

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Ouseburn explorations

Admittedly, there isn't a lot to see here after a century and a half. But this is the site of Robert Maling's Ouseburn Bridge pottery in Newcastle. Local historian Keith Cockerill took the shots.

The white blobs are the kiln area, and you may also be able to make out the remains of the quayside at which ships tied up to receive their cargo of Maling wares.

Keith also tried to recreate the panoramic shot of the Ford B Pottery which is reproduced in TMOE. I did the same some years ago, and we both discovered the same problem. As Keith puts it:

"The FT Maling shot was taken from height. In order to get some of the same into my photograph, I took my decorating step ladders along! From looking at the site from a Maling letterhead, I cannot envisage how Mr Maling got the height for his shot, unless he used a crane!"

The best guess is that he climbed on top of the Enamel Kilns, which weren't part of the original buildings. They were probably built around 1890, when the factory was turning more towards decorative wares. (You can see them in the engraving which forms the frontispiece to the reproduction catalogue.)

These kilns were situated close to the Decorating Department, but a little further "up the yard". They can still be seen on an aerial photograph of the factory taken in the late 1940s. However, they were presumably demolished after Hoult's took over that end of the yard for their removals and storage business.



Seek & find

You all know that the society is a research organisation, devoted to finding out more about Maling and preserving what we find for future generations of collectors.

No one knows all the answers, and no one ever will so long after the factory's closure. But this edition of the newsletter shows that there are a lot of people out there trying their best to dig up obscure bits of information. Once again, we ask you to join us in the quest.

It may mean writing a letter or getting out and about with your camera, or visiting the local library. We therefore dedicate this newsletter to "research" and thank all those who have contributed new information. Research like this costs you no more than the price of a stamp, a little time and the use of your imagination. Try it!



Potted history

We always love to see Maling being used for its intended purpose. Here, courtesy of Julia Irwin, is a planter which is being used as ... well, what did you expect?

Julia writes: "I bought the planter in London around three years ago. It is still perfect, but I put a plastic liner inside to protect it. The mother-in-law's-tongue has really flourished in the pot, as you can see."

Answers anyone?

Having extolled the virtues of research, I have to confess that the website throws up many queries from visitors to whom my answer is: "I haven't the foggiest". Here are some of them, and any help would be much appreciated. Please e-mail your suggestions or post them to the address on the back page - David.

1 - Can you tell me if the names of the bridges should appear on the pictures on the Ringtons "Bridges" tea caddy? I have seen several on eBay and most do not seem to have the names printed on the pictures but one or two do. Does this mean that one of these is not original or are there different versions and, if so, which is the most desirable?

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Tank(ard)s for the memory...

Following on from his previous article ("Getting Plastered" - March 2004) in connection with the Blaydon Races Centenary, David Johnson of Tyne & Wear writes:

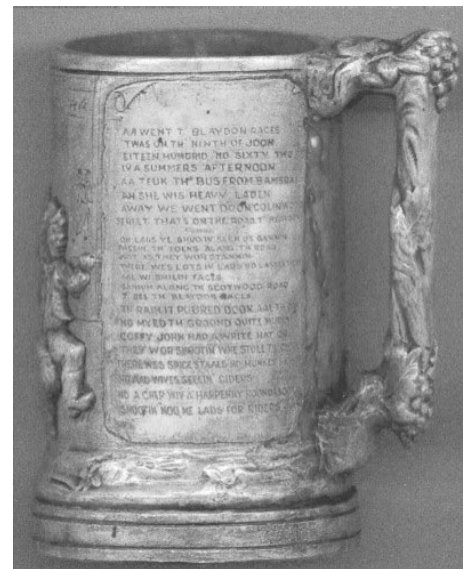
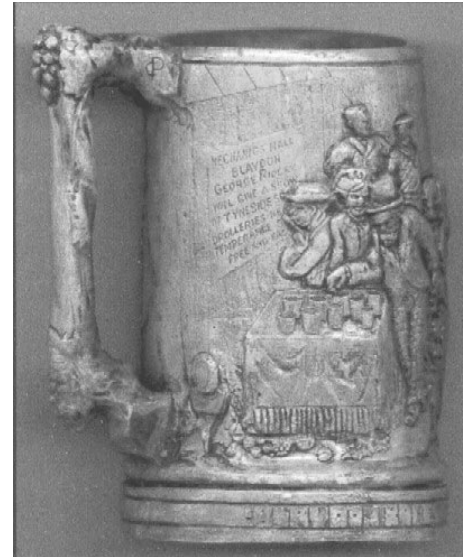
I am delighted to be able to show you the second item that Norman Carling and Cecil Parker produced to commemorate this event in 1962. Like the plaster plaques, the tankard was also made as a standard Centenary commemorative and for sale to the general public.

However, a limited edition of fifty was produced to an exclusive commission (and so marked) for the company Leonard F. Eames Ltd of Park View, Whitley Bay. They sold pottery ornaments and popular reproductions of paintings from their showroom pictured below.

The tankard is yet another fine example in plaster, standing 15cm high, showing numerous embossed local characters of the day enjoying the occasion on 9th June 1862. It advertises the fact that George Ridley will give a show at the Mechanics' Hall at Blaydon and includes two verses (first and last) plus the chorus of his famous Tyneside song.

The monogram on the handle, consisting of the interlinked initials "CP" is most likely that of its creator, Cecil Parker.

David H adds: These Plasta Crafts tankards seem to be cropping up everywhere! A "Bonnie Prince Charlie" one went up on eBay recently, and a reader reports having found one with the words and hunting decoration to accompany "D' Ye Ken John Peel?" It's amazing what you can find if you keep your eyes open.





Prodigal returns

You've all seen this vase before - it's on the advertisement which opens the "Late 1930s" chapter of TMOE.

The trouble with advertisements is that you can't reach in, pick up a piece and check the marks on the bottom. So, although the shape is known, we've never been able to put a number to it... until now.

Allan Smith spotted this example on eBay and realised it was a "missing" one. The base markings confirm that it's shape 102. Thanks, Allan.

Old Mill? Stream? Jesmond Dene?

People sometimes ask if the 1930s "Old Mill" plaque is based on the mill which used to stand in Jesmond Dene. We can't be sure, although the Boulemeriers lived close to that part of Newcastle. A chance find on the Internet turned up this photo. Flip it through 180 degrees and use a little artistic licence ... your call.



Fit for a King?

These marks appear on what would, otherwise, be a rather undistinguished, plain white tea plate. The front bears the monogram of Edward VII, and the back has an unusually elaborate factory mark and the date 1907.

There's no apparent significance in the date (although in the previous year the King had opened the Newcastle railway bridge which bears his name).

Was this part of a service made for royal use? Probably for "below stairs" as this is pottery rather than china. It may not be easy to see from the photo, but the monogram is made up of intertwined ropes. Possibly something for the royal yacht?

I wrote to the royal archives at Windsor but, sadly, they couldn't confirm or deny the guess. However, they did pass me on to the Assistant Curator of the Queen's Works of Art - Matthew Winterbottom. He writes:

"No pieces matching your tea plate appear to survive in the collection. However, I quite agree with you that the plate was possibly part of a service made for everyday 'below stairs' use. I also agree that the cypher of Edward VII does have a nautical feel. Unfortunately without supporting documentation this will prove difficult to confirm."

More interestingly, Matthew adds:

"There are only four pieces by Maling listed in the entire Royal Collection. These comprise an oval powder blue inkstand decorated with gilt dragons, a pair of white churn-shaped jugs and a bidet."

A bidet? I guess that's as intimate a connection with royalty as you could hope to find - even if it is, shall we say, from the bottom end of the factory's range. - David



My immediate reaction was: "Yes, the bridges are named". But then you set me wondering. As Ringtons isn't my thing, I pass it over to members to comment.

2 - I am researching coaching with four-horse teams, in the Newcastle area, around 1900. C.T. Maling and his brother Fred, were very active in this activity and ran their own coach. Do you know of any source of information on this aspect of the Maling family? Are there any family papers available?

No idea. Perhaps one of our family patrons could oblige?

3 - I was wondering if you could help me in trying to identify a piece of Maling that has come into my possession. It is a blue fruit bowl and has the 1930s to 1940s stamp on the bottom. The numbers are 4394 with the number 3 underneath. I think this is around 1931 but was wondering if you could put a name to the design. It has a dark blue top half inside and out with bold tulips all the way round and the lower half inside and out is a lighter shade of blue. It has a rim of gilding also. Any info would be most appreciated.

Patterns in the 4000 range are something of a mystery. They should exist, but they aren't often seen. Any info on them would be good.

4 - Last year I bought an oval white dish. It has 'Cetem' and the date 2.09 impressed into the base. A firm's name - H. Packham & Sons - is printed in black inside the dish. I imagine the firm was a food company, but have not been able to verify this. I've asked elderly neighbours, perused local telephone directories and searched on the Internet - to no avail!

Your research efforts are commendable. If anyone out there has information on Packhams (or any other retailer whose name appears on Maling) please get in touch.

General interest



Ross Johnson of Lancashire tells us this tale of trying to track down information on another unusual bit of Maling:

"On one of my regular visits to the fairs, in the hunt for that elusive piece of Maling that may be hiding in the corner of the stall, I came across a piece depicting the founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth. It commemorates his death (or as the Army describes it, his 'promotion to Glory') on 20 August, 1912.

"I have made enquiries at the Salvation Army International Heritage Centre. They do not seem to have any information on these pieces, but at least they did try for me - for which I thank them.

"They also sent me a picture of a beaker which I think may be Maling. It bears the same 'In Memoriam' scrolls as the plate. The condition is a bit rough but, as this is an unusual piece, I thought members might like to hear about it.

"I know some of you say that you never seem to find anything at the fairs. So do I. But I still go, and I sometimes find good hunting!"

Computer clean-up

From time to time, I like to remind you of steps you can take to make your computer (and therefore mine!) more secure. So here are a few tips.

1 - Have you got an antivirus program and firewall? The first will stop nasties getting in and the second will stop them getting out again. If you want something for free, try AVG antivirus, and the Zone Alarm firewall. You can search for them on the 'Net or visit your local newsagent for a computer magazine which will probably have them on the cover disk.

2 - Is your alleged virus really only a hoax? Members often mail me to warn that my computer will self-destruct at a certain date in the future. These alleged threats are fake. Check them out at: <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

3 - Are you updating your version of Windows? Many of the downloads are big, and time-consuming if you don't have broadband. Microsoft has a free CD for UK users which contains most of the patches. See: <http://www.microsoft.com/uk/security/protect/update.mspx> Or use good old-fashioned technology and 'phone them on 0870 601 0100.

4 - Have you got any spyware on your PC? (Do you even know what it is?) If the answer is "don't know" surf over to: <http://www.lavasoft.de> where you'll find some disturbing reading and a free download of AdAware - a program which will check and destroy the stuff. Again a cover disk will probably have the software. (Try ".net" magazine.)



Around four hundred items of Maling ware went through eBay over the last three months. The undoubted high was a fifteen-piece coffee set in pattern 5102, which went for 630 GBP. On the other hand, you could have had an incomplete and slightly damaged tea-for-one set for only 1 GBP. No lid to the teapot and a hairline in the plate. But an apparently intact cup & saucer, plus sugar bowl, for a mere quid!



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£20 p.a. (UK),
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