Hand-Painted Porcelain Pastime

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- For young ladies in mid-Victorian England and Europe, painting china was considered an accomplishment. This pastime eventually became popular in America.
- The Limoges factories in France sent thousands of china blanks to eagerly awaiting (mostly) women, who decorated a variety of pieces that ranged from entire tea sets, plates, trays and even massive punchbowl sets.
- Painting porcelain is no longer the pastime it once was, instead collecting these pieces is now a pastime. All types of painted china can be found on internet sites. However, garage sales and flea market discoveries are usually at give-away prices because the value of many porcelain pieces is mostly sentimental.

Mattie Waide
prolific painter of porcelain china

Excerpt from ‘Eastport Sentinel’, December 21, 1898, p.3:

The exhibition and sale of hand painted china given by Mrs. E.S. Waide at the home of her brother Geo. C. Loring, last Wednesday and Thursday was largely attended, and many pieces of the handsome decorated ware found their way to the homes of purchasers, while those who did not buy feasted their eyes on the beautiful painted articles, any of which would enhance the value of any connoisseur's collection of art china.

Photo Credit & Newspaper Excerpt: Tides Institute & Museum of Art (Collection Items)

Examples of Mattie Waide's Work

Photo Credit: Tides Institute & Museum of Art (Collection Items)

Loose Leaf Bound Book of Watercolors and Drawings for Hand Painted China, c. 1900
From the home of Mattie Waide

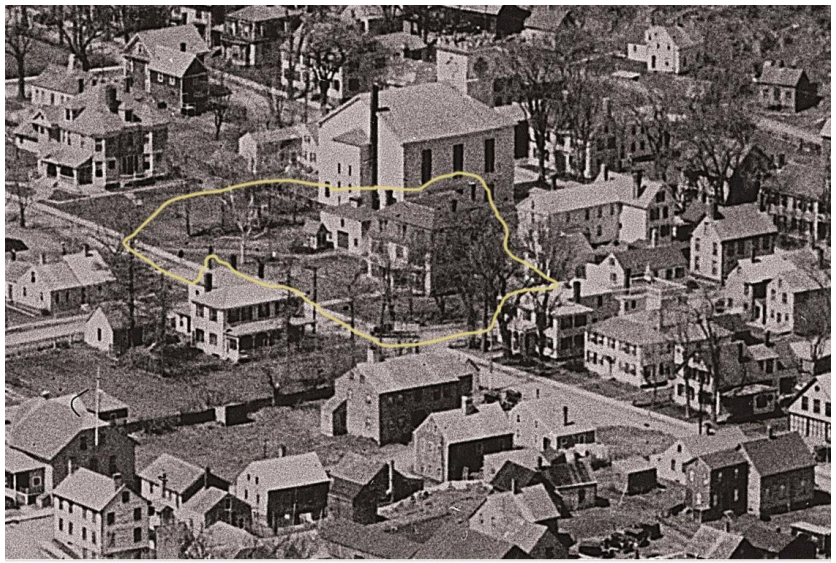
Small Bowl. Hand Painted Porcelain.
Mattie Waide

Photo Credit: Tides Institute & Museum of Art (Collection Items)

Mattie Waide
in front of her house at
17 Boynton Street, Eastport

The historic Hayden House, where Mattie Waide lived, still stands today.

The address is
17 Boynton Street.



Aerial View of Hayden House, c. 1930s

Design your own
‘porcelain plate’ using
Mattie Waide
as inspiration!

Materials:

- White paper plate or white paper
- Regular plate for tracing (if you don’t have a white paper plate)
- Pencil
- Crayons/Markers/Paint/Stickers/Scrapbook paper
- Glue (if you decide to glue on a design)
- Scissors (if you don’t have a white paper plate)

Instructions:

- If you don’t have a white paper plate, use a regular plate to trace a circle onto white paper then cut out the circle
- Draw your design in pencil first, not necessary but it is helpful
- Color or paint your pattern
- Another option is to cut out pieces of scrapbook paper and glue on your design

Once you’re finished, post a picture of your **‘porcelain plate’** in the comments section of the activity on Facebook.

We’d love to see your creations!!

References:

Hand-painted Porcelain

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Hand-painted China Was A Popular Hobby

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Hand-painted Porcelain: Women Played a Major Role

https://journalofantiques.com/features/hand-painted-porcelain-women-played-a-major-role/