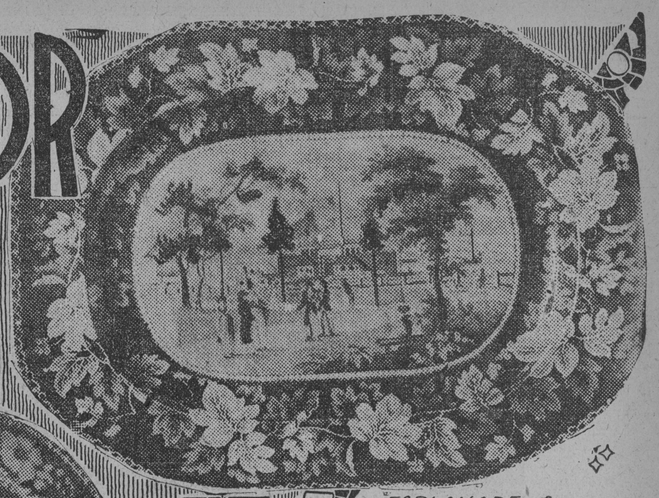
A BALTIMORE COLLECTOR OF HISTORIC CHINA

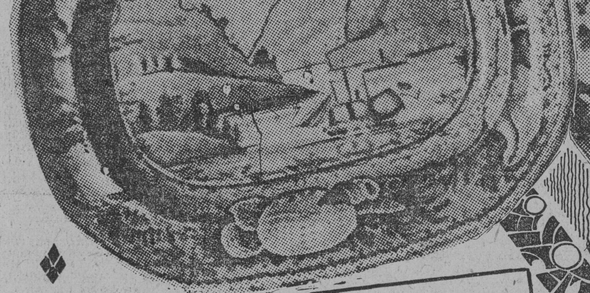
ALFRED DUNCAN BERNARD.



ESPLANADE & CASTLE GARDEN PLATTER.

BALTIMORE EXCHANGE.

NEW YORK FROM BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.

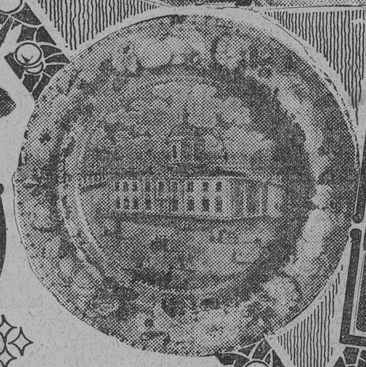


PLATTER SHOWING HIGHLANDS HUDSON RIVER

DEAF & DUMB ASYLUM, HARTFORD CO.

TEAPOT SHOWING BALTIMORE ALMSHOUSE

MILK PITCHER WITH VIEW OF OLD BALTIMORE MASONIC HALL.



BALTIMORE COURTHOUSE

MR. BERNARD'S DINING ROOM LOOKING FRONT.

THE collecting of old china is not only a fascinating pastime, but the intelligent assembling of a lot of historic Americana is an education in the history and progress of the Western World. Added to this a generous sprinkling of old English castles and buildings long since razed in the march of civilization, and we have at once a panorama of instructive historical research depicted in the imagination of the early Staffordshire potters.

Many of the views taken before the times of photography show decided artistic merit, and a number of the landscapes are compelling in their fidelity to detail and setting. The china of our forefathers was not choice as to basic quality, but glorious shades of blue have been evolved by the skill of these old potters, which cannot now be reproduced, and the designs, borders and scenes depicted show a patriotic spirit which every lover of old china finds inspiring, and every well-furnished dining-room should contain at least a few well-chosen historical pieces, if for no other reason than pride in our glorious country.

Mr. Bernard's Collection.

Here in Baltimore is a collection which experts say is one of the finest in the South—that of Mr. Alfred D. Bernard, 1720 St. Paul street. It contains around 150 pieces, mostly Staffordshire, and represents years of zealous quest after china having historic value. Mr. Bernard's collection is arranged mostly in his handsomely appointed dining-room, a view of which is herewith shown.

Speaking of his collection and of china collection in general, Mr. Bernard said to an interviewer:

"Most all china collections are basically alike. The china hunter starts out and he may be able to secure as many as 20 American pieces in old blue at an average of $10 to $15 each. After he has gotten 80 different views he has exhausted the $50 class, and then he starts in on rarities."

The rarest view I have is the Esplanade and Castle Garden 19-inch platter by Stevenson. This platter is one of two which have come to light in this size, the other belonging to Mrs. Neal. This same view comes in a 17-inch platter, of which there are several known to exist. One is held by Mr. Thomas J. Lindsay, of Baltimore. This view shows a flag flying from the staff, but in other respects it is the same as the 19-inch variety.

Next, perhaps, in point of rarity is the Baltimore tea set. Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Lindabury have these pieces, and possibly two or three others, but not more than a half-dozen are known to exist. The teapot shows the old Baltimore Almshouse, which was located at Calverton, and the pitcher the old Masonic Hall, which was located at St. Paul street and bank lane, now the site of the Baltimore Courthouse.

There are only about a dozen different views in and around Baltimore in old blue Staffordshire, most of which are rare and hard to get. Two are associated with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, both of which I have, one showing the old Peter Cooper engine, which is familiar to so many Baltimoreans.

I have a Battle Monument, while the Baltimore Assembly Rooms comes on a teapot. The Courthouse and Exchange appear on flat plates, the University of Maryland on a cup and Baltimore Hospital on a saucer. Then, there are two views of Baltimore on platters, one of which is very rare. Another very rare piece is the fight between the Constitution and Guerriere, by Wood. This is one of the last pieces to come into a collection.

Famous Arms Pieces.

The most popular set of views is the series of arms pieces by Meyer. Twelve of these state seals have come to light and are gems of color. They are unusually rare, with the exception of Rhode Island and New York, which are illustrated on plates.

After Pennsylvania, which is about the most desired piece of old blue in the whole list of Americana, Delaware and New Jersey, both of which are illustrated, are the most desirable. They are not any rarer than Maryland and Virginia, but many collectors will only take flat ware, and as Virginia appears on a vegetable dish and Maryland on a washbowl and pitcher, they are not as popular. I have six of the arms pieces, of which Delaware and New Jersey are on 17 and 18 inch platters, respectively; Massachusetts on a nine-inch vegetable dish, while New York, Rhode Island and South Carolina occur on plates.

Mrs. Clark has a South Carolina arms on a cup plate; Georgia and North Carolina occur on smaller platters; Pennsylvania on a 21-inch turkey platter, and Connecticut on a gravy boat and tray. Two gravy boats and two trays have been found in separate owners, while the same number would about exhaust Pennsylvania. I only heard of one offer that was at $1,000, and there is an old lady in Pennsylvania who has one which every dealer expects to get when she dies. It cannot be purchased during her life time, and there is every indication that the record price will be broken when this piece comes out.

A very popular series of views are known as the Syntax series. They were illustrative of the Syntax poem which appeared in 1819-21 in England. The poems are attributed to —— Coombes, who was an inmate of the Debtors' Prison in London. It was first called the Schoolmaster's Tour. R. Ackerman was the publisher, and a well-known artist named Rowlandson sketched the illustrations. There are 37 of these views in blue, including one scene on three cup plates and three in colors other than blue, probably by another maker.

These Syntax pieces are much sought after by collectors and always command good prices. They are a beautiful shade of dark blue, handsomely bordered and skilfully executed. Mr. Hudnut has the only Dr. Syntax Entertained at College, although I heard of a sale of another through a dealer in New York state, but am inclined to believe it the same one. Two of the Syntax views are in the $500 class.

I have three, of which Dr. Syntax reading his tour is fairly easy to get, while the little 6¼-inch plate Dr. Syntax presenting a floral offering is one of the rarest. In the sale of the Burritt collection in New York, in 1904, which was remarkable for the strength of its Syntax pieces, and where the Harvest Home Platter of this same series brought the then record-breaking price of $470, I was surprised that this little plate presenting a floral offering was not included, and while my list shows nearly 3,000 sales of old china, I only have one sale of this piece reported. I know there are at least a half dozen scattered around in collections, but it is one of the rarities of the Syntax series.

A much-prized series of Clews views are those of Sir David Wilkie, one of the earliest of cartoonists. There are seven views occurring on about 20 different sizes and styles of dishes, two of which are extremely rare, the Errand Boy platter, counted as one of the greatest rarities in old blue, and the Letter of Introduction. This is one of the show pieces of my collection, as it is not only collector's proof, but a gem in color. I have four other of the Wilkie pieces, all dark blue. Of the Wilkie series, The Valentine is the easiest to get, followed by Playing at Drafts and Christmas Eve. The others grade up as rarities.

Rare Staffordshire.

Dr. Barber, in his early study on Staffordshire, announced that certain makers of old blue could be distinguished by their borders, and thus we are able to largely group the Stubbs pieces. The eagle border of this publisher was never copied by any of the other Staffordshire potters, and while a few Stubbs pieces bear his imprint on the back, the bulk of them only have the name of the view. I have five of these pieces, three of which are easy to get, and the platter Mendenhall Ferry and Nahant grading up as difficult, but hardly to be classed as rarities. Several of the Stubbs' pieces are in the hundred dollar class, while two little plates, New York Bay, and Hurlgate East River, will easily bring from $250 to $300 each if perfect.

A much sought after series of old blue are known as the Beauties of America, by Ridgway. There are about 25 views, embracing a whole set of china from turkey platters to cup plates. The easiest to get is the New York City Hall, which comes on 10-inch plates. Five of the Beauties are in my collection, none of which may be regarded as a rarity, although the platter is hard to find. This shows the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Hartford, Ct.

Several of these views are in the $50 class, and the borders, while conventional, are very pretty, and the pieces are highly decorative, but not so dark in shade as the Wood and Clews pieces.

In grouping up old blue by makers, the rarities can hardly be attributed to any one maker, but the pieces hardest to get as a class are those published by Andrew Stevenson, Ralph Stevenson, and later Stevenson associated with Williams.

The Andrew Stevenson plates are rich in color, have a beautiful rose border and generally show scenes made by W. G. Wall, an Irish artist who was sent to this country along about the beginning of the nineteenth century to make the sketches. One of the most popular of this series being New York from Brooklyn Heights, which comes in plates and platters, the plate being considered the rarest.

A few of the Ralph Stevenson pieces may be had around $50, but a number of these are very high-priced. Most of the portrait pieces are attributed to this firm, and two little portrait plates showing the Boston Hospital and Park Theater respectively, with portraits of Clinton in a medallion at the top of the plate, recently sold for $200 each.

The Esplanade and Castle Garden platter and Park Theater in my collection are by this publisher. I also have a Boston Hospital, a New York from Brooklyn Heights and a Capitol at Washington, all of which I regard as show pieces.

Landing of the Pilgrims.

One of the most popular individual pieces is the Landing of the Pilgrims, which originally was designed for a tea set, but the most popular piece is a 10-inch flat plate which I have. It is by Wood, and is different from all the Wood pieces in border and is not quite so dark a blue as the other Wood pieces, but more suggestive of Stubbs. There are four medallions in the border, which is a series of scrolls and eagles. In the center the view shows the Mayflower at anchor, while on the rocks are a couple of Indians welcoming the Pilgrims, who are coming ashore in a rowboat. While I have never seen an authority who was willing to go on record that this piece has been reproduced, I am suspicious of the genuineness of some of these plates. There are undoubtedly two series, one of which has Enoch Wood & Sons, Burslem, impressed on the back in a circular trade mark, the other had enoch Wood & Sons, Burslem, printed in a blue scroll on the back. Two china experts have declared that these latter are a second series in different-sized flat plates only, but in my judgment they are reproductions and I would hesitate to buy one.

Another very much sought after series are the rose-border series in dark blue by an unknown potter, possibly Stubbs, but no one has found a piece which could identify the potter.

None of these is easy to get, and one of the rarest is the little eight-inch plate, "Near Fish Skill." I have several of these pieces, including Philadelphia, Washington, Buenos Ayres and Hobarttown. The Almshouse pitcher and Masonic Hall creamer also belong to this series, which includes the very rare Baltimore, Sandusky, Detroit and Louisville platters, all of which are in the $200 class.

In the art of china making there has been little change in the shape of dishes, except in cups and saucers. In the olden times the cups had no handles, and the liquid was poured into a deep saucer to cool and drunk from the saucer, and the cup was made to rest on a cup plate to keep from soiling the table cloth. While we are told the practice of drinking hot coffe from a saucer is not entirely disappeared from the homes of some Americans, the cup plate has passed; but there are upwards of 40 different American views in cup plates, and not a few collections are exclusively of these dainty little bits of china, which range from 3½ to 4½ inches in diameter.

One of the most popular of these cup plates is illustrated; it shows the Battery in new York, and is for its size a remarkably clear print. They are very hard to get, and while a few may be found in the $10 class, I have known them to sell up as high as $30 each.

I did not illustrate a saucer, although I have two cups and saucers of this old blue.

Possibly the rarest cup and saucer is that showing the University of Maryland and the Baltimore Hospital. I think there are several in collections, although I have been unable to locate but one.

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO AS A POLISH PATRIOT — BY J. KARASIEWICZ

"And freedom shrieked
When Kosciuczko fell."

THE world's history boasts of very few figures that can compare with Kosciuszko, one of the valiant warriors in our revolutionary wars and the idol of his own nation.

Thaddeus Andre Bonawentura Kosciusko was born in Poland February 12, 1746. His military training began in the corps of cadets in Warsaw and was finished abroad. After spending five years in Germany, Italy and France, he returned to his native land with the rank of captain of artillery. Animated by the highest ideals of a patriot, he was unable to use the acquired knowledge in active service, as Poland just then was passing through her darkest stages of national indifference and internal discord. Knowing of the bitter conflict between England and her colonies in America, we see him landing in Philadelpia in 1776. Here his abilities of a strategist were recognized by Congress from plans submitted for the fortification of Philadelphia, and he was appointed in the service of the United States with the rank of colonel of engineers. From that time on we see him actively engaged till the end of our wars. He operated with the Army of the North under General Gates along Hudson in 1777, and fortified Ticonderoga. Then he was sent to fortify Van Schaik island, and upon completing it found himself again under the command of Gates. And here is where Kosciuszko rendered perhaps the most valuable service to the United States by choosing and fortifying Saratoga. The English, under General Burgoyne, stormed the impregnable fortress during the latter part of September and early October, but was repulsed with heavy losses. Exhausted and demoralized, Burgoyne abandoned the siege of Saratoga in hasty retreat, but pursued and overtaken by the Americans, surrendered on October 17.

The next important work and an everlasting monument to Kosciuszko's memory in this country was the fortification of Fort Clinton at West Point, which became eventually a military academy in accord with his suggestion. Later, under General Greene, he saved twice the retreating American army before an overwhelming superiority of the English under Cornwallis by the ingenious crossing on boats of the dangerous rivers Yadkin and Dan. Finally, not only as an engineer, but as an officer in command, he rendered valiant services, being the first to enter Charleston at the head of his column on December 14, 1782.

In 1784 Kosciuszko returned to Poland just at the right time, since the Polish Diet authorized a standing army of 100,000 strong. He was appointed major general and became active in the drilling of newly enrolled forces. The rampant discord among the Polish nobility momentarily gave way to reorganization and reforms. Then came the year 1791 with its constitution. A few nobles formed the infamous Confederacy of Targowica and invoked the help of Russia to protect their "golden liberty" of yore and to overthrow the Constitution. Russia, inexorable with her own conspirators, always was ready to answer to the appeal of traitors in other countries. She complied with the request and sent a strong army into Poland under the pretense of restoring order.

At the very outset Kosciuszko won fame in the brilliant battles of Zielence and Dubienka, but misfortunes fell in heaps on the overburdened Poland. Frederick the Great, of Prussia, bound by an alliance with Poland, betrayed her shamefacedly by flatly refusing to send help, and feeble king Stanislaus joined the traitors of Targowica. In that dark and dreary hour of Poland's history it was left to the army to save Poland's honor, and it did; all officers, including Kosciuszko, resigned.

Kosciuszko emigrated once more from his native land, but this time not for long. In 1794 we see him back in Krakow, answering the call of his people to assume the highest power— that of dictator. Kosciuszko, thoroughly democratic in his principles, appealed to the peasants' patriotism and was answered by thousands of soil toilers joining the ranks of his country's defenders. Under Raclawice, these scythe men, grim visaged, hard-working men, got their first bloody christening by practically annihilating a superior Russian army in a crushing victory. With banners bearing the inscription, "They feed and defend," and with their beloved general at the head of the columns, they really resembled an avalanche of death-dealing Titans. And on that very field Kosciuszko showed his true worth, his noble purpose and immense love of the masses by discarding the gold-braided uniform of a general and donning the humble garb of a peasant, a deed that immortalized him in the minds of all the future generations of oppressed.

The revolution argued well, and it seemed that Poland finally would enter an era of regeneration and freedom. The fates decreed otherwise. Frederick the Great once more proved to be a traitor. While he assured the Polish diplomatic agents of absolute neutrality in the raging conflict, thus making Kosciuszko believe there was only one enemy to deal with, he entered secretly into an agreement with the Russian government and sent German troops into Poland. Kosciuszko, thrown off guard by the blackest treachery in history, discovered that the contingents he had to fight against were too large to conquer. But this did not deter him and he was equal to the task. His army was victorious in a series of battles. He successfully defended Warsaw against an overwhelming army under the command of Frederick the Great, and forced Europe's greatest fighter of the times to shameful retreat.

All this brilliant and heroic campaign was demolished by the loss of one battle, the fateful encounter under Maciejowice, on October 9, 1794. Kosciuszko, at the head of 7,000 men, attacked 12,000 Russians after a forced march of 24 hours. He banked on victory, counting on orders issued to General Poninski to attack the Russians from the rear at the head of a column 3,500 strong, thus practically equalizing the fighting forces. But Poninski did not show up, either disobeying orders or failing to get them, and Kosciuszko fell on the battle field, wounded repeatedly by the victorious Russians and becoming their prisoner of war. This practically ended the revolution.

Two years later Emperor Paul of Russia set him free and offered high position and money, but Kosciuszko declined both, accepting only one favor—the liberation of 12,000 prisoners of war.

Kosciuszko died in Solura, Switzerland, in 1817.

What Women Are Doing --- By Ada Patterson

A WOMAN hating bachelor sniffed contemptuously at the society column, pushed his newspaper across the table, attacked his grapefruit ferociously and remarked: "It's a sin and shame the way women waste their time."

Waste their time, eh? In the list of guests that stirred the disgust of the critic of women there were as many names of men as women. Every woman who chases the hours from a ballroom floor has a male partner. For every ball gown there's a set of evening clothes.

Women time wasters? Yet on the front page of the newspaper the man who hates us tossed from him as something unbearable, there was a column about the women of Indiana having collected a fund for the investigation into the mysterious murder of a woman physician of a town in their state. The investigation insisted upon by these women has resulted in the arrest of two men. The movement originated in a woman's club. Doubtless the members of the club had been charged with wasting their time gadding about clubs instead of staying at home.

Women time wasters? In two Western States they've started an annual baby show where children are graded according to their points of health and strength, and so given an impetus toward health in the home and a standard for a better race.

Women time wasters? A town in Iowa has been forced to cleause its slums, through the efforts of a little woman who used every moment of time that she could spare from her family's welfare for the welfare of the community in which her children were growing up.

Time wasters? Two women have been appointed to watch the girls and boys of the dance halls and a committee of clubwomen in St. Paul will confer with the policewomen and give them aid and information and moral support.

* * *

The women of Baltimore are teaching children to keep the school grounds sanitary and make them beautiful.

The women of California are storming the legislature for a law providing that only persons of sound health shall marry.

Chicago clubwomen have investigated the poorer quarters of their city and got proof of 1,666 violations of the sanitary ordinances. Through their efforts the owners of 413 buildings have been ordered by the city to make those buildings habitable under penalty of fine or imprisonment.

The Women's Club, of Albany, is urging the city to dispose of the garbage and ashes and all waste instead of leaving the matter to private collection and destruction.

The Women's Club, of Omaha, has named three members of the Social Service Board which will regulate playhouse moving pictures and dance halls.

The Woman's Municipal League, of Boston, has suggested plans for the improvement of city housekeeping which it intends to, and probably will, execute.

The Woman's Club, of Nutley, N. J., thinking the home could be better served if its mistress knew more about meats, visited a meat market and while two of their number donned big aprons, watched a demonstration of the art of carving cuts and finding joints. An expert butcher directed the lesson.

Chicago clubwomen are drafting a minimum wage bill for women workers.

Louisville women are arranging for a permanent exhibit of Child Welfare work.

Delaware women are working for four legislative measures, a 10-hour working day for women, a college for girls, a salary for the state forester and an amendment to the state library law, an industrial farm for boys, observance of cleanup day and organization of civic ward clubs.

The Woman's Club, of Mineapolis, is agitating inexorably for cleaner streets.

Women have organized auxiliaries to the commercial clubs, for the development of their communities and states in Oregon.

Iowa women are working for the appointment of a woman as deputy labor commissioner and for the reduction of the working day to nine hours.

Young women of Lincoln, O., cared for the children in families whose mistress wished to attend meeting to discuss lowering the cost of living by co-operative marketing and shopping.

The clubwomen of San Antonio are acting as foster mothers to delinquent boys and girls and helping them to a better start in life.

The clubwomen of Louisville have undertaken supervision of the tenements.

Denver clubwomen are talking of discussing a uniform style of costume to be worn on the street, for rich and poor women, in the interest of a lower cost of living.

* * *

The women of Tennessee have raised $2,000 for a perpetual scholarship in the University of Chattanooga.

The women of Spokane have organized a Buying-at-Home League and recently gave a banquet, every article served at which was grown or produced in the state.

The women of Beloit, Kan., have organized themselves into the Woman's Commercial Club and built a driveway to the natural park, near the town. This they did because when they asked the men to make the improvement the men said they were too busy.

San Francisco women are busying themselves to bring about a bill board ordinance whereby theatrical and other posters will be made unobjectionable and no longer a menace to public morals.

A Los Angeles society has raised a fund to give to needy families the wages their children might be earning during the time the children are securing a business education.

St. Louis women are asking for well-managed institutions for delinquent children and a city parole system for children over 15 years old. And what they ask they expect, and what is more, intend to get.

Women time wasters? Hardly.

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc4150_1_156-0880