

Books

The Transferware Recorder

Number 3

Selected British Views

By: Dick Henrywood

Publisher: Reynardine Publishing

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184 pages; 596 illustrations, mostly in
colour

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A leaflet was in the September Newsletter



The Transferware Recorder is a series of books on transfer printed wares made in Britain in the 19th century. The series was devised by Dick Henrywood as a follow-up to the Coysh/Henrywood two-volume *Dictionary of Blue and White Printed Pottery*, with the aim of providing a more specialised and comprehensive coverage of many of the patterns with the aid of recent unpublished research.

Number 1 in the *Recorder* series was published in October 2013 (reviewed in Newsletter No. 173) and Number 2 in June 2015 (Newsletter No. 180). They both feature 'Selected British Views', i.e. views mainly of British country houses amid attractive landscapes. These were by far the most popular decorative themes used for blue transfer printed wares, so much so that it has been possible to publish this third *Recorder* on British Views, with the aid of grants from the Marc Fitch Fund and from the Friends of Blue.

The successful formula adopted in the previous *Recorders* has been continued. Every known view in the series of selected patterns is listed with, wherever possible, an illustration and also the relevant source print. As usual, Dick Henrywood has mingled the more well-known pattern series with those having a rarity value, with unexpected patterns seen on lesser-known shapes, and he has also featured patterns made for export to the United States, examples of which are very hard to find in the UK. Thus in this volume, the well-known 'Beauties of England and Wales' and 'British Scenery' series appear, but also the somewhat elusive series of views in the Bristol area and on the River Thames which, it seems, can now be regarded as comprising the patterns for a single dinner service. Equally rare are the views around London titled 'Metropolitan Scenery'. On the American scene, it is a thrill to see in this volume a full range of items from some almost legendary pattern series made in dark blue for export: the 'Diorama' series and the views known as the Floral City series and Flower Medallion series.

One considerably rare, and sometimes puzzling, item is included: the Freesia Border series, issued for the domestic market by an unknown maker and known only on a small number of shapes. This reviewer has had to admit that he owned a piece from this series without realising it. In contrast, and very impressively, the huge range of attractive city views produced by Enoch Wood & Sons and titled 'English Cities' is covered in detail. What a triumph it would be to own every view known in this series!

In his informative Introduction Dick Henrywood discloses that even after three *Recorders* there are sufficient examples of British Views left on his files to support future volumes, but that he is contemplating a change in Number 4 so as to cover subjects from literature. This may be a wise move. However, Dick is always open to suggestion for future *Recorder* themes. Meanwhile, *Transferware Recorder* No. 3 can, like its predecessors, be thoroughly recommended.