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**A50 Phase 1B
Foley Road to Normacot
Longton, Stoke-on-Trent**

Archaeology Interim Report 2



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(On secondment to the A50 project)**

April 1995

Report No 39

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1. Introduction.

The first interim report on the archaeology of the A50 was favourably received, most importantly by the Department of Transport in Birmingham who helped set up this project and have a vested interest in its success.

This report will not repeat much of what was written in report no.1, such as the archaeological and historical background to Longton and the assessment of the major industrial activities in the town. This report is an update on the last three months work, from January to March 1995, and will discuss recent archaeological finds and any current theories on the nature of Longton's past. (Copies of Archaeology Interim Report 1 are held in my archaeology office, John Glaister's office and in reception at the A50 site with Betty and Jackie.)

2. Contact with other Professionals.

The Northern Ceramics Society has taken an interest in the archaeological work on the A50 and have published two short accounts of the pottery unearthed in 1994. (Appendix One) A longer article, complete with photographs, will be published in June, up-dating the society members with recent discoveries. Publications such as these are a good way to keep in contact with amateurs and professionals who are specifically interested in Post-medieval ceramics, especially as they can often suggest new ideas or give information that it is sometimes difficult to find.

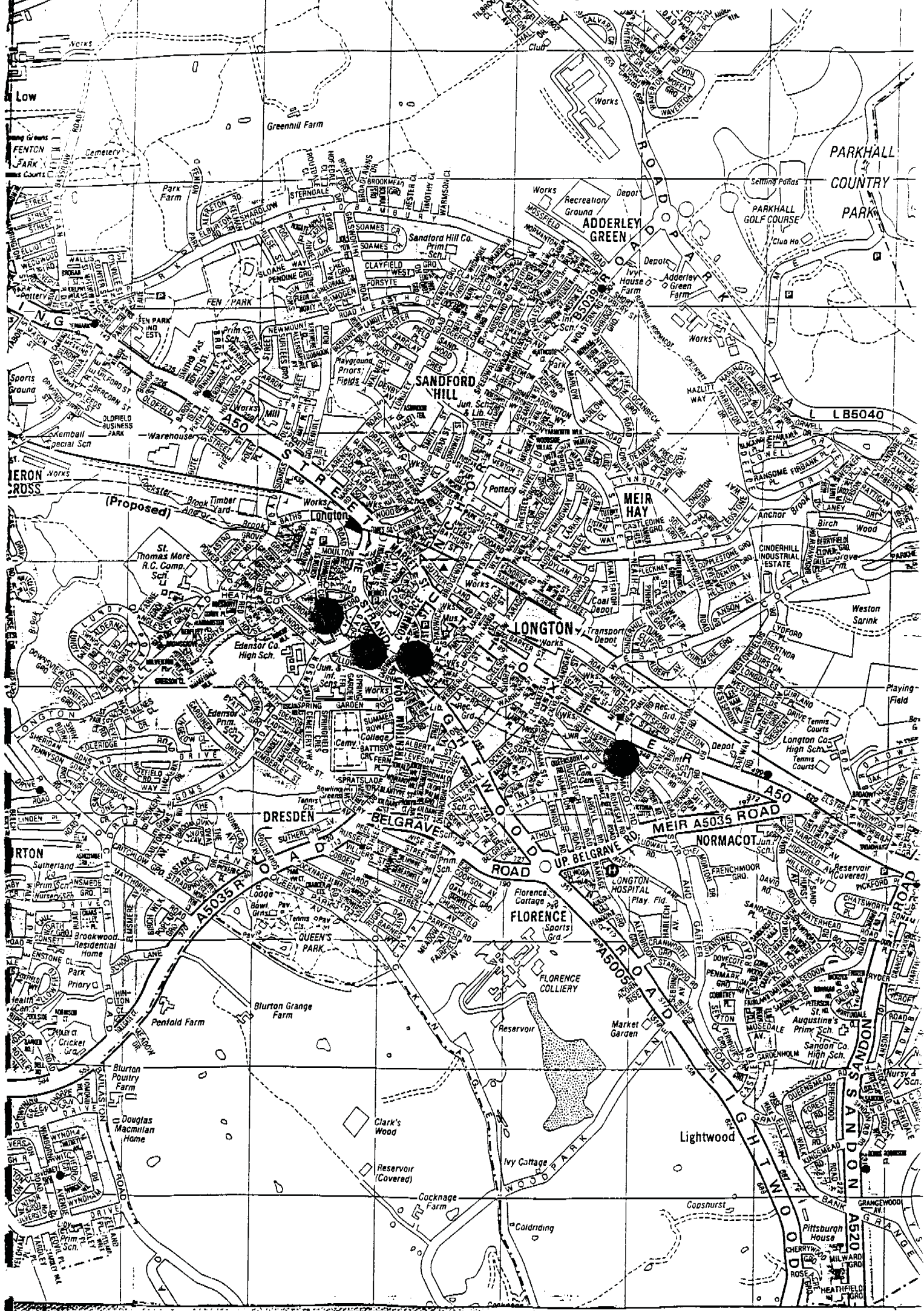
The West Midlands division of the **Council for British Archaeology** (CBA) holds a day conference at the beginning of each year to bring together archaeologists, both professional and amateur, to share with each other the work they have undertaken in the previous year. This year's conference 'News from the Past 1994' was held at Birmingham University on Saturday 25th February. (Appendix Two) I gave a short talk on the archaeology of the A50 which was very well received by the audience of approximately 100 people. I emphasized the importance of the project especially as successful links have been forged with the Department of Transport, and described what has been unearthed so far. I expect to return next year to update on the work which is continuing throughout 1995.

At the beginning of March I was visited at the site office by **Don Carpentier** who was visiting the area from Albany, New York. Don is a self-taught potter as well as being an expert in early American trades and crafts such as carpentry, blacksmithing and printing. He produces copies of pottery produced in England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to a very high standard, and was interested in seeing the ceramics from the A50 as they contain such an excellent group of industrial slipwares or mocha wares. He was astounded at the collection, which was unearthed last September and October east of Foley Road, both for the quantity and quality of the pottery. Don is now back in America and is in the process of copying decorative techniques and ideas from the A50 pottery and producing more mocha wares of his own.

Jonathan Rickard from Connecticut, U.S.A. visited the museum last year to study the mocha wares for a book he is writing on the subject. He will be making a return visit to Stoke in August and is expected to make a further study of the pottery found in Longton.

John Potter, an expert on transfer-printed pottery, visited the museum to study the blue-and-white wares from Longton. He was able to identify many of the patterns on the ceramics and will research the origin of many patterns that were not immediately identifiable.

It is very encouraging to have such great interest in the A50 archaeology and its ceramics from both sides of the Atlantic and to forge links with archaeologists, ceramicists and potters.



3. Up-date of the Archaeological Information.

sites 1 to 8 have been described in the first interim report, so the information from these areas will not be reproduced here. For the locations of the archaeological sites see Figure One.

Site 9. Cooke Street - Excavations in the area between Cooke Street, Heathcote Road and Edensor Road have continued since December 1994, revealing more nineteenth century pottery waste deposits. The majority of the deposits date to the 1840's and 1850's and include industrial slipwares, slip-coated redwares, lustre ware and transfer-printed wares. Two fragments are marked F PRIMAVESI & SONS CARDIFF SWANSEA - a retailing firm operating from 1850 to 1915. (Godden 1964, 514) The marks have been applied in Longton at the factory of manufacture for retail by Primavesi and Sons.

Site 10. Alhambra excavations - The earthmoving in this area has not revealed as much as the sites closer to the town centre, with there being approximately 1 metre of made-ground over the area. However, the finds collected include two fragments of eighteenth century pottery, fused bricks and a penny coin dated 1921. The coin may have been lost by some unfortunate person on their way to the Alhambra cinema.

Site 11. Clayton Street excavations - A deposit of mid nineteenth century pottery and kiln waste by Clayton Street corresponds on the 1856 Ordnance Survey Map with a clay pit associated with Clayton Street Brick and Tile Works. It is probable that the pit was filled with pottery waste at the end of its use. One transfer-printed fragment from this deposit is marked J & T LOCKETT. John and Thomas Lockett had three separate potworks in Longton between 1836 and 1855, at King Street, Chancery Lane and Market Street. (Hampson 1990, 106) The Lockett's produced lustre ware, Egyptian Black and earthenware, all of which are present in the Clayton Street assemblage. (Hampson 1990, 110) However, whether all of the pottery belonged to the Lockett's and was waste from their factories cannot be confirmed.

Also found on this site were clay pipe fragments and oyster shells. Clay pipes were the popular method of smoking tobacco from the late sixteenth century onwards, although these fragments probably date to the nineteenth century. (Oswald 1975, 6) Oysters were not so much of a luxury or delicacy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as they are today, with scatters of oyster shells being a common find on excavations of this

period. They were probably kitchen waste, perhaps disposed of by one of the many inns and public houses that covered the area in the past.

Site 12. Cooke Street - deposit of early nineteenth century pottery. The ceramics from an earlier date in this area include an agate ware fragment c.1800-1820; one fragment of eighteenth century slipware; and a group of industrial slipwares from c.1800-1820. The latter group is very similar to the assemblage found east of Foley Road in September/October last year, with geometrical and mocha decoration.

Site 13. Site of Commerce Street Roundabout, north of Lightwood Road - This area has produced nineteenth century pottery, clay pipes dated to 1850-1900 and glass from made-ground layers, foundation layers and sewers. One object is stamped HARLEY, who had a factory in the High Street from 1805-1808. (Hampson 1990, 84)

Site 14. Edensor Road - Late eighteenth century pottery and kiln waste. Until recently none of the pottery unearthed during the A50 excavations had pre-dated 1800, but this small deposit has been discovered dated to 1765-1770. The majority of the deposit consists of kiln furniture from the production of salt-glazed stoneware, but a few fragmentary pieces of biscuit and glazed pottery were also unearthed. Also uncovered were scratch-blue fragments, slipware and mottled ware. This is an important find demonstrating that eighteenth century deposits do exist in Longton although in smaller quantities so far than nineteenth century ceramics.

Site 15. Bennion Street - surface finds. The area between Bennion Street, Vauxhall Street, Gower Street and Lightwood Road has yet to be excavated, but a number of items have been collected from the surface. These include a mid-nineteenth century decorated clay tobacco pipe with the maker's initials, IS, in relief on the back of the bowl. The other finds so far from this area include industrial slipwares, a ceramic knife handle and a stoneware bottle made in Denby between 1833 and 1861. (Godden 1964, 89)

Site 16. Cooke Street excavations - 'slip tanks' excavated on the site near Barford Street. The tanks, which have been photographed and measured, may be part of the pottery manufactories that were present on the site throughout the nineteenth century. More research will be done on the tanks at a later date.

Site 17. Ebor Street - Late nineteenth century pottery and kiln waste. The pottery from this area includes many interesting forms, especially a group of wares associated with chemist's shops. These pharmaceutical wares include jars for tooth powder and cold cream, funnels, medicine spoons, mortars and a ruler. Many have the names of chemist's shops printed on them for towns such as London, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Lincoln, with a few fragments being printed in Spanish. It is possible that one firm of potters in Longton was specialising in these wares for export around the country and to the continent.

Site 18. Normacot Road - Nineteenth century pottery waste. This assemblage includes a group of industrial slipwares which seem to be from a specific deposit and were perhaps disposed of in the early nineteenth century.

Stray Finds:

As well as finds from specifically provenanced sites throughout the A50 route, items brought in by other members of staff are recorded as stray finds. These include -

i) Two clay tobacco pipes found in the vicinity of Griffin Street by Dave Griffiths, 2nd December 1994. Both have bowls, spurs are part of their stems remaining. One is decorated with a raised linear design, the other with a Staffordshire knot and leaves. Both date to c.1780-1840.

ii) World War II rifle bullet found near Lightwood Road by Dave Griffiths, 6th March 1995. The bullet had misfired so it was no longer live.

iii) Coin found near Lightwood Road by Dave Griffiths, 7th March 1994. The coin was badly corroded on the reverse, but the obverse side showed the bust of a sovereign wearing an ivy crown and the letters GEO.. Possibly George IV 1820-1830.

iv) Complete green glass beer bottle found at Edensor Road by a member of staff, 9th March 1995. Dated to c.1910.

v) Complete clear glass milk bottle, found on the site of Commerce Street roundabout by a member of staff, 9th March 1995. The raised lettering on the front reads: POTTERIES HYGIENIC DAIRY CO. and on the reverse: THERE IS A WEALTH OF HEALTH IN HYGIENIC MILK. Milk wasn't bottles until the 1920's, and this bottle may date from the 1930's.

vi) Clay tobacco pipe bowl found in Foley Road trough by a member of staff, March 1995. The bowl is decorated with a raised leaf pattern and a Staffordshire knot. The decoration is very similar to that on the pipe found in the same area of the site in December, i) above. c.1780-1840.

4. Conclusions.

It is possible that much of the evidence of early pottery manufacture, ie. pottery waste and below ground pot bank features, has been destroyed by later development. The town grew rapidly in the nineteenth century and was again redeveloped in the twentieth century, so eighteenth century features were probably dug out. However, the recent discovery of wasted salt-glazed stoneware is encouraging and shows that eighteenth century evidence has survived.

The pottery from the nineteenth century reinforces much of what is already known from this period of Longton's history, with wasted products being dumped in abundance in areas behind and between the potbanks and houses. The pottery is of great interest, especially the vast array of industrial slipwares which have spurred great interest on both sides of the Atlantic.

Next Report:

Interim report no.3 will be written in another three months time, being made available around the beginning of July.

5. Acknowledgements.

Valuable assistance has been provided by the Department of Transport's Birmingham Regional Office, and all of the Resident Engineer's staff at the A50 Phase 1B site in Longton. Great encouragement and assistance has been given by the staff and volunteers of the City Museum's Archaeology Department.

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Sewell & Donkin Inkstand. Nick Dolan, Keeper of Applied Art, Tyne & Wear, tells us that the spectacular inkstand, first drawn to our attention by Robert Stones (see p.37, *Newsletter* No. 92) has been purchased with the help of Friends of the Laing. This piece is a slightly more elaborate version of No. 87 in the Joseph Sewell Shape Book, reprinted last year by the NCS. (See NCS Publications, page 52)

The Berthoud Collection. We understand that the Allen Gallery, Alton Museum, Hampshire, has acquired the Berthoud Reference Collection of Cups, aided by the National Arts Collection Fund.

Nelson Teapot and Stand. Again with the help of the N.A.C.F., the Dyson Perrins Museum has purchased the Admiral Lord Nelson teapot and stand.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LONGTON

The route of the new A50 in Stoke-on-Trent passes through the town of Longton, an area of extensive pottery manufacture from the 18th century onwards. Phase 1B, from Foley Road to Normacot, is currently under construction. To safeguard the destruction of any below ground features an archaeologist from the City Museum has been seconded to the Resident Engineers on Phase 1B for the duration of the earthmoving. The writer of this note has taken on a consultancy role and will be involved in an intensive watching brief of the site for about 18 months.

The work on Phase 1B began in mid-July and already the earthmoving has uncovered a number of interesting ceramic items. An early 19th century pottery waste tip has been unearthed to the east of Foley Road which includes a group of glazed and biscuit industrial slip-ware fragments dating from between 1810 and 1830. No marks were discovered but the group did contain a wide range of decorated pieces, including wormed, marbled and geometric designs. The assemblage also contains marked transfer-printed wares. One bowl has MARSH stamped on its base, which may refer to Jacob Marsh who operated in Longton between 1819 and 1832. Another two bowls have transfer printed marks which are broken but begin SEN... or SEM... inside a double rectangle. Can anyone shed any more light on these stamps? [Semi-china? Eds.]

AS well as this deposit, waste tips of later pottery from the mid to late 19th century have been unearthed. The ceramics in these groups include transfer-printed wares, pearl-ware and mottled wares, as well as sagger fragments and kiln furniture.

Any more interesting discoveries from the site will be announced when they appear. Further information can be obtained from me. A50 Phase 1B, Site Archaeologist, Resident Engineer's Office, Phoenix Timber Site, Foley Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.

from Katey Sheale

DIARY

Until February 1996 at the Canadian Museum of Civilisation, Iruil, Quebec - Nineteenth Century Pottery and Porcelain in Canada - exhibiting for the first time over 200 items from the History Division of the Museum, selected to illustrate what was typically in use in Canadian homes. The part played in the trade with Canada by Staffordshire, Tyneside, Liverpool, Worcester and the Scottish potteries is illustrated, as is the place of Canadian potters and, in the second half of the century, the increasing importance of porcelain from France.

Mercury Supper Lectures: 18 Jan. Thomas Baxter by Revd. John O Wilstead; 15 Feb. Cornwall before Cookworthy by Barry Hobbs; 15 Mar. Wedgwood Bone China by J C Holdaway; 26 Apr. Bow Porcelain - the middle years by Anton Gabszewicz; 17 May English Porcelain in the British Museum by Aileen Dawson; 28 June Vauxhall Porcelain by Dr Bernard Watney. Enquiries to Liane Richards (071 727 5106) at 1 Ladbroke Road, Kensington W11 3PA.

4 April to 6 April - **The Antiques Trade - buying and selling antiques** - at 2.30pm on April 5 Dr Geoffrey Godden will have completed fifty years in the antiques trade. He will mark the occasion at the Dolphin and Anchor Hotel, Chichester, by a series of talks and discussions - the emphasis being on British pottery and porcelain. Enquiries (Monday to Friday) to Miss J Belton, (0903 235958) or to Geoffrey Godden at 19a Crescent Road, Worthing BN11 1RL.

8 April, Saturday 10.00 pm, at the Coalport China Museum, **More about Caughley and Coalport.** The lecturers will include Terence Lockett, Revd. M Wright and Roger Edmundson. The day will be concerned with the building and expansion of the Coalport factories, early Caughley, the Great Exhibition of 1851, 'blue and white Coalport' and Caughley and Coalport seen in perspective from 1775 to 1830. The cost of the day will be £25, to include lunch and refreshments. For further information please write to Shropshire Porcelain Seminar, c/o 83 Woodfield Road, Cophthorne, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HU.

[The next Seminar is scheduled for Saturday 14 October]

16 June to 18 June: Geoffrey Godden's **Collectors' Weekend at the Abbey Hotel Great Malvern** - with the theme of teapots and teawares. Seven lectures and a Saturday afternoon auction. For further information write or phone Miss J Belton, 19a Crescent Road, Worthing, BN11 1RL, tel: 0903 235958 (dialling code changes after April to 01903)

The Secretary of **Canterbury Ceramic Circle** welcomes enquiries, and will outline the programme for the coming season. Meetings on the first Wednesday in the month are at Hernehill Village Hall, near Faversham: Telephone the Secretary on 0622 762825 or your Editors will be pleased to forward letters.

Charlotte Jacob-Hanson has a flourishing **Ceramics Circle in the Frankfurt area** and is particularly keen to have speakers at general/beginners level who may be in the neighbourhood in 1995 or who expect to be available at any time in the future. Charlotte is at Egmontstra. 12, 65812 Bad Soden, Germany. Tel: (01049) 6196 63915 (in Germany 06196-63915). Your Editors hold a copy of an earlier programme should any of our speakers wish to see the range of topics already covered.

and with a more distinct "knob" at the top of the ring. The sucrier is marked with pattern number 657, which falls within the Machin pattern number range for the period 1825 to 1835. The mouldings of the handles of both sucriers shown in figure 2 are identical, and both pieces bear similar decorators' marks.



Figure 2

The sucrier on the right in figure 2 is made of white earthenware and is decorated with an underglaze blue transfer print; the other key pieces from this set are shown in figure 3. The cup shapes and their handles are also very similar, and match those attributed to Machin in the *Compendium*, page 77 plates 459 and 460. We have a large collection of children's wares but these are the only two examples of these sucrier and cup handles that we have seen, both of which are very distinctive.



Figure 3

All of the pieces shown are children's ware, components from toy tea services (the teapot in figure 3 is only 3³/₈ inches high). They only have pattern numbers and decorators' marks.

We have also noticed that the "oblong" flower decoration on our saucer appears to be a common device of the Machin factory, as other attributed pieces

using this shape of flower decoration are shown in the *Anthology of British Teapots*, plates 162B/1548/751.

Any details of other similar handles (cup or sucrier, porcelain or earthenware), and oval shaped flowers would be appreciated - confirming them as Machin or otherwise!



Figure 4

A more recent acquisition is shown in figure 4. This charming children's part-set is in bone china decorated with pink flowers with yellow centres with mauve tendrils and blue leaves, plus gilt rims. Unfortunately, it has no maker's mark or pattern number, but the sucrier does have moulded "ring and shell" handles.

In his chapter 13, "The Machin Porcelains c.1809-1840" of *Staffordshire Porcelain* (ed. Geoffrey Godden), Phillip Miller describes some known Machin patterns including Pattern 526, "large pink flowers with yellow centres linked pink tendrils, blue and green foliage very crudely drawn". In the same book, but this time in Chapter 15, "The London-shape teawares", page 232, Phillip Miller also states that the range of pattern numbers on Machin London-shape teawares is in the approximate range 200 to 650.

So are these examples of Machin products? And are they Pattern 526?

A50 ROAD SCHEME Longton, Stoke-on-Trent
Project update, January 1995

from Katey Sheale

The major earthworks in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent have uncovered a large number of industrial slipwares and transfer printed wares dated to the early 19th century, as reported in the last *Newsletter*. Since then, a very large deposit of mid-19th century wares has been recovered underneath the route of the new road, with pottery waste and kiln furniture forming the made-ground underneath a town centre car park.

The ceramics include industrial slipwares, slip coated redwares, transfer-printed wares and lustre ware, all dating from the 1840s and 1850s.

More information will be provided for inclusion in the June *Newsletter*.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM
School of Continuing Studies
in association with
Council for British Archaeology (West Midlands)

NEWS FROM THE PAST – 1994

Programme:

- Chair: Mike Hodder, Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council
- 10.00am Introduction and Archaeology in Birmingham – Mike Hodder
- 10.15am Old Crown, Birmingham – S Litherland, BUFAU (Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit)
- 10.25am Dudley High Street and Dudley Castle – C Mould, BUFAU
- 10.40am Stafford Anglo-Saxon Kiln – J Darlington, Stafford Borough Council
- 10.50am Meole Brace Barrow Excavation – G Hughes, BUFAU
- 11.10am Coffee
- 11.35am Bedworth Celtic Coin Hoard – P Wise, Warwickshire Museum
- 11.50am Madresfield Roman Kiln – I Ferris, BUFAU
- 12.05pm Birmingham Roman Roads Project – P Leather
- 12.20pm Wroxeter Hinterland Project – R White, BUFAU
- 12.40pm Research from the Air – J Pickering
- 1.00pm Lunch (not provided)
- 2.00pm Popularising the Past – M Atken, Hereford and Worcester County Council
- 2.15pm Dudley Castle – New Developments – S Linnane, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- 2.35pm Anatomy of a Kinver Town House – P Arnold, West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust
- 2.45pm Conservation Archaeology in Stoke-on-Trent – W Klemperer, Stoke-on-Trent County Council
- 3.05pm Tea
- 3.30pm IRIS and the Amateurs – T Pagett, Hagley Historical and Field Society
- 3.45pm Industrial Archaeology in Warwickshire – L Cave, Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society
- 3.55pm Archaeology of the A50 – K Sheale, Stoke-on-Trent County Council
- 4.10pm Matthew Boulton's Soho Manufactory – G Demidowicz
- 4.25pm Knowle Hall – L Smith, Solihull Archaeological Group
- 4.40pm Archaeology in Warwickshire – Warwickshire Museum
- 5.10pm Discussion

7. Bibliography.

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