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CARLIGHT
HERITAGE COLLECTION

Carlight Foley China

A new generation of Carlight china Information Sheet



A Brief History of Carlight China

The first dedicated Carlight china appeared in the late 1950s, when a comprehensive dinner and tea service was commissioned from Tuscan China, based in Longton in the heart of the Potteries in Staffordshire. This was offered in the caravans until the 1970s. In the 1980s, china, again a dinner and tea service, was offered as standard in some models, initially Elizabethan China (Garland Rose), and later, Wedgwood (Mirabelle and Colorado patterns). Interestingly, Wedgwood had taken over the old Tuscan works in 1967, so to an extent continuity remained.

However, these later patterns were not manufactured exclusively for Carlight, being some of the company's commercially available patterns. However in 1989 a small run of butter plates was designed for the company, depicting various caravans within

the Carlight Collection.* Whilst available only for a short period of time, they have proved very collectable. Also, because of the gain in popularity of vintage and historic caravans and the awareness that, apart from the short run of butter plates in the late 1980s, there has been no customised Carlight china available for almost 40 years, we felt that a new range of Carlight china was long overdue. We therefore approached Foley China Ltd to investigate the possibility of introducing a new range of Carlight china.

Why choose Foley China Ltd? We felt that Foley China Ltd maintains the tradition and heritage of manufacturing and decorating fine bone china. A further attraction to us is that they operate on the site of what used to be The Foley China Works, which is only 500 yards away from the old Tuscan works at Longton, where the first Carlight china was manufactured in the 1950s. Also, by another twist of fate one of Foley China's recently retired painters was employed at the Tuscan works for many years.

The manufacturing process

The new Carlight Foley china is made in just the same way as the previous Carlight Tuscan china. The artwork (depicting perhaps the most well-known Carlight caravan, the Light Four from the 1930s), was hand-drawn in Sleaford. This is used to make a slide-on ceramic decal, which is

*The Carlight Collection

This is the collection of vintage and classic Carlight caravans and memorabilia, built up over the last 25 years by the family of Bob Earl, the founder of Carlight. The collection now comprises one caravan from every decade of the company's manufacturing history, the earliest being the 1935 Carlight Light Four and the newest being the last Carlight Commander 132 to roll off the old production line in Church Lane, Sleaford, Lincs in 2003. The collection also includes a wide range of brochures, documentation and photographs etc relating to Carlight and its history.

then applied by hand to glazed ware (which is made in the traditional manner and still contains approximately 50% calcined animal bone to give it durability and translucency). Once the transfer is in place, the ware is fired at 800°C and then the 18-carat gold lining is applied by hand, just as it was 60 years ago, and the ware is then fired a second time at the slightly lower temperature of 740°C.

This process means everything is dishwasher-safe, but as the lining is 18-carat gold, intense dishwashing will cause this to wear, as will heavy usage.

Because of the gold, these items SHOULD NOT BE USED IN A MICROWAVE OVEN.

Will the new china fit my caravan?

The size and shapes of the Foley Carlight china are similar to the Wedgewood Mirabelle and Colorado styles. Most late-model Commanders were made to accept a four-piece set of these, so subject to the comments below you should have no problems fitting the china into any MkIII or later Commander model.

A sample set of the china has been tested in various earlier models, and as far as we are aware a set of four will fit in the Caribbeans, Cosmopolitans, Mk I and II Commanders and the Continentals (although all the bowls will not fit into one compartment in the early

Continental, the bowls can be divided into two stacks and stored elsewhere). Most of these models (apart from the Continentals) will also take a set of six (the bowls, which are deeper than the Tuscan design, being the stumbling block with the Continentals)

We have not had the opportunity to try a set in either the Casalette or Casetta, but we feel a set of four should fit either of these models.

Having said the above, you might find you need to alter the upright separators in the racks slightly, and there will be the odd caravan where the racks were altered for something else in the past, which might cause a few headaches (although none that a skilled cabinet maker will not be able to sort out), but we think it fair to say that the new Foley Carlight china should fit most models. As mentioned above, the worst that should be required is the repositioning of one or two of the upright separators within the racks, and you will also find the sugar bowl needs to go where the milk jug previously fitted and vice versa (but no alterations are required for them to fit). The sizes of both the individual items and, where appropriate, a stack of items are given below so you can check if they will fit into your own particular caravan, should you wish.

	<i>Diameter excl. spout/handle</i>	<i>Diameter incl. spout/handle</i>	<i>Height</i>		
Teapot (4-cup size)	140mm	220mm	122mm		
Teapot (6-cup size)	160mm	240mm	140mm		
Milk Jug	100mm	135mm	100mm		
Sugar Bowl	70mm	n/a	95mm		
Cup	88mm	140mm	69mm		
Mug	70mm	110mm	105mm		
	<i>Diameter</i>	<i>Height of 1 item</i>	<i>Height of stack of 4 items</i>	<i>Height of stack of 6 items</i>	
Dinner Plate	262mm	17mm	38mm	52mm	
Side Plate	164mm	16mm	31mm	41mm	
Saucer	142mm	18mm	37mm	47mm	
Cereal Bowl	162mm	48mm	70mm	85mm	
Butter plate	120mm	20mm	36mm	46mm	

Prices



All the items are available individually, but we are offering a substantial discount if items are bought as a full set.

For instance, a four-place full set is available for £425.00, whereas the same items bought individually would cost £530.30, representing a saving of around 20% (over £105.00).

Carlight Foley China 4-place setting

4 dinner plates	
4 side plates	
4 cereal bowls	
4 cups and saucers	
1 milk jug	
1 sugar bowl	
1 teapot (4-person size)	
Price (incl. VAT @ 20%)	£425.00

As well as a full set, individual items are available separately, as shown below:

Item	Price £ inc. VAT
Dinner plate	29.19
Side plate	20.09
Cereal bowl	23.09
Cup and saucer	21.87
Milk jug	20.98
Sugar bowl	19.76
Teapot (4-person size)	112.61

Also available are: Price inc.
VAT @ 20%

Bone china mugs (each)	£14.99
Bone china mugs (set of 4)	£44.99
Tea pot (2-person size)	£92.00
Butter plates (each)	£14.50

Photographs

Left: one of each item from the range.

Below top: Fine bone china mugs

Below centre: butter plate, shown with mugs to give scale

Below bottom: 4-person and 2-person teapots



The roundware is decorated with the Tree motif on the face (when the item is held in the right hand) and the Caravan motif on the reverse.

The evolution of Foley China

The Foley area is steeped in china manufacturing history, with many manufactories and several individuals having played an important part in the history of the area: famous names and companies which come up again and again include Wedgwood, Coalport, Shelley, Susie Cooper and Royal Albert.

Some of the more important factories were: the Foley Potteries, Old Foley Pottery and the Foley China Works.

The Foley Potteries, built around 1827 by landowner John Smith, is perhaps best known for the Shelley china it produced after Joseph Ball Shelley who joined the company in 1872. In 1910 the Shelley china mark was officially adopted by the works. But in 1966 the business ended with the buyout of Shelley by Allied British Potteries, who then produced Royal Albert Pottery at the Foley Potteries.

The Old Foley Pottery was founded in 1897 by James Aloysius Kent (1864-1953) with five workmen from the firm of Barker & Kent. Anyone who enjoys the works of the author Arnold Bennett might be interested to know that the author's brother, Septimus Bennett, was employed at the Old Foley Pottery as a modeller. The Old Foley Pottery Works stood on the south side of King Street towards Longton, but have now been demolished.

The Foley China Works were originally owned by Robinson & Son from 1850, and in 1885 they were purchased by E. Brain, then a well-known figure in North Staffordshire, trading as E. Brain & Co. Initially, Brain was in partnership with Mr G. Hawker, but the latter withdrew after a short while and his

place was taken by Brain's son, William Henry Brain, a partnership which ended with his father's death in 1910.

Ill-health forced W. H. Brain into semi-retirement around 1924, but he maintained a keen interest in the good name of the firm and the welfare of his employees. His son Eustace William Brain entered the pottery in 1931, and a few years later joined the Board of Directors. He went on to become Chairman and Managing Director.

Throughout their seventy years in business, the firm specialised in bone-china tea and breakfast wares of high quality and good design. After the Second World War they introduced a range of china dinnerware and good-quality china hotel ware, mainly for the great shipping lines.

The Foley China Works was one of the few manufactories where boys were trained in the traditional art of flower-painting.

In 1958 Messrs Brain took over the business of Coalport China, and adopted the Coalport name for all of its production from 1963.

When the Foley China Works were demolished, other premises were built on the site, housing a number of businesses connected to the Potteries, one of which was purchased by Keith Martin in 2006 and renamed Foley China Ltd in recognition of the heritage of the area. It was this fascinating history and the role the Foley area played in manufacturing that led us to Foley China Ltd when we first discussed a new range of Carlight china.

Sources

C. G. E. Bunt, *British Potters and Pottery Today* (F. Lewis, Leigh on Sea, 1956); Mankowitz & Haggart; Simeon Shaw, *The History of the Staffordshire Potteries* (1829); www.thepotteries.org/location/districts/foley.htm; www.worldcollectorsnet.com/Shelley.

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We have tried to be as accurate as possible with the information given in this guide but we will not be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

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