



Club and Diamond dishes from the set

David Trachtenberg and Gerry Perlman found a set of four oval dishes at a show in New Jersey recently and would like to know what they would have been used for. Clearly there is some connection with playing cards or a specific card game. Whatever their purpose they are most interesting examples of Mauchline Ware. Do write in if you can throw any light on their purpose or if any of you have any similar? We are very grateful to receive this contribution from the U.S.A. and hope it will stir other North American members to contribute to the Journal!

Isobel and Andy Lawson have missed the worst of our winter weather, enjoying a good holiday in Australia and New Zealand. During their time in Australia they sent us this note:

“We are currently in Mildura, Victoria and stumbled across this book...not in the best of health, but is it of any relevance to your record of books?” The book in question is *The Golden Calendar*, arranged by Lucy Larcom, a birthday book with sycamore boards, the front one carrying a print of a spray of roses. They managed to barter the price down from 25 to 20 Australian dollars, which works out about £12.50 at the current exchange rate.

The reference to my record of books refers to the list I compiled of examples of books bound in Mauchline Ware boards, published as Appendix 1 in Mauchline Ware, a Collector's Guide by David Trachtenberg and Thomas Keith (2002). It is also available on the Mauchline Ware Web Site (under Reference Work in the Members' section). Any additions or corrections still gratefully received!

William Hodges

Leslie and Sheila Jones sent in this account of a Mauchline Ware theme to Burns' night which shows the tradition is alive and well in rural Gloucestershire: “We started holding Burns Night suppers on our arrival in Gloucestershire 40 years ago. It started off with a small group of friends at home but after a few years such was the interest and enjoyment of MacSween's haggis that we



began holding the occasion at the local pub. Here we could squeeze in 40 people, but even then there was often a waiting list. The Scots came out the woodwork, including a KOSB-trained piper, a Burns scholar from Largs and a Macdonald from Dumfries with pretensions to be the Clan chief. Not surprisingly there were no difficulties, indeed there was competition, in getting people to Address the Haggis and expound on the Immortal Memory. In more recent years we have resorted to holding the supper in friends' houses and this year 17 sat down to celebrate the 258th anniversary of the Bard's birth. The haggis was “piped” in by a saxophonist!

As there were some guests who were first-timers at a Burns Supper we put out the small display of Burns-related Mauchline Ware illustrated here. Some of these pieces have featured over the years in the Journal.”

More on John Reckless' query about spice boxes (last issue, page 15) Jane Bowen sends this comment:

“Following the note about Martin Harper's spice box in the December issue, I have seen 2 similar sized metal spice boxes, both of which had a metal divider, creating seven sections within the box. Presumably Martin's box originally had a similar wooden divider.” Martin himself writes “Towards the very end of last year I saw a similar but slightly larger specimen at a local auctioneers that contained a complete set of smaller pots each labelled with the name of a spice on the lids. To my wife's disgust I bought it – “Why do you want that? - it's not even proper Mauchline!”

With thanks to Thomson, Roddick & Medcalf, Auctioneers, Carlisle, for the photographs

