

The Two Ages of Poole Pottery With Price Guide

by Roland Head

The company finally succumbed in December 2006, ending a period of more than 130 years of production at the quayside in Poole. This demise seems to have had little, if any, effect on the secondary Poole market, which remains in good health. Decorative wares produced between 1924 and 1970 are most in demand. Most fall into two distinctly different categories.

Poole Studio Ware

In 1958, Poole recruited Robert Jefferson as its chief designer. His work led to the introduction of new designs and techniques, and in 1961, to the expansion and relaunch of the Poole Studio. Its output of boldly-painted and largely-abstract designs was formalised into the Delphis and Aegean ranges. It is the early, pre-Delphis studio pieces that are most collectable, in particular those pieces by Tony Morris, an artist who worked alongside Jefferson in developing the Delphis range. Morris' work has become highly collectable and regularly achieves very strong prices at auction, with large chargers favoured as they form imposing display pieces. Also much sought-after are the rarer examples of Guy Sydenham's Atlantis range, a product of the Craft Section of the Poole Studio. Each Atlantis piece was hand-made and larger pieces bearing Sydenham's monogram fetch very high prices. Lamp bases are particularly popular.

Both Morris' and Sydenham's studio work have been achieving strong values for several years now, helped by both their rarity and the current vogue for retro-styled items and art pottery. As long ago as 2001, a rare Guy Sydenham Atlantis lamp base achieved a hammer price of £5,500 at Sotheby's. Earlier this year, a very early Tony Morris Poole Studio charger (with restoration to its rim) fetched more than £4,000 at a Cheshire auction house. While these results are indicative of the demand for such items and the esteem in which their designers are held, it is hard to avoid a suspicion that current market prices might not be sustainable in the longer term, these are certainly extreme examples. Future fashions are unpredictable and it would not be especially surprising to see the value of these wares settle at a slightly lower level in the future. The Delphis and Aegean ranges that were the descendants of early-1960s Poole Studio ware have a steady following and early examples with unusual designs can fetch reasonable prices. Values for later examples drop dramatically as these were produced in greater volumes, fewer colours and had less interesting designs.

Earlier Poole: Carter, Stabler & Adams

Although Poole Studio wares are extremely popular, Poole's pre-Second World War work is of more interest. Encapsulating a combination of traditional glazes, hand-thrown pots and brush-painted designs, Poole's output in the first four decades of the twentieth century was extremely accomplished and innovative. Perhaps the most collectable pieces were produced during the Carter, Stabler & Adams era. Founded in 1921, Cyril Carter, Harold Stabler & John Adams formed a new subsidiary of Carter & Co, dedicated to producing innovative and high-quality decorative pottery and to ensuring that the company retained its competitive advantage. Of the wares produced from 1921 until 1940, perhaps most notable are the sculptural works of Harold and Phoebe Stabler and the pattern designs of Truda Adams, later Truda Carter.

Sculptural & Architectural Wares

The C.S.A. team brought a considerable breadth of talent to Poole Pottery. Harold Stabler's background as a sculptor and silversmith complemented his wife Phoebe's skills as a sculptor and designer,

and both Stablers contributed greatly to a revived interest in ceramic sculpture at Poole. They created a wide range of sculptural ceramics and also several specially-commissioned architectural wares, such as the Rugby School War Memorial. Of particular interest are the sculpted ceramic figures designed by Harold and Phoebe Stabler from around 1910 until the early 1930s. Very successful, they were produced in press-moulded form by Poole with some also being made under license by Royal Doulton and Royal Worcester. Today, good examples of these figures are fairly rare and routinely fetch hundreds of pounds each. The subject matter for these figures varies widely, with both animals and people popular choices.

Vases and Other Decorative Wares

Early decorative wares used a red earthenware body and were decorated with a hand-painted pattern on clear glaze over white slip. These red-bodied pieces are generally considered most collectable and feature some of the finest patterns of the C.S.A. era. The red body was used from 1925-1934 before being replaced by a white earthenware. This change was largely a consequence of Poole's move towards greater volumes of tableware production, for which the red body was not suitable. Early examples of the white-bodied wares were glazed pink inside, later pieces were completely white. The patterns and shapes used remained very similar to those on the earlier red bodies until after the war. However, post-war trading conditions required improvements in efficiency, particularly in the production of traditional (white ground) wares. Truda Carter had retired in 1950, leaving a vast and complex legacy of pattern designs. In 1951, these patterns began to be reduced in number and graded in complexity. Patterns were classified as elaborate, medium or simple, and the pattern markings of 1950s traditional wares were prefixed with an additional letter indicating pattern complexity. E/BN, for example, is the elaborate version of the BN pattern. Simplified and medium patterns tend to have less value and collectable appeal: they often left large areas of a piece undecorated, reducing the visual impact of the original pattern.

Pre-1924 Decorative Wares

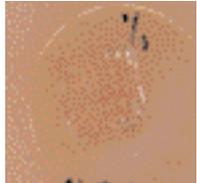
The red earthenware body so characteristic of early Poole was actually introduced in 1922, at which time it was decorated with a semi-matt grey glaze. These pieces seem a little dull to the modern eye. Perhaps it is for this reason they also have weaker values than the post-1924 pieces which were decorated with a white slip ground and clear glaze. Prior to 1922, a grey semi-stoneware body was normally used, decorated with a grey glaze and hand-painted patterns. Many of these patterns had a distinct Portuguese flavour and were originally designed by early Carter designer James Radley Young, who worked at the pottery from 1914-1921. Today these pieces are rarely found and have moderate value to collectors.

Conclusions

Collectors of Poole Pottery are likely to focus on one particular period or style, most commonly the 1924-1939 C.S.A. period or the studio ware of the early 1960s. Pattern and shape are key to Carter, Stabler & Adams collectors, while those more interested in studio ware will find that the earliest pieces, dating 1962-1966 have the greatest appeal and quite often the most interesting designs. Although the market for earlier Poole is quite mature, the market for Poole's studio ware is likely to continue to develop as tastes and fashions change, a risk and opportunity of which buyers should be aware.



'Poole England' used from 1924-50, showing pink slip used on the bases of white-bodied wares from 1934-37.



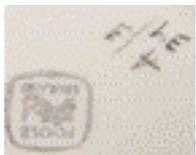
'Carter, Stabler & Adams Ltd Poole England', used from 1925-34. Showing red-bodied bases were not covered in white slip.



1952-55 'Poole England Hand Made Hand Decorated' mark, shown on a white bodied piece.



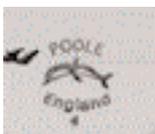
'Poole England' used from 1955-59, showing white glaze used overall on Traditional wares from 1937 onwards.



Showing E/LE marking indicating the elaborate version of the LE pattern.



Used on studio wares from 1964-66.



Used from 1966-80 on Delphis and Aegean wares.



1 Rare Atlantis range Poole Pottery stoneware lamp base, post 1969, designed by Guy Sydenham, monogrammed, impressed and incised mark, 28.25in high. *Sotheby's, Billingshurst. Mar 01. HP: £5,500. ABP: £6,469.*



2 Poole charger designed by Tony Morris, 42cm dia. *Rosebery's, London. Feb 00. HP: £1,900. ABP: £2,234.*



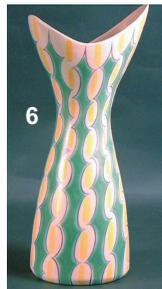
3 Early Carter, Stabler Adams, Poole pottery figure, seated mother cradling child, impressed mark, c1921-25, 8in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 03. HP: £600. ABP: £705.*



4 Carter Stabler Adams, Poole Pottery vase c1921-1934, shape 911, decorated with pattern EP by Mary Brown, stylised foliage, geometric shapes, mushroom ground, imp'd mark, shape number and artist's monogram, 8.25in high. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Jul 05. HP: £500. ABP: £588.*



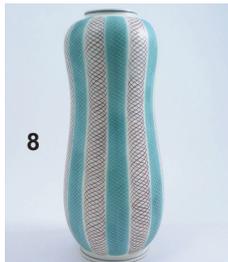
5 Near pair of Carter Stabler Adams, Poole Pottery chargers c1921-1934, ten sided, shape No. 211, pattern FW, moulded shape designed by Harold Stabler; leaping stag pattern designed by John Adams, imp'd mark, pattern number, artists monogram, 11.25in dia. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Jul 05. HP: £500. ABP: £588.*



6 Poole Pottery Freeform 'Bamboo' pattern vase, 14in high, shape No. 724. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Dec 03. HP: £480. ABP: £564.*



7 Poole Pottery vase, 10in. *Louis Taylor, Stoke on Trent. Jun 03. HP: £420. ABP: £494.*



8 Poole Pottery freeform vase, painted with set-pattern vertical stripes in red, blue and green, painted mark X / PKT, shape 702, 17in, neck-rim restored. *Gorringes, Lewes. Feb 06. HP: £380. ABP: £446.*



9 Poole Pottery 'Atlantis' studio vase by Jenny Haigh, flattened everted rim, body carved with abstract pattern and covered with rich mottled blue/green glaze, impressed factory, shape and artists initials JH to underside, height 33cm. *Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £350. ABP: £411.*



10 Carter Stabler and Adams Poole terracotta ovoid vase, shape No. 973/EB, painted by Ruth Pavely, impressed and painted marks, 7.25in. *David Duggleby, Scarborough. Apr 00. HP: £340. ABP: £399.*



11 Poole Pottery baluster vase, allover flowerheads, ZW pattern, shape 337, 10in high. *George Kidner Auctioneers, Lylington. Jan 07. HP: £320. ABP: £676.*



12 Poole Carter, Stabler, Adams majolica glazed stoneware figure of a cherub, plinth impressed 'Phoebe Stabler 1912', imp'd marks, 7in high. *Fellows & Sons, Hockley, Birmingham. Jul 03. HP: £300. ABP: £352.*



13 Poole Pottery Delphis charger, printed and painted marks, 16.5in wide. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Feb 01. HP: £300. ABP: £352.*



14 Carter, Stabler & Adams Poole vase, shape No. 973, pastel browns, painted and impressed marks, 18cm high. *Cheffins, Cambridge. Feb 05. HP: £300. ABP: £352.*



15 Mid 20thC Poole pottery jug, stylised floral patterns, ivory ground, impressed Carter, Stabler, Adams mark, 14.5in high. *Amersham Auction Rooms, Bucks. Oct 03. HP: £240. ABP: £282.*



16 Poole Pottery 'Atlantis' earthenware vase by Guy Sydenham, c1970s, carved with tread like pattern, imp'd factory stamp, GS monogram, 17cm. *Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £240. ABP: £282.*



17 Carter Stabler Adams Ltd Poole vase, incised No 970 and painted /BX to the base, 9.5in high. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Drifffield. Dec 00. HP: £220. ABP: £258.*

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

Ceramics



18
Poole Pottery Contemporary bottle vase, shape & pattern 698/PRB, slipcast, designed by Alfred Read from 1953, 38.8cm. Bristol Auction Rooms, Bristol. Jan 04. HP: £210. ABP: £247.



19
Early Carter Stabler Adams Poole pottery figure designed by Phoebe Stabler, The Bath Towel, child covered in a blue and white towel, 7.5in high, impressed mark to base, c1922. Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Jun 07. HP: £210. ABP: £247.



20
Poole Pottery vase, c1954, PRP pattern, shape No. 701, designed by Alfred Read and Guy Sydenham, painted by Diane Holloway, white and grey ground with white/red vertical banding, 32.5cm high, factory mark to underside. Rosebery's, London. Mar 05. HP: £200. ABP: £235.



21
Ten various Poole pottery animals. Gorrings, Bexhill. Oct 05. HP: £200. ABP: £235.



22
Poole Carter Stabler and Adams Summer Flowers plaque, c1921, 14 x 10.5in. Gorrings, Bexhill. Dec 01. HP: £190. ABP: £223.



23
Poole pottery Dragonfly charger. Gorrings, Bexhill. Jun 05. HP: £180. ABP: £211.



24
Carter & Co. pair of figurines, Belgian Peasant Folk modelled by Joseph Roelants, white stone ware with a fawn tin glaze, each signed to base, scratch mark to base Carter Poole, 8.5in high. Kent Auction Galleries, Folkestone. Aug 06. HP: £180. ABP: £211.



25
Poole Pottery charger, enamelled in an abstract checkered pattern in blue & green, red borders between, 14in wide. Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £180. ABP: £211.



26
Poole Pottery 'Atlantis' vase by Guy Sydenham, broad neck-rim, horizontal bands of stylised leaves, monogrammed, 6.75in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 05. HP: £170. ABP: £199.



27
Poole stoneware sleeping cat, prob. designed by Barbara Linley Adams, modelled by Nicola Massarella, impressed marks, 22cm long. Cheffins, Cambridge. Feb 05. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



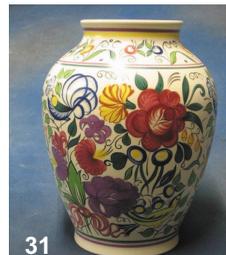
28
Two Poole studio dishes. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Jan 07. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



29
Carter Stabler and Adams Poole Pottery vase, painted in Blue Bird pattern, imp'd and painted marks, 7in high. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Feb 03. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



30
Early Poole vase, painted with 3 flying birds, stylised flowers & geometric borders in polychrome, artist's initials HE, 9.75in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 04. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



31
Poole Pottery vase decorated by N Blackinore, base signed and marked LE and with Poole Diving Dolphin mark, Made in England, 14in. Denhams, Warnham, Sussex. Jul 05. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



32
Poole pottery charger 'Eclipse' by Alan Clarke, No. 1460/1999, with certificate. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Jul 06. HP: £140. ABP: £164.



33
Carter Stabler Adams 2-handled ovoid Poole vase with fan tailed birds, 6.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jul 00. HP: £130. ABP: £152.



34
Poole Pottery 'Studio' earthenware vase, by Alan White, c2000, copper green body imprinted with diagonal pattern, printed mark to underside, 39cm. Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £130. ABP: £152.



35
Poole vase, geometric green and grey leaf decoration, 4.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 01. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



36
Poole Pottery freeform vase, printed and painted marks X/PKT, 15cm high. Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 03. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



37
Poole pottery earthenware charger; Delphis pattern, 36cm. Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Jul 06. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



38
Poole vase with daffodil and tulip decoration, 9.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jul 00. HP: £100. ABP: £117.



39
Poole Carter Stabler cream coloured vase, hand painted to shoulders blue triangles over green wave and dot banding, 7in high. Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffild. Mar 04. HP: £100. ABP: £117.



40
Poole pottery vase c1954, PRP pattern, shape No. 700 designed by Alfred Read and Guy Sydenham, painted by Dianne Holloway, the white and grey ground with white and red vertical banding, factory mark to underside, 28cm. Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £100. ABP: £117.



41
Poole Pottery Delphis charger, painted with stylised flowerheads in hues of orange, speckled brown ground, 16in wide. Hartleys, Ilkley. Aug 06. HP: £100. ABP: £117.

Ceramics



42
Poole Pottery limited edition 'Cathedral' plate, No. 400/1000, designed by Tony Morris, signed C. F. Wills, 33cm dia. *Gorrings, Bexhill. Feb 06. HP: £95. ABP: £111.*



43
Unusual Poole Delphis range vase, shape No. 90, decorated on a murky green ground, printed marks, 20cm high. *Cheffins, Cambridge. Feb 05. HP: £90. ABP: £105.*



44
Poole Pottery vase in white earthen ware design by Truda Carter & painted by Carolyn Beckwith c1980-90, 13in high, painted in spot edge pattern, signed by painter to base in black design No. 213, c1940-50. *Kent Auction Galleries, Folkestone. Aug 06. HP: £90. ABP: £105.*



45
1950s Poole pottery jardinière in green, yellow, mauve and red with three bands of horizontal rope pattern, 9in high, black printed Poole Pottery mark to base and No. 721/HYT. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Jun 07. HP: £90. ABP: £105.*



46
Poole studio pot. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Feb 06. HP: £80. ABP: £94.*



47
Poole Pottery vase decorated by Audrey Heckford, shape No. 401, 1930/40s. *Lambert & Foster, Tenterden. Dec 99. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



48
Poole pottery small twin handled vase, white ground decorated with floral display, 13cm, imp'd seal Poole England, artists initials and shape number. *Rosebery's, London. Sep 04. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



49
Poole 'Isle of Purbeck' studio vase designed by Karen Brown, abstract design of Old Harry Rocks, painted and printed marks, 26.5cm high. *Cheffins, Cambridge. Apr 05. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



50
Poole Pottery Delphis vase painted by Carole Cutler shape 85, abstract design, 40cm. *Boldon Auction Galleries, Tyne & Wear. Sep 05. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



51
Poole Pottery vase c1954, PRP pattern shape No. 697 designed by Alfred Read and Guy Sydenham, painted by Dianne Holloway, factory marks to underside, 27cm. *Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



52
Poole jug, incised No. 303, coloured stylised decoration, 7.5in high. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Jul 04. HP: £65. ABP: £76.*



53
Cartler Stabler & Adams Poole pottery vase, 19cm high, cf. *Lambert & Foster, Tenterden. Feb 04. HP: £60. ABP: £70.*



54
Poole pottery 2 handled vase, green and grey decoration. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Sep 05. HP: £60. ABP: £70.*



55
Poole pottery vase. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Sep 05. HP: £60. ABP: £70.*



56
Poole pottery vase, spattered pale terracotta glaze against a matt cream ground, imp'd marks, artists initials and No. A20/5, 8in high. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £60. ABP: £70.*



57
Large Poole bowl with initials PKT to base. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. May 07. HP: £55. ABP: £64.*



58
Poole red earthenware vase designed by Truda Carter painted by Ruth Pavely Vase 424/Co, c1930, approx 5 x 6.5in deep. *Kent Auction Galleries, Folkestone. May 07. HP: £52. ABP: £61.*



59
Carter Stabler & Adams Poole Pottery Bowl, compressed circular form, decorated stylised geometric patterns (crazed), 27cm dia. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Jun 05. HP: £50. ABP: £58.*



60
Carter Stabler & Adams Poole Pottery vase, flowers and foliage, crazed, firing faults, 20cm. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Jun 05. HP: £45. ABP: £52.*



61
Poole Carter Stabler Adams painted with stylized flowers and geometric patterns, imp'd mark, slight damage, 3.5in high. *Fellows & Sons, Hockley, Birmingham. Oct 03. HP: £45. ABP: £52.*



62
Poole charger; Aegean pattern, 13.5in dia. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 06. HP: £45. ABP: £52.*



63
Poole Pottery freeform pattern tankard, inscribed '5/NN', imp'd 126, printed factory marks, 10cm high. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Oct 03. HP: £40. ABP: £47.*



64
Poole pottery Delphis bowl of dipped circular form and of orange ground, 11in dia, base marked. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. Mar 05. HP: £40. ABP: £47.*



65
Poole Studio Collection Eclipse Ltd Edn No. 1586 designed by Alan Clarke. *Kent Auction Galleries, Folkestone. Dec 06. HP: £40. ABP: £47.*



66
Poole Delphis spear shaped dish shape No. 82 with blue, red & green stylised designs on yellow background, 43cm. *Boldon Auction Galleries, Tyne & Wear. Sep 05. HP: £38. ABP: £44.*



67
Poole bowl. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Mar 07. HP: £35. ABP: £41.*



68
Poole dish. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Sep 05. HP: £30. ABP: £35.*