## MALING

COLLECTORS' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 June 1999

# Sharing Maling memories

group of about 50 people are standing on a deserted industrial estate and looking at the slightly run-down buildings. In front of them, a gentleman in his seventies transforms what they see through his anecdotes. John Hughes, apprentice to both Theo Maling and factory engraver Cecil Parker, is bringing the Ford B Pottery back to life in their minds and eyes.

The following quotes may not be 100 per cent verbatim, but I hope they are accurate enough to capture some of the spirit of the times which John was recollecting during the society's second collectors' day. (Editor).

"Behind that fence was the reservoir. In the winter of 1935 I'd been given a pair of ice skates and I learned to skate there when it froze over. There was only about 2 inches of water in the bottom. The reservoir had been almost dry since the factory stopped using steam power."

"Over there, where the allotments are now, there was a barrage balloon during the war. It was crewed by the WAAF and they used to have a lot of trouble on

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Engravers Cecil Parker (left) and John Hughes cast an appreciative eye over a 1929 Exhibition plate.



Former paintresses Marion Davies, Margaret Dixon, Peggie Stewart and Joyce Kirk (not pictured) joined Steven Moore for an afternoon of "pots and chat".



May 1999 marked the society's first anniversary. A summary of our activities to date and plans for the future are included in this newsletter.

The international nature of the society is emphasised in many of the articles - with overseas members explaining why they are hooked on Maling , and a report from a UK member on a buying expedition in Canada.

It was also a pleasure to meet former Maling employee John Hughes at the recent collectors' day. We spent a long time talking about our mutual love skiing. (Oh yes, and Maling, of course!)

Everyone is welcome to contribute to the newsletter, whether it be factual information or anecdotes. We look forward to hearing from you.

windy days. One day the balloon was swinging all over and the line wrapped itself around a telegraph pole. So I shinned up the pole and cut it free with my penknife."

"When the war came, I wanted to sign up. But I couldn't because I was apprenticed. You were the factory's property. One chap did sign up, and he went to the manager's office to tell him that he was in the army. Well, it's a good job he didn't say anything more, like: 'You know what you can do with your blooming job', because he was out again that afternoon! The manager went round to the recruiting office and told them they couldn't have him because he was an apprentice."

"The girls used to carry trays of pots down the yard to the kilns. And some of them were rather 'strong' lasses, as you might say. In winter they would stay here to get warm. There was one girl - a Miss Brown - who was warming herself at the kiln one day when the manager came over. He didn't say anything, but on these occasions most people used their discretion and went back to work. But, when he came over the next time, she was still there. Later, he had a word with the girl's father - 'Broonie' - who also worked at the factory. 'Mr Brown', he said, 'I had to reprimand your daughter today. And, do you know, she told me she would punch me in the nose?' 'Ave, she would', said Broonie... 'She's done it to me!""

## OVERHEARD ON THE DAY...

Driver, before setting off on the factory tour: "What do you want to go THERE for? There's nothing there, y'know."

Steven (brandishing pot) to former paintress Peggie Stewart: "What was the name of this orange colour?"

Peggie: "Tangerine."

Steven (trying to elicit the answer he was expecting): "But wasn't there a colour called Burnt Orange?"

Peggie: "Aye, there was... but THAT'S Tangerine!"

Steven: "I think I'll go home now."

Member: "Would that jar have had a lid?"

Steven: "A cover. Miss Theo once said to me: 'we never made lids - we made covers. And we never made mugs - we made beakers."



## Baffled by a badge

The son of Jemima Muir (a Maling paintress from 1911 to 1926) has sent the society this picture. Jemima is on the far right.

The sitters are all Maling staff, but not necessarily paintresses. The lady in the back row on the left is a fettler. She is seen in one of the photographs in "Trademark of Excellence", where she and her colleagues are all on the bridge.

They appear to be wearing a uniform and have two badges, one triangular (but not the CTM trademark) and one a small round enamelled one.

Once again, we turn to members for help. What is the uniform and who are the people - possibly a volunteer nurses group or similar? The date would appear to be around World War I.

## Internet updates

A couple of members share their experiences of buying via the Internet... plus an update on the society's website.

I have purchased many things on the 'Net, although no Maling. Maling is the most expensive thing I collect and I like to be able to check the piece out thoroughly. Of the many purchases I have made, I have only been disappointed a couple of times. Usually people are very picky when listing items. I find that many dealers are not upfront about defects and it is far more "buyer beware" than on the 'Net. - NM

During the last year I have purchased 9 items via the 'Net. Two of these from New Zealand, two from Canada, one from England and five from different parts of the USA. My experience has been very positive. Seven of the nine arrived precisely as described with no feeling of being let down. One, a jumbo teapot, had a piece missing out of the under side of the lid (the lip) which had not been reported, and one other piece, a plate, had more crazing than I had expected from the description. I've noted that prices seem to have escalated in the last 3-4 months, perhaps as the site has become more known to collectors and dealers have begun using it more to sell their pieces. I think only 4 of my purchases actually came from collectors rather than dealers. - JF

The society website is currently attracting about 800 "hits" a month. That is a slight falling-off on the figures previously reported, but we are deliberately holding back on major updates so that members hear new information first via the newsletter. To provide value for money to members, the majority of newsletter articles will never appear on the website.

The society's URL is: http://www.geocities.com/rodeodrive/6544/ and our e-mail address is david@cello.easynet.co.uk

# The life of a pottery girl-3

Marion (Davies)
Robinson continues
her recollections of
working life at
Maling.

I met Mr Boullemier in his small office. He was a tall thin man, his hands deep in the pockets of his white coat. He looked at me in a fatherly way, relieving my anxiety, gold rimmed spectacles on the end of his pointed nose. He told me what was expected of me: I had to be punctual and would get an extra shilling if I were a good timekeeper. No food or drink was to be consumed in the department, due to the lead in the paints. I had to work hard and be part of a team.

I was given a white crossover overall which was so well starched that it took me what seemed like ten minutes to get my arms into it! We had to pay tuppence a week to have it laundered. A good swivel chair was provided, comfortable and strong to support your back. The cushion we brought ourselves!

I was to work in a team of four and all on separate benches. There were two more experienced girls and then me. A team leader was responsible for all the work we got, the weekly wages, which she kept account of in a book, and time sheets, all of which went to Mr Boullemier.

The first week was spent finding out where everything was. Where the paints were kept, carrying 8 foot wooden boards for

everyone to place finished work on and, when they were full, carrying them downstairs to the kilns - very tricky. I spent hours cleaning the colour off the bottoms of pots with a stone, woe betide anyone if there was any colour on after they had been fired.

I was given three paintbrushes: a greener, a tracer and a shader, each one designed for a specific task. A palette knife, which we marked in a secret way in case anyone took yours after mislaying theirs. I was given a ceramic tile for my paint and 'setters' (these were biscuit plates, not yet glazed) to practise on. I painted green leaves for what seemed like forever. Victoria green, Olive green and Jap green. I was painting leaves in my sleep. Oh how I longed to shade a rose or paint a few brown twigs, but I had to start somewhere!

New starters were watched constantly, by both the team leader and Mr Boullemier. If you weren't good enough you were sacked straight away. We had left handed paintresses and deaf and dumb girls who made the grade, it was down to skills not disability. I passed my month's trial with ease and was thrilled to be taking my first tentative steps into learning my trade. I worked hard and loved every day I was there. I soon picked up tips, short cuts and

techniques from the older girls as well as their passion to do everything well.

One day I was taken over to the warehouse where the finished ware was stored after it had been glazed, lustred and gilded. I marvelled at the beauty of them all. Azalea, Narcissus, Tulips and Delphinium, to be exported all over the world. Vases of Peony Rose, that I could almost smell. Backgrounds of light shades and dark subdued blues, contrasting reds and earthy browns. I was mesmerised at the variety of shapes from tiny pin trays to big number 6 vases with wonderful printed patterns. The skills of the potters and glazers, whose quick flick of the wrist ensured that the glaze was smooth and even, had been learnt over many years and was fascinating to watch.

It was one big happy family. Girls followed mothers, sons followed fathers, 30 women and girls working in harmony, something quite unique. We shared jokes and stories, we laughed and cried, told each other secrets of boyfriends and lovers.

Some days we worked hard, some days we laughed long..

To be continued

## Whath thith pieth?

Thanks to those of you who are sending in unrecorded patterns. Occasionally your photographs pose a new puzzle. This bowl is clearly marked as number 2757. Unfortunately, only the last two letters of the pattern name are visible. A short name - ending in "TH". Knowing Maling's fondness for using place names for patterns, it could be Leith, Louth, Meath, Neath... or something else entirely. Can anyone provide an answer?

A second mystery is this mug which was made to celebrate 50 years of St Gabriel's Church - 1912 to 1962. Logic suggests it would have been made for a Newcastle church - but this is Maling, so things are rarely straightforward! St Gabriel's in Newcastle have no knowledge of the mug and the date has no significance for them. Which church was it made for? Is there a church of this name near you? Can you help the society to track down the right one?





# Toronto in the Spring

#### With the determination of a Mountie, society member Pat Proctor tracks down Maling on the far side of the Atlantic!

The 747-400 banked over Lake Ontario, giving a good view of the Toronto skyline including the CN Tower and the skyscrapers downtown glinting in the afternoon sunshine. My Spring break was about to start. We (my sister and I) had visited Toronto very briefly some 18 months previously on our way home from New England and thought it looked an interesting city. So here we were back again to take a closer look.

Having read about the solving of the Coronet mark mystery in the March issue of the newsletter I thought that I would try to fit in some Maling hunting while I was in Canada. I had five days, one of which was allocated for a visit to Niagara Falls, there was also a morning coach tour of the city on our first full day there, to help us "orientate" ourselves. What I needed to do was to find out about antique shops in and around Toronto. Here our Tour Manager and the Concierge in our hotel proved very helpful and I soon had a selection of leaflets and cards advertising antique shops all around the city.

The morning coach tour proved to be a real bonus so far as Maling hunting was concerned. Not only did we see many of the antique shops that I had information about but as we drove along the Gardiner Expressway heading towards the lake shore we spotted a huge hoarding advertising the Harbourfront Antique Market inviting us to Experience the market ... Discover the past. All we had to do was find our way to the market. Luck was on our side. Our coach stopped at Queens Quay in the harbour area and off we jumped.

#### "One stall had one of the largest selections of Maling I've seen for a long time."

In Toronto, like many cities with a waterfront area, old warehouses and storage depots have been turned into shops, offices, apartments, restaurants and the Antique Market. So even though it was raining there was plenty to look at on our way to the market. When we got there we found a fairly typical antique warehouse. There were over 100 dealers each with their own shop area and a range of showcases. We had a quick preliminary look around just to see what was available. There was furniture, porcelain, pottery, toys, clothing and jewellery from all around the world. A treasure trove for

dedicated antique hunters like us. Then we started to look really closely at the stalls that had pottery.

Initially we had no luck in our Maling hunt but then eureka - success. One stall Yours, Mine and Ours Antiques had one of the largest selections of Maling I've seen for a long time. (In the South East where I live Maling is quite hard to come by.) There were plates and plaques, bowls and vases, and a small matching jug and sugar bowl. The saleslady told me that the stall owner Bill Brethour, (who unfortunately wasn't around) was interested in Maling so he bought up all he could find. She also added that Maling is very collectable in Canada and any really interesting pieces they got were first offered to a local collector. The pieces ranged in age from the mid 1930s to the 1950s. Many of them were dark blue which I was told was very popular in Canada. All I had to do was make a decision about what I would buy.

I needed time to think so we wandered around the rest of the market. What a lovely way to spend a wet afternoon, looking at antiques and talking to the stall-holders. Apparently many of them regularly came to England to buy but the strong pound meant that they found it difficult to find pieces at what they considered to be reasonable prices.

As we came down the stairs I spotted an

## 100 years on...

Members will, no doubt, be familiar with the panoramic photograph of the Ford B pottery taken in 1898 by FT Maling and reproduced in "Trademark of Excellence". During the factory tour, I decided to have a go at recreating it - with only modest success!

The major problem is that the original was obviously taken from a much higher vantage point. Presumably from a building at the "top of the yard" which has since been demolished. However, I took two shots and spliced them together just as Mr Maling must have done a century ago.

On the left, the designers' studio still stands and, beyond it, the re-roofed location of the flint drying pans. Further down again, the lithograph and modelling shop can be recognised. The clock tower and fire station still stand in the centre of the site (which is why this building, with its comprehensive view of the site, made an ideal location for the manager's office!).

The factory gate is visible in the centre of the photograph, but the main making departments are, unfortunately, almost entirely hidden beyond the striped furniture van in the foreground.

On the extreme right, the photograph just catches part of the saggar and mould making departments. The boiler house and flint mill which stood further to the right have been demolished.

It was strange to note that, even with a modern camera and light meter, the right-hand picture came out slightly darker than the left-hand one. Exactly the same thing happened to FT Maling in 1898! Perhaps I did get closer to the original than I first thought. Or perhaps Mr Fred was watching over me? - **DH** 



interesting looking bowl tucked away at the back of a display cabinet, the pattern was familiar I thought. It would bear further investigation. Yes, I was right, it was Maling Storm. How could I resist it? So a little negotiation and it was wrapped, ready for me to take away. Stall owner Pat Dillon, who is English, told me that she had acquired the bowl locally. Then it was back to Yours, Mine and Ours for another look. I eventually bought a vase with a chequer pattern that I had only seen once before. So more bubble wrap and tissue, and fingers crossed that I would get both pieces back to England in one piece - which fortunately I did.

Toronto is easy to get around, like most Canadian and American cities it's built on a grid system. There are streetcars (trams) and a subway that between them cover most of the city. Taxis are also readily available and reasonably priced. In between sightseeing I continued to look in antique shops but I didn't find any more Maling which was probably just as well. I had enough to carry home.

So I found Toronto a fruitful place to hunt for Maling. I never did see anything with a Coronet mark, indeed the two people I spoke to in some detail about Maling didn't seem to know about it. I thought that prices were very reasonable, in part due to the strong pound but also because if you are taking goods out of Canada you can in theory reclaim part of the tax paid on them. (I've sent off my claim and am now waiting to see what happens.) And as in this country you can always try to negotiate on the price.

#### WHERE TO SHOP:

Harbourfront Antique Market, 390 Queen's Quay West, Toronto. www.hfam.com. Easy to find, lots of different dealers, those with Maling are mentioned above.

Showcase Antique Mall, 610 Queen Street West, Toronto. Easy to find but as you go west on Queen St the area gets a bit run down. There are also several antique shops on Yorkville Avenue and out at 561, 581 and 630 Mount Pleasant Road.

If you are going to be in Toronto in the summer there is the World of Antiques Showsale from 2nd-8th August 1999, www.asinter.com.



## Forger - 0, Member - 1

A member, who was concerned about the mark on a recently acquired piece, showed it to our chairman Steven Moore, who immediately recognised it as the work of Theo Maling's studio. He was shocked to find on the base a forged Maling mark!

Steven adds: "It's ironic that someone has put a fake mark on a perfectly genuine piece and I have advised its owners to try to remove it with acetone. It is a nice example of a pattern that I know Theo has in her own collection, painted by her friend Betty Nesbit.

"Collectors should be aware that sometimes people add Maling marks. At least this one was a genuine piece. 99.99 % of factory marks are printed, not painted, so I would always be suspicious of a painted mark. If in doubt contact the society!"

On the subject of buying and selling, we are looking into setting up a system for placing members' "for sale and wanted" advertisements in the newsletter. If members prefer to remain anonymous in the early stages of negotiations, a small fee may have to be charged for using the society's PO Box as a forwarding address.



## Florrie's still flourishing!



t a young 93 years, Florence
Moore must be Maling's oldest
paintress, unless you know
otherwise! Florrie went to school at St
Dominic's in Byker and one day Maling's
pottery sent some plates along to see who
had any artistic talent. She was summoned
to the pottery and remembers meeting the
formidable Emily Jackson, the supervisor
of the decorating department.

Miss Jackson was from Staffordshire and was quite severe. Young Florrie remembers her saying to her; "Are you related to the Maling Family, Miss Moore?" "No!" she replied, "I'm not." "It's just that Mr Maling insists that I give you a job."

Florrie said: "later on I found that my uncle, John Moore, who worked at the Ford A pottery, had spoken to Mr Maling

and, as my father had died some years earlier and Mam had children to care for, Mr Maling said he would get me a job painting."

Florrie does not recall Mr Toft or Mr Wright.

"We never met the designers, they would send for Miss Jackson and she would paint up the first sample. Then she would decide which one of us would paint the new design.

One day a lady came into the pottery and asked us to decorate some pottery for her with a plant she had found in her garden. The other girls laughed at me 'cos they said it was just a weed! It was a nice weed though!

"I can recall Mr Fred Maling bringing visitors around the decorating department. I remember him looking over my shoulders as I waved a plate and he said to the people, 'look at that, you'd just think it was like little thumbprints!' This always used to annoy us because the proper name was 'Waving.'"

One day she remembers seeing the ware been taken out of the kilns, "I didn't recognise much of it because we only filled in certain parts of the patterns. After we had finished they went downstairs to the 'stencillers.' They blocked out our work and sprayed on the glazes and backgrounds. I never knew we made so much black ware, it was all white when I saw it!"

"Once," she recalled "I had to take two large wash basins, which I had just painted, down the yard to be glazed with a special finish. I held each one in the palm of my hand and began my journey. I didn't realise how heavy they were, or that Mr Boullemier was watching me! By time I had go to the railway station I had to rest



them on the wall. When I came back Mr Boullemier said to me 'You've got nice legs!' and he showed me his studio. That was the only time I met him."

Florrie left Malings in 1931 to help her mother, was married and had a family. She never had any contact with the pottery until, many years later, a lady came calling looking for rags to buy. Florrie handed over a bag and was given a Maling bowl as payment! - SM.

Collecting Maling obviously brings back a lot of happy memories for our expatriate members. Here are just a few of the comments we have received from overseas.

# Tyneside memories

#### FROM JOE IN CANADA:

My first piece of Maling was bought at auction in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It was a Ringtons tea caddy made for the NE Coast Exhibition in Newcastle - the one with the Exhibition Grounds on the lid and the bridges on the sides. I was born in Washington, not far from

Newcastle and lived most of my life in Stockton-on-Tees, near to the Transporter Bridge pictured on the jar. I well remember the Ringtons tea merchant delivering tea, first by horse and cart and later in the Ringtons van, and mygrandmother and mother cutting out the little coupons for gifts. This was

in the late 40s and early 50s. Even as late as the 70s, my mother-in-law always sent us a couple of pounds of Ringtons tea for Christmas. So the piece evoked memories and was a desirable reminder of home.

#### FROM ANN IN NEW ZEALAND:

I was born in Sunderland and my mother was born in Maling's Rig and grew up at Ford Estate. As immigrants I guess you always look for things that remind you of home and my parents started to pick up pieces of Maling about 25 years ago, primarily the lustreware pieces. The first pieces I can remember my mother bringing home were the Tulip grapefruit holders. We now have ten that are used for family birthdays and other celebrations.

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## Oddities Rarities

In this series of articles, we'll try to bring you information about pieces which you may not have come across before.

The oddest thing about this plate produced to mark the coronation of King George V in 1911 is the date stamp on the back. According to this, the plate was made in August 1911 - two months after the coronation! Why would anyone produce a coronation plate so long after the event?



The transfer is basically the same as that used on standard souvenir plates produced for the City of Newcastle, but the scrolls top and bottom are different. We know that this variant of the plate was presented to Maling's long-serving employees at the time of the coronation. A further oddity is the inscription: 'Miss S E Bewick - A souvenir of the coronation', which is hand painted in gilt, as are the two decorative motifs left and right. They are incredibly well done (as is the lettering) and could only have been done by someone very skilled possibly the factory gilder.

Remember, we're talking real gold here! From time to time, the gilder's rags would be sent away for specialist cleaning to recover the gold which had been lost whenever he wiped his brushes. So a plate with this amount of gilding has to be something very special.

One theory is that these plates may have been produced as one-offs for

employees who had an addition to the family during 1911. So Miss Bewick was possibly a coronation baby, born in August. Given the uncertain state of healthcare all those years ago, it would have been unwise (and probably considered unlucky) to prepare a souvenir like this in anticipation of a successful birth. So an August plate may just have been grabbed off the shelves when it was needed.

A similar plate (and a mug) turned up at auction last year. These were inscribed to an Edward Jobling.

Steven adds: perhaps Miss Bewick actually went to the coronation or maybe just to London to watch the procession. This plate may have been made to commemorate her visit.

If anyone can shed further light on this, or knows anything about the Bewick or Jobling families, please let us know.

## Society matters

With membership now standing at 170, the society has enjoyed a successful first year. Inevitably, the early days saw only slow progress as we gathered together sufficient funds to pay for our activities.

We would particularly like to thank members who joined in those early days and had to wait for the society to offer them some form of return. We promised that we would not ask for renewal of subscriptions until the first newsletter had been published. That happened in December 1998, and members who joined last year will be invited to renew their subscription in December of this year. We hope you will think it worthwhile!

Funds are sufficient to produce further quarterly newsletters in September and December. The collectors' days have been self-financing, with attendance fees used to cover the costs of room hire, coach hire and catering.

Our aim is to continue to produce four newsletters a year and to hold regular collectors' days in Newcastle. However, we welcome members' suggestions for alternative or additional activities and, of course, your contributions to the newsletter.

NB - We would appreciate it if members would check that their addresses are correct on the mailing labels. Please also notify us of changes of address.

### "JIMMY" JAMES

Following the "Oddities & Rarities" story in newsletter No 2, a member writes: "I believe that Jimmy James was also the agent for Shelley China in Canada. I met a gentleman last summer who knew Mr. James and said that he was the hardest working person he ever met. Apparently Mr. James and his agents would load the trunks of their cars with china and drive out to remote areas to sell items. This is why Shelley china can be found in small-town Canada." - NM



- Q The majority of my collection is the NE Coast Exhibition, and I am finding it increasingly difficult to obtain pieces. If there are other members of the society who collect Exhibition pieces, I would appreciate a link. Is there a list of the items produced?
- A Not that we know of. Perhaps members could help compile one. If you have an exhibition piece (other than the obvious tea caddy or plaque), please send a description or photo. If you are happy to have your name and address passed on, please let us know.
- Q I don't know how many members we have in my part of the country but it did cross my mind that it would be really nice to have a short (afternoon/evening) session where members brought a favourite piece or two for us all to admire or drool over. There are so many Maling pieces and

#### different people collect different things. Maybe a thought for the future?

- A Again, we'll be happy to put members in touch with each other if they wish. As a security precaution, the society doesn't pass on any details without a member's permission.
- Q I recently saw a trio in which the cup and saucer were marked "Collingwood Bone China" and the plate "Maling". What's the explanation?
- A See Trademark of Excellence (3rd edition) page 3. "Many Maling tea services from this period have china cups and saucers because this is what the customer required. The china cups were bought 'in the white' from Staffordshire firms and decorated at the Ford factory." Collingwood appears to have been one such manufacturer.
- Q Looking at the catalogue page reproduced in newsletter No2, item 36 is what I would call a "dressing table set". The fact that it has a single item number for the four pieces, suggests that they go together or were sold together. Yet the descriptions are very disparate being candlesticks, sandwich tray and bon-bon dish. Were they sold both individually and separately?
- A That's right. A basic dressing table set is a tray, powder box (a.k.a. bon-bon dish) and pair of candlesticks, but you could also buy a trinket box (a.k.a cigarette box).

#### Join the Maling Collectors' Society

Annual membership of the society costs £20 (UK) or £25 (overseas). We regret that we are only able to accept payment in Sterling. Please send cheques made payable to "The Maling Collectors' Society" to: PO Box 1762, North Shields NE30 4YJ.

I wish to join the Maling Collectors' Society.

Name:			
'Phone			
e-mail			

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Our daughter has grown up going to antique shops, fairs and junk shops looking for Maling. I remember her going into a rather "upmarket" antique shop, picking up a grapefruit holder which was labelled Maling and announcing in a loud ten-year-old voice: "This isn't Maling! You can tell because it's got a ridge on the bottom." She was correct, it was Beswick. I think we left the shop rather quickly (and laughing).

We have bought pieces from Brisbane, Australia, carried them to Perth and then back via Brisbane to New Zealand as precious hand luggage. We enjoy receiving the Maling newsletters and hope one day to travel to England to meet up with you and other society members. In the meantime, we would welcome correspondence from other society members. e-mail: g.wetton@xtra.co.nz

#### FROM MARY IN AUSTRALIA:

My mother had some nice pieces purchased at Fenwicks in Newcastle (however a couple of the bowls are not in great nick as they had plants standing in them). She also had some of the blue and white canisters in the kitchen which I am extremely fond of. I come from just outside Darlington on the Barnard Castle road and there were bits of Maling around in many homes in the area. So I was quite familiar with it and liked it, and went to find some here.

Send in your questions, and we will answer them by e-mail - david@cello.easynet.co.uk - or by post - The Maling Collectors' Society, PO Box 1762, North Shields NE30 4YJ. Visit the Society website: http://www.geocities.com/rodeodrive/6544/

#### The Maling Collectors' Society

Chairman: Steven Moore
Secretary: David Holmes
Patrons: Roger Allan,
Tony Boullemier, Fred Hoult,
Carolina Kirkhana

Caroline Kirkhope, Dr John Maling