This issue is very diversified. We are finishing off our coverage of the imitators of the hugely popular Sydenham Shape with an article on Wrapped Sydenham shape. This is followed by an article on spitoons and cuspidors and a history of their usage. We are delighted to bring you a submission of an article on Square Ridged shape by Barbara Stewart from Virginia. This is followed by an explanation of the process that led to the Kew Registry design information explosion that we are enjoying thanks to Jane Diemer.

We are pretty sure you will enjoy this newsletter.
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WHITE IRONSTONE NOTES is published and edited by Ernie and Bev Dieringer with associate editor, Jim Kerr. Drawings and photos are by Ernie and Bev Dieringer unless otherwise noted. Please send all news notes, articles, photos, suggestions, questions and listings for advertising or for the Spare Parts and Whole Pieces column to:

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PUBLISHING DEADLINES are Nov. 15 for Winter, Feb. 15 for Spring, May 15 for Summer, Aug. 15 for Fall.

Members can list white ironstone Parts & Pieces Wanted and For Sale without charge in the Spare Parts column of each issue.

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Send $30 for one or two individuals at the same address with check made payable to WICA, Inc. to: WICA c/o Suzanne Nielsen
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Membership year is June 1st to May 31st.

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK
Exciting news. With the help of Rosalie Spies, a retired researcher at the Kew Patent Records Office, we have digital photos of many of our white ironstone shapes from the Registry volumes. This was orchestrated by Jane Diemer, who is a wonderful researcher herself. See Jane’s story on page 15.

LETTERS
While not the best photo, I thought you might like to see that there is white ironstone at the Cabrillo Light House in San Diego. Marie and I returned from a week there at the end of June. There is also Tea Leaf in their kitchen.

Mike Compton

Looks like a Ceres Shape ewer & basin and other mixed pieces of ironstone, but it gives you a good feeling when pieces show up where you don’t expect them.

Mike Compton

To answer the question about names of shapes, the registry was for the design of the item, not the name. We are finding that the potters seldom put the names of the shapes on their registry designs. So Clementson had no problem naming his version Sydenham.

In July, I enjoyed a trip to the UK which focused on history and genealogy. Antique shopping was not on the itinerary so I was not expecting to see any white ironstone. But, of all the places to find a piece, it was in the Burns House (Robert, that is) in Dumfries, Scotland. RB died in this house in 1796. Prominently displayed on a shelf in the parlor was a JF Panelled Grape sugar—no lid, poor condition. I inquired about its presence from the attendant, but he had no clue as to why it was there. It is said that Burn’s wife lived on in that house for 15 years after his death. I have not authenticated that last bit of information, but it still does not explain a Jacob Furnival sugar in such a place. Not even a lid on it! I had a fantastic time seeing it though.

Janice Stork

Received my White Ironstone Notes for this Summer. As I collect Sydenham ironstone, found it most interesting.

I have a Sydenham pitcher, 8” high by J. Clementson marked “Sydenham Shape” as per enclosed photos, it is similar to T. & R. Boote’s

There is a long narrow leaf on the handle folded over the top. I didn’t see a pitcher like this in your article. I wonder if companies named their wares the same as others. I’ve had this a long time, purchased when I lived in upstate New York. There is no registry mark on it.

I enjoy reading about all the ironstone that has been discovered since Jean (Wetherbee) and I used to go out looking for new patterns for her second book.

Doris Walker

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

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presso a wonderful researcher herself. See Jane’s story on page 15.

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

As summer winds down I want to bring you news of WICA activities. This has been a busy time for the Board and several committees. We continue to work on many issues, including questions on collections management and guidelines for convention attendance. However, the pursuit of a long awaited research project is what I want to highlight in this message.

Throughout the years I have been involved in WICA governance, a continuing goal has been to sponsor research on ironstone shapes at the Kew Archives outside of London. It is there that original registration documents are stored. I’ve lost track of the numerous times this issue was visited, without success. We were unable to find a capable researcher and it proved impossible to do in a cost effective manner.

But that was then, this is now!!! Thanks to the persistence and determination of Jane Diemer and Ernie Dieringer a highly capable researcher was located. Her name is Rosalie Spire and she was commissioned to research the folios at Kew to supply information and pictures of the many registration numbers given to her. It produced astounding results.

In a period of only three months, from mid May to mid August, Rosalie was able to research this large body of material and provide everything asked for. It is also worth noting that with the deteriorating condition of the folios timing was of the essence.

I am anxiously looking forward to seeing the results from this fine work in the form of a power point presentation and a DVD encyclopedia. Jane and Ernie deserve our most sincere “Thank you”!

Yours in collecting,

Harry

GREAT NEW DVD AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS.
NEWSLETTERS VOL. 1 - 16

Have you ever wanted to look up something you remembered reading or seeing in the newsletter, but didn’t want to wade through all 16 years of issues? Now you can skip the speed reading course and search all the White Ironstone Notes to find your quest. The DVD with Newsletters and Index (available from the WICA Shoppe) provides a digital copy of all the newsletters that can be combined in one PDF file using the software Adobe Acrobat (not Adobe Reader.) After you have combined all the newsletters, the file will be over 1100 pages and you can type your search inquiry to find any and all mentions in all the newsletters. You can search for shapes, potters, friends, or objects. This is an added bonus for previous and future Newsletter DVD owners. Don’t hesitate to jump into the digital age and purchase the DVD. You can also reprint any back issues to complete your set.

$95 plus $2 shipping
Contact Dave or Karen Klein,
Early collectors gave this shape two names. Double Sydenham and/or Wrapped Sydenham. Jean Wetherbee eventually decided they were one and the same shape.

This very desirable imitator of the Sydenham Shape was probably done by a modeler who we have not yet identified. It was produced by nine or more potters, including W. Adams, Anthony Shaw, Edward Walley, T. Goodfellow, Livesley Powell & Co., John Maddock, W&E Corn, Patton & Co. and Holland & Green. Many of these potters often potted other shapes that were patent registered by modelers. Unlike Baltic, Columbia and Grape Octagon whose modelers we know – No diamond Patent Registry mark has been found on Wrapped or Double Sydenham shape. We can assume that it was made after Boote’s Sydenham Shape (1853) because the potters were active after that date. The shape is more like Boote’s 1851 shape – Sydenham’s predecessor. The panels are flat. Some of the finials and handles are the same and the teapots even copied the 1851 ring handle (see pg. 6) There are none of the Sydenham wavy rimmed tulip shape pieces.
DOUBLE OR WRAPPED SYDENHAM

Wrapped Sydenham brush box by T. Goodfellow. Soap box by E. Walley.

Basin by H. & G. Late Harvey

Ewer by John Maddock.

Jug by T. Goodfellow.

Double Sydenham potty, potter unknown.

Compote by John Maddock came in several sizes. This one is 9 1/2” diameter.
DOUBLE OR WRAPPED SYDENHAM

Sauce tureen above left by H. & G. Late Harvey. Above right by T. Goodfellow. The Harvey tureen underplate has the handles at the front and almost appears not to have any.

Vegetable by E. Walley.

Gravy or, as we have just learned from Kew research, butter bowl by A Shaw.

Syllabub cup.

Well and Tree platter.

Teapot and sugar by H. & G. Late Harvey, aka Holland & Greene.

Teapot, sometimes called Chinese Sydenham, by Anthony Shaw.
IRONSTONE SPITTOONS & CUSPIDORS

Tobacco was commonly chewed in the mid 18th century and spittoons or cuspidors were provided. Before 1840 spitting was done on the floor, streets and sidewalks. The spittoon was created to stop that unsanitary habit. Between 1800 and the 1920’s spittoons or cuspidors were a common feature in all saloons, hotels, stores, banks and every public place where people, especially men, gathered.

A spittoon or cuspidor is a receptacle made for spitting into. Today the terms are interchangeable. Spittoon is the more usual term and has been said the name was in part onomatopoeia. A page from an 1890’s catalog shows their difference in form. The two at the top are spittoons and the one below with a pinched neck and a wide funnel-shaped opening - is a cuspidor. Cuspidors were more often made in brass or even iron. Spittoons were designed with flat-bottoms to minimize tipping over. They sometimes had an interior lip to prevent spilling. Some have holes with a plug to aid in draining and cleaning. They could be found made in fine cut glass or even porcelain for fancy hotels.

Advocates of hygiene and etiquette organized to ban public use of spittoons. Chewing tobacco went out of fashion when cigarettes and chewing gum were introduced in the 1920’s. They were considered more hygienic than spit-inducing chewing tobacco. Also, the public disdain for spitting (even in spittoons) during the great flu and TB epidemics that were a serious health problem in the early 1900s brought an end to the use of spittoons.

The Justices of the Supreme Court each has one next to his or her seat in the present-day courtroom. (How’s that for tradition?) The only remaining modern use of spittoons is by wine tasters who must use them between tastings to avoid getting drunk.
Two versions of Gothic Octagon design of a spittoon. Neither of them was marked.

Unmarked 7” diameter spittoon in the manner of Wrapped Sydenham.

Anchor and Chain by E. B.

This pour hole seems to be a long-haired dog face.
SPITTOONS

The pour holes of many spittoons are creatively decorated, possibly to make the chore of emptying them less onerous.

The pour spout is decorated the same as the spittoon at left, but the body is very different.

Above: A choice collection of four spittoons reside in a hallway in upstate New York. None of them are marked.

This shape was made by John Moses, Trenton, N.J., 7 1/4” diameter. Also by Dale & Davis.

Lady’s spittoon by John Moses, Trenton, N.J.

Cameo Lady’s spittoon with a rope frame.
SPITTOONS

A personal-sized spittoon to be carried to such places as church.

Another personal-sized spittoon. The face pour spout is very unusual.

Steubenville, OH, cuspidor.

This cuspidor is decorated on two sides with a devil’s head and horns.

Knowles, Taylor & Knowles cuspidor.

This pour spout is a fish head. Very whimsical.
SPITTOONS

American mark with two deer instead of lion & unicorn.

Three small lady’s spittoons.

This one is just plain strange.

Lion’s head spittoon, 8 1/2” diameter. Detail below.

J. & G. Meakin 2-piece spittoon. Because the top was removable, a hole on the side was unnecessary.

Plain 9 1/2” diameter spittoon or cuspidor by Alfred Meakin.

Plain 7 1/2” diameter cuspidor.
MY IRONSTONE

I grew up with ironstone in our home---a large Chelsea platter on the dining room wall and a chamber pot that had belonged to my grandmother as a girl. But my favorite piece was what I thought was a small vase in which my mother often had cut roses that she grew in her garden. Later I would realize that the vase was in fact the toothbrush holder in the Square Ridged pattern. What a surprise!

In 1994 my mother was getting ready to move into a retirement home and wanted to sell her ironstone— an assortment of 30 or so pieces. I purchased these pieces along with Jean Wetherbee’s handbook of 1974.

I have hunted antique shops and flea markets for 50 years or more, but was busy collecting quilts, blue crocks, bears, decoys, prints and anything that caught my eye.

Then in the mid-nineties I came across a Square-ridged platter and just loved it. And so that started a collection.

I sometimes buy pieces on eBay but I really like looking at and feeling what I buy!

We have three grown daughters. Two have ironstone collections and all three love old things. My mother was a saver so we have a lot of family heirlooms.

I am grateful to have found WICA and enjoy learning so much of the history of white ironstone.

As an artist, I am drawn to simplicity in line and form. I hope that you will enjoy seeing my collection.

Barbara Stewart

Clockwise from above: Large covered vegetable 8 1/2” by 9 1/2”. Covered dish with liner, ladle not original, Platters range in size from 17 1/2” by 12 1/2” to 6 1/2” by 4 3/4”. Gravy boat with liner.
JOHNSON BROS. SQUARE RIDGED SHAPE

Slop jar without a lid, 11 1/2” high and 12” wide.

Right: Ewer and basin and soap dish.

Above: Toothbrush vase and chamber pot.

A collection of chamber pots in other shapes and sizes.

A collection of ewers. The first two from the front left are Square Ridged and Britannia.
The smaller dishes are called butter pats and are 2 3/4” by 3”. The larger ones might be nut dishes, 4 1/2” by 5”.

Small serving dishes range from 10 3/4” by 7 1/2” to 5 2/8” by 4”.

The 9” high teapot is happily paired with its sugar and creamer.
Almost immediately after WICA was formed some seventeen years ago the club wanted to send a member to the National Archives in London, near Kew Gardens, to research the original patent registries, the numbers which most Staffordshire potters obtained (for a fee) in order to protect their property from copy cats. This registered patent number protected the proprietor for three years. WICA could not afford to spend several thousand dollars to send a club member to do such research or even to pay an English friend of the club to do the work.

In May of this year I investigated the wonderful website of The National Archives of England and discovered that WICA could hire an independent researcher to locate and photograph the original representations (their word for sketches, drawings or very early photographs) in the old, badly damaged books (really scrapbooks) containing hundreds and hundreds of designs of our beloved ironstone, as well as transferware, parian, majolica, Victorian oddities and commercial implements such as water filters, fountains and the like. Obviously we were interested only in ironstone designs.

We inquired of a certain Rosalie Spire, who lives in London and asked the whys and wherefores and, behold, she charged not thousands, but a mere $29 per hour. The WICA board of directors was happy to vote favorably on pursuing the interesting Kew project. The Dieringers and the Diemers decided to hire Rosalie for six hours, just to see what she would "produce". To our amazement she traveled to Kew to do a preliminary investigation, and the first image she emailed us was a gorgeous Fluted Pearl ewer, the very one which Bev and Ernie had on a shelf in their home.

Those first days of unzipping compressed files from Rosalie's website were like a series of Christmas mornings, because we saw not only patterns we had all collected and sold, but very early scarce patterns such as those of William Ridgway, as well as brand new designs and names. Ever hear of "Europa" or "Laconian"?

For me this project has been the last frontier, the primary source material which closes the loop of information on white ironstone. We always knew the several ironstone "recipes", who made it, where their potteries were, the shipping locales on both sides of the Atlantic, and the major countries (U.S. and Canada) to which the goods were shipped. We wanted, however, to travel back to the source -- the designer or modeler or the potter or his agent who went to the Archives with the representation and fee in his hands in order to register his property.

In the long term we are discussing several methods to preserve the archival information for all of WICA and perhaps for the general public to use and enjoy. In the short term, however, you and your ironstone collecting friends are encouraged to attend our WICA convention April 29-May 1, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, York, Pennsylvania, where there will be a power point presentation on the ironstone marvels from the years 1843-1880 discovered by our new friend, Ms. Rosalie Spire.

Jane M. Diemer

In a recent e-mail Rosalie wrote:

I took a couple of shots of the National Archives: you can see that it has lovely lakes in the grounds and I always enjoy looking out for my friends the heron and the moor hens. Although someone told me that the lakes are there for the entirely practical reason of being a source of water in case of fire. To tell you a little of the background of the building: it was built near Kew Gardens, on the banks of the river Thames, because it was realized that the original building in central London was not secure enough to house the nation's documents. During the Second World War, the building in London was bombed and many documents destroyed: the ones that I know about are the First World War army service records, where about two thirds were destroyed and you can see on the remainder, smoke and water damage.

Rosalie Spire
Page 21 of The Pitcher Book shows this pitcher as Kansas Shape by J. & G. Meakin and Persia Shape by W. Corn. This version is marked Avon but the potter is unknown.

Gelson Bros. registered this ‘gravy dish’ on July 13, 1872. The problem is was this the size of an individual dish or a sideways well and tree platter?

Baker & Chetwynd definitively answered the question of ‘what is a nappie?’ when they registered this bowl on August 5, 1873. Now we would like to know how big it was. Size was not included in any of the items we saw.

T. J. & J. Mayer registered this marmalade jar on February 8, 1847. These images with 5 and 6 digit numbers on them, are from the Registry Patent offices at Kew, London, England.
NEW & UNUSUAL

Strawberry set registered by George Jones on April 29, 1873. The built-in small wells were for sauces to compliment the berries. How elegant.

George Jones & Sons, registered this condiment set on February 26 1874. Probably meant to go with a breakfast set.

This pen holder in the shape of a crown on top of a book on top of a pillow has not shown up yet as a registered item in the Kew list. It almost inspires one to start writing a novel with a quill pen.

Cruet registered by T. J. & J. Mayer on February 8, 1847.
SPARE PARTS

WANTED
Lids for SYDENHAM oval vegetable and oval tureen and oval tureen undertray.
Jill O’Hara, 610-588-7428 or e-mail Jillohara@mac.com

CERES by E. & F. bottoms for the toothbrush box and the soap box. We have the lids.
Bev & Ernie Dieringer, 203-938-3740 dieringerl@aol.com

FLORA creamer & sugar bowl, NEW YORK, VINTAGE & CANADA sauce tureen underplates, EAGLE/DOVE & LOZENGE, LAUREL WREATH, PRIZE BLOOM, VIRGINIA & FIG/UNION bases or bowls, WHEAT & CLOVER & RIBBED RASPBERRY sauce tureen lids.
Bill Lancaster, 608-325-5724 or e-mail lancastermonroe@charter.net

FOR SALE
10 1851 Octagon ring handle Toddy cups. Pin-size glazing imperfections, stilt marks, black specks and some sand in the clay, two with chip on base All for $75.00.
8 saucers for the cups. 5 marked T&R Boote Sydenham. One each of Walley, Baker and Pankhurst. Octagon in shape.
3 Tea pots Wheat and Hops, New York, can’t read impressed mark, Paneled Grape, Clementson, and Wheat and Clover, Clementson Bors. Hanley No lids. $75.00 for the three.
Gravy Boat Eagle Head P. 106. with two impressed marks. Davenport and English registry. $100.00
2 covered vegetable, T&R Boote Chinese Shape $50.00. Wheat and Hops W. Taylor $35.00
E-mail: Nanteak@aol.com or (810) 239 0272. N. L. Raljala

Remember to send us your wanted items and your ironstone for sale at dieringerl@aol.com. This is the best possible place to actually get to find that elusive part. White Ironstone Notes goes to several hundred households that collect just what you might want or have for sale.

COLLECTORS’ SHOWCASE

We think this is a simple and elegant relish dish by James Edwards. Amazingly well marked including the Kew registry number on the bottom of the diamond. What we could make out of the embossing was August 16, 1862. This item did not show up in the registry books which leads us to believe that many things have gone missing over the years of research and rough usage of the folios.