

## **Anson Designette - The Gift that keeps Giving!**

Don't forget to check out the full colour photo's at the end of the page!!!

This story has a lengthy history. One could say that this story extends back to the turn of the last century. At that time the ancestors of Mrs. Anne Perchard, of La Ferme, St Martin, Jersey, Channel Islands began breeding Jersey cattle and developing cow family lines in the home of the breed. Almost eighty years later in the late 1970s Jersey's Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RJAHs) decided to bless their Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with a cow for her renowned Jersey herd at Windsor, England. A selection committee of keen cattlemen reviewed well over 1,000 head of Island Jersey before "giving the nod" to Anson Designette, a correct-typed and productive six year old cow bred by Mrs. Perchard & Family in their Anson herd at La Ferme.

On June 27th, 1978 Queen Elizabeth visited Jersey and received "Designette" from the RJAHs and Mrs. Perchard & Family. A year or so later Jersey Island hosted an International Conference of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau in the bucolic home of the breed.

An adjunct to this visit by scores of Jersey enthusiasts and lovers was the creation of an incredible "object d'art" - a stunning likeness of the aforementioned Anson Designette. The creator of this breath-taking limited edition figurine was Polish-born Andre d'Aquino, a resident of Jersey's neighbouring Channel Island, Alderney. D'Aquino, who still resides on Alderney, "studied art in Rome and London and went on to earn an international reputation as a sculptor and ceramic artist" according to documentation which accompanies each number of the limited edition. The document further states that "D'Aquino's work can be found among the art collections of Royal and Presidential households throughout the world."

Each figurine is "executed in fine English Bone China having been delicately and painstakingly hand finished to a high standard." A certificate of authenticity which accompanied each figurine in the limited edition, stated that a maximum of 150 copies would be created. Long-time World Jersey Cattle Bureau Secretary Derrick Frigott of Jersey estimates that there are only 30 to 40 of the figurines in existence today. Original selling price for the figurines back in the late 1970s was 500 pounds sterling (today this would equate to over \$1,200 Cdn).

Enter Emerson & Heather Kinkaid, two highly passionate Jersey enthusiasts born and raised in the Ottawa Valley in Eastern Ontario. Emerson was from a Jersey-raising family near Russell, Ontario and Heather, a member of the Simmons Family of the very well-known Memory Lane Ayrshire Farm at nearby Finch, Ontario. Together Emerson & Heather brought their Grove Springs Jersey herd to national prominence. The herd was dispersed in 1974 due to some health challenges. The dispersal attracted great interest. Subsequent to the sale the Kinkaid's went to the Eastern Townships of Quebec to manage the large Bonnyburn herd of Philip & Judith Webster & Family at Ayer's Cliff / Massawippi.

When the Kinkaid's attended the 1979 World Conference in Jersey, Webster asked them if they would transport a "Designette" figurine he had purchased home to Quebec. Later that year the Kinkaid's were thrilled beyond words when Philip Webster generously informed them that the figurine they carefully brought home with them now belonged to them! Mr Webster later purchased Life Memberships in the WJCB for both Emerson & Heather. "Designette", the figurine, travelled with the Kinkaid's after their Bonnyburn days to Arundel, Quebec and on to Pakenham, Ontario their current home town. Heather has served as a United Church Minister at Arundel and now at the large St. Andrew's Church in Pakenham. In late January 2003, at the time of the Jersey Ontario meeting in Ottawa, Ontario Emerson & Heather kindly gave possession of the figurine, her leather carrying case, certification of authenticity and original supporting documentation to Jersey Canada.

Jersey Canada, like the Kinkaid's before us, is thrilled beyond words to receive this marvelous gift. We cannot think of a more wonderful way to stimulate the gathering of funds to host an amazing World Conference!!! The certificate of authenticity

accompanying the figurine notes that it is number 21 of the limited edition.

Interestingly Mrs. Perchard went on to become a pivotal leader of the WJCB serving as President of the Bureau from 1992 to 2002 with scores of noteworthy accomplishments. In June of 1992 at the 16th World Conference in Denmark Mrs Perchard already recipient of an M.B.E. from the Queen was named Patron (for life) of the Bureau!

A chain of generosity extending from the RJAHS to Philip & Judith Webster and on to Emerson & Heather Kinkaid now has one more link with the Kinkaid's deeply-appreciated contribution!

Thank you so much Emerson & Heather. The Kinkaid's have maintained an unflagging interest in the breed and "Designette" was easily among the most cherished pieces in their collection of special items!

See accompanying articles for details on how "Designette" will be offered to the world!!!

