



Wemyss cat, early 20thC, seated, smiling expression, painted with scattered sprays of purple thistles and green foliage, yellow/green glass eyes (re-stuck), impressed and black printed 'T. Goode & Co' retailer's stamp, 31cm high. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. May 07. HP: £8,500. ABP: £9,998.*



Wemyss iris bulb vase, baluster shape painted with irises and leafage in natural colours, shoulder perforated, Goode retailer mark, imp'd maker's mark, 14.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jul 06. HP: £5,200. ABP: £6,116.*



Wemyss pottery model of a seated cat, sponged black and tinged grey marks on ivory ground, painted green inscription to base, 12.75in high. *Amersham Auction Rooms, Bucks. Oct 02. HP: £4,000. ABP: £4,705.*



Wemyss cat painted with pink dog roses and set with green glass eyes, a foot restored, 12.25in high. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 00. HP: £2,800. ABP: £3,293.*



Wemyss six piece toilet set, 'Earlshall' pattern, jug and basin, chamberpot, pail and cover, flannel dish and liner and a soap dish with liner and cover, painted pattern name to each, restoration to pail and soap dish. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 07. HP: £2,000. ABP: £2,352.*



Rare Wemyss Ware pig. *Thos Mawer & Son, Lincoln. Jul 05. HP: £1,800. ABP: £2,117.*



Wemyss pottery figure by Plichta, seated, painted with red roses, 15in wide. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Aug 00. HP: £1,550. ABP: £1,823.*



Wemyss jardiniere, decorated with daffodils, marked to underside 'Wemyss, R.H & S', 12in dia. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Mar 04. HP: £850. ABP: £999.*



Large Wemyss jardiniere. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Apr 05. HP: £850. ABP: £999.*



Wemyss style pottery pig, 17cm long. *Eastbourne Auction Rooms, Sussex. Jul 02. HP: £650. ABP: £764.*

Resolving the Wemyss/Bovey/Plichta controversy

In this feature I am not too concerned about the modern 'Wemyss Ware' made at the Griselda Hill Pottery since 1985 although readers may wish to reflect on its influence on prices of the earlier outputs of the 1880 to 1960 period. Rather I wish to set out briefly an explanation of the Wemyss/Bovey/Plichta controversy before moving on to the market in these older outputs. The original Kirkaldy factory opened its doors for the first time in about 1820 as Robert Heron and Son and later honoured the family from the nearby Wemyss Castle by adopting the name Wemyss Ware. The output was sold exclusively by Thomas Goode of Mayfair, London. In the now infamous Depression of the 1920s the Pottery failed and in 1930 the Bovey Pottery in Devon bought out the name and the right to produce Wemyss Ware. It is very difficult to distinguish between the Fife and the Bovey outputs but experts in this very specialised field can tell the difference from the colouration. To be brief, the Bovey production of Wemyss Ware continued until, perhaps the late 1950s and then ceased almost entirely. Little or no wares were produced in the 1960s and 1970s and in 1985 the trade mark returned to the Griselda Hill Pottery in Fife, not far from the first factory of Robert Heron.

Jan Plichta was a Czech immigrant and wholesaler living and working in London. He never manufactured or decorated pottery but he bought largely unmarked Wemyss Ware in bulk from Bovey and had this stock marked either 'Plichta,' 'Plichta, London, England' or 'Plichta, London, Made in England' stamped under the glaze. Not all Plichta was made at Bovey as he also bought from the Elton Pottery. Jan Plichta disappears from the records in the mid 1950s.

A Wemyss ware tabby cat sold at Lyon and Turnbull in Edinburgh on the 27th January 2006 for £20,000 hammer, say about £24,000. The most I have seen paid for a Plichta cat was £1,300 hammer at the same sale. This was painted with cabbage pink roses, carried the printed mark, 'Plichta London England' and the painted mark 'Nekola, Pinxt.' It stood 27cms high. Smaller Plichta cats can fetch as little as £80 to a £100. A Wemyss pig, marked to the underside 'Wemyss Ware, Made in England, Plichta, London,' of enormous size, being 43cms long and 30cms high, sold for £1,050 hammer at Rosebery's in London in March 2004 although others have sold for about half this amount. The lowest end of the Plichta market is about £20. For a more detailed look at the market I have included 84 images and sales from the last few years. In searching out these images from our website database lots may be included that are catalogued as Wemyss style such as at **10**. However, considering the price reached was £650 hammer, this lot was probably genuine. Whilst cats and pigs are the perennials in terms of popularity, check out the iris bulb vase at **2**. This is magnificent, painted with irises and leafage in natural colours and carries the Goode retailers mark as well as the impressed maker's mark. At 14.5in high it would dominate any room and the £5,200 hammer seems entirely appropriate for such a fine work of art. At **8** and **9** are, potentially the same jardiniere as they were sold at the same auction, Gorringes, Bexhill, about a year apart. Interestingly, 'they' fetched the same price which seems about right for 'this' large and decorative jardiniere. I will leave the reader to work out the arithmetical implications if this is the same lot. What really astonishes me is the £2,000 hammer paid for the toilet set at **5**. Two of the five items have been restored. This is not an artistic and functional work of art, like the iris bulb vase but rather simple utilitarian ware that cannot possibly display well. In any event who would risk it in a modern bathroom where hard surfaces are very unsympathetic when the stakes are £2,000! I cannot see any sense in paying so much for this toilet set nor can I see it having any investment potential when two pieces have already been damaged. At **7** is our first Plichta which sold at Andrew Hartley, Ilkley, in August 2000 for over £1,800. Prices seem to have declined somewhat since. Interested readers will have much to study in these pages but I will pursue only one further theme, the lower end of the market. In the first part of my *Beginner's Guide to Collecting* on pages 36-39, I pursue the philosophy of avoiding buying in this area and in addition, saving until the better pieces come along. I might suggest here images **12**, **13**, **18**, **27** etc or at a more economical level **46**, **59**, **62** etc. The lower market is in the doldrums and there are many of the ubiquitous preserve pots available in the market place. In these pages prices go from £550 hammer at **16** down to £60 hammer at **80**. Two factors are evident, those of rarity and condition. The body of earlier Wemyss has a tendency to craze and discolour (**80**). The commoner preserve pots nowadays are frequently estimated at £100-£150 but are just as frequently fetching their lower estimate at the most and often no more than £70 hammer. It is best to avoid the commoner items and when there is crazing or discolouration, or damage or restoration, then save your money for another day. After all something like the Wemyss items shown at **15**, **16**, **20** or **29** could come along. Finally I must add my grateful thanks to www.piggybankpage.co.uk for the historical information relating to Jan Plichta. This website also draws our attention to the large number of fakes around so if you are not an expert ensure you take the usual precautions. John Ainsley



11
Wemyss pottery marmalade pot and cover, 11.5cm, dish, 9.8cm, honeypot and cover, 7cm, circular plate 14cm and square dish, 18cm. (6) *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP: £620. ABP: £729.*



12
Wemyss tyg with pink tulips and green foliage, impressed marks, 19cm high. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Oct 01. HP: £600. ABP: £705.*



13
Wemyss pig, 20thC, typically modelled seated on its haunches, sponged black patches and pink detail to ears, nose and feet, black painted, 6in long. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Jul 05. HP: £600. ABP: £705.*



14
Four Wemyss plates early 20thC, painted with beehive and bees, plums, gooseberries & an apple, imp'd marks and retailers printed mark in blue and black, for T. Goode - London, 14cm dia. (4) *Hampton & Littlewood, Exeter. Jul 04. HP: £550. ABP: £646.*



15
Wemyss heart shaped tray painted with yellow chrysanthemum, a/f, impressed mark Wemyss Ware R.H.S.12in long. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. Apr 05. HP: £550. ABP: £646.*



16
Wemyss preserve pot and cover, painted with green-gages plums, impressed mark and T. Goode & Co oval stamp, 5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jul 06. HP: £550. ABP: £646.*



17
Wemyss pottery commemorative beaker; dated 1897, commemorating the sixtieth year of Queen Victoria's reign, painted with a garland of roses & thistles, impressed mark and printed T Goode & Co, London retailers mark, 14.9cm. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP: £480. ABP: £564.*



18
Wemyss Earlsall Faire jug, 1914, painted with The Rookery pattern in black, verse around the neck-rim, 'Or whiles a clan o'roosty, Craws cangle the gither', cartouche beneath the lip inscribed Earlsall Faire, A.D. 1914, painted and impressed marks, 5.75in, handle restored. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 07. HP: £480. ABP: £564.*



19
Wemyss Victorian diamond Jubilee commemorative goblet painted with pink dog roses, square base, impressed Wemyss Ware R.H. & S. and oval T. Goode & Co mark, 5.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 00. HP: £460. ABP: £541.*



20
Wemyss preserve pot and cover, painted with yellow plums, painted mark, 5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jul 06. HP: £440. ABP: £517.*



21
Two Wemyss biscuit barrels and covers, painted with sweet peas, 5in, one damaged. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jul 00. HP: £420. ABP: £494.*



22
Wemyss goblet, hand painted pink roses, trailing blue flora and pink ribbons, 10in high. (restored) *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Drifffield. Jul 04. HP: £420. ABP: £494.*



23
Wemyss jug, painted with two dragonflies, painted/imp'd marks, 4.5in, restored crack. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 07. HP: £420. ABP: £494.*



24
Wemyss salad drainer/bowl, decorated with cabbage roses, 23cm dia. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. May 05. HP: £410. ABP: £482.*



25
Wemyss heart shaped inkwell with 2 receivers and covers, painted with pink dog roses, painted with pink dog roses, imp'd mark & oval T. Goode & Co mark, 7in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 00. HP: £400. ABP: £470.*



26
Pair of Wemyss preserve pots, cylindrical form, domed lids, painted with strawberries and a hive with bees, on matching stands, 3in high. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Apr 06. HP: £400. ABP: £470.*



27
Wemyss pottery plaque, curved oblong form, painted with violets and inscribed 'I looked for something sweet to send you and the violets asked if they would do', impressed/painted marks, 5.75in wide. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £390. ABP: £458.*



28
Wemyss earthenware pig seated on hind legs, painted with leaves, 6in long, one leg restored. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £380. ABP: £446.*

Prices quoted are actual hammer prices (HP) and the Approximate Buyer's Price. (ABP) Includes an average premium of 15% + VAT.



29
Wemyss preserve pot/cover, painted with blackberries, impressed mark and printed T. Goode & Co oval stamp, 5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jul 06. HP: £380. ABP: £446.*



30
Wemyss jardiniere, painted continuously with an orange tree and leaves, impressed mark and printed Goode retailer mark, c1910, 8.75in dia. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 03. HP: £360. ABP: £423.*



31
Wemyss wash jug and basin, painted with black cockerels. (basin cracked) *Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 05. HP: £340. ABP: £399.*



32
Wemyss pig, 16cm long. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Feb 01. HP: £330. ABP: £388.*



33
Wemyss jardiniere, painted continuously with cabbage roses and leaves between narrow turquoise borders, impressed mark and printed Goode retailer mark, c1910, (two restored cracks) 8.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 03. HP: £330. ABP: £388.*



34
Wemyss teapot/cover, early 20thC, painted with cabbage roses, printed mark, spout chip, 10.5cm. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 05. HP: £320. ABP: £376.*



35
Wemyss heart-shaped dish, painted with pink cabbage roses amongst green foliage, impressed mark and green painted 'T. Goode & Co' retailer's mark, (s.d), maximum length 12in. *Fellows & Sons, Hockley, Birmingham. Oct 03. HP: £310. ABP: £364.*

Ceramics



36
Wemyss earthenware jardiniere painted with cherries on leafy branches, 10.5in. (restored) Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £300. ABP: £352.



37
Plichta clover decorated pig, signed Nekola. Crows, Dorking. Jul 01. HP: £300. ABP: £352.



38
Wemyss wash bowl & pitcher, hand painted rose decoration, painted & impressed Wemyss mark to base, 15.5in bowl dia x 5in high. Kent Auction Galleries, Folkestone. Nov 06. HP: £300. ABP: £352.



39
Wemyss Pottery dish of heart form painted with three black cockerels, 11.75in high, impressed mark and printed T. Goode & Co mark. Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 07. HP: £290. ABP: £341.



40
Wemyss earthenware biscuit jar and cover, painted with strawberries and leaves, impressed mark, c1900, 6in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jul 03.

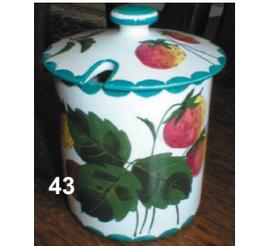
HP: £280. ABP: £329.



41
Pair Wemyss vases, trumpet shape decorated with roses, impressed marks, 20cm high. (2) Cheffins, Cambridge. Feb 05. HP: £280. ABP: £329.



42
Wemyss candlestick decorated with sweetpeas, 17.5cm high. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. May 05. HP: £280. ABP: £329.



43
Wemyss strawberry decorated preserve pot and cover, 8.5cm high. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. May 05. HP: £280. ABP: £329.



44
Wemyss heart shaped ink stand, painted with roses, glaze chips to rim, impressed mark Wemyss Ware R.H.S. and printed mark T. Goode & Co. South Audley Street, London W, 6in wide. Tring Market Auctions, Herts. Apr 05. HP: £260. ABP: £305.



45
Wemyss biscuit jar and cover, painted with pink cabbage roses and leaves, slightly domed cover with button finial, imp'd/painted script marks, 4in high, 5in dia. Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP:

£260. ABP: £305.



46
Late Victorian Wemyss pottery biscuit jar and lid, painted thistle decoration, impressed/painted marks, retailed by T Goode & Co, 11.5cm high. Reeman Dansie, Colchester. Apr 06. HP: £250. ABP: £294.



47
Wemyss ware pig, pink glaze, impressed mark to base, (a.f.) 10cm high. Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Nov 07. HP: £250. ABP: £294.



48
Wemyss style charger, painted with a cockerel, 14.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 01. HP: £240. ABP: £282.



49
Wemyss ware model of a pig. Gorrings, Bexhill. Dec 04. HP: £240. ABP: £282.



50
Wemyss ware blackberry pattern pottery preserve jar and cover, three Brannam ink pots and Devon pottery items. Gorrings, Bexhill. Oct 05. HP: £240. ABP: £282.



51
Wemyss teaware: milk jug, matching sugar bowl painted with black chickens (jug 2.5in.) and pair of side plates painted with fruit and leaves, 5.5in, one restored, painted marks in green enamel. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 05.

HP: £220. ABP: £258.



52
Wemyss cabbage rose jardiniere, c1900, spiral fluted body, impressed Wemyss Ware, R.H. & S. (for Robert Heron & Sons) small firing crack to rim, 20cm high, 23.5cm wide. Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP: £220. ABP: £258.



53
Plichta cat, seated pose with blue glass eyes, body sparsely painted with thistles in green and lilac, printed mark, Plichta London, 10.75in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jul 04. HP: £190. ABP: £223.

Images are in descending hammer price order. The price range is indicated at the start of each section.



54
Wemyss pottery dish, heart form painted green with raised crowned monogram 'C.G.', 12in high, impressed mark. Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £180. ABP: £211.



55
Plichta cat, painted with clover leaves and with green glass eyes, printed mark, 26cm. Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP:

£170. ABP: £199.



56
Wemyss 'Lady Eva' vase, waisted with undulating rim, painted with cabbage roses and leaves, painted mark, crack to rim, 8in. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 04. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



57
Wemyss 'jazzy' ware vase. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. May 06. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



58
Wemyss waisted vase, flared wavy rim and decorated with roses, pattern no. 213, 12in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 01. HP: £150. ABP: £176.

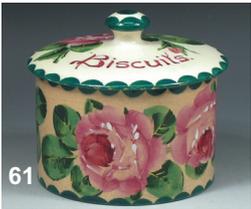


59
19thC Wemyss Ware jardiniere, cabbage rose motif. Thos Mawer & Son, Lincoln. Jul 04. HP: £150. ABP: £176.



60
Wemyss pottery jardiniere, spirally moulded and painted with pink roses, impressed mark, 19.5cm. (af) Locke & England, Leamington Spa.

Jul 03. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



Wemyss Pottery biscuit jar & cover, stamped and painted marks, retailed by T Goode & Co, South Audley Street, London, 12.5cm. (2) Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 06. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



Wemyss pottery tall mug, applied 'Thistle' pattern and quotation, yellow banding, 16.5cm high, painted mark to underside. Rosebery's, London. Sep 04. HP: £130. ABP: £152.



Wemyss curling tong tray, canted rectangular shape with green script and border, painted mark with Thomas Goode retailer's stamp, 25.5cm long. Cheffins, Cambridge. Apr 05. HP: £130. ABP: £152.



Late Victorian Wemyss pottery preserve jar/cover painted with blackberries, painted marks to base, 12cm. Reeman Dansie, Colchester. Apr 06. HP: £125. ABP: £147.



Pair Wemyss cabbage rose decorated vases, both def. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Mar 06. HP: £120.

ABP: £141.



Wemyss honey pot (no cover) painted with a bee hive, 3.25in, small base rim chip. Gorrings, Lewes. Feb 01. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



Wemyss vase, painted with thistles, impressed mark to base, cracked. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Feb 07. HP: £110. ABP: £129.



Wemyss mug, Royal Doulton George V commemorative beaker, Edward VII example, various souvenir mugs etc. Gorrings, Bexhill. Feb 06. HP: £100. ABP: £117.



Wemyss 'Strawberry' preserve jar and cover, white ground painted with colours, 10cm high, painted mark to underside. Rosebery's, London. Sep 04. HP: £95. ABP: £111.



Wemyss pottery bowl, mildly tapering sides painted with pink roses, 10.75in wide, impressed and yellow painted mark. Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb

07. HP: £95. ABP: £111.



Wemyss preserve jar/cover painted with raspberries, chips to lid, 2.75in. Gorrings, Bexhill. Mar 02. HP: £95. ABP: £111.



Wemyss sweet pea inkwell (no lid), painted mark to base (badly crazed & discoloured). Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Sep 07. HP: £95. ABP: £111.

The full colour images and descriptions, hammer and buyer's prices used from our extensive database.



Wemyss tyg decorated with flying ducks, 13in dia. af. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 00. HP: £90. ABP: £105.



Wemyss shallow bowl, rim painted with pink cabbage roses amongst green foliage, impressed mark and blue printed 'T. Goode & Co' retailer's mark, badly crazed, dia 8.75in. Fellows & Sons, Hockley, Birmingham. Oct

03. HP: £85. ABP: £99.



Wemyss Iris vase, slight chip. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Mar 06. HP: £85. ABP: £99.



Wemyss cup and saucer, painted with roses, some chips, painted and impressed marks. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Jun 07. HP: £80. ABP: £94.



Wemyss plate painted with cabbage roses, painted mark to base. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Aug 07. HP: £75. ABP: £88.



Wemyss coffee can & saucer, cabbage rose decorated, impressed and green script marks, minor paint re-touch, saucer rim chip. Richard Winterton, Burton on Trent, Staffs. Apr 04. HP: £65. ABP: £76.

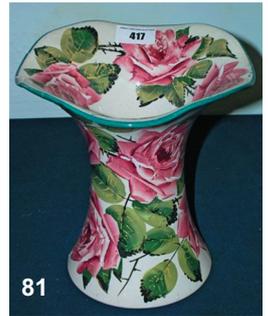


Wemyss rose-painted planter tray. Gorrings, Bexhill. Jul

05. HP: £60. ABP: £70.



Old Wemyss pottery jam jar decorated with strawberries, 12cm. Stride & Son, Chichester. Aug 06. HP: £60. ABP: £70.



Wemyss vase with flaring rim, decorated with cabbage roses, painted mark to base. (def). Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Mar 07. HP: £60. ABP: £70.



Plichta salt and pepper set, and an Italian maiolica three-division inkwell. Gorrings, Bexhill. Jun 05. HP: £55. ABP: £64.



Wemyss tray, large rose design, c1910. Aladdins Cave Auction, Danehill, Sussex. Mar 06. HP: £50. ABP: £58.



Two Wemyss pieces, a dish with mark for R. Heron and Son, and a vase with impressed and painted mark. (def) Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Mar 07. HP: £45. ABP: £52.