

What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



AMOY
(Davenport), c.1844
honey dish
Bob & Nancy
Ferriani



CARLTON
(Samuel Alcock)
teapot
Joe & Josslyn Lucas



CASHMERE (R&M)
platter



CHUSAN
(Clementson)
handleless cup
& saucer
Jackie Casey



COBURG
(John Edwards)
10 in. plate
Marilyn Holm



FORMOSA (T.J.
& J. Mayer)
9.5 in. dia. plate
Jackie Casey



INDIAN (Pratt)
Marilyn Holm



KIN-SHAN
(E.C. & Co.)
handleless cup &
saucer
Jackie Casey



MANILLA (Podmore
Walker), c.1845
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



OREGON
(T.J.&J. Mayer)
Bill Leach



ORIENTAL
(Alcock)
large pitcher
Jan Kobach



PELEW (E. Challinor)
mulberry butter dish base
Bill & Pat Wetherton



SHANGHAE
(J. Furnival)
Dave & Mari Crumb



TEMPLE (P.W.
& Co.)
handleless cup &
saucer
Jackie Casey



SOBRAON
(Samuel Alcock)



SHAPOO
(T&R Boote)
Agnes Holst



SCINDE (J&G Alcock)
platter
Walter & Edith Henry



TONQUIN (Heath)
platter
Gordon & Barbara Rank

What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



By Bonne & Bob Hohl

Though surely not experts in early Victorian flow blue, our over 30 years in the sale and collecting of flow blue has afforded us the opportunity

to see, hear of, purchase and sell a large variety of early Victorian pieces.

Before we progress too far in this article, we should define what we determine to be early Victorian flow blue. While it is known that the art of making flow blue was discovered in the 1820s, production of the wares really did not start until about 1840. Therefore, we are dating the early Victorian period as starting in 1840. There is a period in the latter part of the 19th century when there was a change in style and ironstone composition that we identify as late Victorian, a period of flow blue that Bill VanBuskirk has researched and written about widely. Some may also say there is a mid-Victorian period, but for our purposes we will basically include that phase with the early Victorian period. Therefore, for the purposes of this article, the dates for the early Victorian period are considered to be from 1840-1880s. For the most part, these wares were found in the heavy-weight ironstone and were decorated in Oriental, Scenic, Floral and Brushstroke patterns.

When we think of ironstone that is 150-170 years old, one might think that it is impossible to find. That certainly is not true! The English potters produced an inordinate amount of flow blue for the American market in the 1800s. As a result, there are many patterns in the early vintage flow blue that are available today. Some of the more popular patterns include:

Amoy	Manilla
Carlton	Oregon
Cashmere	Oriental by Alcock
Chusan by Clementson	Pelew
Coburg	Scinde by Alcock
Formosa	Shanghae
Hong Kong	Shapoo
Indian	Sobraon
Kin Shan	Temple
Kyber by Mier	Tonquin by Heath

A major difference between the early and late periods was that many pieces in the early patterns can be found

in different forms and shapes in the same pattern. This is particularly true with tea sets, where five or more different shaped teapots with matching sugars and creamers could be found in the same pattern. (Please see page 12.) Tea sets also were found with cups and saucers that were handleless or handled. With the handleless cups, cup plates were an added accessory, since the Victorians slurped the tea out of the saucer and used the cup plate to set the cup. Dinner sets also showed some variety in shapes. Soup tureens, sauce tureens, covered vegetable dishes, butter dishes and other selected hollowware pieces, were available in different shapes and were highlighted with different finials, such as pagoda, fan, rosebud or acorn, to name a few. It is known that when a particular shape was popular; potters replicated the shape, or tweaked a popular shape.

Examples of tweaked shapes can be found in the Classic Gothic shape, where different potters used the same basic design, but changed the handle, spout, or a finial on teapots sugars and creamers. Additional information on different teapot shapes can be found in the FBICC publication on teapots (available from the Club).

In some special instances, the green ware or biscuit ware was made by other potters. This probably did not occur too often, since the biscuit ware was very fragile and packaging and transportation in the 1800s, would have undoubtedly caused damage. This practice probably occurred only in instances where one potter had available pieces or where he made special pieces by order for another potter. For example, we know of a fish platter that has an impressed Davenport mark (green ware made by Davenport pottery) and decorated in HONG KONG, pattern by Meigh potters.

Collecting early Victorian flow blue can be quite encompassing, especially if one is interested in securing a set in a particular pattern. But, what type of set??? A tea set, a dinner set, a dessert set or a toilet set??? The size of a typical dinner set was usually a service for 12 or more to accommodate the large families of that period and for the different courses that were served. Tea time was an important part of the Victorian day, so special sets were made for this practice and separated from the dinner sets. Dessert sets were the needed accessory set to the tea set. With indoor plumbing not yet available, special toilet vessels were used to accom-

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What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



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moderate the needed bodily functions and maintain a reasonable amount of hygiene. So, let's take a look at what might have been included in these different sets.

TEA SET

- teapot - large size - 10"+ h. (approx.) - available [Fig. 1]
- teapot - regular size - 9" h. (approx.) - available
- coffeepot - 11"-12" h. (approx.) - rare
- creamers - available
- sugar with lid - available
- tea cup and saucer - handleless - available [Fig. 2]
- coffee cup and saucer - handleless - scarce
- handled tea cup and saucer - scarce
- cup plate - available [Figs. 3 & 4]
- waste bowl - available
- toddy dish - 5.5" diameter - scarce
- honey dish - 4" diameter - scarce [Fig. 5]
- hot water pitcher with lid - rare
- milk pitcher - 1 quart - available [Fig. 6]
- large milk pitcher - 2 quart - available
- water pitcher - 1.5 quart - available

DESSERT SET

- center piece - reticulated or plain - rare [Fig. 7]
- tray for center piece - reticulated or plain - rare
- cake plate - usually with handles - reticulated or closed - rare
- oval flat serving dish with handle - rare
- fruit bowl - reticulated or plain - rare [Fig. 8]
- tray for fruit bowl - reticulated or plain - rare
- compote - rare [Fig. 9]
- tazza - rare [Fig. 10]
- 6" plate - scarce

SPECIAL ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR DESSERT SETS

- punch bowl - household size, or "commercial size" - rare
- punch cup - available [Figs. 11 & 12]
- syrup pitcher with pewter lid - available [Fig. 13]
- chocolate pot with lid - rare

TOILET SET

- water ewer (large pitcher) - available [Fig. 14]
- wash bowl - available
- razor box with lid - available
- mug - available
- soap dish with drainer and lid - scarce [Fig. 15]

- small hot water pitcher - available
- slop jar with lid - rare [Fig. 16]
- potty with lid - available [Fig. 17]
- footbath - rare [Fig. 18]
- sponge dish with drainer and lid - rare [Figs. 19 & 20]

DINNER SET

- Plates - diameters of 10", 9", 8", 7" - available [Fig. 21]
- soup bowl with flange - 10" - available
- soup bowl with flange - 9" - available
- soup bowl with flange - 8" - scarce
- cereal bowl - 7"-8" - rare
- sauce dish - 5"-5.75" - available
- platters - lengths of 20", 18", 16", 14", 12", 10" - available [Figs. 22 & 23]
- platters - lengths of 22" and 24" - scarce
- covered vegetable dishes - 2 or 3 sizes - available
- well and tree platter - scarce
- meat drainer - rare
- fish platter - rare [Fig. 24]
- round meat charger - rare
- round potato bowls - diameters of 8", 10", 12", 14" - available
- octagonal or oval open vegetable bowls diameter of 8", 10", 12", and 14" - available

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS TO ENHANCE THE DINNER SET

- soup tureen with lid, tray - scarce [Fig. 25]
- soup ladle - rare
- sauce tureen with lid, tray - available [Fig. 26]
- sauce ladle - rare
- gravy boat with tray - available [Fig. 27]
- butter dish with lid and drainer - available [Fig. 28]
- mustard with lid - rare [Figs. 29 & 30]
- relish dish - available
- round casserole with lid - rare [See Cover Photo]
- master butter with lid and drainer - rare
- cheese-keep with lid - rare [Fig. 31]
- knife rest - rare [Fig. 32]
- pepper pot - rare [Fig. 33]

So, having listed all of the above, you can see that even though these sets are over 150 years old, there are certainly a lot of different pieces in different sets and patterns available today. Some pieces in a set are surely more available than others, but then that is "the love of the hunt." The drive to find those very rare pieces, gives us the inspiration to keep looking and hoping. Happy hunting!!!!

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Fig. 1 RHONE SCENERY (T.J.&J. Mayer)
Bulbous Octagon teapots,
10.75 and 9.75 in. h. —Ellen Hill



Fig. 2 MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
2 styles of handleless & handled cups & saucers
& a posset cup
Marilyn Holm



Fig. 3 CYPRUS (Davenport)
mulberry cup plate
Jackie Casey



Fig. 4 NING PO (R Hall)
mulberry handleless cup &
cup plate
Jackie Casey



Fig. 5 AMOY (Davenport),
c.1844 - honey dish
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



Fig. 6 HONG KONG (Meigh)
3 Gothic Shape graduated pitchers
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 7 HONG KONG (Meigh)
reticulated centerpiece & tray
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 8 HONG KONG (Meigh)
reticulated fruit compote
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 9 CHUSAN (Wedgwood)
round polychrome centerpiece
compote
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 10 RHINE (Dimmock)
tazza - Marilynn Thompson



Fig. 11 UNKNOWN punch cups
Jackie Casey



Fig. 12 LAKE (F.Morley-
G.L. Ashworth) - mulberry
covered punch cup
Ellen Hill

What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



Fig. 13 HONG KONG (Meigh)
3 different pewter-lidded syrups
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 14 SOBRAON
(Samuel Alcock)
pitcher & bowl
Marilyn Holm



Fig. 15 CASHMERE (Francis Morley)
3 pc. soap dish
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 16 PRUNUS (unknown)
c.1850 - PW III pgs 34 & 86
Murray Weisberg &
Mark Armstrong



Fig. 17 SOBRAON
(Samuel Alcock)
lidded chamber pot
Marilyn Holm



Fig. 18 UNKNOWN - footbath
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Figs. 19-20 FUCHSIA (Beech & Hancock)
green ground mulberry sponge dish, drainer in concave and then domed position
Jackie Casey



Fig. 21 COREAN
(Podmore Walker)



Fig. 22 CHAPOO (John
Wedge Wood) c.1850
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



Fig. 23 WHAMPOA
(Mellor Venables)
mulberry platter
Ellen Hill's first piece



Fig. 24 UNKNOWN (Wedgwood)
fish platter
Bonne & Bob Hohl

What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



Fig. 25 TROY (Meigh)
soup tureen, tray, ladle
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 26 ASTER &
GRAPESHOT (Mellor
Venables) - brushstroke
sauce tureen, ladle, tray
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 27 HONG KONG (Meigh)
2 gravy boats - different forms
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 28 PELEW (E. Challinor)
3 pieces of mulberry butter dish
Bill & Pat Wetherton



Fig. 29 MEDINA (J. Furnival)
pair of mulberry mustard pots
Ellen Hill



Fig. 30 UNKNOWN
mustard pot with pewter lid
Jackie Casey



Fig. 31 PERSIANA
(unknown)
domed cheese keep
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 32 UNKNOWN (Davenport)
knife rest
Bonne & Bob Hohl



Fig. 33 TONQUIN (J. Heath)
mulberry pepper pot
Ellen Hill



HINDUSTAN (Maddock) -
handleless cups, saucer &
plate - Jackie Casey



AMOY (Davenport)
two styles of handleless cups & saucers
Jackie Casey



SCINDE (J. & G. Alcock)
handleless cup & saucer
Jackie Casey

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SCINDE (J. & G. Alcock)
handless cup & saucer
Jackie Casey



SCINDE (J. & G. Alcock)
handless cup & saucer
Jackie Casey



ATHENS (Adams)
mulberry posset, toddy
or punch cup



SOBRAON (Samuel Alcock)
handless & handled cups & saucers
Marilyn Holm



UNKNOWN punch cups
Jackie Casey



CLEOPATRA
(E. Walley)
handless cup,
saucer, & plate
Jackie Casey



FORMOSA (T.J.
& J. Mayer)
plate and handless cup
Jackie Casey



HOWQUA (H.W.)
3.5 in. h. farmers
cup and saucer
Jackie Casey



Indian Stone
Ware mark
2 in. h. cup &
saucer
Jackie Casey



NING PO
(R. Hall & Co.)
mulberry handless
cup & saucer
Jackie Casey



WARWICK (PW
& Co.)
handless cup &
saucer
Jackie Casey



BOCHARA (James Edwards) c.1847
two styles of mulberry sauce tureens
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



BOCHARA (James Edwards) c.1847
two styles of mulberry teapots Bob &
Nancy Ferriani

What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



AURORA (F. Morley)
mulberry sponge dish - Ellen Hill



BOCHARA (James Edwards) c.1847
chamber pot & lid
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



CASHMERE (Francis Morley)
pitcher & bowl
Bonne & Bob Hohl



COBURG (John Edwards)
pepper pot
Bonne & Bob Hohl



INDIAN (Pratt), c.1840
tureens 14.25w X 9.5h- 12w X 8.5h- 7.75w X 5.5h
Judy Mead



MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
small 3 piece butter dish
Marilyn Holm



MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
8-Sided Classic Gothic Teapot
Marilyn Holm



MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
8-Panel Pumpkin Teapot
Marilyn Holm



PELEW (E. Challinor)
mulberry butter dish
drainer
Bill & Pat Wetherton



MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
12-Panel Fluted Teapot
Marilyn Holm



WASHINGTON VASE (Podmore Walker)
mulberry covered chamber pot
Ellen Hill



MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
6-Sided Gothic Lantern
teapot
Marilyn Holm



MANILLA (Podmore Walker)
8-Sided Primary No Line
teapot
Marilyn Holm



PELEW (E. Challinor)
Teapot
Bonne & Bob Hohl



PELEW (E. Challinor)
Pete & Marion
Whitaker

What was in a Set of Early Victorian Flow Blue?



COREAN by Podmore, Walker & Co. – 1834-1859
Picture: left-to-right, top-to-bottom

6-Sided Gothic, Cockscomb Handle, Classic Gothic, Full Panel Gothic, Primary-No Line, Primary-Belted, Mobile Shape (Bulbous) [Rd. 4.18.1856], Oval Bulbous

There could/should be three or more additional shapes: Pumpkin-8 Panel, Fluted-12- Panel and Athens Shape [Rd. 2.23.1857]



RHONE SCENERY by T. J. & J. Mayer – 1842-1855
Picture: left-to-right, top-to-bottom

Classic Gothic, Full Panel Gothic, Pumpkin-10 Panel, Bulbous Octagon, Narrow Waist Gothic (Prize Nodding Bud) [Rd. 12.2.1851]

There could/should be six or more additional shapes: Rococo, Primary Inverted Diamond, Primary-1 Line, Long Octagon, Prize Puritan [Rd. 9.2.1851] and Prize Bloom [Rd. 10.2.1853]



BOCHARA (James Edwards) c.1847
Full Panel Gothic shape teapot
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



BOCHARA (James Edwards) c.1847
Davenport Octagon shape teapot
Bob & Nancy Ferriani



AMOY (Davenport)
2 styles of teapots
Jackie Casey

Notes: