

Thank You Mrs Waterhouse

By Chris Watkins

Elizabeth Waterhouse (1834-1918) gets a brief mention at the end of "THE ARTIST" article (1899) Some Beautiful English Pottery" about Wileman series. "Designs have also been supplied by Mrs. Waterhouse" (and a list of others).

Born as daughter of John Hodgkin, she became the wife of the architect Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905), whose buildings include the Natural History Museum in London. Here she is at the National Portrait Gallery.

They lived in Yattendon, Berkshire and were noted for a particular decoration in brass. She ran a village workshop where she designed and others learned how to create the effect.

Contribution to Wileman

A shape of vase that ended up being made in six sizes (6 inch to 24 inch) and being used in Urbato (five patterns on four sizes) and Intarsio (eight patterns on six sizes). 8 illustrations follow, and the full 18 can be found in a listing on the Group website.

On the right is their brass version of that shape

Did she only provide a shape? Or patterns as well? Compare Urbato 1057 pattern with the Yattendon example ...



It's the only example (so far?).

The Urbato pattern book has two blank pages labelled Waterhouse: 1086 and 1095. No examples are known. If any readers have details of them please contact information@shelley.co.uk



The Studio July 1899



3056 Intarsio & 4056 Urbato on 56 14inch

3057 Intarsio & 4057A Urbato on 57 11inch
3111 Intarsio on 111 6inch



1063 Urbato pattern on 63 vase 21inch
3086 Intarsio on 86 vase 18inch

3095 Intarsio on 95 vase 24inch