



475. (BI) Nov. 9, 1988 (S)
 A Rare and Important Minton's Melbourne
 "Majolica" Peacock, after the model by
 P. Comolera, circa 1875, standing erect
 on a high rocky mound applied with
 fruiting and flowering blackberry and ivy,
 with clusters of foliage and with fungi at the
 base, all picked out in 'majolica' glazes, the
 bird with brilliant blue head and neck,
 green body, and wings in tones of brown
 and orange, the long tail plumes with
 brightly coloured "eyes" and
 naturalistically marked details, impressed
 Minton's mark, date code and pattern number
 2405, moulded signature to base, 153cm high

Provenance: The Peacock was purchased (circa 1900) by the grandfather of the present owner from an Englishman who had brought it to Australia. It has been passed through the family to the present owner.

Paul Comolera, (1818-1897) is recorded as a modeller specialising in life size models of birds and animals at Minton's from 1873 until circa 1880. He was born in Paris and after completing his studies at the Rue d'Enfer as a pupil of Francois Rudé he made his debut at the Salon of 1846. The majority of his works were cast in bronze but some of his models were produced in faience by H Boulanger & Co. Choisy, as well as the "majolica" wares at Minton's.

The factory has traced the existence of only nine of this example which are dispersed world wide, several in public collections. One example is in the Minton Museum at Stoke on Trent in England, another is in the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney. Another well known model, in the Warrnambool Maritime Museum Collection, survived the shipwreck of the 'Loch Ard' off the Australian coast in 1878.

The 'Loch Ard Peacock' was to be the main exhibit at the first great International Exhibition in Melbourne to mark the official opening of the Exhibition Buildings in 1880. The Loch Ard struck the east side

of Mutton Bird Island near Port Campbell off Victoria on June 1st 1878 and the Peacock was washed ashore in a large straw filled box. It was salvaged from the ship virtually undamaged except for a slight chip to the beak and was purchased by the Warrnambool Maritime Museum in 1975.
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