

Newsletter of the
Potteries of Trenton Society

TRENTON POTTERIES

The East Trenton Porcelain Company and the Anchor and Chain Motif

by William B. Liebeknecht

The ship's anchor and chain is a well-known decorative motif found on yellow ware, Rockingham and ironstone granite china pitchers and jugs during the last quarter of the 19th century. This design was first patented on October 26, 1869 by Frederick Dellicker, (Figure 2), an employee of the East Trenton Porcelain Company in Trenton, New Jersey.* Founded in 1864, the company was operated as a corporation with Imlah Moore, a wealthy merchant and entrepreneur, at the helm (Goldberg 1998:40). The East Trenton Porcelain Company (Figure 1) consisted of four factory buildings, four kilns, 12 brick workers' tenements and stables. Production of "white and cream colored wares" commenced about 1866. White in this case most likely refers to ironstone granite china, while cream colored wares imply yellow ware, as was common in Trenton at the time. An economic slump in the early 1870s resulted in the factory's closure. In January of 1873, Imlah Moore reclaimed the pottery complex at a sheriff's sale and turned the operations over to his son Joseph H. Moore who expanded the line to include parian and biscuit wares (Hunter Research and Potteries of Trenton Society 2013). While under Joseph's watch the company won a medal at the 1876 Centennial Exhibit in Philadelphia.

In 1884 the company was sold again at a sheriff's sale, this time to Israel Lacy who appears to have taken advantage of the popularity of the an-

chor design and renamed the works Anchor Pottery. Lacy expanded the line of wares further to include semi-porcelain dinner ware, electrical porcelain and toilet wares. Following Lacy's death in 1897 James E. Norris and Cyril Jones acquired the company and added ten kilns and employed 250 hands. In 1926 the factory once again closed. A short time later the factory was acquired by the Fulper Pottery Company of Flemington, New Jersey, which was subsequently purchased by Martin Stangl in 1929.

The anchor and chain motif was often copied by competitors who made slight variations in an effort to avoid charges of patent infringement (Figures 3-7). Other companies known to have used the anchor and chain motif are the Speeler Pottery Company (Trenton, NJ 1872-1878), Joseph S. Mayer's Arsenal Pottery (Trenton, NJ 1876-1905), Edwin Bennett (Baltimore, MD 1846-1936) and the South Carolina Pottery Company (Eureka and Trenton, SC 1885-1887) (Steen 2001: 226-228; Dexter, 2012).

**As an interesting aside Frederick Dellicker named one of his daughters Imlah Moore Dellicker, which might be evidence of a closer relationship between the two men than can be currently discerned from the historical records (Ancestry.com 2014). The unisex name Imlah is from the Bible and means "is full, or whom God will replenish; plentitude."*

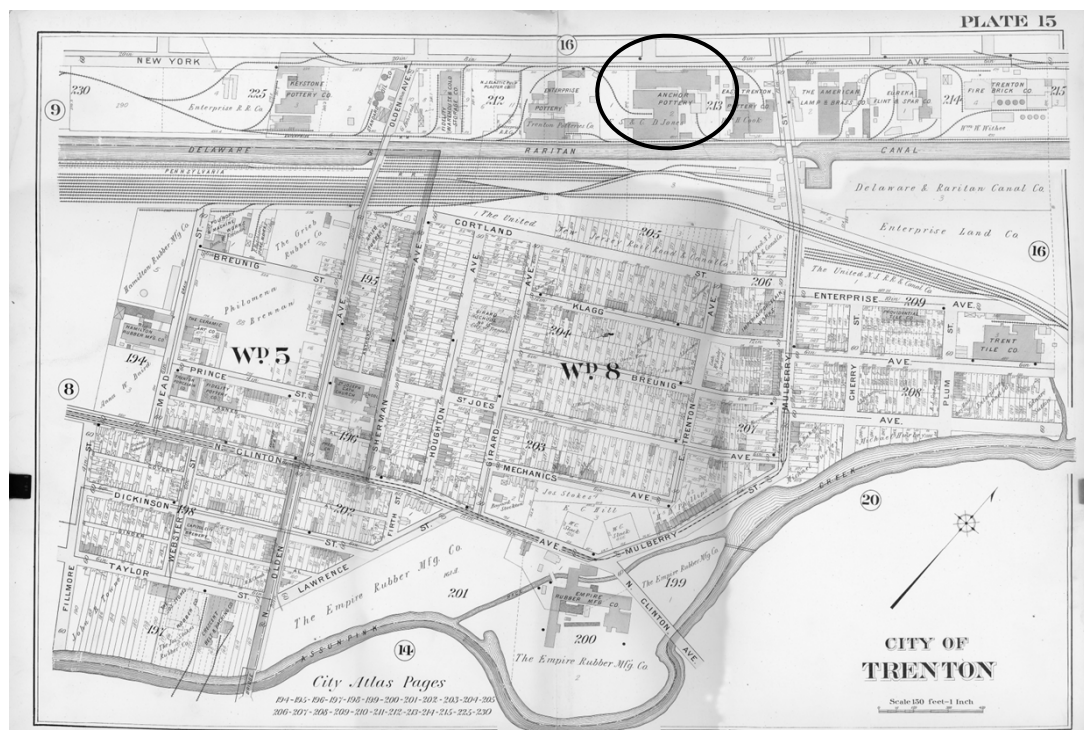
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The Potteries of Trenton Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Trenton's ceramic past. Officers: President – Patricia Madrigal; Treasurer – Jay Lewis; Secretary – Brenda Springsted. Board: Ellen Denker, Richard Hunter, Meta Janowitz, Jay Lewis, Emma Lewis, William Liebeknecht, Brenda Springsted, Rebecca White. Newsletter Editor: Patricia Madrigal

(Continued on page 2)

Figure 1. Lathrop 1905, Atlas of the City of Trenton, Plate 15. Anchor Pottery circled.



(Continued from page 1)

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United States Patent Office

1869 Frederick Dellicker of Trenton, New Jersey, Assignor to the East Trenton Porcelain Company.

Save the Date!

The Potteries of Trenton Society 2015 Spring Ceramic Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 18 in the Auditorium of the New Jersey State Museum. We are in the early planning stages of the program and will send registration information in January.

United States Patent Office.

FREDERICK DELLICKER, OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO THE
EAST TRENTON PORCELAIN COMPANY.

Design No. 3,726, dated October 26, 1869.

DESIGN OF AN ANCHOR.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK DELLICKER, of Trenton, in the county of Mercer, and State of New Jersey, have originated and designed a new Pattern for Pitchers, Jugs, and all other kinds of Wares, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification.

The nature and object of this design are clearly shown by the drawings.

It consists in forming a bas-relief on either or both

sides of a pitcher, jug, or any other kind of ware, shaped like and representing a ship anchor and chain, moulded and cast upon the ware.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The design or pattern for ornamented ware, as herein shown and set forth.

FRED. DELLICKER.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS SNOWDEN,
JOSEPH L. MIDWOOD.

D7-303

EX

OR O 3,726

No 3726 *Design for Ornamentary Ware*

PATENTED
OCT 26 1869



Witnesses
Francis Snowden
J. L. Midwood

Assessor
Frederick Dellicker
per
Gerry R. Taylor
Atty

Figure 2. Patent for the
design of an anchor, 1869.

Figure 3. Anchor and chain pitchers, Speeler Pottery Company (Trenton, NJ 1872-1878). Jay Lewis collection.



Figure 4. Two pitchers from the Speeler Pottery Company (Trenton, NJ 1872-1878) showing the anchor and chain in different sizes. Jay Lewis collection.



Figure 5. Anchor and chain motif, Joseph S. Mayer's Arsenal Pottery (Trenton, NJ 1876-1905). Jay Lewis collection.



Figure 6. Edwin Bennett (Baltimore, MD 1846-1936). Jay Lewis collection.



Figure 7. South Carolina Pottery Company (Eureka and Trenton, SC 1885-1887). Gary Dexter collection.

Craftsman Farms Hosts Spotlight on Pottery

Pottery will be the focus of an upcoming program on Saturday, September 6 at 4:00 p.m. at The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. This sequel to last year's panel discussion on Mr. Stickley's Style, which launched a new tour of the same name, will feature distinguished guests David Rago, founder of The Rago Arts and Auction Center and avid pottery collector Ted Lytwyn in a discussion with moderator Mitch Coddling, Vice President of The Craftsman Farms Foundation.

With the spotlight on pottery and Arts and Crafts, program topics will include potteries favored by Stickley, guidance on building pottery collections, and Stickley's own strategies for the display of pottery in the home.

The program, which is funded by a generous grant from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund, will include time for a Q & A, and will end with a light reception. \$10 Member; \$12 Non Members. Advance reservation required.

For more information or to purchase tickets, interested parties may call 973.540.0311 or visit Stickley-Museum.org. The Museum's regular hours are Thursday through Sunday, from 12 to 4 p.m. year round, with tours hourly from 12:15 - 3:15 p.m. The entrance is located at the intersection of Manor Lane and Route 10 West in Morris Plains, New Jersey. Standard admission is Free for Members; \$10 for Adults; \$5 for Seniors and Students; \$4 for Children.

Participant Biographies:

At the age of sixteen, David Rago began dealing in American decorative ceramics at a flea market in his home state of New Jersey. Today, he

oversees the auction house that bears his name and sells privately in the field. He is an author who lectures nationally and an expert appraiser for the hit PBS series, *Antiques Roadshow*, where he specializes in decorative ceramics and porcelain.

Ted Lytwyn and his wife, Cara Corbo, have been collecting pottery for about 35 years. The main focus of their collection is hand thrown vessels that rely on glaze treatment for decoration. Represented in the collection are the Pewabic Pottery, Durant Kilns (Leon Volkmar), William J. Walley and Oscar Louis Bachelder, among others.

Mitchell Coddling is the executive director of The Hispanic Society of America, an art museum and research library in New York City dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of Spain and Latin America. He has collected American art pottery and tiles for 20 years.

Craftsman Farms, the former home of noted designer Gustav Stickley, is owned by the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills and is operated as The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms by The Craftsman Farms Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New Jersey. Restoration of the National Historic Landmark, Craftsman Farms, is made possible, in part, by a Save America's Treasures Grant administered by the National Parks Service, Department of the Interior, and by support from Morris County Preservation Trust, The New Jersey Historic Trust, and individual members. The Craftsman Farms Foundation received an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The Craftsman Farms Foundation gratefully acknowledges a grant from the New Jersey Cultural Trust. Educational programs are funded, in part, by grants from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund.

POTS Membership

Membership in the Potteries of Trenton Society is open to all interested in Trenton's pottery industry and the ceramic products manufactured here. We welcome pottery workers, historians, archaeologists and collectors. Your contribution is used to support newsletter, lecture, meeting, and conference costs.

Annual Membership \$25

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