



'Tudric' decanter

W. H. Liberty & Co. Ltd.

Not on display

Title/Description: 'Tudric' decanter

Artist/Maker: W. H. Liberty & Co. Ltd. (Merchant)

Born: 1905 c.

Object Type: Bottle, Metalware, Tableware

Materials: Glass, Pewter

Technique: Blow moulding, Metalworking

Measurements: h. 330 x w. 190 x d. 120 mm

Inscription: 'Tudric 0262 Rd 427737' stamped

Accession Number: 21068

Production Place: Britain, England

School/Style: Art Nouveau

Credit Line: Donated by Sir Colin and Lady Anderson, 1978

Designed to hold wine or spirits, this elegant decanter was part of Liberty & Co.'s popular 'Tudric' range of pewter homewares. The curving forms and restrained use of stylised organic pattern are typical of Archibald Knox's designs for Liberty's.

The Tudric range was launched by Liberty's in 1901 as an affordable alternative to their successful 'Cymric' range of silverware. Liberty worked in partnership with W.H. Haseler to develop a metal alloy that replicated 'the best of old English pewter'. [1] In contrast to the hand-finished Cymic silver range, Tudric pewterwares were produced in large quantities, using iron moulds.

Archibald Knox began working for Liberty's in the late 1890s, designing homewares, fabrics and jewellery. His designs for the Tudric and Cymric ranges in the early 1900s drew on his specialist knowledge of Celtic art and played an important role in the Celtic revival in the arts in this period. [2]

The Andersons purchased this decanter in 1963 from John Collins, an early dealer in Art Nouveau works. Related items in the Anderson Collection include a clock and tobacco box from the Tudric

range and a selection of jewellery designed by Archibald Knox for Liberty's.

Lisa Newby, May 2020

[1] Quote from a 1904 lecture by Arthur Lasenby Liberty on 'Pewter and the Revival of its Use'. See Barbara Morris, *Liberty Design* (London: Pyramid Books, 1989), p.91.

[2] Greenhalgh, Paul, ed. *Art Nouveau 1890-1914*, (London: V&A Publications, 2000), p.50.

Exhibitions

The First Moderns, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 2011-12-01 - 2012-12-31

Art Nouveau: The Nature of Dreams, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 2020-03-29 - 2020-09-13

Further Reading

Johnson, Penny, *Art Nouveau, The Anderson Collection*, 1978 (p. 25)

Geitner, Amanda and Emma Hazell (Eds.), *The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau, Norwich: Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts*, 2003 (cat.114, p.151, ill. p.65)
