

A Rare Third Period Mark

By Tony Fox

At the end of the Belleek 'Wishing Cup' article published in the Belleek Collectors' Group Newsletter number 26/2, July 2005, I mentioned the existence of a different third period mark.

Unlike the BELLEEK "IRELAND" mark which is totally different to the standard second period ribbon mark this rare third period mark is a variation of the established recognised third period mark i.e. it appears to be essentially similar except for the omission of the ribbon carrying the wording Co. Fermanagh Ireland.



This mark is extremely rare, the writer has two cone pattern teacups which have this mark in accordance with the accompanying photograph (shown on the left) but, to date, has not seen this particular mark on any items in other UK members' collections.



The Gaelic wording "Deanta in Eirinn" on the bottom half of the mark translates into English as "Made in Ireland". At the time Belleek introduced the third period mark in 1926 patriotic fervour was still running high following the Act of 1920 which divided Ireland into two parts; Southern Ireland called the Irish Free State (1921-1937) and Northern Ireland. Therefore it is feasible to suggest that the third period mark was initially introduced in Gaelic only to promote the new Irish state and subsequently following objections

from English speaking countries, in particular the United States, the ribbon was introduced from the second period mark.

This of course is absolute conjecture on the writer's part but may possibly be one reason/explanation for the existence of two third period marks. If this is the case then the suggestion is that the rare variation mark was the initial third period mark which was followed by the recognised third period mark complete with ribbon. We of course do not know the timescale for this change but the fact that the initial mark is extremely rare would suggest that it was only in use for a relatively short duration of the production cycle.

However, like the BELLEEK "IRELAND" mark this rare third period mark should be included in the established list of Belleek marks without which none is genuine.

I trust this short article will provide an incentive for members of the Belleek UK Collectors' Society to re-examine pieces in their collections in order to ascertain whether or not they have any items which carry this rare mark.

I await with interest the outcome of their searches.

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FOOTNOTE

The remaining photographs show pieces offered for sale on Ebay at various times which have the third period mark, all of which are teaware.

- a) Plate, Ring Handle Ivory pattern with Celtic design decoration (shown on right)



- b) Teacup and saucer, Ring Handle Ivory pattern with Celtic design decoration (right).



- c) Trio, Ring Handle Ivory pattern with Celtic design decoration (right).



- d) Plate, Tridacna pattern (right).



If anyone has more pieces with this mark or variants of it, please get in touch with Tony Fox directly or to the Group by email at: research@belleek.org.uk