

## Ceramics

Books designed to instruct and guide collectors have multiplied of late until there is hardly a branch, bough or twig of industrial art that has not been thoroly written up. But the title of Mr. Wilde's volume, *How to Collect Continental China*,<sup>1</sup> is misleading. The book is really a collection of short histories of the old Continental porcelain factories. With each history the leading characteristics of the factory's output are given, the color of its paste, its style of form and decoration, and its marks. About seventy different old Continental factories are discussed, nearly half of which are or were French, some few of which, like the Sevres factory, being still in existence. The illustrations include specimens from more than two-thirds of the factories under consideration, and they represent the various wares admirably. Not how to collect, but what to collect, and how to recognize the productions of different porcelain factories is the lesson of the book.

Somewhere between the ponderous folios of the catalog of General di Cesnola's collection of Cypriote antiquities and the series of cheap little handbooks issued by the Metropolitan Museum is this *Catalogue of the Morgan Collection*,<sup>2</sup> a wonderful collection of Chinese porcelain, the most complete and characteristic in the world, which occupies a large room to itself that is to many intelligent visitors the most beautiful and attractive in the whole museum. First printed pri-

<sup>1</sup>HOW TO COLLECT CONTINENTAL CHINA. By C. H. Wilde. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.00.

<sup>2</sup>CATALOGUE OF THE MORGAN COLLECTION OF CHINESE PORCELAINS. By Stephen W. Bushell and William M. Laffan. 8vo, pp. xix, 193. New York: The Metropolitan Museum. \$3.00.

vately four years ago this *Catalogue* prepared by Dr. Stephen W. Bushell and Mr. William M. Laffan is now enlarged by a new historical introduction and issued by the Metropolitan Museum. Mr. Laffan is an experienced connoisseur as well as journalist, and Dr. Bushell is the best English authority on Chinese porcelain. The introduction gives the history of the art and is followed by a study of the marks, and a description of 1,115 objects, illustrated with seventy-seven unusually fine halftone plates. It is in every way a choice volume, and we commend it as a hand-book of value by itself, but indispensable to any one who can study these exquisite objects in the presence of the collection itself.

Dr. Barber's neatly bound, well-printed book<sup>3</sup> of barely fifty pages is one of the art primers issued by the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art. These little volumes are designed as condensed authoritative up-to-date reference books, giving information, in the words of the author, "based upon the latest discoveries relating to the various industrial arts." "Artificial Soft-Paste Porcelain" and "Salt-Glazed Stoneware" have also appeared in this series. Of the fifty-six examples of tin enameled pottery represented in the illustrations all but seven are to be found in the museum of which Dr. Barber is the curator. After introductory paragraphs on the characteristics and origin of this pottery, the author treats of his subject under three heads: Majolica of Italy, Spain and Mexico, its processes, forms and styles of decoration; Delft of Holland and England; and Stanniferous Faience of other European countries with their styles of decoration. Half a dozen pages of makers' or decorators' marks and a two-page chart in which the principal features of tin enameled pottery are recapitulated bring the book to a close. Except for a reference to Babylonian and Assyrian bricks, and to the enamels used by the Arabs, the author says nothing of Oriental stanniferous enamels. The volume will be specially useful to collectors, students and artisans in tin enameled pottery,

<sup>3</sup>TIN ENAMELED POTTERY, MAJOLICA, DELFT AND OTHER STANNIFEROUS FAIENCE. By Edwin Atlee Barber, A.M., Ph.D. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. 90 cents.

which ware, the author tells us, “has never been made in the United States except in an experimental way.”

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