

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #52

**from
Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson**

October 2010



A most unusual ashtray was seen for sale on eBay in September – it featured the Tower of Empire, or Tait's Tower, after its designer Thomas S. Tait and was part of a series of wares made by Carlton Ware for the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow, Scotland in 1938.

The ashtray is probably the hardest piece to find for the collector of this series; as you can imagine, they would



easily break and most that come up for sale show some kind of repair. However, this piece was in perfect order and the picture of the back stamp, that included the words "Supplied by Treron Glasgow", also clearly showed the impressed shape number as 1620.

Carlton Ware went all out in matching the iconic Art Deco design of Tait's Tower to some of their most popular Art Deco shaped ceramics.



MODERN teapot, shape 1245
Cigarette or card holder, shape 1210



Conical bowl
Cigarette box, shape 1398

The simple lines of the cigarette box above showcase Carlton Ware's interpretation of this futuristic building.

The Glasgow Exhibition was in 1938; a year later, Carlton Ware used the same shapes and a similar style design for commemorates made to celebrate the Centennial Exhibition in New Zealand. Of course, if there was an ashtray made for New Zealand, it would have been a different shape!

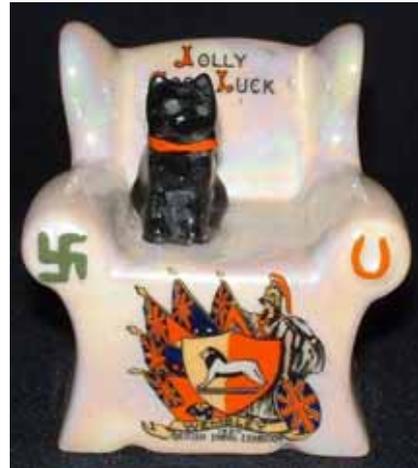
On the card holder below, the Exhibition is shown as being held in 1939 and 1940; whereas the tankard shows the period of the Centennial 1840 – 1940. This Exhibition would have been held at the same time as the 1939 – 1940 New York World's Fair and the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco; however, we have never seen Carlton Ware collectables for either of those large exhibitions.



Cigarette or card holder, shape 1210
5" Tankard

This is an interesting area to collect; the pieces do not come up for sale very often but, when they do, they still sell for an affordable price.

Another Exhibition for which Carlton Ware produced commemoratives was the 1924 – 1925 British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley in London. A very collectable piece of Carlton China Crested Ware was also put up for sale on eBay in September – a Lucky Black Cat sitting on an armchair, bearing the Wembley Exhibition crest and the words Jolly Good Luck. The enamel work on these tiny items is amazing.



The crest on the chair, featuring the stylized Art Deco Lion designed by F. C. Herrick, is in a traditional style with Britannia looming over the flags of the Empire. The year is shown beneath the word Wembley as 1924.



A year later, the same Lion was used on a more contemporary Art Deco style crest; albeit still glowing in the Victorian pride that the sun never sets on the British Empire.

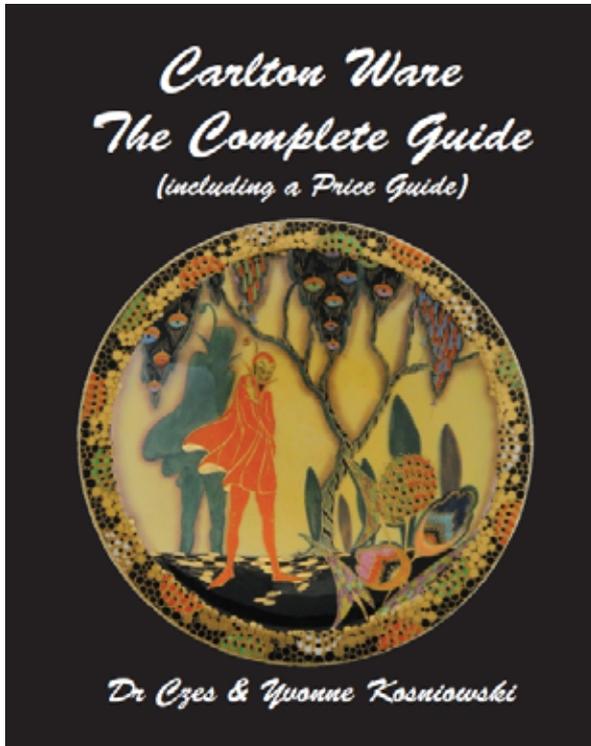
Carlton Ware's links with the world of Exhibitions goes back even further and items can be found for other exotic places. In 1915, Carlton China produced crested ware items for the California World's Fair and also for the Panama California Exposition, celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal.



World's Fair California 1915 souvenir vase
Panama California Exposition souvenir vase
with crests of the City of Los Angeles and the City of San Diego

Also in September, the much anticipated book by Czes & Yvonne Kosniowski, **Carlton Ware, The Complete Guide**, was published. Our copy is fast becoming well used! Here is our review:

**Carlton Ware
The Complete Guide
(including a Price Guide)
Dr Czes & Yvonne Kosniowski**



If you haven't already bought your copy of **The Complete Guide**, then do so right away; it is well worth the price. It is the post office that is making this book expensive! A book like this has been a long time in coming – a book that did justice to its subject matter. It is crammed full of wonderful pictures and printed on excellent quality paper and it is indeed complete, covering the Copeland Street works from its inception to the present day.

As the third book written and published by the Kosniowski's, this is the perfect next step. **The Complete Guide** starts off with two pages of history; nothing knew there to learn but it would be a surprise if there was. Then we are straight into several pages of The Early Years with lots of pictures of beautiful Blush Ware and Flow Blue; then onto Crested Ware and Sprigged Ware.

The book then divides many years of Lustre Ware patterns into the themes that influenced the designers in creating them. It is here, Czes admits, that there could be

some criticism of where they placed particular patterns. Thankfully there is an index at the back of all the patterns featured in the book, so it is easy to find your favourites.

The largest section in the book is given over to The Art Deco & Best Ware period, with over 50 pages of pictures of some amazing pieces.

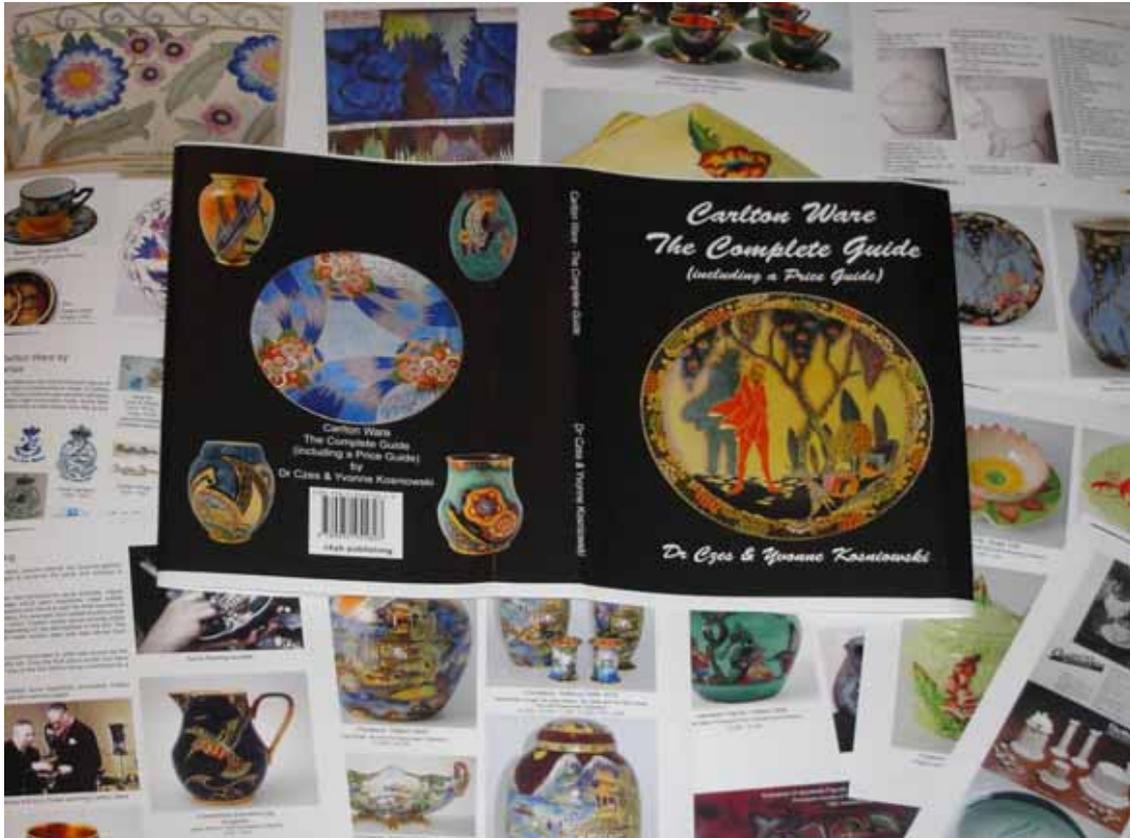
One of the most interesting features of this book is the use of the designers original art work. Many of the popular patterns are shown, just as Violet Elmer and her contemporaries created them, right down to the colours of the enamels to be used and, sometimes, a pattern name.

Another feature of the book is the use of a price guide. This is certainly a controversial area that is open to debate. Many things can affect the value of Carlton Ware, the current world wide economic mess being just one of them. However, although there will probably be many opinions as to why particular valuations should be higher or lower, this is just a guide and should be considered as such.

The book finishes with some very useful and comprehensive lists of pattern and shape names and numbers.

When you set out to write a book about a subject as vast as Carlton Ware, you have to decide from which angle to approach the subject. There are obvious ways, such as, taking the patterns chronologically or alphabetically; **The Complete Guide** takes an interesting third approach. It is the best book yet to be published on Carlton Ware and, as it is a limited edition, make sure you get your copy.

You can order a copy by following this link: www.cyk.com/shop.



Ian Harwood & Jerome Wilson
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

We can be contacted at:
Phone: (403) 243-8172
email: jeromian@shaw.ca