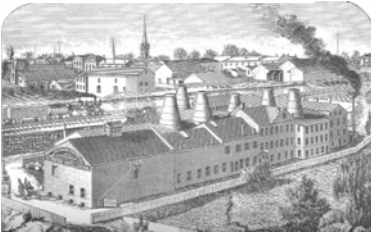


TRENTON POTTERIES

Newsletter of the
Potteries of Trenton Society



Scammell/Maddock Collection Returns to Trenton

Brenda Springsted

The Trenton City Museum and the Trenton Museum Society are delighted to accept the collection of Maddock and Scammell china collected over several decades by Larry Paul of Maryland. Mr. Paul compiled a large and various collection of hotel and restaurant china and decided to donate the collection of over 700 pieces to the Trenton City Museum, returning an important collection to Trenton, where hotel china was a major part of the immense pottery industry.

The china was produced at one pottery location in Trenton, known in the 20th century as the Lamberton Works. The Port of Lamberton is an early section of Trenton, and the plant was built on Third Street. Incorporated in 1859 by a group of Quaker businessmen who wanted to enter the lucrative Trenton potting industry, it is unclear how far they got as none were potters. In fact, the factory was not built until the 1880s, when it was

opened by Jams Tams and James Clark as the Trenton China Company (Goldberg 1998). It was designed to make hotel wares of white granite and vitreous china, but for a brief period the firm was reduced to making electrical parts before going into receivership. In 1892, after part of his main plant burned, Thomas Maddock & Sons took over the factory for use in sanitary ware production. The Maddocks incorporated the business as the Maddock Pottery Company, Lamberton Works; it had four kilns at the time (Goldberg 1998:48). After a year the company returned to the produc-

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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 – Amy Earls; Secretary – Brenda Springsted. Board: Ellen Denker, Richard Hunter, Meta Janowitz, Jay Lewis, Emma Lewis, William Liebeknecht, George Miller, Brenda Springsted, Rebecca White. Newsletter Editor: Patricia Madrigal



Figure 1. Martha Washington demitasse cup and Saucer: blue-gray band at rim with Greek key band inside. Coin gold lines at rim and floral decals. Larry Paul purchased this set in 2004 and for each purchase kept a record card.



Figure 2. Advertisement for the Scammell China Company (Trentonian Collection, Trenton Public Library).

Scammell Collection Returns to Trenton



Figure 3. Maddock Royal Porcelain bowl, with a scalloped border and molded scroll handles, with overglaze decal. Inset (not to scale): makers mark on back in red "Maddock Lamberton Works- Royal Porcelain." Purchased in 2004.



Figure 4. Elizabeth Leigh soup plate: floral decal inside a turquoise band and coin gold lines. Inset (not to scale): back mark is printed in blue script "Lamberton/Ivory/China/ made in Trenton/Elizabeth Leigh".

(Continued from page 1)

tion of various grades of semi-porcelain in table and toilet wares (Barber n.d.).

By 1924 it became the Scammell China Company with its purchase by the Scammell family. David William Scammell ran the company until his death in 1951. After a brief period with his son, Robert, at the helm, the firm was sold at auction to Sterling China Company, an Ohio firm, in 1954.

D. William Scammell was an effective administrator, and the firm grew under his leadership but the post-war years were more of a struggle. He started working as an office boy in the Maddock firm in 1901, but quickly became a regional salesman. Over the years he became a majority stock holder and advanced to vice-president. In 1923, he and his five brothers bought out the Maddock's, who were building the big American Standard plant in Hamilton.



Figure 5. Rectangular serving bowl, back marked LAMBERTON/BOUTELL BROS, MINN (printed in green). Probably

The firm became the Scammell China Company (*Trenton Evening Times* Monday June 11th 1951). The same year D. William Scammell became the President of the United States Potters Association. During his career, he spoke frequently on behalf of the pottery industry, here at home and internationally.

The dinner and hotel china

(Continued on page 3)

Scammell Collection Returns to Trenton



Figure 6. Gold logo of an eagle under 6-pointed star with PAC in circle. Inset (not to scale): red printed mark on back SCAMMELL/LAMBERTON/CHINA/DESIGNED EXPRESSLY FOR PENN ATHLETIC CLUB/JOHN WANAMAKER.

(Continued from page 2)

was originally fired in bottle kilns, but in 1934 the plant installed continuous tunnel kilns, which allowed for rapid production of their special orders.

They were also most unusual in having their own lithographic department and doing their design work in-house. Tony Dragonetti served as their chief artist in the 1940s and 1950s. Advertisements from the 1920s provide a glimpse of some of their wares. (Figures 2 and 9).

Under the Maddocks, two wares were produced as "American China" and "Lamberton China," and under the Scammell's the two wares were named "Trenton China" and "Lamberton China." The marks are similar, often only substituting an "S" in place of an "M" in the crown or wreath. In 1939 the Scammell firm developed a fine durable porcelain with a thin translucent quality and ivory tint, named Lamberton China. Hotels, transportation lines, and restaurants purchased the Maddock and Scammell wares which were specially designed for each commercial customer.



Figure 7. Dogwood Spray. Off center under glaze design, created by Tony Dragonetti. Inset (not to scale): Marked on back SCAMMELL'S TRENTON CHINA/MADE IN AMERICA.

Mr. Paul recently published results of years of research about 20th century manufacturing and commercial collectibles in *Made In the 20th Century: A Guide to Contemporary Collectibles* (2005 The Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Maryland and Oxford). He has used his extensive knowledge of commercial china to write a book on his collection entitled *A History of the Scammell/Maddock Potteries in Trenton, New Jersey* which is awaiting publication.

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(Continued on page 4)

Scammell Collection Returns to Trenton



Figure 8. Hotel Serving Platter, rectangular with portrait in center, presumably Marquette. Inset (not to scale): green printed back mark LAMBERTON CHINA/MADE EXPRESSLY FOR THE MARQUETTE / ST. LOUIS GLASS & QUEENSWARE

(Continued from page 3)

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Figure 9. Advertisement for the Scammell China Company (Trentonian Collection, Trenton Public Library).

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1951 President Robert W. Scammell Displays Samples of Companies Finest China.

Trenton Times

1952 *Illinois Fatal to Scammell: Chairman of China Company Dies at 71*.

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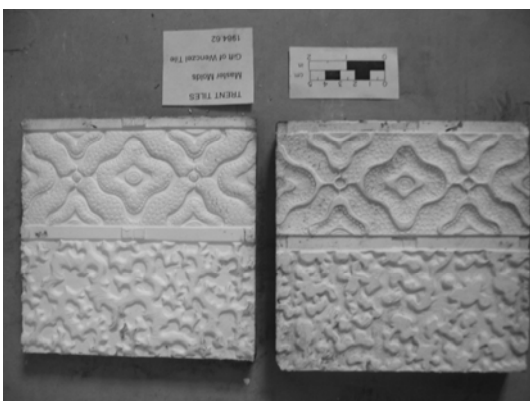
2006 TMS Acquires the Larry Paul Scammell/Maddock Collection Ellarslie Muse. Summer 2006.

Trent Tile Master Molds Found – Again!

Brenda Springsted

The master tile molds from the Trent Tile Company were found accidentally in 1983 by Wenczel Tile Company employees. A worker removing a cement floor with a jack-hammer fell into a previously unknown basement chamber. It was lined with shelves of Trent Tile master molds. Given to the Trenton City Museum in 1984 by the Wenczels, they were stored at Ellarslie and again forgotten until this year, when they were brought into the light of day.

The Collections Committee is now cataloging, photographing, and researching the tiles. A sample will be on display at the POTS terra cotta symposium in April and photographs of some of the many designs will be available for viewing.



Examples of some of the Trent Tile master molds, and corresponding plaster casts, located at the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie. The photo above left gives some indication of how many molds are in storage at Ellarslie.

New Jersey Terra Cotta: Building an Industry on Clay



Detail of tile panel designed and made by Mueller Mosaic Company for the Kelsey Building (now Edison College), West State Street, Trenton, 1911. The Kelsey Building was built to house the Trenton School of Industrial Arts.

The Potteries of Trenton Society (POTS) is pleased to announce its association with the New Jersey State Museum in the development and presentation of our fourth symposium on New Jersey ceramics entitled "New Jersey Terra Cotta: Building an Industry on Clay." This year's symposium will be held Saturday, April 21, 2007, in the State Museum's Auditorium at 205 West State Street, Trenton. Speakers will explore New Jersey's clay resources, terra cotta manufacturing in the state, and its use on buildings in New York City, Philadelphia, and Trenton. A box lunch is included in symposium registration.

This year's symposium examines the contribution of New Jersey's important terra cotta makers to urban skylines in the region. Forty-eight companies operated in the U.S. during the period of terra cotta's greatest popularity (1880-1930), and New Jersey had the largest concentration of terra-cotta manufacturers. Outstanding clay deposits, proximity to markets, and a wide variety of transportation options all contributed to this industrial prominence. Architectural terra cotta is extraordinarily adaptable as a building material. It can be molded, sculpted, and glazed to imitate all sorts of other materials or used for its own characteristics. Architects in the early 1900s thought it a superior medium because of its longevity, imperviousness, color, and imitative qualities. It was also lighter and cheaper than stone. Most of the architectural terra cotta made in New Jersey was used as ornamental cladding on skyscrapers, but it was also found useful for grave markers, hitching posts, carriage blocks, chimney pots, and statuary.

On April 21, registration and light refreshments beginning at 9:30

a.m. will be followed by an introduction to New Jersey's clay resources presented by Peter Sugarman, research specialist with the NJ Geological Survey. The morning's talks will continue with archaeologist Richard Veit and curator Mark Nonestied, who will discuss New Jersey's terra cotta manufacturers. Susan Tunick, president of the New York Friends of Terra Cotta and author of *Terra-Cotta Skyline*, will survey uses of New Jersey terra cotta in significant buildings of New York City and environs. After a box lunch, Ellen Denker will introduce participants to Trenton's tile makers and describe the driving tour that POTS has developed of significant tile and terra cotta buildings surviving in Trenton. If they choose, participants may also take a tour of Trenton-made tile installations in the New Jersey State House.

Advance registration for this year's program is \$35.00 for the general public and includes morning refreshments and a box lunch. POTS members and Friends of the New Jersey State Museum receive a \$5.00 discount on advance registration. The POTS website includes a registration blank to print and mail. Advance registration will be accepted by mail only with payment by check or money order. Registration at the door will be \$40 for all. Please register early.

Trenton is accessible by automobile and train. For more information about this year's symposium, including advance registration and traveling instructions, please visit the POTS website (www.potteriesoftrentonsociety.org) or the New Jersey State Museum's website (newjerseystatemuseum.org).

The New Jersey State Museum is a division of the New Jersey Department of State.

Advance Registration Form**New Jersey Terra Cotta: Building an Industry on Clay***Presented by*

Potteries of Trenton Society and the New Jersey State Museum

Saturday, April 21, 2007**9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.****New Jersey State Museum Auditorium, 205 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey**

Advance registration must be received by **April 6, 2007**; after that date, you must register on site. We regret that we do not take credit cards; check or money order only. All advance registrations must be made via the mail; telephone registrations will not be accepted. On site registration is \$40. Registration includes lunch.

Please Print

Name: _____

Affiliation (for name tag): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____
(optional) (for email confirmation of registration)

Meeting Registration Fees:

Member Potteries of Trenton Society \$30.00 _____

Member Friends of the NJ State Museum \$30.00 _____

Non Member \$35.00 _____

Please circle your choice for sandwich (if no choice is made we will make one for you):

Cheese

Turkey

Roast beef

Tuna

Registration will be \$40 the day of the symposium.

Please make your check payable to the *Potteries of Trenton Society* and mail to:

Potteries of Trenton Society, Amy Earls, Treasurer, PO Box 121, Florence, NJ 08518

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 Memberships:

_____ Regular (\$20) _____ Couples (\$25) _____ Students (\$15, with ID) _____ Seniors (\$15)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

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