



### Section M-Narrative



Photo 4 Plain white ironstone Chinese shape coffee/tea pot pictured next to a Tea Leaf Chinese shape coffee/tea pot

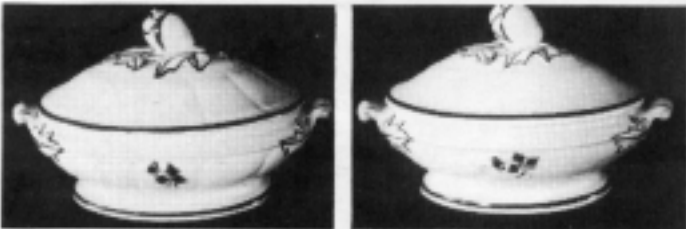


Photo 5: Covered vegetable-casserole with panels and covered vegetable casserole without panels; both definitely Chinese shape but the one without panels is highly unusual. Both are by Anthony Shaw.

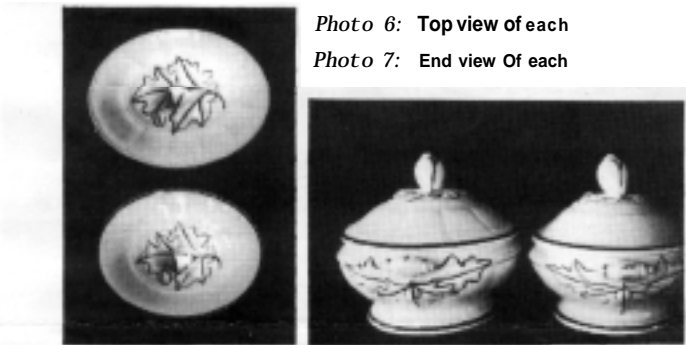


Photo 6: Top view of each  
Photo 7: End view of each



Photo 8: Table set with Chinese shape Tea Leaf

Anthony Shaw's Chinese Pattern is one of the more elusive for Tea Leaf collectors and is generally difficult to find. (For purposes of this article, the authors have chosen not to call this pattern by its other common name, "Panel," for reasons which will be discussed later.) In fact, we can find no apparent reason for the pattern to be named "Chinese" and its oriental name has not yet been attributed to any definite origin. (As a matter of fact, relations between China and England were very poor at this time; 1856 was the start of the Anglo-Chinese War.)

Tea Leaf collectors seem to have definite opinions about the Chinese shape..and those opinions range from "marvelous use of embossing and copper lustre" to "gaudy and overdone." It is, in fact, one of the more highly decorated of the Tea Leaf patterns. From the bud and leaf finials to the berry decoration around the handles, there is nothing subtle about this pattern.

Shaw used the plain white Chinese body and began decorating it with their Popular Tea Leaf pattern (see Photo 4). Until recently, it was commonly thought that one of the most distinguishing ways to identify Chinese was by the definite panels on nearly all the Pieces. Most "flat" Pieces (Plates, soup bowls, etc.) have ten embossed "panels" running around the borders, although the exact number of panels seems to be inconsistent. Recently, however, a covered vegetable (casserole) also made by Anthony Shaw, was discovered which has *no panels* (see Photos 5-7). The two pieces pictured are exact, except for the embossed panels.

A tableful of Shaw's Chinese Tea Leaf is a sight to behold (see Photo 8). This photo is particularly special. Several Tea Leaf Club members Collect this style (the authors of this article included) and, until late-1986, no soup tureen had been discovered for this pattern. Then, surprisingly, one showed up in Connecticut and, just two months later, another surfaced at an auction near Boston. Note that in Photo 9 both the soup and sauce tureens are pictured, along with their correct ladles. (Note, too, in Photo 10, that even the inside of the bowl of the ladle is panelled!)

One of the most interesting and challenging things about collecting this Pattern (and one of the most frustrating) is that everything seems to come in two (or more) sizes. Just when you think you've got a coffee or tea set, you find, for example, that there are two sizes of sugar bowls, two sizes of creamers, several sizes and styles of handleless cups (one design has the Tea Leaf in the bottom of the cup and the other has two Tea Leafs on the outside of the cup..and there are saucers to match each of the cups!), two sizes and styles of waste bowls (they match the handleless cups), and those very unusual handled tea cups or Possets (sometimes also called hot toddy, hot chocolate or syllabub cups). [See Photos 11-15.1 While we have not yet seen a second size coffee or tea pot or handled coffee cups, they probably were made, and would be proportionately-sized to the sugars and creamers.

And, like most Tea Leaf sets Chinese was not confined to the kitchen. It's the lucky collector who can boast having all the pieces to the bath set (see Photo 19).

While it is not known when Shaw ceased production of Tea Leaf on the Chinese body style, or what pattern followed it out of the Factor-v, an interesting quirk of fate did bring the Chinese shape back 100 years later. The Red Cliff china decorating company purchased original pieces of Tea Leaf and sent them to the Hall China Company to be reproduced in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Red Cliff copied several of the classic original English styles including Shaw's Chinese sugar bowl, creamer and coffee pot. These pieces are marked with the standard Red Cliff mark (see GILLI Pages 179 & 180).