

## Treasures & Heirlooms

By Rob Reid

A warm and sunny fall to all.

This is a nice dinner plate that many people may recognize as Flow Blue or transfer ware china.

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 transferred to a special tissue. The tissue is then 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 developed 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 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, called "clobbering", involved using a basic transfer outline with some hand painted details like flower petals and leaves added within.

Many colours were used in transfer ware including shades of blue, red, purple, green and yellow. Brown was the least expensive and therefore the 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 grayish 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. 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 made in Germany, France, Holland and the United States.

This is a nine and three-quarter inch dinner plate made by Dunn Bennett & Co. of Burslem, England and is dated 1897. The back stamp

also includes the pattern name of "Japan". The pattern includes the depiction of stylized Asian chrysanthemums and peonies. The transfer of the border was well done and you have to look very closely to see the overlap of the pattern. However the centre transfer is very much off centre and this piece may have been judged a "second" and sold as such.

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 this piece is in fair condition it does have a small chip in the rim and several scratches across the face, indicating that it was probably used regularly. In today's market it would likely sell for \$40 to \$50.

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 them off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via Robert@reidsantiques.com.

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 Website: www.alisontipson-rmt.ca

## GETTING BACK INTO A FALL ROUTINE!

The leaves are starting to turn and the kids are back in school. What a beautiful time of year! Now that you are getting back into a routine, remember to include your massage. Whether it is for regular maintenance, stress, or pain and tension, a massage will help. Also, remember to take good care of yourself

when raking leaves this fall. The back pain caused by raking leaves will be greatly decreased, if not completely alleviated with massage and regular stretching.

Don't forget about the kids! They are back at school playing sports and studying hard so a massage can be very beneficial for them.

I offer Swedish, Hot Stone, Aromatherapy, Deep Tissue, Sports and Pre and Post Natal massages. I am available Monday to Saturday and have very flexible hours, which will suit everyone's requirements. I also offer house call treatments for those of you who enjoy getting treated in the comfort of your own home.

Remember that Registered Massage Therapy is covered by most extended health care plans.

I am located in the Stouffville Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Clinic at the North West corner of Main Street and Park Drive. Stop by for a chat, or call to make an appointment.

Alison Tipson, RMT  
 Clinic: 905-640-8006  
 Cell: 416-671-8545  
 alisontipson.rmt@gmail.com  
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