

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #51

from

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Recently we heard from Bill Bell in the U.K. who sent us a picture of a Carlton Ware figurine that had come down to him from his grandfather. Bill had been searching the internet, looking for similar pieces but was unable to come up with anything remotely like it. Bill wondered if it was rare or valuable. A picture of Bill's Lady can be seen in the centre below:



The figure measures approximately 16" high and has the blue Crown Mark on the base with no other markings or numbers.

We replied to Bill that it is hard to term anything as rare, although his Lady is certainly an unusual piece. We told him that we had previously seen a couple of other similar figurines; however they were both fully painted, as above. We asked Bill how this piece came into his family.

Bill replied that his grandfather had been the manager of a Midland Bank in Hanley, not far from the Carlton Ware factory. According to his father, Cuthbert Wiltshaw had given the figurine to Bill's grandfather, Norman Bell, as a gift for his wife Ida Bell, Bill's grandmother. Bill's father thinks that this took place after the Great War, around 1920, and says that Norman and Cuth (as he was known to his friends) were very great friends and that the Lady was a special order item. Bill's grandmother Ida was Roberta Wiltshaw's (Cuthbert's wife) regular Bridge partner until her untimely death. Bobby (as



Roberta was known to her friends) was killed by a burglar she disturbed during a break-in at their house.

Other than the tragic ending, we found this a most interesting story. Here are some more pictures of Bill's figurine, together with comparison pictures of the painted figures that have been supplied courtesy of the Derek & Jane Towns collection.



Above, centre, is the side panel of the Kimono on Bill's figurine showing an enameled dragon, butterflies and flowers. Below, the back panels of the painted pair both feature gilded butterflies; whereas Bill's figurine features more enameled flowers and butterflies. The muffs on the three costumes all have different pattern elements.



Thanks Bill for sharing your pictures and family story with us; it is a fascinating piece of Carlton Ware history.

Keeping with the Oriental theme, we move now from Japan to China. Several readers asked us if we could show the two **CHINALAND** lidded vases that we found in Florida in one picture, rather than separately. It would seem that collectors of this pattern wanted to compare the two vases to see the differences in pattern execution. So here are some pictures of the pair together, showing three different angles. As you can see, there are multiple differences in the way they were finished; some subtle, some quite obvious, even down to the intricately finished lids.





A very unusual **Handcraft** vase was seen for sale in August on eBay. The **Camouflage** pattern is rarely seen and we had never before seen the pattern in this blue, brown and black colourway. Initially we did not recognize the pattern as being **Camouflage**, as it had previously only been recorded on the more traditional green, yellow and black colourway. However, we were tipped off to the pattern name by **Bruce Nichol** of **Nicholnack Art in Pottery**. Thanks Bruce!

Unfortunately there was no pattern number on this previously unrecorded colourway. Does anyone have another piece in this colourway that does show a pattern number?

The stunning 10 inch **Revo** bowl shown here in the traditional colourway is pattern number **3440**. This bowl came from the **Clive Graham Collection** and is now in the **Parnell Collection** in Australia. The 6" vase above has also now gone to Australia, to the **Dulcie Agnes Joyce Memorial Collection**. It sold on eBay for £350.



Thanks to the **Cochrane & Pettit Archive** for use of this picture.



Another rarely seen pattern was sold on eBay on the last day of August; an outstanding **Fairy** vase in the lustre blue colourway, pattern number **3564**. This beautiful vase in the popular **442** shape measures 6 inches high. The high lustre finish on this piece makes it very difficult to photograph well. However, that did not deter the bidders – the vase had an opening price of £1,800 with no reserve and the highest of the 8 bids took the piece up to £3,800 – a price not seen in some years now for a piece of Carlton Ware.

Now here is an unusual piece we would like to share with you (by picture only); a wonderful birthday cake made for **Margot Whelan's 70th** birthday.



Many of you will have seen the videos made by Keith & Helen Martin of Margot's huge collection in Australia. It's an amazing collection and Margot is still adding to it! Many Happy Returns Margot. Violet Elmer would be delighted to see one of her patterns reproduced so well by the artist who painted your cake!

Final word: Many of you knew **Don Maggart** from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Back in the 1990s, Don & Jane were regular attendees at the annual Carlton Ware Collectors International conferences in Stoke-on-Trent. Don really enjoyed his collecting mania and over the years he put together a large collection of the **2881** pattern; **MIKADO** on the matt black and terracotta colourway. He also had a passion for blush ware claret jugs. One year after the conference, Don & Jane visited us at the flat we had rented for a month in London. It was a Wednesday, so we all headed off to Camden Passage for the weekly antiques fair. We went our separate ways once we were there, all going at our own speed. When we met up again for lunch, Don proudly showed us the beautiful claret jug he and Jane had found on one stall. Don passed away on August 29, 2010. Happy fishing Don! (Don is on the left).



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