

# Treasures & Heirlooms

By Rob Reid

A sunny and warm May to all.

Here we have a huge and gorgeous platter in a flow blue pattern.

Transfer ware china was made primarily in England starting in 1756. It is a process where a pattern is first drafted and etched onto a copper (or other metal) plate. The plate is then covered with ink and the pattern is transferred to a special tissue. The tissue is put on the bisque, (china that has been fired in a kiln once but not glazed) glazed and fired again. This process creates a crisp pattern on the china. On many pieces one can see where the transfer design ends or where it does not quite match, much like wallpaper.

This technique was created in response to a demand for decorated china by the general population that could not afford the expensive individually hand decorated pottery of

the richer upper class. It was developed during the industrial revolution, allowing for the production of dinnerware at a fraction of the time, labour and cost previously required. Later the technology allowed for more than one colour. Another supplementary technique involved using a basic transfer outline with some hand painted details like flower petals and leaves added within. This technique was called "clobbering".

Many colours were used in transfer ware including shades of blue, red, purple, green and yellow. Brown was the least expensive and therefore most common, while yellow was much rarer. Blue was, and still is, the most sought after and tends to be the most valued, especially those pieces that are referred to as flow blue.

Originally flow blue was a mistake in the cobalt pigments used in the decorative glaze. The blue dyes could not withstand the high temperature of the kiln and ran during the firing process. The result was a blurry effect in the finished china. The colour can vary from dark cobalt to a greyish or steel blue and the flow can be very slight or so thick that the pattern can be all but unrecognizable. Until the 1870's the base used was primarily ironstone pottery. After this, from about 1880 to 1910, more refined semi-porcelain was used resulting in less smearing or flow of the patterns.

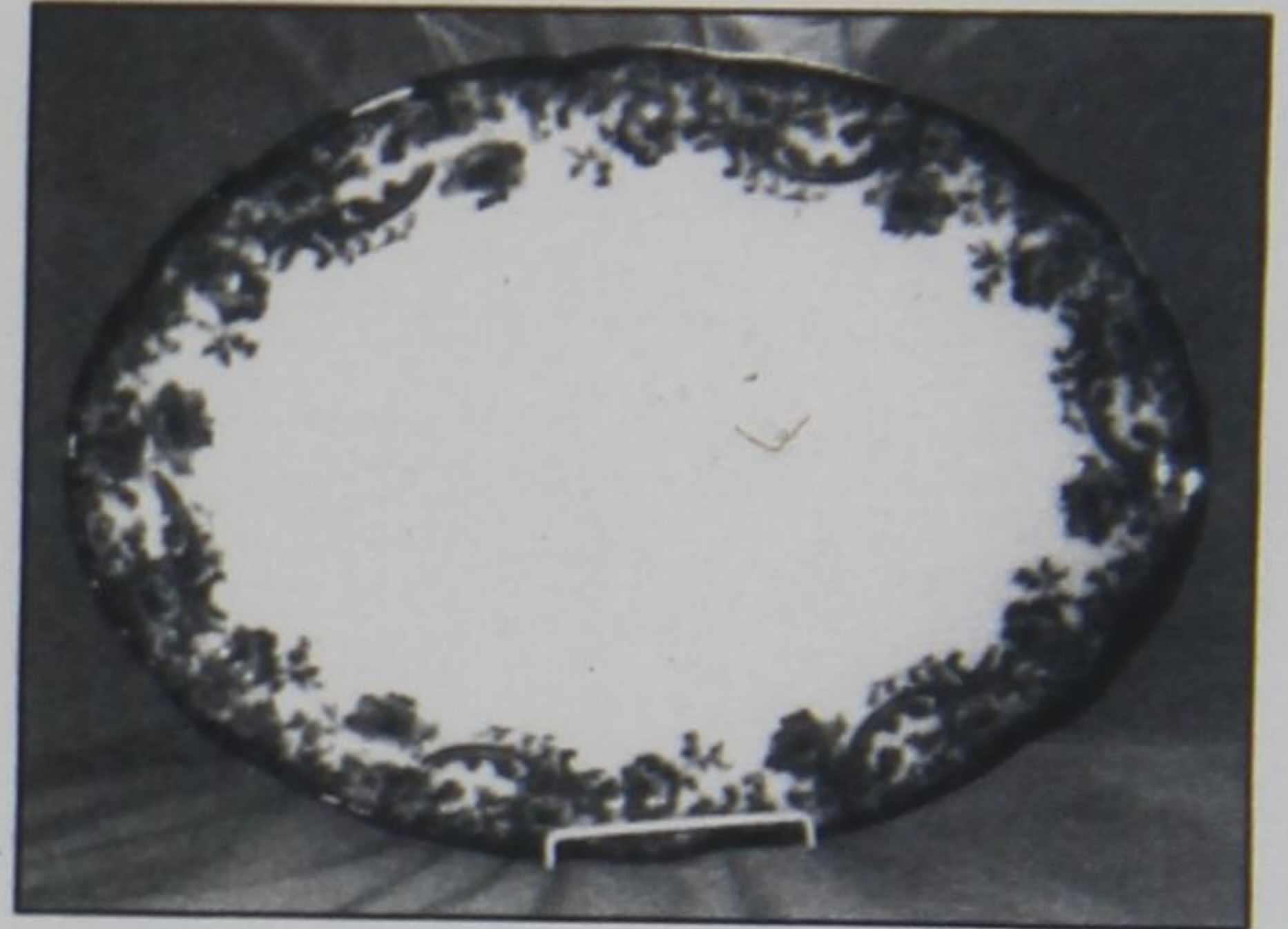
Over 90 per cent of all "antique" flow blue was made in England, with the rest being produced in Germany, France, Holland and the United States.

This huge platter is almost 21 inches across and was made by Doulton at their factory in Burslem, England between 1891 and 1902. It is decorated in a pattern called Melrose. It has a scalloped edge highlighted with gold and a nice depth

suitable for a great turkey!

Blue and white china has typically been the most popular colour for collectors and the more unique or unusual it is the more one can expect to pay for it. While the market is not as strong as it was a decade ago, a platter as large as this one with no damage should still sell for \$250 or more.

I welcome inquiries about any objects and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through Stouffville Free Press or drop the material off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via my website at reidsantiques.com.



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## Starlight Cinema Presents

On May 8 at 7 p.m., Starlight Cinema at Nineteen on the Park presents *The Impossible*, which is based on a true story.

A British family on their Christmas holiday at a beach resort in Thailand in 2004 is torn apart when a deadly tsunami devastates the area. The film follows the seriously wounded Maria (Naomi Watts) and her eldest son Lucas (Tom Holland) as they struggle to safety, not knowing whether Maria's husband Henry (Ewan McGregor) and their two younger sons are dead or alive.

"The film is a remarkable visual achievement, made more affecting by the depth the actors bring to their characters," writes Peter Travers in *Rolling Stone*. "The go-for-broke intensity and emotional layering Watts brings to her role is an acting triumph. And McGregor matches her in a performance of ferocity and feeling. The surprise is young Holland, who shows how the terror and anger in

Lucas grow into courage. He gives this powerhouse film its grieving heart."

On May 22, Starlight Cinema presents *The Intouchables*, a comedy/drama which was a major box office hit in its native France. The film tells the story of Philippe (François Cluzet), a quadriplegic millionaire who is interviewing candidates for the position of his care giver. Out of the blue, Driss (Omar Sy) cuts into the line of candidates with a document from Social Security, and asks Philippe to sign it to prove he is seeking a job position, so he can receive his unemployment benefit.

Philippe challenges Driss, offering him a trial period of a month's employment to gain experience. Driss accepts the challenge and moves into the mansion, radically transforming the lives of Philippe and his employees in the process.

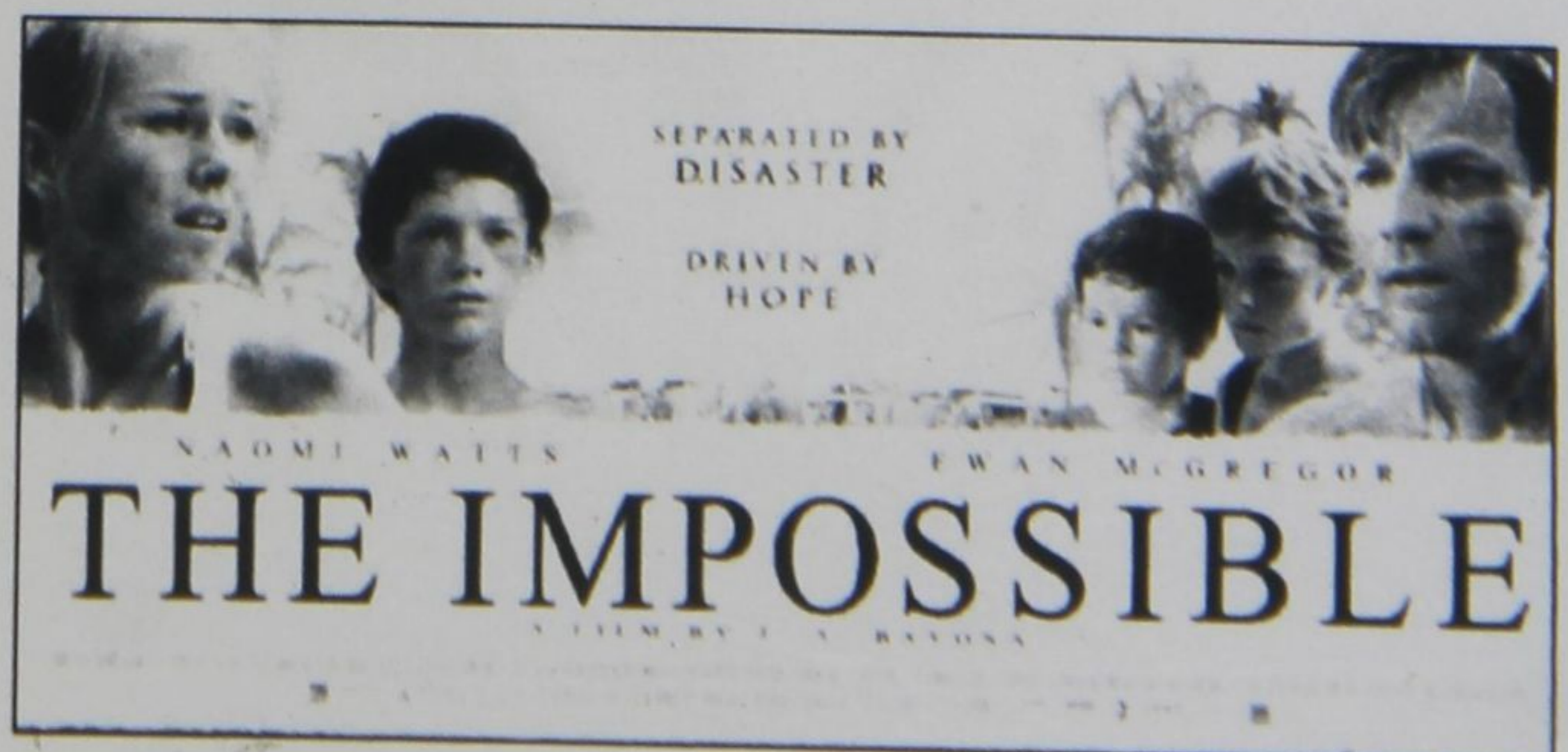
"There are countless magical moments worth recounting - many with humour and involving the clash of

the classes - it is not surprising that the film has been a runaway hit in France and elsewhere in Europe," writes Louise Keller of *Urban Cinefile*.

Friend of Starlight Cinema passes are available for \$100 and include admission to all regular season presentations for one year. Annual memberships are \$12 and allow you to buy individual tickets for \$5 per screening. Single tickets are \$7.50 at the door on the night of the screening.

Starlight Cinema, which is part of the Toronto International Film Festival Film Circuit, is proudly sponsored by the Stouffville Free Press. For more information, and to watch trailers of upcoming movies, visit [www.nineteenonthePark.ca](http://www.nineteenonthePark.ca) or call the box office at 905-640-2322.

If you would like to receive regular reminders of upcoming movies, send an email to [stouffvillefreepress@rogers.com](mailto:stouffvillefreepress@rogers.com).



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