



In this issue

China, Tea and Dragons
Getting into Collecting
Making Intarsio?
Going to the Races
Sick Room Items
Macclesfield Municipal Arms

The Shelley Group

Making Intarsio?

By Chris Watkins

Access to the Wileman and Shelley pattern books gives us more of an idea of how these lovely wares were made - and an idea of what's missing in the collection.

In Intarsio we now can see the Shape Book and the Decoration book. But one of the striking things about this sort of ware was that we think a transfer of the design was applied to the shape before the decoration was applied. My reason for saying goes back to my memories of the 1970s when (thanks to Paul Atterbury and folks at the Minton Museum) I was able to take a few photos of these Intarsio designs, and called them outline transfers.

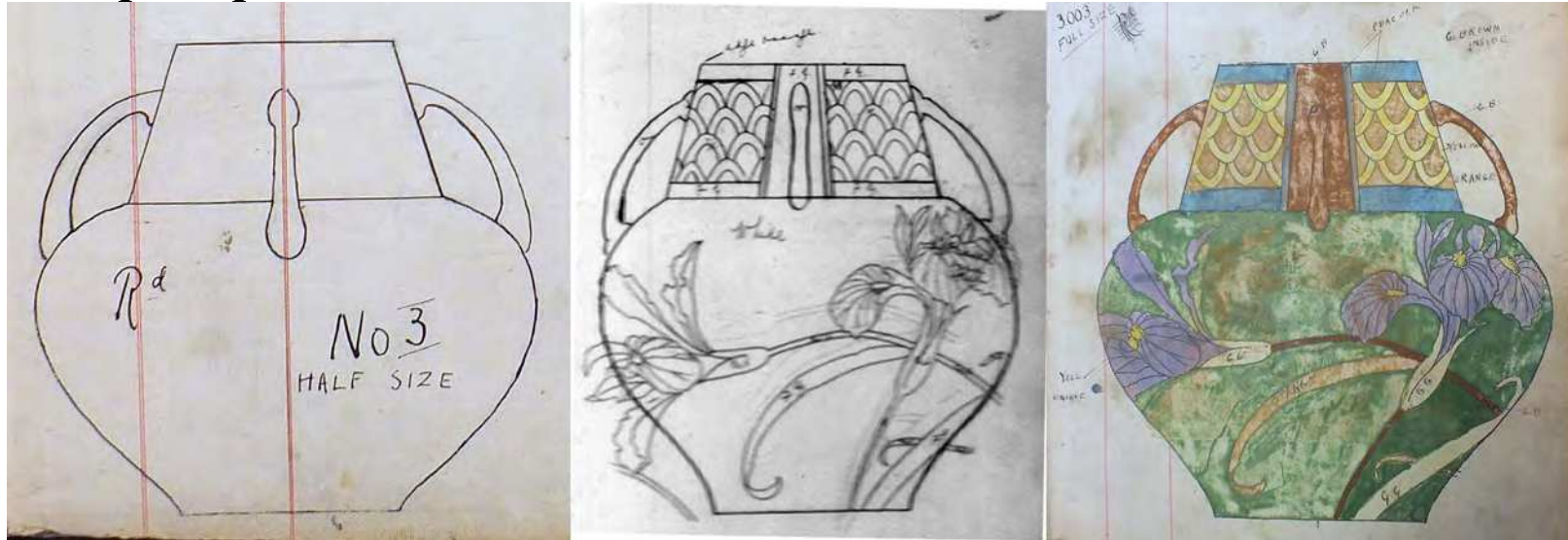
One (pattern 3165) featured in our book as plate 5, page 31. I also said "The company's pattern book provides a record of fifty-six patterns in Intarsio ware, in the form of the outline transfers which were applied before filling in by hand." (page 30).

Now the questions arise! - why only 56 patterns in that book? And why does that book not seem to appear in the list of ones now available at Stoke-on-Trent City archives?

While we work out how to answer those questions, let's enjoy what the books do show us!

Watkins C, Harvey W, and Senft R (1980, 1986, 1999), Shelley Potteries: The history and production of a Staffordshire family of potters. London: Barrie & Jenkins / Forsyth 2016 e-version at www.chriswatkins.net/Shelley ■

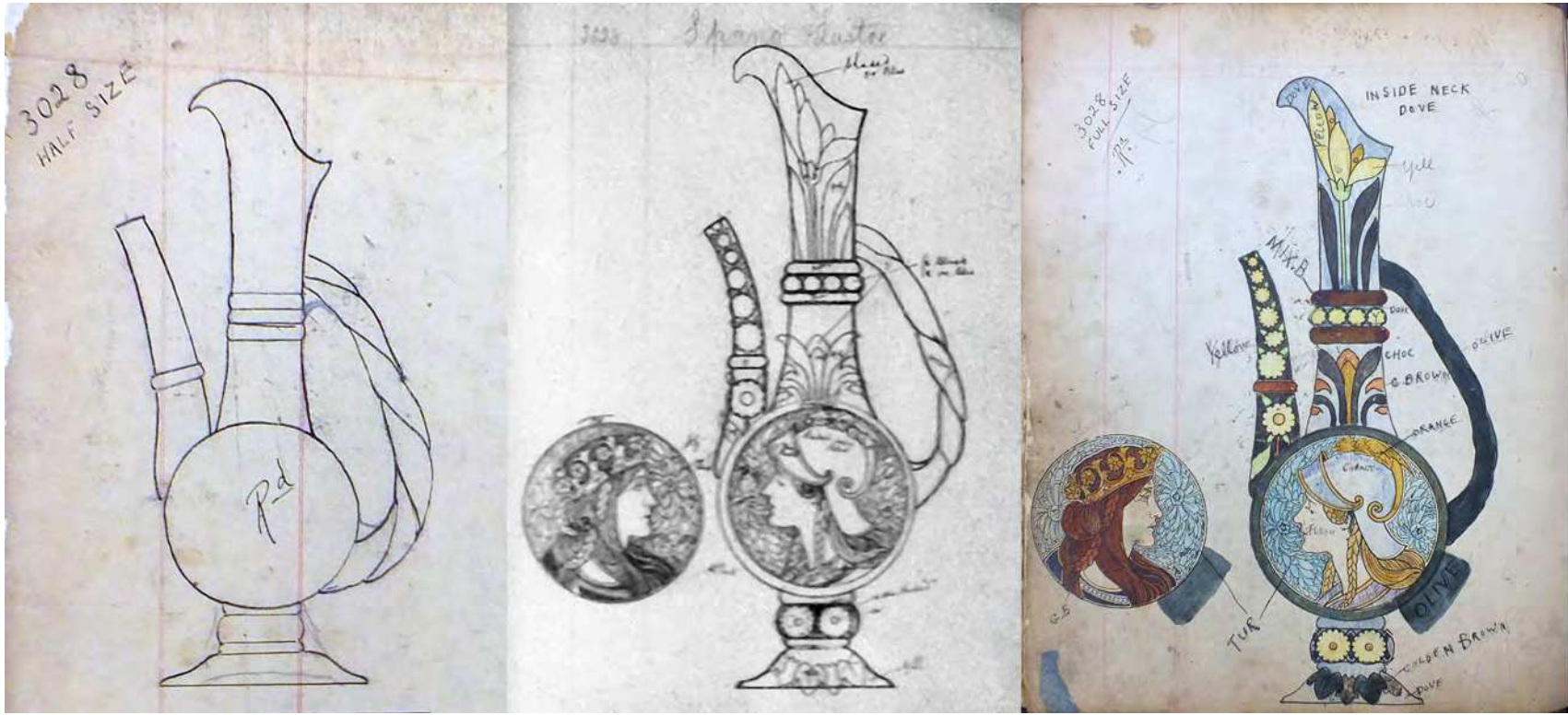
A shape, a pattern, a decoration -> Intarsio!



pattern 3003



pattern 3018



pattern 3028



pattern 3075



pattern 3165



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