

Industry moves on

1800 to 1900

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Industry moves on

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1 – Wedding veil

1864

Possibly made by Tucker's firm, Exeter

Mary Tucker worked for her father's lace manufactory. Tucker's lace was synonymous with good quality and workmanship and won prize medals at international exhibitions. Mary's exquisite wedding veil is shown off by the simplicity of her dress.

1 – Wedding dress

1864

Made by Miss Bromfield, Hole Mill, Branscombe

Lace-maker Mary Tucker wore this simple dress for her marriage to Henry Ford on 6 December 1864. It is beautifully made, very light and would have been wonderful to wear. The wedding was a high profile occasion for Branscombe. The couple provided the poor of the village with 'a beautiful dinner and tea'.

2 - Terracotta figure of a wild boar

About 1875

Made at the Watcombe Pottery, Torquay

Watcombe was the first art pottery to open in the Torquay area in 1871, and the last to close in 1962. Typical of 'antique style' Watcombe products, this figure was based on a sculpture in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence by Bernardo Buontalenti (1536-1608). Terracotta is an unglazed red clay widely used by the Torquay potteries in the early years.

3 - Terracotta roundel

About 1875

Made at the Watcombe Pottery, Torquay

Probably after a work by the Florentine sculptor, Luca Della Robbia (1400-1482), this piece was slip cast and later hand modelled. The decorative border was impressed into the soft clay before firing.

4 - Terracotta vase

About 1875

Made at the Watcombe Pottery, Torquay

With transfer-printed, hand-coloured and relief decoration, in the style of ancient Greece. Watcombe's classical wares were fashionable and highly thought of during the 1870s. Examples were shown at the 1871 International Exhibition at South Kensington.

5 - Earthenware mug made to commemorate the Boer War

About 1900

Made at the Aller Vale Pottery, Torquay

With a figure of a soldier in relief and the inscription: 'God Bless you Tommy Atkins Here's your Country's love to you South Africa 1899-1900'. The Boer War was fought from 1899 until 1902 between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State.

6 - White earthenware vase

About 1900-1910

Made at the Lauder Pottery, Barnstaple

Decorated with flowers in coloured slips and *sgraffito*. Cream areas are impressed with an 'orange peel' pattern.

Alexander Lauder, a trained architect, and his brother-in-law William Smith, set up their pottery at Pottingdon Marsh near Barnstaple in 1876. Their wares were similar to Brannam's though the pottery was also well known for lustre, or metallic glazed, wares, terracotta tiles and urns.

7-8 - Earthenware vases

1900-1914

Made by the Brannam Pottery, Barnstaple

Coated in blue slip, or liquid clay, and decorated with peacocks in *sgraffito* and painted slips. Charles H. Brannam's was the most successful of the North Devon art potteries. Their wares were often vividly coloured and influenced by Japanese, Persian and ancient Greek ornament.

Traditional techniques like *sgraffito*, or scratched decoration, were inherited from earlier generations of slipware potters.

9 - Earthenware tray

About 1900

Made at the Watcombe Pottery, Torquay

Painted with a cottage scene in coloured slips and inscribed: 'If you and your lips would keep from slips Five things observe with care of whom you speak to whom you speak And how and when and where'. Although made for the local tourist market, Torquay mottowares were also sold throughout the country. They were also made to order and inscribed with the names of individuals, companies and institutions.

10 - Green glazed earthenware cat with glass eye

About 1900

Made at the Aller Vale Pottery, Torquay

11 - Earthenware vase in the form of a boot and cat

About 1900-1915

Made by the Brannam Pottery, Barnstaple

Moulded and coated in dark green slip.

12 - Earthenware teapot, cup and saucers

About 1930

Made at the Watcombe Pottery, Torquay

With painted decoration of a ship and seascape on a pale slip ground.

13 - White earthenware vase

About 1890

Made at the Aller Vale Pottery, Torquay

Decorated with a scroll pattern in painted slips. The Aller Vale Pottery at Kingkerswell originally made tiles and pipes for the building trade, but in 1881 it was burnt down.

The owner decided to rebuild the works as an art pottery employing potters trained at a nearby art school. Aller Vale produced large quantities of souvenir wares during the early 1900s.

14 - Man's bathing dress

1920-1930

Made from cotton jersey, webbing belt and metal buckle. Fine, stretchy machine-knitted fabrics in wool and cotton were popular for swimsuits during the 1920s and 1930s. Stripes or blocks of contrasting colour were fashionable at the lido or the beach. Trunks or shorts were still too daring for most men. This suit has a top for modesty, and a modern sporty belt for dash.