

Treasures and Heirlooms

By Rob Reid

A sunny and pleasant fall to all. This is a great example of a hand painted vase. It is made by the Royal Worcester Porcelain Company of Worcestershire, England. This company started in 1751 and has had many names and owners over its long history. Today collectors call the porcelain made after 1862 by the name Royal Worcester.

The company employed many skilled painters and designers, and between 1862 and 1900 it grew to 10 times its original size. Two of the major designers of this time period were George Owen and James Hadley. George Owen became known for his pierced modelling while James Hadley became known for his floral paint work.

The company produced many whimsical jugs, pitchers, bowls, figurines and vases with birds, flowers, fruit, animals and fanciful figures like gnomes as decoration. In the 20th century they also made large quantities of everyday wares like teapots, egg coddlers, and dishes and they continue to produce such items today.

Most collectors look for the larger and older hand painted pieces. Some of the more ornate pieces were often signed by the artist and will command a premium value.

For the collector it is relatively easy to determine the age of a piece. Royal Worcester used a date letter system starting in 1867 and by 1892 a dot system was instituted and became quite elaborate with the use of asterisks, circles and squares to identify the year of production. In later years, when they started reusing old pattern styles, they even added a mark to identify them as reproductions.



This vase is approximately 10 inches high and has a cipher mark for the year 1913. It is referred to as a Hadley style piece. Even though Hadley died in 1903 his designs were used for many years after. It is in excellent condition and in today's market it should sell for \$550 to \$750. If it were an earlier piece with a signature one could expect to pay close to double this figure.

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 my website at reidsantiques.com.

Tot Spot Welcomes Parents, Caregivers

Tot Spot is a fun, interactive playgroup for parents and caregivers with babies and children from newborn to six years of age.

The playgroup is held in the basement of the Stouffville United Church every Monday through Thursday from 9:15 to 11 a.m. from September to June and there is no charge for the first visit. For more information, call Jeri-Lynn at 905-640-7467.

CORRECTION

The Lemonville Group of Artists has no affiliation with Palettes of Whitchurch Art Show, which will be held Oct. 7 to 9 at Lemonville Community Centre. Incorrect information appeared in our September Issue.

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