

FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS

by Polly Wilbert

This year, we are finally going to get regional meetings off the ground. At our annual meeting in May, ten generous members volunteered to host meetings in their areas this fall. They are now working on scheduling their event and defining the type of gathering that they will hold (brunch, lunch, tea, etc.). It was suggested that the meetings be held sometime over the weekend of October 16th and 17th. However, the dates will ultimately be set at the convenience of the hosts.

As the summer issue of **MM** goes to press, the following preliminary details are known:

Regional Hosts:

Location/Date of Event	Hosts	Host E-Mail Address
New York City: Sunday, 11/14/99, 12n, Lunch/Brunch w/Majolica Show and Tell 136 East 76 th Street, NYC.	Thea and Richard Benenson	TFBPHD@aol.com
Baltimore, Maryland	Barbara and Howard Silby	
Boston, Massachusetts Sunday, October 17, 12 n. Brunch 7 Cedar St., Salem, Mass.	Polly Wilbert and Cheryl Smith	pwilbert@bvlp.com
Tipp City, Ohio (near Dayton and Columbus)	Sally and Leroy Davis	lscdavis@aol.com
Shawnee Mission, Kansas	Jim Trout and Moe Wizenberg	moewize@aol.com
London, England	Martine and Nicolaus Boston	
San Francisco, California	Chana Johnson and Marcia Singman	fmagoo@ix.netcom.com wsingman@aol.com
Atlanta, Georgia	Cay and C.D. Gann/Gail and John Dearing	
Belding, Michigan (near Grand Rapids)	Marilyn and Bob Price	reprice@pathway.com

It has been suggested to Nick and Martine Boston (London, England) that if they could hold their regional meeting sometime over the weekend of October 30th and 31st, anyone who wants to attend the majolica auction at Christie's in London on Tuesday, November 2nd, might also be able to attend the Bostons' gathering. We'll let you know how this turns out.

If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, will you please fill out the form below and mail it to Polly Wilbert, 7 Cedar St., Salem, MA 01970 (or fax it to her at 617-350-1571 or e-mail the same information to her at pwilbert@bvlp.com). This information will help the hosts assess how many people are interested in attending. Using your expressions of interest, a mailing list will then be created for each meeting so that we can communicate with you about the details of the events as they are fine tuned by the hosts. The final details of these meetings will be published in the fall issue of **MM**, which you should receive in the mail about October 1st.

(✂ Clip here)

Regional Meeting Expression of Interest:

Name:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

E-Mail:

Meetings of Interest:

(you may indicate more than one)

ON HISTORY...

By David Fielding

CERAMICS "Fieldings Pottery: Majolica to Crown Devon" by David Fielding

David Fielding discusses some popular designs and wonders what happened to the Ameer of Afghanistan

David Fielding, member of M.I.S., permitted MM to reprint his article, which originally appeared in Antiques Magazine, Issue 772 6th - 12th February 1999, pp.46-47

Only fifteen years ago, little information was generally known, or at least published, on Fielding's pottery. However, in recent years, there has been a real upsurge in interest in the factory's products and number of books, articles and guides [that] have been written, which are a great help to collectors. Ray Barker's *Crown Devon Story*¹, published in 1991, is a good introduction to the Company's products, but concentrates more on the early 'Vellum' and hand painted ware and the figurines, musicals and other 20th century products, which are now well known as 'Crown Devon' pottery. Susan Hill's book² gives a more detailed account of the Company's history and the early Majolica production. In his second book³ Ray Barker refers to the "Mystery of Majolica" because of the lack of information published, and indeed lack of examples of Fielding's Majolica available in the UK.

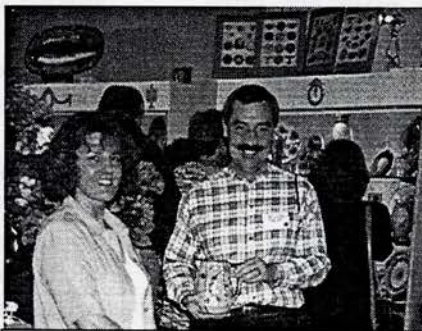
The popularity of Majolica in the USA has meant that many of the more authoritative works have been published there. The books by Nicholas M. Dawes⁴ and Marilyn Karmason & Joan B. Stacke⁵ are excellent guides to the subject and give a lot of detail on major and minor Majolica manufacturers and their products. Victoria Bergesen's book⁶ was published in the UK and is a well-researched, comprehensive work, which contains a lot of historical detail. Marianne Katz-Marks published a very useful pictorial reference book⁷ which provides an identification and valuation guide.

My aim in this article is to clarify the early history of Fieldings Pottery, to provide examples of the good quality Majolica they produced and, hopefully, stimulate further interest.

MAJOLICA

In this article, majolica is taken to mean the lead glazed relief moulded earthenware which was

normally brightly coloured and which was so popular from its launch at the Great Exhibition in 1851 until the early decades of the 20th century. "Victorian Majolica" had been developed by Leon Arnoux for Minton's display at the Exhibition and the public response at this and subsequent exhibitions (New York, 1853, Paris 1855, etc.) inspired other manufacturers (English and American) initially to imitate and then develop new designs. Leading English majolica manufacturers included Wedgwood, George Jones (who had worked at Mintons for over ten years), Worcester, Holdcroft, Forester and indeed Fielding.



The Fieldings? Let's have Mary flip David over and check for the mark!

Hackney Kirkham had been manufacturing majolica in the 1870s, but when Abraham Fielding took control in 1879, the

factory rapidly developed many new, exciting designs and boosted sales. A large proportion of the factory output was exported, particularly to America, which increases the "challenge" for modern day collectors in England! In the 1870s/80s, the product range included umbrella stands and garden seats, which were boldly moulded and coloured. One umbrella stand was in the form of a tree trunk and incorporated models of a hare and a duck; another included a model of a goat and another was in the shape of a tree trunk with a girl skating around it. In 1882, they made a Kate Greenway umbrella stand with figures on panels representing spring and autumn.

The range of goods was rapidly expanded and included lamps, dressing table sets, wall brackets, table wares (dinner and tea services), graduated jugs, cuspidors, butter dishes, butter pats, mugs, moustache cups, pitchers, oyster plates, beer sets, dessert sets, punch bowls, etc., etc.

Like other leading majolica manufacturers, Fielding made practical items fun and interesting through delightful modelling: for example, imagine this fox

fruit dish: "The surface of this dish has a fine grouping of ferns and foliage, and the handle or knob is formed by a well moulded fox that is intently watching a rabbit peeping from beneath a burrow."

The early 1880s saw the introduction of many innovative patterns including the Fan design, which was greatly imitated. Imitation was widespread in the industry, although Fieldings tried to limit it in this case through legal action taken against Hawley & Co.

Ten other designs were registered before 1884: Pansy, Fuchsia, Ribbon and Leaf, Bow and Floral, Shell and Net, Bramble, Daisy, Fan and Insect, Fan and Bird, Fan and Scroll. Background colours were white, cream, pale blue, cobalt blue, yellow, green or grey. The background could be plain but often textured with a basket weave or the "bobbled" effect which some consider characteristic of the factory.

Unfortunately, much of the work is unmarked and has to be identified through knowledge of the designs, quality of moulding, colours, glaze etc. However, a number of pieces have the Registration Diamond mark and the name FIELDING impressed on the base.

In some cases, a piece can be attributed because of the true uniqueness of the design. One model I have never seen, but I think we would all recognise was produced in 1879: It is an umbrella stand: "Showing the Ameer of Afghanistan running up a tree in the shape of monkey to escape from John Bull who is supposed to be shooting at him" (Pottery Gazette). It sounds [like] great fun, so if you see it, please let me know!

OTHER EARLY DESIGNS

From the early 1880s, Fieldings produced white ware with pattern names such as Indian, Derby and Ryde. They also produced cream coloured earthenware, which was sometimes relief moulded and often gilded. Pattern names for these products included Royal Devon (which then led to a wide range of other 'Royals': Royal Chelsea, Royal Clarence, Royal Stuart, Royal Essex, Royal Sussex etc., etc.) and Crown Devon. The 'Crown Devon' name was eventually used on a wide range of decoration, including the ubiquitous 'Vellum' ware patterns, and became so popular that it became synonymous with the Fielding Pottery.

The factory then started producing the hand 'painted' pieces, which are so prized today. The range

included pictures of cattle, sheep, pheasants, peacocks, hunting dogs, roses and towns and featured artists such as Beresford-Hopkins, Lamonby, Cox and Stuart.

'Crown Devon' wares are now very familiar and popular, but majolica, the earliest work produced by the company, which was highly regarded and valued in the late 19th century, is indeed still a "mystery" to most collectors of Fielding Pottery. I hope this article has helped shed some light on the mystery and has stirred your interest.

The factory finally closed in 1982 and very few pattern books and records survived, so there are many gaps to be filled. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who has additional information on the early Fielding products, especially the magnificent umbrella stands: has anyone seen the Ameer of Afghanistan?

FOOTNOTES:

1. The Crown Devon Story, Ray Barker, 1991.
2. Crown Devon: The History of S. Fielding & Co. by Susan Hill, Jazz Publications Ltd., Stratford Upon Avon.
3. The Crown Devon Collectors Handbook, by Ray Barker, Francis Joseph Publications Ltd., Stratford Upon Avon.
4. Majolica, by Nicholas M. Dawes, Crown Publishers Inc., New York.
5. Majolica: A Complete History and Illustrated Survey, by Marilyn G. Karmason & Joan B. Stacker, Harry N. Abrams Inc., New York.
6. Majolica: British, Continental & American Wares 1851-1915, by Victoria Bergeson, Barrie Jenkins, London.
7. The Collectors Encyclopaedia of Majolica, an Identification & Value Guide by Marianne Katz-Marks, Paduca, Kentucky Collectors Books.

READING LIST:

Ceramic Art of Great Britain, by Llewellyn Jewitt.

Blythe Colour Works Ltd., Centenary of Blythe Colour Works, Clay Craft, 1970.

Pottery and Glass Trades Journal (in particular see 'Romance of a Family Firm': Pottery and Glass, August 1956).

*David Fielding can be contacted on 01562 887279.
E-mail: fielding_home@yahoo.com*

Brief History of Fieldings Pottery

Various references are unclear and even contradictory, but the key dates would appear to be as follows:

- 1827: Simon Fielding born.
- 1855: Simon's son, Abraham, born.
- 1870: Abraham apprenticed to Blythe Colour Works, Creswell.
- 1871: Simon purchased Blythe Colour Works
- 1872: Abraham put in charge of Colour Works which then traded as 'S. Fielding'.
- 1873: Simon Fielding invested money in the Railway Pottery, which traded as F. Hackney and J. Kirkham & Co., making 'Majolica, Green Glaze, Rockingham, Fancy Goods and Earthenware.'
- 1879: Railway Pottery ran into debts: Abraham paid off debts and took charge. F. Hackney left the company (later moved to Baltimore, USA, to work for D.F. Haynes & Co: Chesapeake Pottery). Railway Pottery traded as S. Fielding & Co.
- 1880: Colour Mill sold to Pigott and Scarratt. Major plant expansions at Railway Pottery.
- 1880-90: Most active period for majolica production, with many new designs registered. Large export drive to "America, Colonial and other Foreign Markets".
- 1883: New warehouses and machinery installed.
- 1884: February 6th a major fire destroyed buildings, stock and machinery valued at 4,000 pounds.
- 1885: Patronage of Duchess of Sutherland.
- 1886: Major plant expansion.
- 1887: Eighty people employed in three storey building.
- 1888: Second major fire destroyed workshops and stopped production from May to August.
- 1889-1892: Continued plant expansion.
- 1905: S. Fielding & Co. became a Limited Company with 13,000 pounds capital.
- 1906: Simon Fielding died.
- 1932: Abraham Fielding died.

MORE FUN IN NASHVILLE



The Greats – left to right, authors Nick Dawes, Robert Cluett, Helen Cunningham, Joe Horowitz; standing, Marilyn Karmason and Joan Stacke



Gail Dearing, Cay Gann and Jim Trout charging Heaven's Gates



Marilyn Karmason signs in!



John Weld, left, with Phyllis and Jack Hays of Tulsa, OK



The Matthes' of Plano, TX with the Bostons of London



The Dynamic Duo: Polly Wilbert, left, with Chana Johnson

THE FAIRFAX HOUSE
Submitted by Marilyn Karmason



FAIRFAX HOUSE
CASTLEGATE
YORK YO1 1RN
TEL: 01904 655543
FAX: 01904 652262

York Civic Trust
Patron H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent
Registered Charity No. 229336

Dear Marilyn

I enclose an early notice about a forthcoming exhibition we will be mounting in association with English Heritage and Norwich Museum.

Would you please bring this show to the attention of your colleagues and any 'Friends' association. Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

with compliments from the Director

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY
The British at the Table 1600-2000

Fairfax House, York 26th February – 4th June 2000

A Millennium traveling exhibition destined for three venues: Fairfax House, York, Kenwood House, London and the Castle Museum, Norwich; this show celebrates the evolution of British taste in food, drink and table presentation from the reign of Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II.

The creation of set-piece period displays and table settings in these historic buildings will be complemented by British paintings and decorative art drawn from collections country-wide.

The end of the 20th century is a timely opportunity to set the current obsession with food in its historical context, looking at the constant changes to and influences on our eating habits since Elizabeth I. The fare and equipage of a particular period in history is as distinctive as its costume or literature and this exhibition helps re-define what we mean by British food.

Designed to explore the evolution of eating habits at both the rich and poor man's table, this visual feast takes the subject across the Millennium threshold to as wide an audience as possible.

A lavishly illustrated book, published by Merrell Holberton, acts not only as an exhibition catalogue, but also as an important work of scholarship featuring essays by historians in the fields of food and the decorative arts who look at changing attitudes to eating and dining throughout society over the last four centuries.

For further information please contact:

Peter Brown: Tel: 01904 655543 **Mobile: 0860 931579** or
Ivan Day: Tel: 01931 716266 **Mobile: 07808 809461**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND NORWICH MUSEUM

ON DECORATING...



Vive La France! - A chic corner crowns for attention in Sherry Haskell's Tulsa home



A Majolica Menagerie is treasured at the home of Helen Neilson of New York



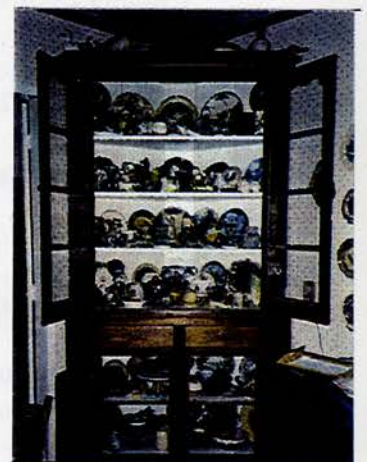
Connecticut's Marion Miller of North Stonington enjoys her collection in a rustic antique setting



Mary Jo Chandler of Chadds Ford, PA encases her Etruscan pieces appropriately in a shell, above. An aged pine cabinet cheerfully displays more of her lovely collection, right.



Kathleen Duane of Morristown, NJ enjoys double visions of her collection - Wonderful hand-painted tiles echo the real thing

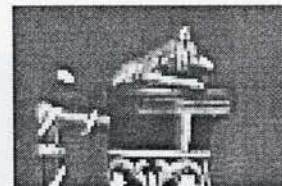


Charter Member Louise Alexander of Harbor City, CA displays a sampling of her 40+ years of collecting



WANTED...

- ☞ Lid to George Jones covered jug. Molded on the front and reverse of the cylindrical body with two oval panels depicting a hunting dog catching a bird or a fox preying on a rabbit. This jug has a hinged pewter-mounted cover modeled with a recumbent fox. (see photo at right)



Contact Marcia Singman, (510) 339-1607, or email wsingman@aol.com

- ☞ Minton Mushroom Cover for Fox Chasing Duck Game Pie dish (see photo at right)
- ☞ George Jones Pineapple Cream Pitcher



Contact Gerry Leberfeld, (212) 371-1738

- ☞ Lid to blue sardine dish. Markings at bottom of box are H and c. Box measures 6" x 5" and is 2" deep

Contact Adrienne Ryder-Cook, (804) 693-7422

- ☞ Lid for cottage coffeepot and base for George Jones Daisy and Fence cheese dome. (see photo at right)



Contact Randi Schwartz, (847) 251-9550, or email at pttryprncs@aol.com

- ☞ Lid for Etruscan bamboo teapot and sugar bowl, approximately 4"d. Both lids are the same size.

Contact Dolores Wecker, (901) 287-1348

- ☞ Base for Minton cobalt sardine box, ref. M. Marks, p. 46, bottom
- ☞ Box shell lid for George Jones sardine box, ref: Karmason-Stacke, p. 96 center

Contact Michael Strawser, 219-854-2859, or fax 219-854-3879

MAJOLICA SIGHTINGS...

Romantic Homes, June, 1999, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 66-71. A lovely article featuring pieces from Randi Schwartz's collection.

Better Homes and Gardens, "Decorating", summer issue 1999 from Special Interest Publication, pp. 20, 21 and cover

Traditional Home, September, 1999, pp. 52-54

Architectural Digest, July 1999, p. 131

JUST A FEW NOTES...

THE RAVEN AND THE DOVE...

A lovely haven of the best of Herbert, George, Joseph, Josiah and Griffen, Smith and Hill along with other American and European delights awaits your arrival at Randi Schwartz's *new* location.

**1143 Greenleaf Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091
(847) 251-9550**

PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO:

Marcia Singman
5962 Johnston Drive
Oakland, CA 94611
voice (510) 339-1607
or email to:
wsingman@aol.com

The deadline for submission for the fall Newsletter is September 15, 1999. – *We apologize for the lateness of the summer issue. Hopefully, size does matter!*

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION

Christie's South Kensington is pleased to inform you that their next Majolica Sale will take place on November 2, 1999. For further information contact:

Rodney Woolley - 0171 321 3231 *or*
Rebecca Greene - 0171 321 3224

PHOTO CRÉDITS

Thank you to the following members for sending in their convention photos for this issue:

Leroy Davis of Tipp City, Ohio
The Rossis of New York, New York
Marcia Singman of Oakland, California

and...

Thank you to all the members who shared photos of their homes.

The newsletter is better because of you!

ADDRESS CHANGE

The US Postal Service has revised the regulations for commercial mail receiving agencies. The new regulations require that mail addressed to boxholders conform to a new format as follows:

Name: Majolica International Society
PMB: PMB 103
Street Address: 1275 First Avenue
City, State, Zip: New York, New York 10021-5645

**MAJOLICA MATTERS IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY FOR ITS MEMBERS BY:**

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Marcia Singman - Editor
Helen Cunningham - Features Editor

DELEGATES AT LARGE
Karen Cox
G. James Trout
Polly Wilbert

MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Statement of Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended December 31, 1998

Revenue

Dues	\$ 3,801
Convention	27,862
Book sales	180
Other	234
Total Revenue	\$ 42,077

Cost of Revenue

Book purchases	575
Refunds	.655
Total cost of revenue	1,230

Gross Profit

40,847

Expenses

Bank charges	52
Professional fees	300
Meeting expense	19,770
Newsletter	9,846
Office expense	2,218
Mail box rent	325
Accounting	425
Public relations	547
Advertising	<u>1,387</u>
Total Expenses	34,870

Operating Income

5,977

Interest Income

101

Net Income

6,078

Fund Balance, January 1, 1998

17,230

Fund Balance, December 21, 1998

\$23,308