

Modern Designs on Ancient Shapes

By Chris Watkins

In the 1920s when Walter Slater introduced the Second Series Intarsio, new designs (later to be called Art Nouveau) were applied to ancient shapes. The firm was public about this – if you knew where to look (and had a magnifying glass). The backstamps of china miniatures gave away the story.

Illustrated here is a particular sequence of miniatures numbers 200 on, from the 1920s. They relate to shape numbers in the five hundreds in the Main shape book. Those shapes carry the new Intarsio designs that Les Foley describes as “palmate”.

Of numbers 200-210, three had a backstamp which specified the date - the average was 1400BC, so the term “ancient” is valid. See the wonderful listing by Bruce Sandie and Linda Ellis “Crested Miniatures” via the Group website.

The miniatures are scaled at 75% and the others at 25% - to emphasise the similarity.

1. “Ancient Celtic jar”

200 6.5cmh



578 17cmh



3697 Intarsio

2. Roman tear vase 200BC

579 11cmh



3646 Intarsio

201 6.5cmh



585 8cmh



3643 Intarsio

3. Turkish scent jar

202 6.5cmh



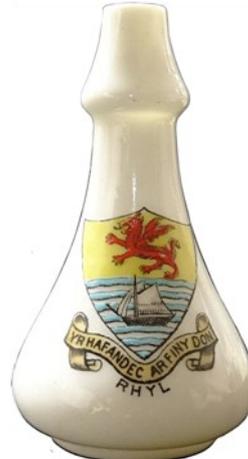
577 18cmh



3629 Intarsio

4. Arabian Wine Vessel

8cmh



203 26cmh



3617 Intarsio

References

Foley L (2010) *A Collector's Guide to Wileman and Shelley 'Intarsio'*

Ellis L and Sandie B (2007) *Shelley & Wileman China Crested Miniatures, Australasian Shelley Collectors Club and Shelley Group*