

Blackpool Ceramic Souvenirs¹.

(Abstract)

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This paper discusses a range of small white ceramic objects which were purchased in their thousands as gifts by certain working class holidaymakers in Blackpool from the end of the nineteenth century to the first third of the twentieth. The earlier ones were embossed with the town's coat of arms which were later replaced with iconic views. Both emphasised the 'otherness' of holiday Blackpool compared to the workaday world of the industrial hinterland. The paper asks: Who bought them? Why? Who were they bought for? What happened to them after their purchase? What do they reveal of the social organisation of the people involved?

Fieldwork among the over seventies revealed that these ornaments were predominantly bought by daughters for their mothers who collected and displayed them as demonstrations of filial esteem and who incorporated them into the domestic world by integrating them into their domestic cleaning cycles. After the death of the mother they were invariably dispersed and now appear in junk shops and increasingly in lower level antique centres as collector items.

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