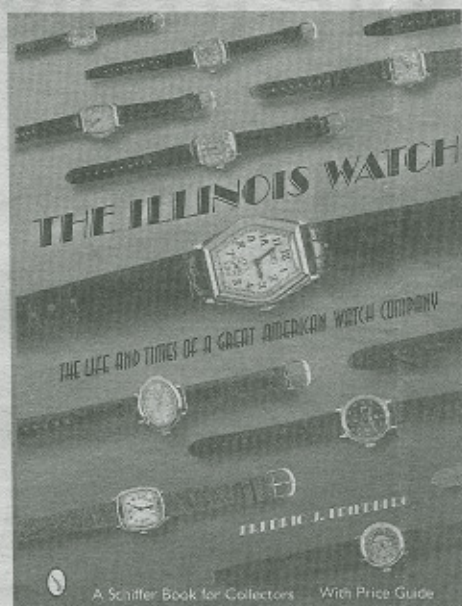


New Books

COLLECTING BLUE & WHITE POTTERY

Gillian Neale



when transfer-printing was introduced, has long been a popular collecting area. Those looking to begin buying these pieces will find themselves facing a blizzard of different patterns, forms and manufacturers. Help is here, in the form of this entry in the Miller's line of books designed to be accessible yet in-depth guides.

This complicated topic is made clear by author Neale. After she runs through a historical explanation of just what blue and white pottery is, she goes into the manufacturing process. But don't worry, it's not boring and dry, it's good reading. When she gets into design and the popular makers such as Spode, Wedgwood, Jones of Hanley and others, Neale is very informative.

What I appreciate most about this book is how Neale talks about blue and white pottery from a collector's perspective. Her sidebars are about decorative motifs, manufacturer's marks, displaying and caring for pottery. Values accompany each pictured piece.

The Illinois Watch — The Life and Times of a Great American Watch Company

by Fredrick Friedberg, 270 pages,
\$79.95 (Schiffer Books, 2004)
www.schifferbooks.com

Many collectible books published during the last couple of decades have proven to be little more than a pictorial chronicle of some collector's accumulation of stuff. Author Friedberg bucks the trend with his extremely well-done *The Illinois Watch*.

The Illinois Watch Co. is almost legendary with collectors, notably for their Art Deco and Moderne

releases of the 1920s and '30s. Happily for today's enthusiasts, who may want to use their collectible watches to keep time, the fine engineering of the timepieces adds to their luster.

The expected history and reproductions from company archives and literature runs throughout the book. What sets this volume apart is that nearly every wristwatch design created by Illinois Watch Co., and their variations, are shown in color, but not only wristwatch people will appreciate the passion shown by author Friedberg.