

A New Series of British Views

by Dick Henrywood

This story begins some eight years ago when I bought a small plate at the 2011 TCC Annual Meeting in Baltimore. The plate itself is rather unprepossessing (figure 1), but I liked it since it had a recognisable view and it was clearly marked. The view is printed overglaze in red and shows Castle Huntly in Perthshire, the mark being the single impressed name "WOOD". There are several early engravings which con-

firm the identity of the building (see figure 2 for example) although I have not yet managed to find an accurately matching source print.

I subsequently unearthed another plate with a different view, which I recognised as Tong Castle in Shropshire (figure 3). In this case the source is identifiable as William Angus's *The Seats of the Nobility and Gentry*, published from 1787 (figure 4). The plate, again printed in red,

is also marked, this time with an "ENOCH WOOD & SONS / BURSLEM" mark. Note the moulded anthemion design around the rim.

A third example turns up in the TCC database, again printed in red, but this time on a yellow-glaze (figure 5). It has the same anthemion design around the rim and it is also marked with "ENOCH WOOD & SONS / BURSLEM". Unfortunately it has not yet proved possible to identify the



Figure 1. Castle Huntly in Perthshire, plate 7.6in, impressed "WOOD".



Figure 2. Early engraving of Castle Huntly or Huntly Lodge.



Figure 3. Tong Castle in Shropshire, plate 7.5in, impressed Burslem mark.



Figure 4. Source engraving of Tong Castle.

view, but the search continues.

These three plates seemed to confirm the existence of an unrecorded series of views, made by Enoch Wood & Sons in the first quarter of the 19th century, and I started to hunt for other examples. A breakthrough came with the emergence of a sugar box with the print of Tong Castle on one side (figure 6) but a different view, now identified as West Wycombe Park in Buckinghamshire on the reverse (figure 7). Again a source print has been found, this time from John Walker's *Copper Plate Magazine* published between 1792 and 1802 (figure 8). Another similar sugar box also emerged with West Wycombe Park on one side but an unidentified view of another country

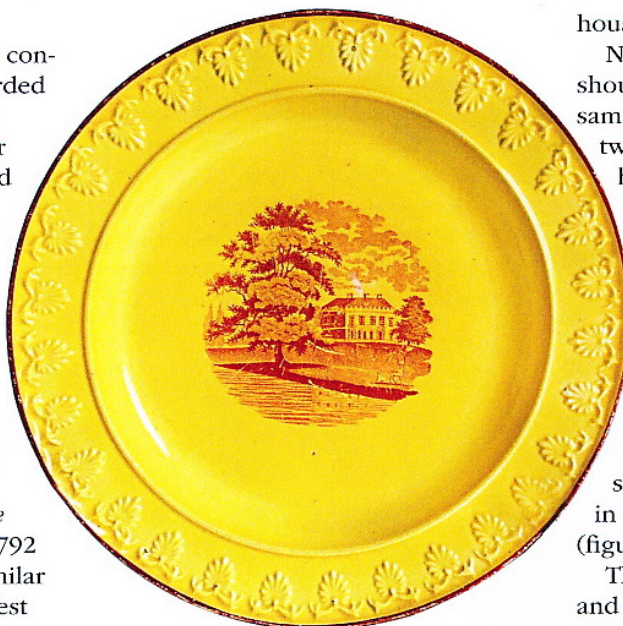


Figure 5. Unidentified scene, plate 8.75in, impressed Burslem mark.

house on the reverse (figure 9).

Note the painted design around the shoulders of the boxes. Exactly the same design appears on a teapot with two new views. On one side we have Brecknock Castle and Bridge (figure 10) while the reverse has a completely new scene of Whitton Place in Middlesex (figure 12). I haven't managed to trace an exact source print for the Brecknock scene as yet, although a close match serves to confirm the location (figure 11). The Whitton Place view is possibly based on another engraving in Walker's *Copper Plate Magazine* (figure 13).

The covers for both sugar boxes and teapots are decorated with two vignette views, both shown here (figures 14 and 15). Unfortunately,



Figure 6. Tong Castle in Shropshire, sugar box 6.5in, unmarked.



Figure 7. West Wycombe Park in Buckinghamshire, sugar box 6.5in, unmarked.



Figure 8. Source engraving of West Wycombe Park.



Figure 9. Unidentified scene, sugar box, unmarked.

neither of these views has yet been identified, but again, the search continues. Yet another matching teapot appeared on eBay recently, with the Whitton Place view on one side but a rural scene of a shepherdess on the reverse (figure 16). Not a British view as such, of course, but it could help identify links to other pieces.

So far, we have plates, a sugar box

and a matching teapot, so presumably there will be other tea wares. I have not yet found a creamer and cups and saucers are also proving elusive, although I have unearthed just one saucer that seems to match (figure 17). This turns out to have another previously unrecorded view, this one of Westwick in Norfolk, copied from William Watts' *The Seats of the Nobility*

and *Gentry* published in 1779 (figure 18).

So far, the pots shown have all been printed in red, but marked plates are also found in black. Two examples shown here are Tong Castle (figure 19) and Castle Huntly on the yellow glaze (figure 20). Other corresponding black-printed pieces are known, one example illustrated here



Figure 10. Brecknock Castle and Bridge, South Wales, teapot 11in, unmarked.



Figure 11. Early engraving of Brecknock Castle and Bridge.



Figure 12. Whitton Place in Middlesex, teapot 11in, unmarked.



Figure 13. Possible source engraving of Whitton Place.

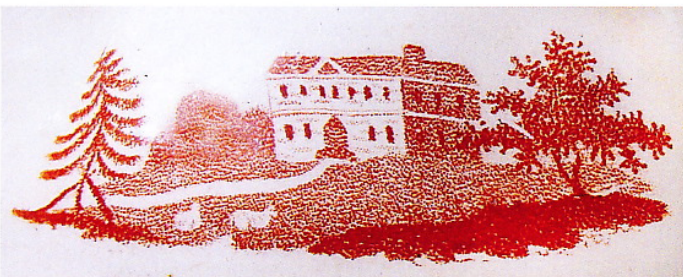


Figure 14. Unidentified scene, vignette from teapot cover.



Figure 15. Unidentified scene, vignette from teapot cover.

is a teapot with the Whitton Place view on one side (figure 21) but yet another unidentified view, of a ruined gateway, on the reverse (figure 22). Note the same distinctive painted pattern around the shoulder.

So, we have a previously unrecognised series of British views, the plates all indisputably by Enoch Wood & Sons. Using the words "attributed

to" can be dangerous so I would suggest that the unmarked tea wares share enough in common to suggest that they should also be considered to be by Wood.

Before leaving the subject, it is worth noting that the same views can also be found on tea wares printed in black, but with pink lustre lining. One example will suffice here, a teapot

with Whitton Place on one side (figure 23) and the unidentified gateway on the reverse. Others are known. Whether these may also be by Wood is a subject for conjecture.

Particular thanks to Tommy Cheatham and Gay Jungemann for help with images. ■



Figure 16. Rural scene with shepherdess, teapot, unmarked.



Figure 18. Westwick in Norfolk, saucer 5.5in, unmarked.



Figure 17. Source engraving of Westwick.



Figure 19. Tong Castle in Shropshire, plate 7.5in, impressed Burslem mark.



Figure 20. Castle Huntly in Perthshire, plate 8.75in, impressed Burslem mark.



Figure 21. Whitton Place in Middlesex, teapot, unmarked.



Figure 22. Unidentified scene, teapot, unmarked.



Figure 23. Whitton Place in Middlesex, teapot, unmarked.