

**A CENTURY OF POTTING IN THE
CITY OF WORCESTER: BEING THE
HISTORY OF THE ROYAL
PORCELAIN WORKS, FROM 1751
TO 1851**

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A Century of Potting in the City of Worcester: Being the History of the Royal Porcelain Works,
from 1751 to 1851 by R. W. Binns

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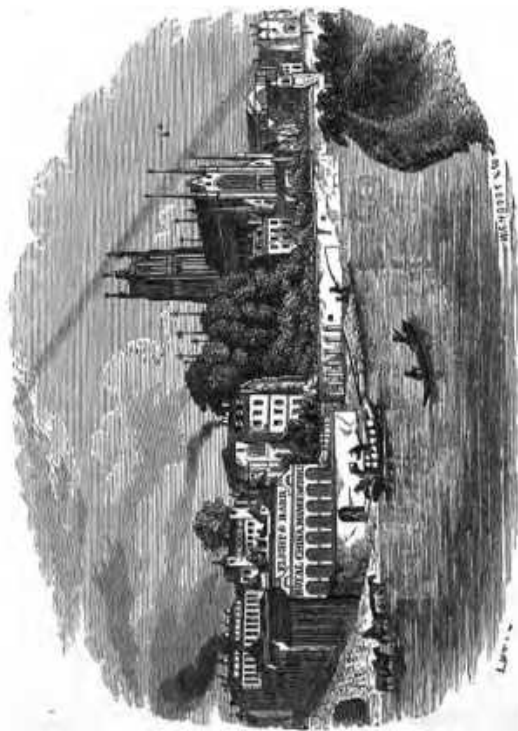
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R. W. BINNS

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THE WORCESTER PORCELAIN WORKS FROM 1751 TO 1840.

ENTURY OF OTTING

IN

The City of Worcester,

BEING

THE HISTORY

OF THE

ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS,

FROM 1751 TO 1851,

TO WHICH IS ADDED

*A short account of the Celtic, Roman, and Mediæval Pottery of
Worcestershire,*

BY

R. W. BINNS, F. S. A.,

A Proprietor of the Royal Porcelain Works, and the Art Director since 1851.

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29 JAN 1953

TO

The Citizens of Worcester,

THIS ACCOUNT

OF A MANUFACTURE, WHICH FOR UPWARDS OF

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

HAS BEEN HONORABLY ASSOCIATED

WITH THE NAME AND COMMERCE OF THEIR

CITY,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

R. W. BINNS.



P R E F A C E .

UNDER ordinary circumstances a simple memoir like the present might have been issued without preface or apology, but as I make no pretension to literary ability, and the engrossing cares of my department leave me little time to cultivate those "melting harmonies of sound" or "vigorous condensations of sense" so necessary to render even an essay on pottery readable, I confess that it is with much diffidence I have entered upon the task of preparing my notes for publication.

If my history should prove of any value, I must thank the zeal of that eminent antiquary, Mr. Mayer, of Liverpool, for the incitement to undertake it. In 1855, that gentleman obtained possession of some valuable papers which induced him to claim for Liverpool the invention of the art of transfer printing. As tradition for nearly 100 years had assigned to Worcester the credit of this invention as applied to porcelain, I became desirous of retaining the fame so long enjoyed by our city, and to this end com-

menced investigating the subject, collecting porcelain and copper-plates, together with such oral and documentary evidence as my position in the works enabled me to obtain. The result of these investigations I have detailed in this memoir. In the course of my researches so many interesting specimens came under my notice, and I found so much matter to my hand in our own establishment, unvalued because unknown, both in the old moulds (many of them belonging to the earliest period of our history), and a large number of ornamental and marked pieces which were still remaining in the warehouse, that I was tempted to arrange a cabinet of specimens which should be in itself an illustrated history of the Porcelain Works.

The earlier portion of my history has been a source of serious difficulty, all the old books and papers belonging to the company having been destroyed. I have had therefore to search amongst local histories, newspapers, city records, title deeds, and such like documents, for information which I ought to have been able to obtain in a more direct manner.

There can be no doubt that amongst the private papers of many old county and city families documents exist, of little importance in themselves, but which might throw some interesting light on Doctor Wall's scheme for the establishment of the Porcelain Works. I need not say that I should deem it a great favour to be