



Massive and impressive Burmantofts Persian ware vase designed by Leonard King and painted with fish. Estimate £6000-8000.



Selection of interesting Burmantofts animal models including spoon warmers. Estimates £100-400 each.



Pair of pink ground Burmantofts bottle vases. Estimate £200-300. Burmantofts lustre vase decorated with fish. Estimate £300-500. Burmantofts lustre plaque decorated with a griffin. Estimate £300-500.



Large Burmantofts vases moulded and painted with flowers. Estimates £200-300 each.



Selection of Burmantofts Persian ware vases by Leonard King. Estimates £300-800.

Pictures courtesy of Bonhams, Yorkshire.

Vase from Burmantofts Pottery surfaces after a century to head Bonhams Yorkshire sale in November

Bonhams Yorkshire sale to be held at the Pavilions in Harrogate on 25th November includes a massive and magnificent vase painted in the Persian style with swimming fish designed by Leonard King.

The vase measures 74cm high and is 51cm wide and is expected to realise £6000-8,000. It has been in the vendor's family for over hundred years and was passed down from his grandfather who was the General Manager at Burmantofts Pottery. Many examples of Burmantofts Pottery can be seen in Leeds museums such as Abbey House at Kirkstall and Lotherton Hall at Aberford where they have the matching vase on view.

We also have a large collection of around 100 pieces of Burmantofts consigned from a collector from the south coast. These are wide ranging from Persian pieces, to moulded multi coloured vases, one colour vases and an interesting selection of animal pieces. The Yorkshire sale also includes pictures either of Yorkshire scenes or pictures by Yorkshire artists, as well as Yorkshire silver, clocks and furniture especially by Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson.

The sale will be on view from Sunday 23rd November at the Pavilions, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate.

The large vase came from a local gentleman whose relative was the general manager at Burmantofts Pottery. He is selling this piece and a large topographical plaque. There is a matching vase at Lotherton Hall in Leeds.

For further sale information please contact Alison Hayes on +44(0)113 234 5755 or alison.hayes@bonhams.com

Editor's comments

To my knowledge this massive and magnificent vase, shown above and to the left, could break the Burmantofts record at auction when it comes up for sale on the 29th November. Standing at 74 centimetres in height, that is, over 29 inches it would dominate any setting and represents, in its potting, in its decoration and in its firing, the very pinnacle of ceramic achievement. In the field of pottery and porcelain big is nearly always best. Rarely would any factory produce a masterpiece of this size and quality. Additionally a collection of around one hundred pieces of Burmantofts from a south coast collection is returning to Yorkshire and I have no doubt that much of this will be sold and remain in the county.

Readers should note the Louis Kramer Persian vase at 1, which fetched over £7,000 at Hartley's in 2004 and this at just over 16 inches. This suggests that the estimate of £6,000-£8,000 on the Leonard King could be modest and that the Louis Kramer vase at 7 which sold at Dee, Atkinson and Harrison in Driffield in the same year for just over £800 was a seriously good investment.

I have made the point over and over again. Collectors should always be buying the very best they can afford and when pieces like this come along should be considering buying even if money is tight. Better to sell lesser pieces than miss such opportunities. They occur only rarely. A word on the Burmantofts majolica grotesques and other animals. The four inch figures at 19 has fetched a very good price just this year at Charterhouse Auctioneers and perhaps sets the mark and the market for the future. At 25 is a dragon that is supposed to be 16 inches in height. Were they made that large and if so the £300 price tag now seems modest? The monkey at 27 is a fair price for 2007 but I think the swans at 29 will prove a very good investment indeed. Likewise the small grotesque jardinières at 38 were modestly priced in 2006 and the crocodile at 42 was simply given away in 2000 at a mere £80. The buyer must now be very pleased with the outcome.

John Ainsley

A Brief History of the Burmantofts Pottery

by Geoff Preece
Doncaster Museum Service

Burmantofts today is a residential inner suburb of Leeds, but in 1840 it was still a rural agricultural community. In 1842 one hundred acres of Burmantofts were acquired by William Wilcock and James Lassey to establish a brickworks and earthenware manufactory. This had two real advantages: first Leeds was experiencing a massive expansion and so needed a ready supply of building materials, and secondly the site chosen had abundant supplies of both clay and coal (which in the early days they also sold). The discovery of fireclay beneath the coal seam enabled them to produce chimney pots and sanitary wares. By the 1870s the firm of Wilcock & Co had become very well established, with showrooms in the city centre. It was the arrival of James Holroyd as Manager in 1879 that saw considerable technical developments and experimentation. Within eighteen months he had redeveloped the works and begun the successful production of glazed terracotta, astutely marketed as Burmantofts Faience. This came in a variety of colours and was very easy to wash down. It became a favourite material for architects (especially Alfred Waterhouse) to specify on hundreds of public buildings across the country.

In 1880 the production of art pottery, tiles and plaques began at the works, which had changed its name to the Leeds Fireclay Company by the end of the decade. The market in this new aesthetic taste had already been established by De Morgan, the Martin Brothers and the Linthorpe Pottery. Illustrated catalogues were issued throughout the 1880s and 1890s, and included a wide variety of shapes, sizes and patterns to suit all decorative purposes - from functional stick stands and garden seats, Oriental shapes and glazes, 'grotesque' plant holders, to the magnificent and technically accomplished Anglo-Persian inspired pots. But fierce competition from cheaper producers diluted the market for Burmantofts, and the art pottery department closed in 1904. Remarkably, Burmantofts was just one of several art pottery manufacturers which operated around these years in Leeds, and most of them had grown out of existing brick and tile works: the Leeds Art Pottery, the Wortley potteries (William Ingham and Joseph Cliff), the Woodlesford Art Pottery, and the Middleton Pottery. Most of these brick and tile manufacturers had amalgamated with the Leeds Fireclay Company by the 1930s.

A representative display of the art potteries of Leeds, including Burmantofts can be seen in the Yorkshire Pots and Potteries Gallery at the Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery. Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AE. Email: museum@doncaster.gov.uk. Telephone: 01302 734293. Fax: 01302 735409.



Yellow fan vase, c1885.



Glazed brick, c1900, manufactured by the Leeds Fireclay Company.



Large parti-ware vase, c1895, and two decorative tiles, c1890.

Pictures courtesy of of Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery.

Selection of Burmantofts from our Database at www.antiques-info.co.uk



1
Burmantofts faience angle Persian vase by Louis Kramer, painted with a band of large fish in green/turquoise, ivory ground with blue fish, collet turquoise foot, signed monogram to base, impressed marks, 16.25in. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 99. HP: £800. ABP: £941.*



2
Burmantofts faience 'Anglo-Persian' vase, large proportions, probably decorated by Victor Kramer, in turquoise, blue, mauve & green, design inspired by William de Morgan, 20.5in, imp'd to underside 'Burmantofts Faience 25', artist's initials 'V' or 'LK', painted No. 42 design, also No. 264, bulbous rim broken and restuck. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Dec 05. HP: £2,100. ABP: £2,470.*



3
Pair of Burmantofts faience vases, incised peacock decoration in blue/green enamels, 23cm high, imp'd No. 2202. *Ambrose, Loughton. Mar 02. HP: £1,100. ABP: £1,293.*



4
Pair of Burmantofts partie colour vases, triangular banding, small loop handles, tube lined with flowers in blue tones, cream ground, 16in high, mould No.2059. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley, W Yorks. Feb 06. HP: £850. ABP: £999.*



5
Burmantofts faience plaque, depicting fishing boats approaching the coast, green glazes, impressed mark, 17.75in.. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 99. HP: £800. ABP: £941.*



6
One of a pair of Burmantofts, faience green glaze tiles, relief moulded, 11.75in wide, unsigned, impressed marks to reverse. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 01. HP: £750. ABP: £882.*

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



7
Burmantofts faience pottery vase of bottle form painted in lznik style with white flowers on a blue ground, design No. 68, signed L.K and numbered 347, 13.25in. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Nov 04. HP: £700. ABP: £823.*



8
Burmantofts faience vase, tall bellied form, moulded rim, spreading foot, incised with stylized scales covered in a raspberry glaze, 15in high. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Aug 06. HP: £654. ABP: £769.*

Ceramics

Selection of Burmantofts continued from previous page



9
Burmantofts faience vase, flared rim, moulded and tube lined with Persian flowers, in tones of green and turquoise, spreading foot, 18in high, No. 2063. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Oct 05. HP: £600. ABP: £705.



10
Burmantofts faience jardiniere on stand, frilled rim, cylindrical stand, moulded with panels of sunflowers on a cream and brown ground, 37.5in high, No. 1947B and 1948B. Hartleys, Ilkley. Jun 06. HP: £600. ABP: £705.



11
Burmantofts faience jardiniere on stand, whole moulded with panels of flowerheads in tones of turquoise, cream and brown, spreading base, No. 1943 and 1944, 42.5in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £600. ABP: £705.



12
Burmantofts faience jardiniere on stand, frilled flared rim, whole moulded with panels of sunflowers, in tones of turquoise and yellow, 35in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £560. ABP: £658.



13
Burmantofts faience pottery vase, shape No. 2046, colour No. 34, 13.25in high. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Aug 00. HP: £520. ABP: £611.



14
Burmantofts faience squat baluster vase with isnik style decoration, monogrammed KL, 1902, 7in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 00. HP: £500. ABP: £588.



15
Burmantofts faience plaque, moulded in relief with a Classical maiden picking apples, brown glaze, signed E H Hargeaves ?, 27.25 x 15in. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley, W Yorks. Feb 06. HP: £430. ABP: £505.



16
Burmantofts nautilus shell jardiniere and stand, English c1900, shell on a rockwork base, reeded column, moulded with stars, mustard yellow glaze, monogram mark to base and pattern numbers 816 and 1201, 142cm. Rosebery's, London. Dec 05. HP: £420. ABP: £494.



17
Late 19thC Burmantofts faience ware Anglo Persian vase by Louis Kramer, c1887, painted with flower sprays, collar and roll over rim in turquoise, green and brown, cobalt blue ground, impressed marks, numbered 74, painted marks DSG.111 (798) and LK monogram, 7.5in high. Fieldings, Stourbridge. Apr 05. HP: £400. ABP: £470.



18
Burmantofts faience vase, Louis Kramer, painted with foliage in turquoise and blue, white ground, with mottled glaze to interior, spreading foot, 8.25in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 06. HP: £360. ABP: £423.

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



19
Pair of Burmantofts figures, as stylised dragons, 10cm high. Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Apr 08. HP: £350. ABP: £411.



20
Burmantofts faience stick stand, tube lined with irises, cream ground, turquoise and brown rim and foot, 24.5in high, impressed No.2026. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Apr 06. HP: £320. ABP: £376.



21
Burmantofts faience jardiniere, moulded with flowers and covered in a turquoise glaze, on similar associated stand, 29.5in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 07. HP: £300. ABP: £352.



22
Pair of yellow glazed Burmantofts vases, raised decoration, concentric ringed handles, impressed marks to underside, 21.3cm high. Rosebery's, London. Mar 04. HP: £280. ABP: £329.



23
Burmantofts faience jardiniere of bellied form moulded with a band of flowers above a leafing branch, turquoise on a cream ground, No.944, 36.75in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £280. ABP: £329.



24
Three Burmantofts faience pottery vases, c1890, a sang de boeuf glazed vase with pinched base, 29cm, a yellow glaze vase, pinched sides and a turquoise vase with incised decoration, 13.5cm, each impressed and numbered, and another similar. (4) Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 06. HP: £260. ABP: £305.



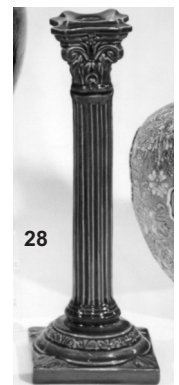
25
Burmantofts blue majolica figure of a seated dragon with glass inset eyes, 16in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 01. HP: £260. ABP: £305.



26
Burmantofts faience jardiniere, 11.5in dia. Gorrings, Bexhill. Jun 03. HP: £240. ABP: £282.



27
Burmantofts faience figure, of a monkey, 1996, one glass eye missing, 7cm high. Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Nov 07. HP: £220. ABP: £258.



28
Pair of Burmantofts faience candlesticks, Shape No 1198, impressed marks, 11.25in high. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Oct 00. HP: £200. ABP: £235.



29
Pair of Burmantofts faience jardiniere, modelled as swans covered in a yellow glaze, 7.75in wide. Hartleys, Ilkley. Aug 06. HP: £190. ABP: £223.



30
Burmantofts faience draughts board, turquoise glaze with foliate moulded border, 8.25in wide, and a canted square paper weight moulded with urns and stiff leaves, 3.5in wide. (2) *Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £190. ABP: £223.*



31
Burmantofts faience yellow glazed urn pattern vases with pierced/textured banding, square footrim, 9.75in high, impressed mark to base, slight damage to piercing, a similar Hungarian moulded ewer with raised circular paterae, 11in, and a Chinese turquoise glazed vase with moulded dragon entwined to neck, 12in high. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Apr 07. HP: £180. ABP: £211.*



32
Pair of Burmantofts aesthetic blue majolica vases, incised floral decoration, pattern No.1666, both chipped, 8.5in.s *Gorringes, Bexhill. Mar 02. HP: £170. ABP: £199.*



33
Burmantofts faience vase, flared rim, incised with stylised flowerheads, in a turquoise glaze, spreading foot, 15.5in high. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £160. ABP: £188.*



34
Pair of Venetian blue glaze Burmantofts pedestals, moulded with trailing ivy, 3ft 6in. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Dec 01. HP: £140. ABP: £164.*



35
Burmantofts faience bulbous jardiniere and matching pedestal, leaf moulded bodies decorated in brown and turquoise, jardiniere 12.75in dia x 12in high, cracked and repaired, pedestal 30in high, impressed mark to base with pattern No. 2153 and 2154, both with Cat. No. 74.

Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Oct 05. HP: £140. ABP: £164.

This section is only a sample from 1000s of results from recent sales. See our website for an extensive selection.



36
Chamber candlestick c1900, green/ochre majolica and lustre glazes, handle modelled as a lizard, impressed 'Burmantoft Faience 834', 12cm dia at base. *Richard Winterton Auctioneers, Burton on Trent, Staffs. Sep 01. HP: £130. ABP: £152.*



37
Late 19thC Burmantoft's Iznik jardiniere, design No. 52 and 240, 27.5cm dia. *Cheffins, Cambridge. Sep 01. HP: £130. ABP: £152.*



38
Two Burmantofts yellow glazed pottery jardiniere in form of grotesque animals, each on three clawed feet, 8 x 5.5 x 7in high, one with impressed factory mark, one rear leg repaired. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Feb 06. HP: £130. ABP: £152.*



39
Burmantofts faience jardiniere, moulded with a band of flower heads above zig-zag banding, covered in a turquoise glaze, 10.5in wide, No 1424. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Oct 06. HP: £120. ABP: £141.*



40
Burmantoft faience pottery twin handled vase, tapered cylindrical neck angled ribbed handles, embossed pattern covered in yellow and red glaze, 15cm high, impressed factory marks and initialled 'J.T.'. *Rosebery's, London. Sep 04. HP: £100. ABP: £117.*



41
Late Victorian Burmantofts green glaze earthenware jardiniere, moulded floral decoration, 9in. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Mar 02. HP: £85. ABP: £99.*



42
Burmantofts majolica novelty vase modelled as a crocodile with open mouth, 6.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 00. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



43
Pair of Burmantofts faience pottery sleeve vases, moulded in relief with reeded vertical panels & starbursts, turquoise glaze, impressed marks, No. 831, 8in high. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £70. ABP: £82.*



44
Burmantofts jardiniere, impressed geometric design, green glaze, impressed mark, Burmantofts Faience England, shape No. 2052A, 5.5in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jan 04. HP: £55. ABP: £64.*



45
Burmantofts Pottery vase, flared frill rim, decorated with basket weave base and starbursts, mottled red glaze, impressed mark and shape No. 773, 6in high. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £52. ABP: £61.*



46
Burmantofts Faience wall plate, moulded in low relief and painted with blossom, blue ground, impressed mark, model No. 96, 10in. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £50. ABP: £58.*



47
Burmantofts vase, undulating ovoid body, incised with starbursts, deep yellow body, impressed monogram, shape No. 236, 6in high. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £42. ABP: £49.*



48
Burmantofts vase, frill edge neck, overall deep yellow ground incised with small sun bursts, 6in high. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £40. ABP: £47.*



49
Burmantofts Faience jardiniere stand, decorated in green glaze, moulded with three floral panels, model No. 1984, together with an associated jardiniere. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Nov 06. HP: £32. ABP: £37.*



50
Burmantofts pottery small jardiniere, pale lilac ground intaglio moulded with floral and foliate panels, pendant from the scalloped rim, impressed marks, No. 1085, 7in dia. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £30. ABP: £35.*



51
Burmantofts style jardiniere stand, decorated in green and brown glaze, moulded with scrolls and shells in the Art Nouveau manner, together with an associated jardiniere. *Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Nov 06. HP: £18. ABP: £21.*