

CARLTON WARE NEWSLETTER #56

from

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Our third month in the U.K. started off with a visit to the big fair in Newark, Nottinghamshire on Thursday, February 3. We left our cottage early in the morning and got to the showground while some dealers were still unpacking. The entry price on the first day had been reduced from the usual £20 to £10, probably because the dealer attendance is less in the winter months. Most of the inside stalls in the covered buildings seemed to be rented but there were lots of empty pitches in the outside areas. We headed first into a covered building near the



entrance as it was quite a chilly morning. However, it wasn't until we reached the Crocker Building that we saw our first pieces of interesting Carlton Ware. On one table was a pair of **BIRDS ON BOUGH** vases, pattern **2794**, measuring 4½" high and priced at £280 for the pair. Across the

room was a table that had a lovely **Crested Bird & Water Lily** vase on Ruby Lustre, pattern **3530**, along with two pieces of **PRIMULA** on the matte pink ground, pattern **3745**. The **Crested Bird** vase measured 5" high and was priced at £450. We didn't make a note of the prices



on the **PRIMULA** pieces. In the Lady Eastwood building, we saw a nice display of Carlton Ware including a part coffee set in Carlton China that was priced very high at £325. There was also a powder blue **SKETCHING BIRD** Melon shape demitasse, pattern **3952**, priced at £45 that, on

examination, turned out to be restored. A very pretty powder bowl in **FOREST TREE** on mottled blue, pattern **3244**, was fairly priced at £215.



We didn't buy any Carlton Ware on that day out but we did find two lovely pieces of art deco Crown Devon. On an outside stall we spotted an **ORIENT** ginger jar measuring 9" high and in the Crocker Building we found an unusual tube lined 6" lamp base in the geometric **AZTEC** pattern.



The following Sunday, we drove up to London for the popular fair at Alexandra Palace. On arrival, we stopped by Harvey Pettit's stall, just to the left of the entrance. While there, we were soon joined by John & Sara Broom, then Chris



Rutter and finally Carole Moore. Chris showed us all a beautiful **LACECAP HYDRANGEA** Velox bowl on gloss pink, pattern **3969**, which he had collected from a dealer, having bought it after seeing it at a previous show. We also looked at photo albums of Chris's collection and John & Sara's collection. It turned out to be quite an impromptu Carlton Ware meeting!

There were a few tables displaying Carlton Ware for sale but nothing outstanding and, with the extremely crowded show, it was impossible to take any pictures. However, we ran into Asha, a dealer we had met at Newark who had a lovely display of Crown Devon. We told her that our main area of collecting was Carlton Ware and she told us about a pair of vases she had in her collection in the **HUMMINGBIRD** pattern. Being an unusual pattern, we asked her if she could send us pictures of the pair. A few days later, the pictures arrived, including one of the backstamp that revealed the previously unrecorded matte pale blue to be pattern number **3462**.



Every Friday, there is an antique market at the Corn Hall in the centre of Cirencester, which is about 25 miles south of us here in Gloucestershire. We have been to the market several times and have found something to buy on most occasions, however, not much of it has been Carlton Ware. Across the road from the Corn Hall is the Cirencester Arcade, an antique market with about 60 units. We have gone through this market on a couple of occasions but have seldom found anything to buy, but it is certainly worth a look. On February 11th we had arranged to stop in for coffee with Gillian Cameron, who lives in the city centre. We knew we had arrived at the right house, as we could see Gill's display



of **Carlton Ovenware** in her kitchen window! Very distinctive and very unusual, these pieces are hard to find and carried a 12 month guarantee and showed the month and year of manufacture below the backstamp. Gill also has a large collection of boxed Floral Embossed ware as well as lovely displays of Yellow Buttercup, Anemone and Grape.

After coffee and viewing Gill's collection, Gill accompanied us to the weekly market and showed us a quick backstreet way of getting there. The Corn Hall is full of tables and most of the dealers are weekly regulars but others are only there occasionally. As usual, it was busy with the local public and this week we made a good buy on a Walking Ware teapot.



Also during the month, we had visits at the cottage first by John & Sara Broom and later by Barry & Elaine Girling. Sara is the Secretary of the Carlton Ware World club and Barry & Elaine are the researchers and authors of the articles about Violet Elmer, so we had plenty to talk about during both their visits. As well as Carlton Ware talk, we also went on the hunt and took them around the various local shops in Chipping Campden, Moreton-in-Marsh and Stow-on-the-Wold. Nothing was purchased during these trips out but Barry & Elaine were quite tempted by a china trio in the **SYLVAN TREE** pattern in a shop in Chipping Campden; unfortunately it had the Savoy China backstamp rather than Carlton China; (picture courtesy of www.carltonchina.info).



By the end of the month, we had been in the U.K. for 3 months and we had to return our rental car to Heathrow, as it was due for service. We stopped for lunch with Janet & Mike Langhorne in Hampton and saw Janet's latest additions to her collection and then switched cars. During the 3 months, we had put over 7,000 miles on the car, travelling around the south of England and the Midlands, in



search of Carlton Ware and other pottery and glass. Some of the Carlton Ware that we found during February included a lovely pair of **PRUNUS SPRAY** vases, pattern number **2723**, from a market in Warwick; a very pretty **NEW STORKS** jug on **ROUGE ROYALE** from a market in Burford, Oxfordshire; a large yellow



FOXGLOVE jug from a fair in Betchworth, Surrey; and a green **FRUIT BASKET** jam pot holder from a flea market in Market Harborough, Leicestershire.



However, one of our favourite pieces that we bought during the month was a Royal Winton charger in the Byzantia Bubbles pattern.

So that's another month gone from our 4½ months in the U.K. Next month starts off with some great excitement, with us finding a **RABBITS AT DUSK** vase on yellow, an unusual colourway for this pattern. We will include more pictures and tell you all about the saga that developed from that find in our next Newsletter.



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