

Books

The Transferware Recorder Number 1 Selected British Views

By: Dick Henrywood

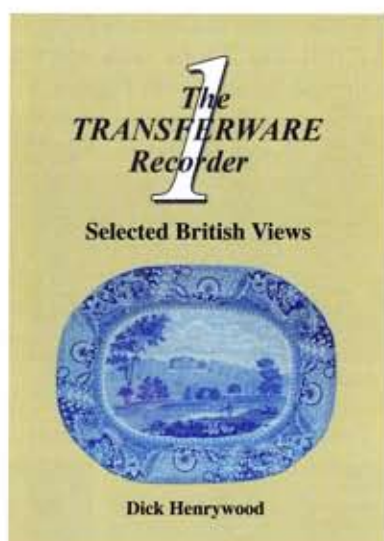
Publisher: Reynardine Publishing

Format: Sewn paperback 240 x 170 mm;
176 pages; 579 illustrations, mostly in colour

ISBN: 978-0-9926581-0-6

Cost: £14.95 plus UK postage £3.00

A leaflet was in the December Newsletter



The Transferware Recorder is the brainchild of Dick Henrywood although, as its name suggests, it is supported in part by the research grant programme of the Transferware Collectors' Club, a go-ahead organisation based in the USA but whose membership is spreading internationally and particularly in Britain. This publication is labelled 'No. 1' and we are told that further editions are planned.

Dick Henrywood needs no introduction to collectors of blue transfer printed earthenwares of the late 18th and early to mid-19th centuries. The two editions of *The Dictionary of Blue and White Printed Pottery* (Volume I, 1982, Volume II, 1989) by Dick Henrywood and Bill Coysh have long been the standard reference works in this area. In his Introduction to *Selected British Views*, Dick explains that he had originally intended to update the Dictionaries after the death of Bill Coysh but he found that the task of issuing a third Volume was beyond the capability of one author alone. Instead, he decided to concentrate initially on a theme which was highly popular on transfer printed wares – British country house and landscape views. The revelation that this is also the author's favourite subject will not surprise regular users of the two Dictionaries.

What Dick Henrywood has done is list every known view in the pattern series he has chosen, illustrate each view (this was not attempted in the Dictionaries), and also show the source prints or illustrations for the views where these are known. This was a huge undertaking, and the co-operation of many collectors and curators has obviously been vital. Sixteen series are covered, beginning with the 'Acorn and Oak Leaf Border' series and running through some of the more keenly collected series, including 'Antique Scenery', 'British History', 'Cherub Medallion', 'Irish Scenery', 'Minton Miniature', 'Pineapple Border' and the enigmatic 'States Border' (the title refers to States of the USA but the views are mainly of English country houses).

The illustrations used are clear and of good quality, and printed on coated paper. The author has wisely declined to use any pictures which were not up to standard. However, the innovation which users of the Dictionaries will relish most is colour reproduction. It has often been thought that blue printed wares need only be illustrated in black and white, as they are all the same colour anyway. This is not really true, as this book demonstrates, and in any case blue colour has a 'presence' all of its own and the appeal of these wares depends on it. In fact, the varying shades of blue which were used by the makers (sometimes within the same series) appear to be well reproduced here. Possibly for economic reasons, the page width (170 mm) is noticeably narrower than the Dictionary page (210 mm) and inevitably restricts the average size of the illustrations. The source prints in particular, with much intriguing detail, could have done with being slightly bigger, but the fact that the book is compact enough to accommodate a soft cover and retail at well under £20 is no doubt justification for its format.

The narrower format does mean that the book is portable and easy to use, and 'blue' collectors will find it a delight (this reviewer discovered additional and fascinating information about a series he has been collecting for years). Equally valuable is a list of contemporary source books for the various original prints, set out in the Appendix. Dick Henrywood is an author known for his thoroughness and vast knowledge of blue patterns, and enthusiasts who already have the Dictionaries really ought to add this book to their reference literature. Newcomers to blue collecting will find that the book encapsulates the charm of these wares, and of the views portrayed on them, in a most persuasive way. On the basis of this 'No. 1', further editions of *The Transferware Recorder* will be keenly awaited.