

Which Inn is the Newest?

By Chris Watkins

I've seen pub images on Shelley ware before, for example The Bell public house in the "Old England" series. But when a local pub in our area turned up on a 28cm plate, I just had to rescue it from USA (sorry folks there).

And when I started to look for more information about it, another piece turned up!! - a small 15cm bowl with exactly the same illustration, and caption for The New Inn.



But not by Shelley! The backstamp reads "Myott's "China Lyke" Ware, Staffordshire England".

So who copied who?

Myott & Son is a pottery in the Staffordshire district of England that was in existence since 1898. (Formerly this pottery was called G.T. Mountford potteries). Other examples with this backstamp have been listed as 1940s, 1960s. But a factory fire in 1949 destroyed their pattern books. In 1969 Myotts were bought out by an American corporation, then in 1976 the company merged with Alfred Meakin Ltd to form Myott-Meakin Ltd. In June 1991 the company was 'swallowed' by a large group of potteries (sounds familiar).

<http://www.myottcollectorsclub.com/story.html>

The Shelley plate has the 1938-1966 "Fine Bone China" backstamp.

So it looks as though there isn't any available evidence that can answer the key question. What's your guess? And are there more examples similar to this? ■