

# Convention 2021: English Origins – Returning Home

By Jeff Siptak

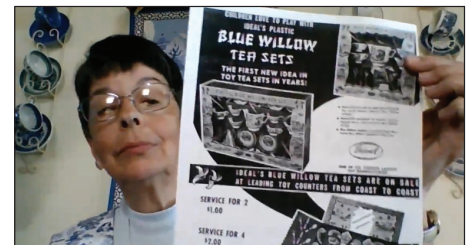
It seems COVID-19 and the pandemic that followed extended itself just a bit longer than willow collectors would have liked, making it necessary for planning another virtual convention. Hugh and Kathy Sykes stepped up again to organize and chair IWC's second virtual convention on Facebook, July 8-11. The theme was "English Origins – Returning Home." As last year, attendees enjoyed several days of special posts, messages and photos from fellow collectors.

With one virtual convention under their belt, Hugh and Kathy knew what it took to get IWC's 36th convention underway and they again did a great job, working tirelessly to make it a success. By April, the Sykes were sending out Facebook messages with plans, speakers and special events that were to be held over the four-day event.

Since Facebook was the format for the event, unfortunately only current IWC members with a Facebook account could participate. More than 130 members connected, with that number being even higher with many couples and friends joining in under one name. Many of our favorite events were featured, from Show & Tell to the Place Setting Competition to the final-night Banquet. There was even a Grand Sale, in a Facebook kind of way.

Although the Sykes were quick to thank all those who contributed videos and presentations, extreme gratitude needs to go to them for creating dozens of videos, which included welcomes and local tours, crafts and tea time,

(cont'd)









area antique shopping, raffles and giveaways, favorites from their collection and more. All in all, over 40 presentations and videos were uploaded, plus hundreds of photos.

As is tradition, the convention started with Show & Tell. Everyone was quick to showcase their willow collections, whether it be an entire wall or individual pieces. Some posted videos, some photos. Although we missed the chance to see so much great willow in person, the virtual convention format allowed us to see pieces that may never make it to a traditional convention.

Two other popular events quickly followed, the Place Setting Competition and the Arts & Crafts Contest. We saw some great creativity in both. Winners were selected by a group of non-IWC individuals. You can see the winners on page 14.

This year, Jeff Siptak asked member sellers in IWC's Facebook Marketplace to list items for sale, so in a way there was a Grand Sale. Many unique pieces of willow found new homes as buyers and sellers did a little business in the marketplace over a few days.

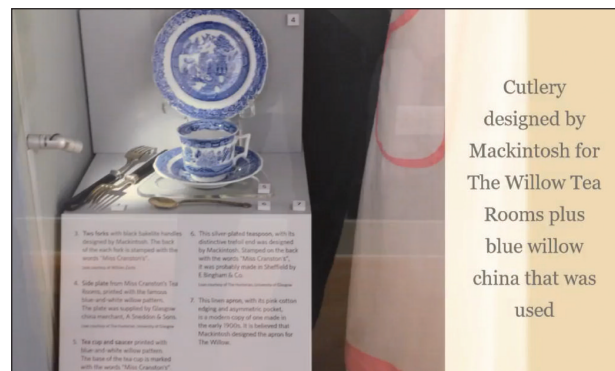
On Saturday night everyone was asked to have their own willow banquet and then share photos. Members gathered around their willow-filled tables, some inviting family and friends to join them.

As with all of our conventions, this one came to a close on Sunday as James Cail delivered a blessing message for everyone.

So now we look forward to an in-person convention in 2022, and hope things will go as planned for that to happen in Oklahoma City.



Willow for hospitality wares



Cutlery designed by Mackintosh for The Willow Tea Rooms plus blue willow china that was used



There is no doubt we owe Hugh and Kathy Sykes a huge THANK YOU for chairing our conventions virtually for two years. I would like to also thank everyone who joined in the fun. You all made this a success and I enjoyed seeing so many interesting items and collections. Take a look at the Convention Photo Showcase, starting on page 16, to see some of what was shared.

I hope to see all of you next year—in person!  
Happy collecting!







## WILLOW ORIGINS – RETURNING HOME ENGLAND 2021 PRESENTATIONS

Willow and Royals Together – Brenda Hoffer

Cape Ann Blue Willow

Cayman Islands National Museum

Clocks and Willow – Paul Kirves, Zeke Jimenez, Kathy & Hugh Sykes

Coalport The History and Story – Don LaFont

Coalport For Dinner – Don & Joyce LaFont

Willow Collection – Ernie Norris

Everyday Willow – Kathy Sykes

Booths Collection – Ira Redman

Old Willow, Your Own Fragment of History –

Guest presenter Adam McIntosh from

jewelry makers Two Skies, Scotland

British Blue Willow Origins in Family, Words and Song –

Jennifer Caither, Ruth Swartz, Bernie & Suzie Crist

Travels to England – James & Judy Cail

Our First Trip To England – James & Judy Cail

Newark Fair “Exhaustion & Overloading” – James & Judy Cail

Newark to Chipping Campden – James & Judy Cail

Oxford Willow, CS Lewis & Nets – James & Judy Cail

Last Stop London, Then Home – James & Judy Cail

Mulberry Burleigh – Kathy Sykes

Willow Tea Caddies – Kathy Sykes

The Wonderful World of Doulton Willow – Jeff Siptak

Tea Etiquette – Kathy Sykes

The Lennon Sisters, “Willow Pattern Song” (remastered)

Origins (Willow Origins – Returning Home) – Loren Zeller

Make A Plate Rack – Hugh Sykes

Macintosh At The Willow, Glasgow, Scotland – Nancee Rogers

New Zealand Road Trip 2021 – Hugh & Kathy Sykes

Rebecca Pan, “Willow Pattern Blues” (remastered)

Glass Engraving – Sandra Bladen

Stapled Willow – Kathy Sykes

A Visit To Zealand Tea Estate – Hugh Sykes

Willow and Cheese – Christy Sturtevant

Frogs n Mugs – Christy Sturtevant

Printing Plates – Christy Sturtevant

Tilting Coffee Pot – Christy Sturtevant

Celestial Tea – Hugh Sykes

Sunday Blessings – James Cail



# HERE ARE A FEW MORE PHOTOS....





# ...FROM VIRTUAL CONVENTION 2021

