

## Yellow Transfer Printed Brown Ware

### What's new in the Database – Contribution #1

#### Transferware Collectors Club

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With the encouragement of Website Manager, David Hoexter, a new series is being launched with this article as the first in order to inform the membership of new developments in the database. It will be written by editors working in the database, including myself as general editor.

Yellow Transfer Printed Brown Ware – referred to here as YPB – is a type of transferware that has only recently been added to the TCC Database. Some collectors of transferware may not be aware of this type of transfer decoration as it is not commonly found. Over the years, I have noted a number of patterns that appeared to be Chinoiserie, or pseudo-Chinese scenes with figures, pagodas, junks, and various floral designs printed in yellow on brown jugs, bowls and plates. However, these pieces were not marked, and the patterns seemed to be generic patterns not exactly matching known blue printed transferware patterns. Collectors of willow and other Chinoiserie patterns seem to be the people most drawn to the wares. Figures 1 and 2 are two sides of a jug with such a pattern. I hadn't seen any example of that pattern printed in under glaze blue.

Finding documentation for YPB wares has been difficult. *A Collector's History of British Pottery* by Griselda Lewis was the first reference I found that illustrated and defined the wares. She described them as "A distinctive kind of brown or sometimes olive grey ware with delicately engraved patterns printed in orange or yellow." Four out of six of her photos were of jugs, and the patterns were all unknown to me. Only one piece was marked – a small plate with (W\*\*\*) a mark used by an unidentified maker. She discussed possible attribution by district – Liverpool, Swansea and/or Staffordshire, depending on the pattern, but no positive attributions could be made.

In addition to YPB wares, Lewis described the brown and yellow inlaid wares produced by the Scotts at the Southwick Pottery, Sunderland. They are a rather crude type of pottery with inlaid yellow designs on a brown body. That is an entirely different process than putting a printed transfer design on a brown body, that is sometimes covered with a clear glaze. Unfortunately these wares have been described erroneously as "Brown earthenware, transfer printed in yellow slip" on p. 53 in John C. Baker's *Sunderland Pottery*. Photos of the pieces are shown.

Often referred to as Portobello ware, my main interest for years was to try and determine how that term got associated with YPB wares. Documentation proved to be very difficult with no mention of YPB in all references I found on Portobello pottery. My enlightenment came from the information in the article "Yellow Transfer Printed Brown-ware by C. Williams-Wood in Volume 20, Issue 8 of "Antique Collecting" magazine dated August, 1985. After discussing the brown and yellow inlaid wares produced by the Scotts, Southwick Pottery, Sunderland (mentioned in the paragraph above), Williams-Wood gives information on the pottery at Portobello, outside Edinburgh intermittently from 1786 to 1931. The first 10 years of its existence, it was operated by a firm called Scott Brothers. It was this coincidence of name that led to the confusion over where some YPB ware was made. Because the Portobello Scott

Brothers partnership ended at least 40 years before the marked pieces were made, there can be no possible connection.

I am truly grateful to Michael Bailey who joined the TCC this past year, searching for matching blue and white patterns to the YPB wares in his collection. His quest is for wares marked by (W\*\*\*). Michael sent me a copy of the Williams-Wood article that has many illustrations of YPB wares, many of which match blue and white printed patterns in the database. 'Vase', the small plate marked (W\*\*\*) in Lewis, is seen here in Figure 3 with the blue printed saucer that matches in Figure 4. It has been such fun for me to discover that most of the YPB prints do match blue and white printed patterns. They are just patterns I had not seen before. My study of these wares, with the help of the article and the many photos Michael has sent me, has really broadened my awareness. Some of the blue and white patterns have names while others do not. Likewise, many of the YPB patterns have names. As a result we have been able to add alternate titles to some patterns in the database. Because these are early patterns – c. 1810 and earlier – the blue and white patterns, as well as the YPB, are not marked by the maker. Attributions are hard to come by.

There are now 17 patterns in the database that have matching or related YPB patterns. Most are illustrated in the database although in some patterns, we reference illustrations in the article by Williams-Wood. To find these patterns in the database, search 'yellow transfer' in the General Search. There is now a blue printed pattern in the database by Chetham and Woolley titled 'Two Boat Willow' or 'Two Sampans' that matches Figures 1 and 2 illustrated above.

Other patterns you can search and learn more about in the database include 'Willow and Curved Bridge', Figures 5 and 6, and Carnation or Chrysanthemum, Figures 7 and 8. As with other categories in the database, there are still some patterns in the files that need more research. Further entries will be made as we match up more blue and white printed patterns with YPB patterns. Remember to search for 'yellow transfer' in the General Search to find these interesting patterns. As always, if you have photos of patterns you don't find in the database, please send them to us. Thank you for your support!

**Figures on following pages.**





**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



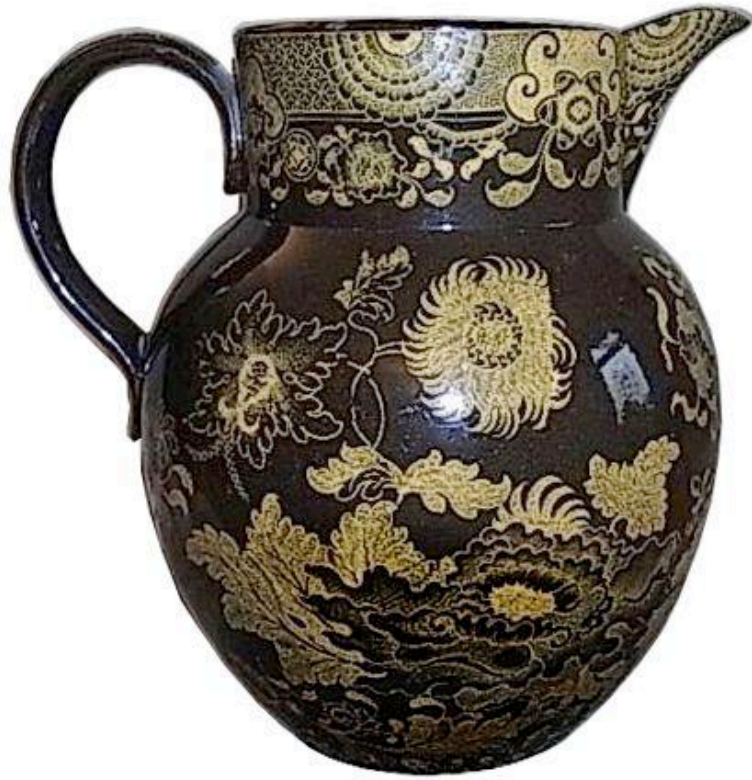
**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**