

The Scottish Pottery Society

Glasgow Branch Newsletter

Charity No. SC003935

No. 246 December, 2014

1. Last meeting, 10 November, 20014, David Paton: Nautilus Porcelain and bring your own.

A large turnout of members came to hear David Paton give an exciting talk on the history of the Nautilus period of the Possil Pottery and the Nautilus wares produced. The display of members' own pieces was disappointing – no doubt because good pieces were too valuable to bring along.



David Paton

Two brothers, John and Daniel McDougall, took over the Barrowfield Pottery in 1894 and the Nautilus Porcelain Company was born. The Nautilus range became so successful that they took over the bankrupt Saracen Pottery in 1896 to make porcelain and called it Possil Pottery.

In 1903 a further biscuit kiln was built and one for glaze: this made a total of six kilns. The McDougall family had long since been glass and china wholesalers and retail sellers but now they made the finest quality porcelain. Dessert wares, tea sets and ornamental wares in hand-painted porcelain were their principal products. The wares have

similarities to Limoges, Worcester and Belleek potteries. They housed the china decorators in the top floor of one of their shops at 77–79 Buchanan Street.

They produced a long line of figures, principally water carriers. David showed pictures of the water carriers he had seen and lamented that he had



The missing water carrier



Other water carriers

not seen a particular one. A voice came from the audience saying that she had the figure and it is shown here.

Nautilus also specialised in ornamental vases. These usually came in three pieces: the base, main body, and top garniture. David said that the McDougall brothers were influenced by ornaments that were made at the Worcester Pottery. For instance this vase with the flying swans was made by Possil but it closely resembles vases made by Worcester as the reticulation around the neck of the vase is very much in the style of potter George Owen who worked at Worcester (shown on the next page).

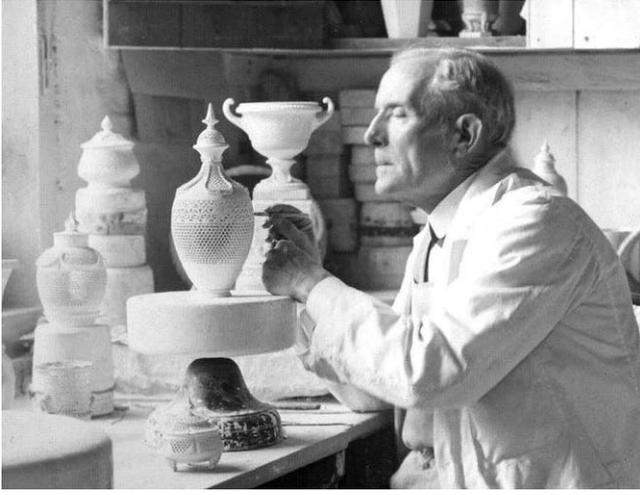


Courtesy of David Paton



The reticulation on the neck of the vase





George Owen with his reticulated pottery at Worcester Pottery

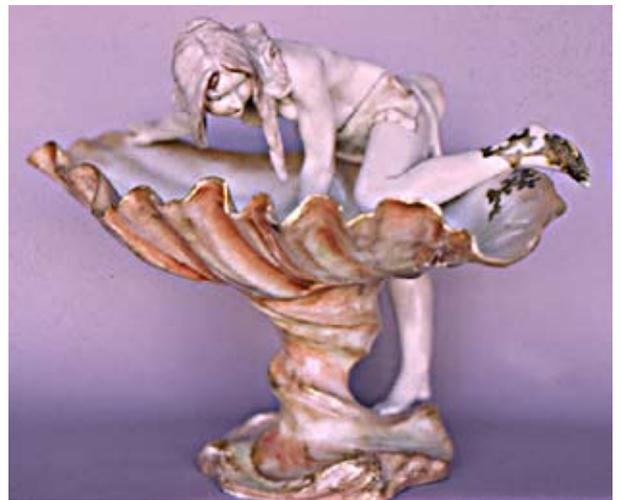


Nautilus swans (after Charles Baldwin?)

Another possible link to the Worcester Pottery is the painting of the swans. The Worcester Pottery also employed a famous artist named Charles Baldwin who was famous for painting swans. The Nautilus vase with the swans is very like the work Baldwin did for Worcester.



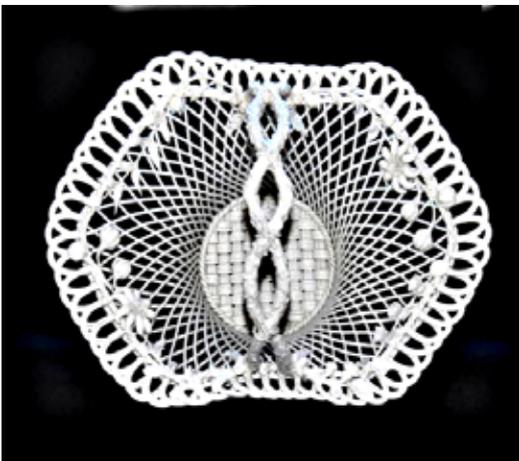
One of David's photographs was the much desired piece with the naked lady climbing into a shell. His photograph suggested that her left foot had been repaired. But in this one her left foot has caught some seaweed.



Charles Baldwin's swans, Worcester Pottery

Basket ware

There is evidence that the McDougall brothers employed a few potters from the Belleek Pottery. They brought with them the art of basket making which Belleek had perfected. The Pottery Gazette had pictures of these Possil Pottery baskets. David described how a Belleek basket has a white tab on it with the pottery logo. Nautilus ones have no tag. The basket shown below is a Nautilus one.



Courtesy of David Paton



Detail of handle



Courtesy of David Paton

Other pieces of Niutilus shown



Dragon handle bowl, c. 1890s



Courtesy of David Paton



Possil Pottery earthenware ewer



John McDougall was the driving force of the two brothers. He died in 1910 and the pottery closed in 1911. David Paton said that he was told a number of years ago by a granddaughter of a woman who worked in the pottery that on the closure of the pottery the work force were allowed to take away as many of the blanks that they could manage to carry in their aprons. It seems that some decorators painted their blanks and sold them off as Nautilus porcelain.

Courtesy of Denis Ayres

2. Next Meeting Monday 8 December. Christmas Party and bring along your own Studio Pottery

Wine and soft drinks for the party will be provided by the Branch and members are invited to bring along some food.

Studio Pottery is the theme for discussion during the party. This means pottery made in house and decorated by the potter. This does not include bought-in blanks for decoration and industrial set ups. This still gives a vast selection to choose from and examples such as Allander, Ruskin, Shackleton etc come to mind. Also there is a myriad of craft pottery pieces floating about that should produce a very large display on the night.

3. Scottish teapots

Robin Jones and Alex Inglis of the Edinburgh Branch have got together to produce a publication on Scottish teapots. They consider this is a gap in our publishing portfolio and are fast approaching the one hundred mark of photographs. They have now realised that help from our side would be very welcome. So if you have a Scottish teapot take a photograph of it and send it to either Robin at scotpots.1@gmail.com or Alex Inglis at inglis85@btinternet.com. Thank you.

4. Some Forthcoming Fairs (December / January 2014/2015)

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| Saturday | 6 Dec/10 Jan | Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling |
| Sunday | 14 Dec/18 Jan | Bellahouston Leisure Centre |
| Saturday | 6 Dec/31 Jan | The Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr Baths, South Beach Road, Ayr |
| Saturday | 13 Dec | Loch Leven Community Campus, the Muirs, Kinross KY13 8FQ |
| Sunday | 7 Dec/11 Jan | Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh |

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