

Bonjour ‘Orange Trees & House’ Tea Set

By Clarice Cliff

Circa 1930

A *Orange Trees and House* tea set, comprising : tea pot, milk jug, sugar bowl, cake plate, 6 cups/saucers/sideplates, cake plate.

Height : tea pot 17 cms

Marks : “*The Biarritz, Royal Staffordshire, Great Britian, Regd no. 184849, Clarice Cliff, Wilkinson England*”

References : Richard Green and Des Jones, *The Rich Designs of Clarice Cliff*, Rich Designs, 1995, pictured and described pgs. 189 and 190.



This set was very definitely 'made to order', as production of ***Trees and House*** stopped in 1934, and all plates in the set are dated 1936. The pattern was part of the Bizarre range, and no pieces carry this mark. Furthermore, the pieces are obviously painted by the same hand, due to the regularity of the pattern across the pieces. The colour is a rich dark reddish orange, unusual for this design. The Bonjour shaped teapot, milk jug and sugar bowl, matched with conical cups, and Biarritz shaped plates and saucers, further confirm that the set was 'made to order'. The rectangular Biarritz plates are a big plus, as they present the pattern in an extremely attractive way, even the side plates are totally covered with the design. The conical cups are far and away the most desirable shape for cups.

The ***Trees and House*** range comprises three colourways : red, orange, and pastel. The orange colourway is the most commonly found.

To find a complete tea set in such good unused condition is rare. This set comes from an original complete set of two tea sets, which is why we are able to offer a complete set without any damage. The set has lived its life in the same family since its purchase in the late 1930's.



BURR & MUIR

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Article by Leonard Griffin in the Clarice Cliff Collectors' Club Magazine :

Amazing discovery in South Africa

I have a wonderful NEW story to share. The days of 'discovery' in the CC world have grown few, but from South Africa a story of a great Bonjour teaset, which started out as a TWELVE person set, AND one which enhances our understanding of how the factory worked AND how many years after a pattern was produced it was still possible to order it. Ricki Gray was the key to this story and did amazing images of this set, + the story behind it – thanks Ricki.

The set originated in Durban, South Africa and Ricki was fortunate to have access to it. The story is that:

"the set was ordered from a Clarice catalogue in 1936 in South Africa. It's a very rare set because of the pattern and shape combination. The lady who ordered it was a fourth generation farming family, and it has been handed down to the fifth generation, the owner is now in her late 50s."

Ricki reports "It is beautifully painted, and I have never seen side plates with the full design on. The tea pot has a full mirror image on both sides"

The academic significance of the set is that although matchings of Trees and House were done this set is datemarked March 1936 (3>36) so could not have been painted until April or June, and then had to be shipped by sea, to South Africa, so it got there late 1936. The backstamp is JUST 'Clarice Cliff' which fits with our date of March 1936 for the 'Bizarre' marks being phased out after the death of the King in January 1936.**

Also the *outliner* won't have been one of the original painters of this pattern, hence the stylistic differences, and it also looks different as the *Honeyglaze* was much paler / clearer by 1936.... and ware better fired.

I had previously assumed T & H was finished by 1933, this set moved that date back to 1936 AND it shows we can never be sure of a LAST date of production. If a customer wanted a pattern on a shape it could still be ordered years after first production.

Lastly, (just in case) does any CC member have any 1936 Trees and House?*

My thanks to Ricki Gray for this wonderful discovery and research, also Geoff Burr from '*Burr & Muir Antiques*' in Cape Town, who have the set.

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