

It's All About 'U' and 'I'

The Uncommon, Unexpected, Unforgettable, Unknown, Unseen, Unusual

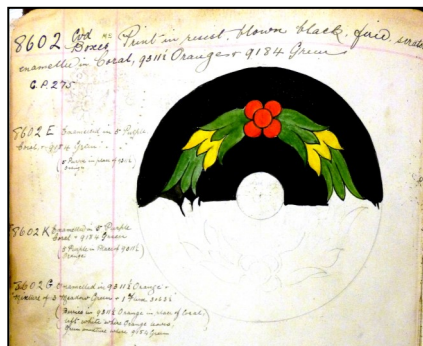
By The NSCC Membership
 Editors: Bernice & Peter Porrazzo

Unforgettable, unequalled, utterly unusual, unequivocally beautiful, unique or unseen or rarely seen wares produced by Shelley and Wileman ...that is an apt description for the items featured in this column. It is primarily intended to show what club members (U) have in their collections so, please send us more pics and stories!! As we have been observing a number of unusual wares on internet (I) auction sites, some may be included too. Who knows, maybe you made the winning bid and the "I" ware became a "U" ware!!!!!!

For this installment, we are focusing on patterns and colourways that we don't recall seeing before or have rarely seen, that came to our attention from other members and from sightings on the internet. Are they new to you or have you run across them before? Included in the article are pattern book pages for most of them.



This wonderful Mayfair cup and saucer was made under the banner of Ideal China, meaning for the Canadian market. The backstamp dates it from 1925 to 1940, with the RD number 771299 registered to the Mayfair shape. The pattern book entry shows that number 0145 was first designated for the Henley shape, with the darker handwritten notes showing it was later used for Mayfair as well, with specific instructions for that shape. The pattern is one that resembles the work of designer Veronica Ball, though the backstamp does not have her signature.



This earthenware covered box/bowl is pattern number 8602/G, one of four colourways for the pattern. The backstamp dates the ware from 1916 to 1925, and includes the name "Victra," noting it is registered. This is the first time we have come across that name and it is not mentioned in the pattern book. Interestingly, the pattern book entry indicates that the box is to be "enamelled in 9311 1/2 orange" as well as other colors, showing how precise Shelley was in their mix of hues to be applied.

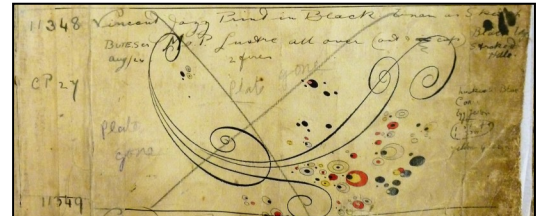
More About 'U' and 'I'



A product of the art nouveau era, this Daisy cup and saucer likely dates from the 1890s. It does not have a Wileman backstamp but does show the Rd number 115510, which corresponds to the Daisy shape, as well as pattern number 6327.



Another art nouveau era ware, this unusual pattern, number 6994, with a colourway in pink and yellow, on the Snowdrop shape has instructions for manufacture in the pattern book but no definitive description. The entry does have the word "flowers" but it sure does look like something "nuclear" or "atomic" to us. The trio has the Wileman backstamp from the 1895-1910 period.



Pattern number 11348 was assigned to an art deco style pattern described as Jazz Print, and was produced on the Vincent shape. The backstamp indicates it was made between 1916-1925 (likely the latter part of the period). It has a Lustre finish applied over the whole ware.



This fabulous art deco Vogue cup and saucer sports the often seen Sunray pattern but in a very rare colourway. It was made in the 1930-1933 period and has pattern number 11747.

References:

- Shelley Potteries* by Watkins, Harvey & Senft, Century Hutchinson Publishing 1980, 1986
- The Story of Shelley Potteries* by the Shelley Group, 2011 (obtainable from them)
- Wileman: A Collectors Guide* by Richard Knight & Susan Hill, Jazz Publications 1995
- Shelley Pottery, The Later Years* by Chris Davenport, Heather Publications 1997
- Shelley Tea Ware Patterns* by Sheryl Burdess, Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 2003

Please send comments, photos, stories, ideas to Bernice and Peter at pjporrazzo@gmail.com; or call us at 703-883-1843