

# MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## Princess poses puzzle

**“Arise, Egyptian lady from your peaceful slumber, arise. I command you to live again.” No, it isn't illusionist David Copperfield, attempting to show one of his feats of magic, but David Johnson, from Tyne & Wear, working a little magic of his own by resurrecting this unique figure from her moulded resting place. He continues:**

“It is generally believed that Egypt was a home of mystery and, as the passing sands of time have buried nearly all knowledge of this Maling creation, great mystery shrouds the lady known as the ‘Egyptian Princess’, too.

“In November 1922, in the Valley of the Kings archaeologist and Egyptologist, Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. On 16th February 1923, all discoveries within the burial chamber were being eagerly awaited by the world's press. However, Fleet Street Journalist H. V. Morton, had successfully out-manoeuvred his competitors, by being the only reporter allowed on the scene.

“His vivid descriptions of the stunning archaeological finds helped inspire the craze for Egyptian artefacts back home with the British public. ‘Tutmania’ had arrived, and it would influence fashion, jewellery and architecture throughout the Art Deco period around the world.

“Given this growing fascination for all things Egyptian, was it just possible that our very own Egyptian lady resembled a treasure from within the Boy King's tomb? Not according to The Department of Egyptian Antiquities at The British Museum, who kindly examined her in 1998.

“However, they did point me in the direction of the Louvre Museum where they felt she could be based upon, or influenced by, one of the famous cosmetic spoons in which a naked swimming girl forms the main element (see photograph).

“Although similarities do exist, it looks as though the source of our Princess is most

certainly to be found elsewhere. The ever-present problem of missing Maling documents also causes difficulty in determining when, and by whom, she was modelled.

“The talented Norman Carling (1902 - 1971) is the most likely candidate given that we know he commenced figure production in 1937 (see newsletters 37 and 39). However, here is where her mysterious past becomes rather sketchy.

“In 1998, while interviewing my friend and last manager of Maling's Pottery, Les Dixon (1913 - 2008), he claimed that she had existed prior to Carling's arrival at the pottery in 1935 and that a trial sample had once sat in the stock room, but was accidentally broken and disposed of at a later date.

“I never gave any further thought to this claim until 2008, when I met Norman

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*The original Maling factory mould is pictured here. The insert has been digitally reversed to show how the facial features would look on a finished piece. The cosmetic spoon is courtesy of the Louvre Museum.*

**COLLECTORS' DAY CANCELLED – Sorry**

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Carling's daughter Anne, who kindly looked over some photographs that I had of her father's work. She stopped at the Princess, asking how could I be so certain that this particular item was modelled by her father? I confessed, that I believed this to be the case, and that all previous recollections of her father's colleagues had also suggested the same.

"She pointed out how different the modelling style appeared to be in comparison to all other works by her father. This set alarm bells ringing as I recalled the conversation regarding this item during my interview with Les Dixon, which had taken place some ten years previously.

"If this intriguing rarity is not the work of Norman Carling, then who at the pottery could have been skilled enough to have produced it? Another factory modeller existed prior to Carling's arrival, a Mr. Bradley, but it is known that his skills were limited to producing tableware. The only other person who could possibly be considered arrived at the factory as Art Director in February 1926, Lucien Emile Boulelemier (1877 - 1949).

"LEB was a skilled modeller and is known to have produced the Castle Keep, fox head stirrup cup (known to the factory workers as the fox horn stirrup cup), and a matching jug with leaping fox handle. The date of his arrival and the earlier events of the decade, make him a definite possibility for our Egyptian lady.

"Investigations continue and further secrets could be revealed in the near future when she will be fully resurrected for all to see."

  
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[www.maling-pottery.org.uk](http://www.maling-pottery.org.uk)

Secretary: David Holmes

Patrons: Roger Allan,

Tony Boulelemier, Fred Hault,

Caroline Kirkhope, Heather Maling

Dr John Maling,

Steven Moore

Joining fee: £20 (UK); £25 (overseas)

Includes FREE Maling catalogue

Renewals: £10 p.a. (worldwide)

# Cig card salutes VC hero



**Smoking is hardly in vogue today, but things were rather different in the last century. Take this cigarette card produced by Gallahers.**

It is No 86 in a series commemorating Victoria Cross heroes of the Great War and features Lt. George Maling. It reads:

"Lieutenant Geo. A. Maling, V.C., M.B. (R.A.M.C.) won this honour on Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915, during the heavy fighting near Fauquissart, where for 24 hours he continued to attend the wounded, although he was once stunned and once covered with debris.

"Thus he attended with undaunted courage over 300 men, being under fire a day and a night."

George Maling survived the war and lived until 1929. He is buried in Sunderland's Bishopwearmouth Cemetery.

## Tribute to C. T. Maling

**The following obituary appears in the Pottery Gazette of December 1, 1934. It refers, of course, to the son of "the grand old man".**

"We regret to announce the death of Mr Christopher Thompson Maling, of the well-known pottery firm of CT Maling and Sons, Newcastle, who passed away at his residence in Osborne-terr, Newcastle, on Saturday, Nov10, at the age of 71.

"A native of Newcastle, the deceased was the second son of the late Mr CT Maling, and was educated at private schools on Tyneside and at Malvern College. He joined his father in business in 1881, and the subsequent development of the Maling potteries was largely due to his energy and ability. In 1901, on the death of his father, the deceased became managing director.

"Throughout his life Mr Maling was a hard worker, and for the long period of thirty years he was at his pottery at 6 o'clock every morning and remained there until the same time in the evening.

"He was a lover of animals, and for twenty years he was Master of the Haydon-on-Tyne Foxhounds. As a youth his hobby was dog breeding, and he won many prizes at shows with his Bedlington terriers, Great Danes and Borzois. One of his Great Danes later was owned by the late Queen Alexandra.

"Always of a retiring disposition, Mr Maling took no part in public affairs, business and country pursuits absorbing his attention.

"His firm, which has had a long association with the North East of England, was established in 1762, and there remain in it to-day two members of the family – Mr Fred T Maling (deceased's brother) and the latter's son, Mr C T Maling, who is of the fifth generation.

"The funeral took place on Tuesday, Nov 13, at the West Road Cemetery, Newcastle. The ceremony was of a private nature, and attended by a small party of relatives and friends. A short service was conducted by the Rev. Mark Fletcher, vicar of Longheaton, prior to cremation."

