

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #49

**From
Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson**

June 2010

It has been quite a few months now since we published our last Newsletter and much has happened since then. On January 1 of this year, when we could see that we had a few days break in the winter weather, we hit the road south out of Calgary, on our way to Florida! We had a house rented for January 15, so we had 2 weeks to get there. Our plan was to drive south as fast as we could, to get below the snow belt, and then turn east and drive across the U.S.A., stopping here and there on the way – for antique shopping, of course!

Our fast drive south, out of the winter weather, did not give us time for any shopping. Our first day's drive got us out of Canada and into Montana and a stop for the night in Great Falls. The second day we crossed into Idaho and then into Utah and stopped for the second night in Ogden. The third day saw us drive south of the snow line in southern Utah, briefly cross into the top corner of Arizona and then into Nevada, where we stopped for a couple of days on the Las Vegas strip. You can always find a cheap, first class room in Vegas – just find an hotel that isn't holding a convention and the best rooms can be had for as little as \$45 a night. We stayed at Bally's, right in the middle of it all.

We ran around the antique shops in Vegas during our 2 days there but there was nothing for us to buy. The only Carlton Ware that we saw was some Rouge Royale. Leaving Las Vegas, we continued south through the eastern corner of California and then we turned east, back into Arizona to begin our long trek across the bottom of the U.S. We stopped the night in Yuma, right on the Arizona, California, and Mexico border. The next day, we walked across the border into Mexico and spent the morning shopping in the local craft shops. In the afternoon, we walked back into Arizona and went antique shopping in Yuma. Here we found the first purchase of our trip, a Crown Devon musical jug, with Harry Lauder's "I Love A Lassie" musical box. Unfortunately, no Carlton Ware was seen.



The next day, we left Yuma, drove right across Arizona and New Mexico and into Texas and stopped for the night in El Paso. From there we drove to San Antonio, Texas, where we stopped for a couple of nights and then continued to New Orleans, Louisiana, where we again stopped for a couple of nights. We ran around the antique shops in both cities but couldn't find anything to buy. From New Orleans, we crossed Mississippi and Alabama and arrived in Florida!

Our first stop in Florida was at Panama Beach, where we had lunch with Carlton Ware collectors Don & Jane Maggart, who were spending the winter there, away from the cold and snow of Minnesota. It was good to see Don & Jane again and reminisce about old times at meetings in Stoke-on-Trent. After an excellent lunch, we got back on the road and continued east across Florida and spent the night in Tallahassee, the State capital. While we were with Don & Jane, they told us that we should visit St. Augustine, the oldest town in the U.S., so next day we headed there, and arrived on the Atlantic coast.

St. Augustine has an interesting, if little known, history. It was actually founded in 1565 by the Spanish, 42 years before the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts. Of course, with that kind of history, you would expect the place to be full of antique shops, which it was. So after we arrived, we spent the



afternoon exploring them. Unfortunately, once again, there was no Carlton Ware, or anything else, to buy. But we were here in sunny Florida and the weather was warm, so the poor shopping didn't really matter! Next day, we drove south through Florida and arrived in Miami around mid afternoon. The house we had rented was in the suburban city of Coral Gables. Actually, it was just the main floor that was ours, along with a large garden. An English couple had rented the upstairs apartment for the winter.

Coral Gables turned out to be a wonderful quiet and safe neighbourhood and we really enjoyed the 2 months that we stayed there. No sooner had we arrived, than we started to find out where the good restaurants and bars were, as well as more important things like what antique fairs were on and where the antique shops and markets were!

Coral Gables turned out to be a wonderful quiet and safe neighbourhood

One of the big antique events in Florida in late January and early February is the Miami Beach Antique Fair, which runs for 5 days. Of course, we were there shortly after opening on the first day and joined the crowds waiting to pay to get in. This is a huge, high end show and the quality of the merchandise is outstanding. There were over 800 booths to view, some of them totally full of Tiffany lamps, Lalique and Galle glass, Moorcroft and Wedgwood pottery, as well as the top American potteries of Weller, Roseville, Rookwood, Van Briggie, etc., and we even saw some Carlton Ware. Two dealers, both from Argentina, had some nice examples. The first booth we found shortly after our arrival had 2 large ginger jars, one in **MIKADO** in a matt black and gilt colourway, and the other, a very impressive **PARADISE BIRD & TREE with CLOUD** in a Ruby Lustre and matt black colourway. We asked the prices of both, neither of which were cheap, so decided to see what else we could find at the show. Towards the end of our day, we found another piece of **PARADISE BIRD** in a similar colourway in a very large temple jar, a shape that seems to appear reasonably frequently from the Argentine. Unfortunately, it was missing its lid! As the first two ginger jars were no bargains, we left the show without buying anything. But we had enjoyed the whole event, just to see some of the amazing Art Deco that dealers from all over the world bring to the Miami Beach show.



In mid February, there was a big show in West Palm Beach, about an hour's drive north of Miami. It was a 3 day showground fair, similar to Newark, but on a much smaller scale. We got there pretty close to opening and it was not too busy. We initially set about looking over the outside stalls that you had to pass on the way to the sales halls. We didn't find anything outside but made our first Carlton Ware find of the trip in the first hall we went through. It was a **PERSIAN** vase, shape **127**, measuring 8 inches and in a Gloss Yellow & Matt Black colourway that we had never seen before. We examined



it closely and couldn't find one flaw so bought it without too much hesitation. After the show, we sent pictures to Harvey Pettit, including a shot of the backstamp and pattern number that was

difficult to correctly interpret. Harvey responded that it was a most unusual colourway for this pattern and confirmed that the pattern number was **3069**. Back at the show, we continued through the 3 halls and the only other Carlton Ware that we saw was a vase in a different shape and in the **TEMPLE** pattern; however, it was in the same yellow and black colourway as the **PERSIAN** vase. Although we only made one purchase at this show, we felt entirely satisfied with our day out and our interesting find.



Not far from our house in Coral Gables, there was a main thoroughfare called Bird Road, which led to the Bird Road Arts District. We went out there one morning and found a collection of shops in a warehousing area, all centering on the arts and antiques trade. We found lots of interesting shops to brows through, although we didn't find anything to buy. However, we got a good tip in one that we should stop in a shop called the Wholesale Antique Center, which was on our way back. We followed up on the tip and pulled into the front of a big shop that was more of a furniture wholesaler than a seller of collectibles. However, we were there, so we wandered up and down the various rows of furniture that were decorated with odd sets of dishes and vases, when we suddenly saw a lamp sitting on a hall stand. We knew instantly what it was, a very large piece of **MIKADO**, pattern number **2881**, made into a lamp. It was huge! The ceramic part of the lamp turned out to be 19 inches in height! The price tag said "Oriental Lamp" so the

shop owner had no idea what it was. Of course we bought it, even though we had no idea where we would use such a large lamp! Earlier in our travels around the towns bordering Miami, we had spent a morning in Dania Beach, which had a couple of downtown blocks more or less turned over to



antique stores. In one of these we found 3 other lamps that we wanted. None of them were Carlton Ware, but here they are, along with our **MIKADO** lamp.



Over the two months we stayed in Coral Gables, we drove around a huge area of southern Florida, going as far south as Key West, north to West Palm Beach and west through the Everglades. Most trips were in search of Carlton Ware but we saw very little and bought no more than the above two pieces. However, we did find things to buy here and there. One of our favourite pieces is this beautiful art deco perfume bottle made in Germany. We found this at a regular Sunday street market held on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach.



On March 15, we started the long drive back home to Canada. We were in no rush to get there as, although we were enjoying hot weather in Florida, it was still winter in Calgary. So we decided that each day we were driving, we would head somewhere where we could stay for a day or two. We headed west through the Everglades, stopping to look at the alligators sunning beside the road, and made our first stop in Naples, on the west coast of Florida on the Gulf of Mexico. Over the next week, we slowly made our way up the Gulf coast, stopping for meals and to shop or to stay overnight in such places as Sarasota,

Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Tarpon Springs. The shopping was moderately successful, with us finding a couple of nice Royal Doulton plates in St. Petersburg, but that was more or less it. We did see a lovely **SWALLOW & CLOUD** ginger jar in Tarpon Springs in Ruby Lustre but, unfortunately again, it was missing its lid!

We were taking our time leaving Florida as there was a big antique “extravaganza” taking place in a town called Mount Dora, just north of Orlando, starting on Saturday, March 20. On the Friday, we left Tampa and got to Mount Dora in Florida’s lake land around early afternoon. The name of the town with a population of 11,000 is a total misnomer; Mount Dora is only 184 feet above sea level! It is a very charming old world town, located between three lakes and



surrounded by orange groves, and the downtown has several antique shops. In the first of these that we visited, we made the best find of our entire winter trip. Peering into a tightly packed cabinet, we could see a pair of jars that looked like the 311 shape and on closer inspection they appeared to be in the **CHINALAND** pattern. So we asked if we could see them. You can imagine how excited we were to handle these! The shop was not well lit so we asked if we could take them outside to inspect them in the sunlight.

They were beautiful! The smaller size 7" covered vases and in the rarely seen Lustre Blue, pattern number **3014**. There was no question about whether we should buy them or not. They were ours! As you can see, there are subtle differences between the two in how the pattern has been applied and painted. They are exquisite, right down to their intricately decorated lids.

The next day, we attended the "extravaganza" which, again, was like a mini Newark. We did see some Carlton Ware there; of note was a Ruby Lustre **PARADISE BIRD & TREE with CLOUD** rumidor. But nothing seemed to measure up to our purchase the previous day.

From there, we drove north out of Florida and into Georgia to spend a couple of days in Savannah. We stayed in the historical centre of the city and spent a morning taking a tour bus ride around the beautiful garden district full of mansions. In the afternoon we retraced some of the morning's journey and visited the antique shops we had spotted. In one, we were met with a most unpleasant event, but one becoming more typical of the so called "freedoms" allowed in the USA. The door to the shop was locked with a note on the door saying something like "only serious buyers allowed entrance". Well, we would be serious if the right merchandise presented itself, so we rang the bell and the door was eventually answered by a surly man, wearing a holster complete with a gun! It was a bit unnerving to enter the place; obviously he was expecting trouble from other armed people. So we looked round the place as fast as we could and got out of there!



From Savannah, we drove north into South Carolina and spent a very pleasant four days in Charleston. We stayed in an old Mansion (left) built in 1843 called Jasmine House, right in the centre of the old town. As in Savannah, there were lots of antique shops but, for the most part, they didn't carry what we were looking for. There was even a shop called Carlton Dailey Twentieth Century that we thought would be promising, but they had never even heard of Carlton Ware! Of all the places we visited on our journey home, Charleston was our favourite. It is a beautiful and friendly city and with excellent restaurants.

From Charleston, we started the long drive west across the U.S., stopping for a night in Ashville, North Carolina, then onto Nashville, Tennessee for a couple of days. What an interesting city! It is party central seven days a week! Downtown is full of bars with live entertainment and people enjoying themselves at all hours. From Nashville, we drove north through Kentucky, into Illinois and onto Missouri for a three day stop in St. Louis. Then we continued west across Missouri to Kansas City for another couple of days. We were now in the mid-west and our next day's drive would be a long one, right across Kansas and into Colorado, for a three day stop in Denver, at the foot of the Rockies. From there, we just had to drive straight north, keeping the Rockies to our west, and we would be home in two days. But the weather had other plans and, due to snow, we ended up staying in Denver for six days! Of course, we had shopped all along the road and bought quite a few items. One of our favourite pieces we found in St. Louis; an Arts & Crafts era coffee pot, designed by George Logan for the Foley Pottery, using the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Glasgow Rose.





Our six days in Denver turned out to be well worth the stay. The day after we arrived, we visited an exhibition of the work by the renowned British sculptor, Henry Moore (1898 – 1986). This had been assembled at the Denver Botanical Gardens and 20 of Moore’s monumental sculptures were on display in the gardens. It was a magnificent collection, displayed as Moore preferred, outside in the open, rather than enclosed in a gallery.

On another day we visited the Vance Kirkland Museum. Kirkland (1904 – 1981) was born in Ohio but settled in Colorado and the museum was located in his studio, which had been enlarged to hold his

collection of 20th century design that covered the years 1870 to 1970. As soon as we entered the first room, we were absolutely blown away by the collection that covered all aspects of design. We took our time going from room to room, enjoying the different displays. There was everything there that you would expect to see, from works by William Morris to Andy Warhol. Of course, the ceramics were of most interest to us and eventually we found what we were looking for. There, in one cabinet, was a Carlton Ware Melon shape demitasse in the **DIAMOND** pattern! It was only one small piece but we felt happy that Kirkland had decided to add this to his collection. Here are pictures of two of the rooms; the first featuring a Frank Lloyd Wright dining room suite with late period Kirkland “Cosmos” oils on the walls; the second showing Kirkland’s studio, with the straps that he used to hang from the ceiling to produce his famous “Dot” paintings.



On our third day in Denver, just as we were due to start the last part of our journey home, we woke up to snow and the roads were bad all the way north out of Colorado and through Wyoming and Montana and across the border into Canada. So we stayed for three more days until the roads improved and then made the final two day drive north, with a night's stop in Billings, Montana. We arrived home on April 10, 100 days and 12,000 miles after we had started out! It had been an absolutely wonderful trip!

NICHOLNACK – art in pottery
<http://nicholnack.com.au/>

Many of you will already have found the above website but, for those of you who have not yet had this delightful experience, we are pleased to be able to introduce it to you. As you will see from the web address, the site is located in Australia and it is the result of many, many hours of ongoing work by Bruce Nichol, a Kiwi now living in Melbourne. Bruce is primarily a dealer, not a collector, but you can see the passion he has for the pottery he handles, just from the amount of research he puts into each picture he posts on the site. Access to the entire site is totally free and when you first enter into the above address, you will come to the Home page below.



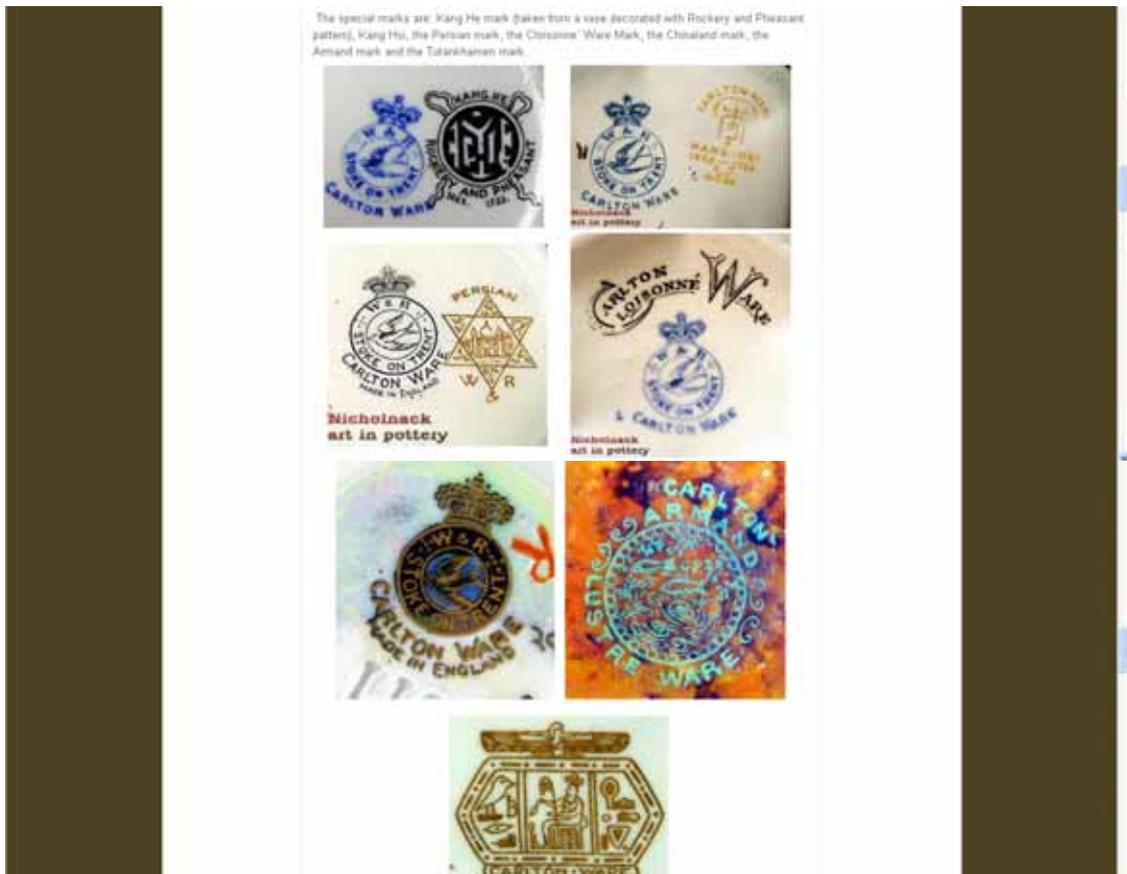
As you will see, on the left hand side is a “Sales Gallery” where you can click on the Carlton Ware heading and find all sorts of items for sale, sorted into various Carlton Ware categories.



But the knowledge to be gained from the site can be found right at the top, underneath the Nicholnack Fact Files heading. Click on the Carlton Ware tab and you will open up a whole world of information on Carlton Ware history and Carlton Ware patterns.



Scroll down the page to find detailed descriptions of backstamps and other information.



To gain access to the pattern fact files, click on one of the categories below the Carlton Ware tab, such as C.W. Lustre & Handpainted. This will open up a page where patterns have been sorted into number and date sub-groups.

The screenshot shows the Carlton Ware website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'Australian Pottery', 'Royal Doulton', and 'Carlton Ware'. Below these are sub-categories: 'Pattern Numbers', 'Wittchow & Robinson', 'Cherrywood Pottery', 'C.W. Lustre & Handpainted', 'C.W. Handcraft', and 'Embossed'. The main header features the Carlton Ware logo and the text 'Nicholnack art in pottery'. A 'Sales Gallery' sidebar on the left lists various pottery types. The main content area is titled 'Patterns 3143 to 3399 - 1927 to 1930 era' and includes two small images of decorated pottery. Below the images is a list of pattern names and a paragraph of text: 'Patterns first issued in this range are: Chinese Bird & Cloud, Chinese Bird - Cerulea - Cubist Butterfly - Fantasia - Feather-tailed Bird & Flower - Floral Cones - Forest Tree - Garden - Geometric - Hatching - New Chinese Bird & Cloud - Paradise Bird & Tree - Paradise Bird & Tree with Cloud - Pines - Sunflower - Tree & Swallow - Jazz. Violet Elmer was a designer employed by Carlton Ware between 1920 and 1930. Most of the most sought after of the Carlton Ware Art Deco best ware has been attributed to this artist. Barry & Elaine Gilling have spent considerable energy researching Violet Elmer, they have generously supplied me with a list of the patterns attributed to this great talent. These patterns will be marked: "Pattern attributed to Violet Elmer"'. A 'Latest Content' sidebar on the right lists several pottery items with their respective prices.

Click on a sub-group to open up a detailed page of those pattern numbers.

The screenshot shows a detailed product page for a Carlton Ware vase. The title is 'Carlton Ware Paradise Bird & Tree with Cloud ~ 3143 (circa 1927)'. The main image is a large, ornate vase with a dark background and colorful, intricate designs of birds and trees. Below the image is the text 'Nicholnack art in pottery' and a caption: 'C.W. Paradise Bird & Tree with Cloud twin handle vase - pattern 3143 - retitled red lustre ground, underglaze decoration - production was 1927 to 1921 - images courtesy of "The Lexi James Collector"'. A sidebar on the right lists other pottery items, including 'Vase Pottery Red Holly Today as Original Price \$895.00', 'Royal Doulton Blue Sky Coaching Days Series #A8031', 'Royal Doulton Embossed Galloway Series Plates #A8000', 'Royal Doulton Patterns Series New Pine Ash Tray #A8014', and 'Carlton Ware Foggish Gray Bird & Scene'.

Bruce has had the good fortune to be able to photograph some of the large collections in the Melbourne area. All the pictures give credit to the collection to which they belong. Most patterns include a picture for all the various colourways of that pattern; however, some colourways are missing and Bruce is continually updating his website as new pictures come along. At the end of each pattern is a summary of all the colourways to be found in that pattern.

Anyway, enough of our guide to surfing the Nicholnack website; go there yourself and have some fun. Make sure you have lots of time on your hands; you will be hooked before you know it and you will spend hours looking at all the wonderful pictures of Carlton Ware

For those of you with other interests in addition to Carlton Ware, there are also excellent sections on Royal Doulton and Australian Pottery. Soon to be added is a section on Royal Winton, and who knows what the "mad Kiwi" will put his mind to next!

Thanks Bruce for an outstanding job done (and still being done)!

Final Word



Finally, we would like to say goodbye to our friend and neighbour and fellow Carlton Ware collector, Mario Gagnon. Mario and Betty had been collecting Carlton Ware for about 10 years and had put together a very nice collection. Mario was a very talented painter and Betty makes beautiful stained glass lamp shades and other works, so they both had a great appreciation for the intricate hand work that went into the making of Carlton Ware.

Mario and Betty were in Rio de Janeiro last New Year and, tragically, Mario died of a brain injury following a freak accident.

Betty is slowly coming to terms with the situation and has decided to fulfill one of her and Mario's dreams. She is selling up here in Calgary and moving to South America. Betty offered to sell us two of Mario's favourite pieces. We are very happy to have the **JAZZ** and **EGYPTIAN FAN** vases in our collection, both for their beauty and as a reminder of our friend.



Happy hunting Mario!

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