

R.D.Under The Greenwood Tree - Robin Hood

The subject of Robin Hood really needs no introduction; we all know the story, there seems to be a new movie or TV series every other year. My favorite is Mel Brook's "Men in Tights", for no other reason than that it is just so ridiculous. Robin Hood and his band Merry Men - living it rough in Sherwood Forest - stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Heinous villains like Guy of Gisborne and the Sheriff of Nottingham. There is Robin's love interest, Maid Marion, and of course the final reward when King Richard returns from the crusades - such a ripping yarn. It seems Royal Doulton also thought so. So in 1914 Under the Greenwood Tree was introduced, there where some modification to the scenes and new items where introduced in 1937, 1939 and 1951. The series was finally withdrawn from production in 1967.

Royal Doulton Under the Greenwood Tree or Robin Hood Under The Greenwood Tree Teapot (back) - production era 1941 to 1951 My thanks to Heather Pitt for this photo Under the Greenwood Tree has a special back stamp, the mark below, with the pattern number D.3751 is an early example, this would date to when the pattern was introduced in 1914. Items with this mark will have a production era of 1914 and circa 1940 The mark below has an impressed date for march 1942; the pattern number D.6094 was issued into service in 1939. This mark is slightly different to the mark issued in 1914, you will note that the foliage on the tree is different and the grass around the base of the trunk is different - granted these are minor differences, but they do give us a means to date the mark. This second mark would have a production window from circa 1940 to circa 1951.

The third mark came off the base of a stein that bears the pattern number D.6341, this was the last pattern number to be issued against the series in 1951. This mark would have a production era between circa 1951 and 1967

The pattern numbers issued against this series and there introduction dates are:-

D.3751 pattern number introduced in 1914

D5623" " 1936D.5808" " 1937

D.6004" " 1939

D.6094" " 1939

D.6341" " 1951

This 38 cm charger is an unusual variation of the Under the Greenwood Series. It is hand painted with a transferred Oak Leaf border. It is date coded July 1939 and has the pattern number D5623; this is the only example I have seen of this colour-way or pattern number. The series appears on over 60 different shapes. On page 57 of volume of Royal Doulton Series Ware: Louise Irvine catalogues 17 scenes, mentioning there are 2 versions several scenes. I have since identified two scenes not mention by Mz Irvine, these are scenes 18 & 19 in my list.

1. "Robin Hood, the friend of the poor" 2 versions
Scene taken from york sandwich tray - D.3751 (era 1914 - 1940) Scene taken from Dorothy Desert Plate - D6004 (dated March 1941)
2. "Robin Hood's fight with Friar Tuck";
3. "Friar Tuck joins Robin Hood"; or "The Jovial friar joins Robin Hood"; 2 versions
4. "Robin Hood & Friar Tuck";
Vase shape 7017; D6094; special back stamp;era 1939 to 1951
5. "Robin Hood & Little John";
Scene yet to be sourced - can you help?
6. "Alan a Dale";
7. "Robin Hood";. Scene from vase shape 7349; D6094; 1939 to 1951 era
8. "Maid Marion";Scene from vase shape 7349; D6094; 1939 to 1951 era
9. "Robin Hood & Maid Marion";. Scene from Rhiems Tea Cup: D3751 Image courtesy of Patti Wilson
10. "Robin Hood, the King of the Archers"; Two versions, one with Alan a Dale.

Tray (shape 7979); Under Greenwood Tree Backstamp; D. 6314; dated February 1940

11. "The Foresters Kitchen."; Scene off vase shape 7665 - D6094 era 1939 to 1951

12. "Friar Tuck makes merry Under the green wood tree";

13. "Robin Hood, Little John & the jovial friar Tuck";.

14. "Robin Hood in ambush";

15. "Robin Hood kneels to the king";.

16. Robin Hood Slays Guy of Gisbourne.";

17. "Life in the Forest of Sherwood";

18. "Little John & Allan a Dale" Tooth Pick Holder (shape 7014); D.3751; era 1914 to 1940

19. "The Fall of an Arrow";

D.3751; production era 1914 to 1941

Shapes Tooth Pick Holder (shape 7014); printed on base is Little John & Alan a Dale; D.3751; era 1914 - 1932. Vase Shape 7018; D3751; era 1914 to 1941 Vase shape 7665; D.6094; era 1939 to 1951 New Lyn Jug; D.3751; 17.5 cm (7”); era 1914 - 1932 Oval Fruit Dish; Impressed date code for November 1940 13.5” Charger – impressed date code January 1941 13.5” Chop Plate; era 1951 - 1957 Chop plates where a phenomenon of the 1950's, a chop plate is just a large plate. It is similar to a charger, but a charger has hanging holes in the rim where a chop plate does not. Stafford Fruit Bowl – pattern number not marked – diameter 16 cm (6.3”); D.6094; dated February 1941 – shape name unknown Dorothy Cake Plate – D.6094 – impressed date April 1942 Tab handle bonbon dish – shape 8051A – D.6341 (era 1951 – 1967) Square Otagonal Fruit Dish - D.6341(era 1951 - 1967) Leeds Round Fruit Saucer