



Fig. 1

Mason's Moulded Teawares (Part 1)

A number of years ago, a Mason's tea service was brought back to the UK from the USA by a well-known dealer. It is an almost unique and a hitherto unknown pattern. The pattern number is 949. This service was mainly sold to members of the Mason's Collectors' Club and I have recently managed to acquire a couple of items. These pieces were made at the time of transition from Miles Mason to Charles James Mason around 1812-14.

The tea service is bone china. The slop bowl (Fig 1 and Fig 2), which I have in my possession, has three reserves with most unusual mouldings. Each reserve has a moulding illustrated by Chinese scenes. One can clearly see small boats and houses on stilts as well as vegetation. As well as these

reserves, there are further mouldings highlighted in gold. These could be described as leaf chains. There are also two landscape paintings on the inside of the bowl.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The saucer (Fig 3), which I have, also has three reserves with Chinese designs. What is interesting to note is that all these

reserves are different. Each reserve seems to have a unique pattern. As well as these elaborate designs, the pieces all have hand painted landscape illustrations.

I would like to add that the teapot from this service is part of the Philip Miller Collection at the Norwich Museum.

Amazingly, since the first lockdown, a coffee can with the same design was offered for sale amongst other teawares at a Sussex auction. Fortunately, I was the lucky bidder.



Fig. 4

This was obviously from another service as the gilding was of the copper shade rather than the more expensive gold. The reserves, once again, had unique Chinese designs to this can.

The landscape was very skilfully painted. Note the angular handle (Fig 4).

Also, in my collection are two cans with angular handles and reserves with the Chinese mouldings (Fig 5).



Fig. 5

Both cans have the same mouldings as each other. One can is entirely plain white whilst the other has a blue flower hand painted design on the inside and a small hand painted flower design in blue between the reserves. Once again, the detail and accuracy of these designs is outstanding and appear to be unique to these cans.

Further examples of this type of decoration are to be found in Pattern 1142 (Fig 6) with the reserve outlined in gold and a floral design in between. The Chinese design for the mouldings once more appears to be unique.



Fig. 6

I would be very happy to hear, via John Beetwell, from anyone who has any similar examples of these Masons designs.

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