

MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Memories of the hunt

David Johnson chases down elusive information on stirrup cups and the Haydon Hunt in the conclusion to his article.

Despite his retirement from the mastership, Mr Maling would continue to have a close relationship with his beloved hunt. Pottery staff from the late 1920s can recall how surplus bread crusts would be collected from fellow workers for the horses and taken up to his home at Osborne Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle.

At Christmas time, Mrs Eva Maling liked to make gifts for a number of hunting friends at Haydon Bridge and in the early 1930s one of her favourite gifts was "Cobblestone" initially only available in brown, but then blue and green. Parcels containing a rolling pin, oval covered butter dish, flour dredger and spice jar would be especially made up.

Pottery with hunting scenes had been produced at the factory since the 19th century, but it is the 20th century fox's head stirrup cup (known to the workers as the fox horn stirrup cup) and the matching



The Haydon Hunt.

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leaping fox handle jug (both modelled by Lucien Emille Boulemier) that have the connection with the Haydon Hunt.

Rare production figures from the factory show that in January 1929, five stirrup cup moulds were produced with 100 pieces initially being cast. 50 of those were decorated in hunting pink (scarlet)

and brown with a border of chasing hounds (as previously illustrated) and another 50 were produced in a combination border of huntsman and chasing hounds.

Between 1929 and 1933 further stirrup cups were being produced in various

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We were saddened to hear in September of the death of Peggie Boustead, at the age of 91, and we send our condolences to Peggie's daughter, Heather.

Peggie had two spells as a Maling paintress - pre and post-war, and her recollections of those times were a fascinating glimpse into the past. Although suffering from failing health, she was a staunch supporter of society events in the north east, and it was easy to see that she had retained a wonderful sense of humour.

She even put herself through the rigours of a professional film shoot for our "Maling Memories" video, and her comments about the factory, products and personnel (not always complimentary!) have delighted and, we

PEGGIE BOUSTEAD



hope, educated many members. As one viewer of the video put it: "Peggie- what a star!"

Peggie's account of her time at Maling appears in newsletters 14 and 15 (available on the website). She concluded it with the words: "Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to relive those long ago days, for meeting up with the girls and involving me with the society. It has been wonderful to meet so many members, and I wish you all good hunting."

No, Peggie, the debt of thanks was always from us to you. Thanks for your memories and your time and patience in answering our many questions. You will be fondly remembered by all those who had the privilege of meeting you.

- David

We seek wise words

Does anyone know how many variants of the “Poor Richard” mugs exist? These mugs were produced (or reproduced) in the 1950s and carry homespun mottoes which were allegedly penned by Benjamin Franklin. The series includes:

“For age and want save while you may, no morning sun lasts a whole day.” (Transfer of customers in savings bank.)

“Plough deep while sluggards sleep and you shall have corn to sell and to keep.” (Transfer of farmer and plough.)

“Lost time is never found again. What we call time enough always proves little enough.” (Transfer of person in a rowing boat trying to catch the ship he missed.)

“Not to oversee workmen is to leave them your purse open, The eye of the master will do more work than both his hands.” (Transfer of master and workers.)

“Diligence is the mother of good luck. Now I have a sheep and a cow everybody bids me good morrow.” (Transfer of Poor Richard leaning on his cow and a gentleman tipping his hat to him.)

“Little strokes fell great oaks. By diligence and patience the mouse eat in two the cable.” (Transfer of a woodsman with an axe and felled tree. And, yes, the motto should say “eats” not “eat” - but it doesn’t!)

“He that goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing. Rather go to bed supperless than rise in debt.” (Transfer of man going, hat in hand, to borrow money from friend.)



That’s seven - but that seems an odd number in both senses of the word. What can you add? My own favourite from the alleged Poor Richard mottoes would be: “Gain may be temporary and uncertain, but ever while you live, expense is constant and certain.” (The transfer would, of course, be a person buying a piece of Maling!)

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designs, but sadly production figures for this period are no longer available. The matching jug was also introduced in 1929, with initially only 25 being cast, but once again between 1929 and 1933 further jugs were being produced in various designs. Both items were originally produced for the hunt meets and used, but were also presented by Mr Maling to successful members of the hunt. A single stirrup cup would be awarded to the member who won the brush (tail) from the fox and, at the end of the hunt season, whoever had won the most brushes would be awarded a jug.

Sets were also produced consisting of six fox head stirrup cups with a single matching jug for lemonade in different designs. It is interesting to note that Townsend’s stand at the North East Coast Industries Exhibition of 1929 included a display of Maling produced items connected with hunting. It is most likely that Maling used this opportunity to promote this range for the very first time.

The death of Christopher Thompson Maling in 1934 was marked with a most appropriate tribute by the Haydon Hunt. A race meeting, which included a Point-to-Point horse race in his honour, was run at Chesterwood for three or four years in succession. Close friends from the pottery (about 30 of them) would travel by a hired bus until this event ceased - presumably due to the outbreak of the Second World War. Being previously mentioned by one

former factory worker, it wasn’t until quite recently that actual confirmation of this occasion was obtained.

My contacting Mr Alistair Burrowes of Haydon Bridge, proved to be my initial good fortune as he was genuinely interested and on site. It would be some weeks though before Alistair could finally deliver to me some evidence. Leaving no stone unturned, his detective work led me back to Chesterwood Grange (the former home of C. T. Maling) now the family residence of



Mr & Mrs Fletcher. A Haydon Parish Councillor, Mrs Vera Fletcher, knew of a local farmer who had recollections of such an event from his childhood and kindly arranged for Alistair to meet him. With a remarkable memory, Mr Jimmy Pigg (pictured) could indeed remember a race meeting taking place and was quite willing to share his memories. Pointing out over the Haydon Fell to where the race track would have once been, Jimmy described how from the start the runners bearing left would go over the fields jumping the existing stone walls (top stones removed for this) which would be those used on a regular basis during the hunting season.

He could also recall how at the end of one particular race, as the horses crossed the finishing line, the bookie “did a runner” with all the punters’ money in his bag! Somehow he escaped into Haydon Bridge and got onto a train - we don’t know if he was ever caught!

Prior to obtaining Jimmy’s recollections, rumour has it that C. T. Maling’s ashes were spread close to the race track. Jimmy has said that he believes this to be the case and at one time a circle of stones marked this very spot.

Written by David Johnson of Tyne & Wear, with sincere thanks to Alistair Burrowes, Mrs Vera Fletcher and the now famous Jimmy Pigg. Any correspondence relating to this article should be directed to the Society and not to any individual mentioned.

Members get a glimpse of unique family history

If you missed collectors' day 9, you missed a goodie. Three paintresses answered questions about their time at Maling, an auctioneer gave tips on buying and selling, two members of the Maling family brought along photos and other memorabilia, and Steven gave a "behind the scenes" account of the BBC's Antiques Roadshow.

The day had too many highlights to detail. However, here are a couple. Heather Hornung (nee Maling) brought along a photo of the family home in Newcastle. When the house was extended to the rear, the foundations for the new building work were made from crushed-up marmalade jars. You don't need a degree in rocket science to work out where they may have come from.

Heather also brought along a superb piece decorated by Theo Maling. The design doesn't appear to have gone into production, so this was a chance for members to see something unique.

From the shape the piece appears to be quite old, pre-dating the 1930s. However, it reflects Miss Theo's common practice of

taking a piece and working on it freehand. Steven recollected an anecdote which says the piece was kept in the family bathroom and used for rinsing hair after a shampoo!

So that's two examples of Maling being used - although probably not for purposes you might have been able to predict.



It's a matter of a pinny-on ...

A correspondent writes: *My grandmother, when she was alive, used to work in the Maling factory. My mother always tells the story of when she started. She was the junior who made the cups of tea at the time, before she moved on within the factory. One day, she took a cup into the designer's room wearing her apron, which had fruit on it. The designer drew her apron onto a design and made them into vases. My grandmother was given the first two vases off the production line as a thank you.*

Unfortunately, one of the vases broke many years ago, however my mother has kept the first vase and often refers to it as 'Granny's pattern'. She has been searching for one to replace the broken one, so that she will have a pair again, over many years, but it has never appeared.

The vase is about 8-10 inches tall, with a

black background and different fruit on it - the number is 3515. I'm really sorry that I don't have a picture, as it is at my mother's house (she doesn't live near me) and I would desperately love to find one for her 50th Wedding Anniversary in January.

If you know of someone who has one for sale, I would be really interested to hear from them - it would make my mother very happy.

David replies: This is a classic example of why we need a photo before we can even hope to offer an opinion. We don't have a record of pattern 3515. My first thought was that this might be a mis-reading of 3016 - "Orchard". But "Orchard" is also recorded as 2889, so it appears to pre-date granny's apron. On the other hand, we know that both Messrs Boullemier were happy to re-work existing designs as a short cut, so the story can't be dismissed.

OFFERS

As we went to press, we were still in negotiation with fair organisers for members' discounts. However, DMG Fairs will offer free entry to their first two VIP trade days at Newark (now on Thursdays) and other discounts for this fair.

Visit their website or 'phone 01636 708146 to book your place.

Can Maling go where no pottery has gone before?

Some newsletters ago I wrote a semi-serious article in which I suggested that Lady Penelope of "Thunderbirds" fame may have had Maling in her mansion. There was certainly something very like a "Cherry Blossom" salt or pepper pot in the background - being used as a flower holder, as it was obviously too big (relative to the puppets) to be passed off for its real purpose.

I'm still not entirely sure whether it was or wasn't. However, this story has gained at least one fan. Julia Irwin writes:

"I showed a five-year-old boy, who is Thunderbirds-mad, the newsletter with the photograph of Lady Penelope and then the original Maling piece in my china cabinet. He was very impressed that I had 'her' vase!"

Well, let's see if we can encourage you to

send in more real or imagined sightings of Maling in unusual places.

The attached communication from Starfleet Command has, unfortunately, suffered in its transmission back from the year 2365. It shows the historic officer exchange programme under which Commander William Riker of the Starship Enterprise D served (or, rather, will serve) for a brief time aboard the Klingon battle cruiser Pagh. (We provide this information, not to show our knowledge of "Star Trek", but rather to prove to members that research is important and can be some fun.)

To business... We draw your attention to the Klingon drinking vessel pictured on the table. Nice to see that Norman Carling's range of Maling "Art Ware" will survive into the 24th century. Hope they washed out the stagnant water and bits of dead flowers before using it - but, knowing Klingons, it's unlikely.



And finally, a real sighting. Eric Hawkins writes: *"My daughter returned recently from holiday in India, telling me that she had spotted Maling on display in the Fateh Prakesh Palace Hotel, Udaipur, S Rajistan. It was part of the Maharahna's gift collection which also included crystal glass made in Birmingham."*

"The Maling on display was a six-piece toilet set including wash bowl and jug. The decoration was deep blue with a gold band either side and a narrow frieze of fruit."



A correspondent wrote recently to ask what value should be put on a Ringtons tea caddy for an insurance claim. Recent auction prices have been 100-150 GBP. So check the market!

Why do we say that? Because the market is volatile. Look at this quote on caddies from "Collect It!" magazine dated 1998.

"Today such examples fetch £250-£300 at auction... Now we're seeing quite a lot of people in the North East selling their Maling tea caddies they've had for years because they're worth so much, but by the same token there's plenty of people willing to pay to get one. It wouldn't surprise me if they eventually realise £500+."

A member also sent in some video clips from the BBC "Antiques Roadshow" for showing at the collectors' day. Dating from around the same time, one of them also suggested a value of £250-£300 for a caddy.

Hmm... Collect Maling (or any other antique) because you like it - not because you think it's going to be your pension fund.

Little pictures make up the big picture

Allan Smith writes: **"I must offer my appreciation of the mosaic of the 'Tulip Plate' which came with the membership renewal form. On closer examination it appears to be made up of numerous Maling subjects. How many were used and are they repeated, as my magnifying glass cannot show the finer detail? How long did it take you to create?"**

David replies: That's kind praise for a project which was only a semi-success. It was, indeed, a mosaic of Maling subjects - probably around 300 of them, with many repeats. Unfortunately, I bought cheap shareware off the Internet, rather than shelling out for a proper program. The result was a mosaic of poor-definition images which even I can't identify! At least it got your attention and, we hope, encouraged members to renew

It's possible that the accompanying photo will give you an idea. You may be able to make out a Voluta jug, a Ringtons teapot, a couple of factory marks, some Petunia, Storm and Cherry Blossom, a hooped pantry jar and a jelly mould, etc. Don't rack your brains trying to work out what pattern this is. It's the edge of a white plate, photographed against a darker background, with a little shadow around the rim of the plate. Hold the thing at arm's length and you'll see.



MALING
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Membership:
£20 p.a. (UK),
£25 p.a. (overseas)