

# Shelley GROUP

JUNE 2016 NO 119



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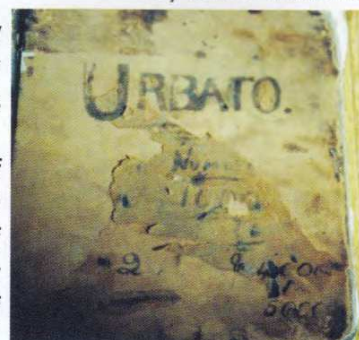
**Duryea Phaeton**

# A book of vision and hope

By Chris Watkins

**N**ow that we have access (thanks to Stoke-on-Trent City archives and to the Art Fund) to the Wileman and Shelley pattern books, we might get more of an idea of the pieces made - and the pieces not made.

**As an example** (and I'm not suggesting it's representative of others) if we look at the pattern book for Urbato 1000 series we find 102 pages and 101 pattern numbers. This is the sgraffito style of earthenware, where a clay base was added to by another clay layer which was scraped away to create the design. We only know of half a dozen current pieces of this series:



1014



1020



1021



1022



1023



1084

But we also have another 6 images from the 1890s, the time they were made. (see the Artist magazine article included with Shelley group magazine 116, September 2015)



1001



1008



1016



1044



1057



1063

and a couple of images from 1905



1096



1099





**So do the pattern books** give us an idea of what pieces might be out there (and we should be looking for?)

**Well, looking more** closely at those pages, 22 are blank pages, with just a pattern number and a brief title, and a further 6 have the shapes but are labelled "not to be done", "nil", "not made". That brings us down to 73, and of these 9 have a shape illustrated but no colour decoration.

**So that leaves us** with 64 patterns which are represented in colour in the pattern book, and included here, not to scale. But of these, 31 do not have any of the usual notes to identify the colours (pattern numbers identified in red in this article). That leaves us with only 33 pattern pages of the type we would expect, with all the details to create the design. Looking more closely at these, 14 have pages which look unused/untouched (pattern numbers identified in orange). No known pieces of these. A further 11 look as though they might have been used (pattern numbers identified in green). Five of these have known pieces. The remaining 8 pages look to have been used: numbers 1001, 1014, 1016, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1028, 1084 (pattern numbers identified in blue). For all but one of these patterns (1028) we have images of examples of the pieces, either current or from historical publications. So are we doing well so far?

"so we could think of this as a series of ideas for sgraffito applied to those shapes, only a few of which made it into production"

**Our historical** images of pieces come from some of the pattern pages which didn't look very used. So maybe there aren't more examples of those pieces to be found?

**So was this a** pattern book of a basically non-existent series? In one way that might be a sensible reading: it's noticeable that the patterns are exactly in line with the standard shape numbers that Wileman used, so we could think of this as a series of ideas for sgraffito applied to those shapes, only a few of which made it into production - and with the complexity of this technique it would not be a surprise if few pieces were made of the patterns.

**We might imagine** Frederick Rhead exploring the shape collection to see which ones might do well with the sgraffito technique, designing a number of decorations (about 64) according to his vision, and hoping they would be produced. Given his lovely vision we can still hope to find more!

Many thanks to Gerry Pearce for the images and shared interest!

Any reader who has knowledge of any other pieces in the Urbato 1000 series is encouraged to get in touch via the Editor.■

*Shelley pattern book pictures reproduced with kind permission of WWRD, United Kingdom, Ltd. and the City Archive, Stoke on Trent.*





1002



1003



1004



1005



1006



1007



1009



1010



1015



1018



1019



1024



1025



1028



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1098



1100



1101