



New American Scenery, Cup Plates



Left, cup plate by Clews c.1830, with collaged details from *A Winter View of Pittsfield Mass.* RISD Museum Collection. Right, *Canal into the Hudson*, cup plate by an unknown maker c.1825, Yale University Collection.

Background:

In the early part of the nineteenth century, transfer printed blue and white tablewares from Staffordshire were exported to North America in their tens of thousands. Pictorial in nature, their vitrified designs remediated print from book or magazine illustration, melding with floral and botanical borders. Scenes of the newly independent United States formed a significant part of this material. These transferwares included 'Cup Plates', tiny coasters used to protect furniture from marks whilst the diner drank coffee or tea from the cup's accompanying saucer. Measuring between 9 to 11 cm (3.5 to 4 inches) across, the plates are characterised by deep cobalt blue prints melted into a pearlware glaze. Images and patterns were sometimes specifically designed and made for the small form, others (above) were collaged from tissue print details of larger patterns. Because of their small scale, flaws in the prints or their application are more obvious than on larger wares and they have their own aesthetic.

Cup plates and New American Scenery:

I commissioned Ed Bentley¹ to make a new plaster cup plate based on a 19th century Clews original, then *Ceramics By Design*² based in Longton Stoke on Trent used this to make moulds and slip cast 21st century versions.

my studio, as receptacles for small bits of decal, colour palettes and test pieces.

¹ <https://www.edbentley.co.uk>

² <http://www.ceramicsbydesign.co.uk>



Castle Garden Battery New York, cup plate by Enoch Wood & Sons, c.1830, 9cm dia.
RISD Museum Collection.



Front and back, Clews Cup plate c.1830, used as a model for new *Cumbrian Blue(s)* forms. (Paul Scott Collection)

Because of the nature of the collaborative process, in the realisation of the *Indian Point* cup plate a number of different moulds (and plates) were made, before the ideal form was created. These 'extra' cup plates have taken on a life of their own in These were primarily created for use with a bespoke engraved copper plate, made by Paul Holdway (former head engraver at Spode) based on my *American Scenery Indian Point* works from 2013.



Cumbrian Blue(s), American Scenery, Indian Point No: 4. Screen print (in-glaze decal) on pearlware platter c.1840. Paul Scott, Cummington MA., 2015.



Cumbrian Blue(s) New American Scenery, Indian Point. Tissue transfer print on pearlware cup plate, 12cm dia. Engraved by Paul Holdway, former head engraver at Spode



Set of *Fleurs.de.Sel's* New York cup plates made for Leah Mitch

In addition, as with some of the 19th century originals, I have also started using them for 'left over', cut parts of decals and for small compositions of their own. In early 2021, a set of *Fleurs.de.Sel's* New York was made for Leah Mitch, originator of the Instagram images that inspired the series.

Paul Scott, March 2021

