought this equally lovely green Grape & Cable plate (right). This Northwood pattern was extremely popular in its day and was made in more shapes and colourways than any other Carnival Glass pattern.

On Sunday, March 8th, we went to a flea market at the Woking Leisure Centre, not at all sure what to expect. Flea markets are a pretty common thing in North America and are similar to English car boot sales. As it turned out, this was only a flea market by name but was really an antique show. What surprised and pleased us though was that the U.K. Carnival Glass Society had booked about 14 tables and was selling an amazing display of glass.



Early on the morning of Tuesday, March 10th, we flew from Gatwick to Athens, where we would spend the next five days. We had booked a flight and hotel through Easyjet and were staying in an area of Athens just beneath the Acropolis. Within walking distance was The Plaka, the oldest section of Athens where most of the streets have been closed off to traffic. At the far end of The Plaka is the Monastriaki flea market where you can find all sorts of antiques and junk! There was some very interesting furniture and lighting to be found here but, of course, no Carlton Ware.

On returning to the U.K., we made arrangements to drive up to Ipswich in Suffolk to visit **Barry & Elaine Girling** on Tuesday, March 17th. We had never met **Barry & Elaine** but had corresponded with them for several years and they have contributed much to this Newsletter in the past, including their two well researched articles on **Violet Elmer**. We were to discuss the completion and publication of the second article during this visit. However, as usual, the main reason for getting together was to look at and talk about everything Carlton Ware! **Barry & Elaine's** collection concentrates mainly on Art Deco Best Ware and mostly those patterns designed by **Violet Elmer**; but by no means exclusively, as you can see:



We think you will agree that this is certainly a wonderful display of some of the most desirable and sought after Carlton Ware patterns today.



Jerry, Elaine & Ian and a **VICTORIAN LADY** charger pattern 3451

While we were with **Barry & Elaine**, we talked about an upcoming auction sale in Scotland, featuring a pair of **BELL** covered vases in the gloss cream colourway, pattern number **3774**. **Barry & Elaine** have since been successful in adding one of the pair to their collection.



The following week, on Tuesday, March 24th, we flew from Gatwick to Barcelona for another short break. Our main goal in going to Barcelona was to see the wonderful and strange architecture by Antoni Gaudi and it was amazing! Construction on his most famous building, Temple de la Sagrada Familia, began in 1882 and, as you can see from the pictures, it is still under construction today. The building, like Spain itself, has had a turbulent history and construction was non existence for many years. It is now Barcelona's most visited tourist attraction. If you go to Barcelona, beware of the tourist spots. La Ramblas is well



worth a daytime stroll and a drink in one of the many sidewalk cafes, but stay away from there at night. The restaurants in that area are overpriced and of poor quality. Eat where the Spaniards eat – we recommend Menjador at 193 Valencia and they will be happy to recommend many other equally excellent restaurants.

On returning to the U.K., we arranged for our final visit of this trip with **Czes & Yvonne Kosniowski**. Since we visited them on our previous trip, they had moved house; their new place being larger than their old house, there was an even greater amount of Carlton Ware on display in several rooms. **Czes & Yvonne** accumulated their large collection both for the love of the pottery and for the research of their two published books.



2858 KINGFISHER ginger jar; 3412 AURORA vase; 2069 DRAGON ginger jar



3178 MIKADO in cartouche vase; 3145 DRAGON in cartouche bowl



3786 BELL jug; 3387 FLORAL COMETS jug

Now it is time to slim down the collection to something more manageable – no point having part of your collection packed away so that nobody can enjoy it! So, the above pieces from their collection, along with about 60 other pieces, are to be sold at auction on Saturday, September 26th 2009 at Fieldings Auctioneers Ltd. in Stourbridge, West Midlands. You can view all the lots at <http://www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk/> and by clicking on the Next Sale tab.

That just about ends the antiquing part of our extended winter holiday in the U.K. and Europe, however, we now had to start packing up the items we had bought in order to ship it all back to Canada. Actually, we started this task soon after returning from Athens and, by the time we had finished, we had filled seven shipping boxes with all the stuff. We have not detailed every single purchase we made in these two Newsletters; we thought you had read enough about Carnival Glass, etc. But to give you some idea of the amount of stuff we bought, we shipped home just over 100 pieces, of which 21 were Carnival Glass. Unfortunately, there were far fewer pieces of Carlton Ware. The shippers picked up our boxes from my sister's on Friday, April 3rd; we flew home on Wednesday, April 8th and we picked up our shipment at the airport the next morning. By the afternoon it was all unpacked and we had started to find room for it, somewhere in the house!

Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson

We can be contacted at:
jeromian@shaw.ca
403-243-8172