Some brands from the past that have already been forgotten return to the market, such as legendary brands from the automotive, cosmetic or confectionery industry.

In a similar scenario, Tułowice and its porcelain manufacturing plant that has a rich history dating back as far as the 19th century, returned to the market after a long absence. We are proud to manufacture our products in a place with an impressive historical background. For over three decades we have been adding new chapters to this story ourselves. More information about the history of porcelain manufacture in Tułowice can be found further in this issue.

This catalogue presents a new line of designs developed in Ceramika Tułowice. Our new ideas are mainly based on two shapes of tableware: round and square, and several brand-new pieces addressed to middle-aged and younger customers. It is not difficult to identify a common design idea behind all our products, with traces of modern solutions intertwined with a strong traditional base. We work in our own design studio and co-operate with remarkable designers, but we also often draw from the long tradition of vintage ornamentation. Polish design had enjoyed wide recognition for several decades and we return to these golden years with pride.

In line with our motto: “Tradition and good style”, we consistently aim at satisfying the needs of all our customers. In this issue we present several main product lines manufactured by Ceramika Tułowice. Our traditional line, represented by our “flagship” coffee set and our table set with a classical golden pattern, is inspired by historic designs of porcelain from Tułowice. We are also marketing a new line of cream-color, ornamented NBC porcelain. Our new decorative packaging makes this tableware set a fantastic gift idea for various occasions. Our other ceramics line was developed with young customers in mind. It includes smaller sets, limited editions of ornaments and original projects. This line is based on Polish design developed together with young designers. Our designers and employees use their best efforts to ensure that our products are not only beautiful but also practical and handy. We hope that our ceramics sets designed at Ceramika Tułowice will be your choice not only for grand celebrations but also for day-to-day occasions, such as your morning coffee.

Grzegorz Grata
President of the Management Board
THE HISTORY OF CERAMICS MANUFACTURED IN TUŁOWICE GOES BACK 200 YEARS. AT THE TIME, THE AREA WAS OWNED BY COUNT KARL JOHANN PRASCHMA AND IT IS DUE TO HIS ENDEAVORS THAT THE PALACE IN TUŁOWICE GAINED A POTTERY FACTORY.

The task was not a difficult one as skilled workforce was brought from a nearby town of Prószków, which, since 1763, had had the first pottery manufacturing plant in the Upper Silesia region. On 15 January 1813, the count concluded a relevant agreement for the manufacture of pottery with Johann Degotschon, a painter and modeler. In 1835, the ceramics from Tułowice were acquired in a public auction by count Ernst von Frankenberg-Ludwigsdorf. After Degotschon’s death in 1842, the count bought the manufacturing facility from his heirs and hired inspector Seliger who modernized the pottery manufacturing process. The innovation consisted in covering the pottery with black enamel and decorating it with silver patterns. In 1855, the manufacture in Tułowice resumed its operation as the Count Frankenberg Porcelain Manufacture (Graflich Frankenbergischen Porzellan-Manufaktur Tillowitz) and was then inherited, together with all adjacent facilities, by count Fred Frankenberg-Ludwigsdorf, Ernst’s son.

NEW AGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE TUŁOWICE CERAMICS

On 1 May 1889 the plant was leased out by Reinhold Schlegelmilch from HELENA WOJTASIK

Enthusiast of local history of Tułowice, Head of the Cultural Center in Tułowice
In 1951, the pre-war buildings were adapted for a new plant, the Tableware Porcelite Manufacture (Polish: Zakład Porcelitu Stołowego). In terms of utility, the porcelite was as good as porcelain. It was manufactured with the use of multi-color enamels, transparent or concealing, in a vast array of colors. Tableware products manufactured in the plant were designed not only for households but also for hotels, restaurants and mass caterers. 1978 saw the opening of a modern tableware porcelite manufacturing plant. Its most recognizable designs were “Daria” and “Mira”, both extremely popular in Poland and abroad. In early 1995, the State Tableware Porcelite Manufacture was transformed into a joint-stock company under the business name Fabryka Porcelitu Tułowice S.A. The plant existed under this name until 2001.

Ceramika Tułowice is also a part of this long and fascinating history. The company has operated since 1991 and specializes in ornamented tableware that is marketed in Poland and over 30 other countries.

Suhl in Thuringia. His 23-year-old son, Erhard, administered the estate on his behalf. It was the beginning of the most important stage of porcelain manufacture in Tułowice. The small manufacturing plant did not meet Erhard’s expectations, so he decided to build a new one, next to the Opole-Nysa railway which was opened in 1887.

The new plant began manufacturing porcelain on a large scale in 1904. In 1905, the count’s manufacture was purchased by the Schlegelmilch family and demolished shortly after moving its units to a new facility. Around that time, the plants in Tułowice were merged with the ones from Suhl to form one commercial company. As soon as in 1910, 800 people were working in the manufacturing plant in Tułowice. 80% of the ceramics manufactured there was exported to Canada and to the United States, where a representative office and a showroom were opened, first at 5th Avenue and then at 16th East Street in New York City. Similar porcelain salesrooms were established in Europe: in Paris, London, Amsterdam and Vienna. After 1918, the plant was still in full bloom and manufactured even more new designs, e.g. the “Old Meissen” (Polish: “Stara Miśnia”) or the “Old Vienna” (Polish: “Stary Wiedeń”). There were also many new trends and art deco pieces. Porcelain that was later being sent to the Orient was decorated by artisans brought to Tułowice from China. The plant also manufactured beautiful white porcelain figurines that were considered exceptional rarities.

**MADE IN POLAND**

After the war, the manufacture was reopened in 1946. The pre-war mark of the company was maintained and appended with the word “Poland”.

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Ceramika Tułowice is also a part of this long and fascinating history. The company has operated since 1991 and specializes in ornamented tableware that is marketed in Poland and over 30 other countries.
ROYAL COBALT/ROYAL BURGUND
ROYAL COBALT/ROYAL BURGUND
SIGN GOLD NBC

SIGN GOLD NBC
WILD TULIP
NBC CUPS
NBC CUPS
Could you tell us something about yourself?
How did you find yourself living in Tułowice?
Were you born in the Opole region?

No, I come from a small village located several kilometers outside of Rzeszów. I graduated from primary school there. One day a friend told me about a school in Bolków, near Legnica, where one could learn to make ceramics. So, we packed our bags and headed there.

Just like that, you moved to the other end of the country?

Sometimes young people have the craziest ideas. But I've never regretted my decision. After graduation, me and my girlfriends, I think there were six of us, were allocated to work in Tułowice, in the Porcelit manufacturing plant.

What year was that?

1953! I was 16, almost 17. As you can see I am not a youngster, I don’t even want to say how old I am. Last year I was celebrating a milestone anniversary. I never wanted a huge celebration, but my kids insisted on a family reunion. I have a son and a daughter; my son has been working in the Netherlands for several years now and my daughter is a psychologist in Opole. They have children of their own, I even have a great grandson and two great granddaughters. The whole plant celebrated my birthday – I got flowers, there was a cake and champagne. I even received wishes from the owners of Ceramika Tułowice who came to my jubilee. There were over 70 guests. It was a huge surprise, I didn’t expect anything like that. It was a very pleasant experience.

And despite being 80 years old you are still professionally active?

Not as much as I used to. Now I work for about four or five hours a day, and I don’t go to work every day. I spend more time at my allotment garden than I do at the plant. But I do enjoy coming in, decorating the pieces and having a chat with my co-workers.

Let’s go back to 1953. How did you start? Were you just handed paint, a brush and a plate to decorate?

Of course not! During my first years in Porcelit, I worked at the design workshop and the slip casting plant and then, after three years, I began working as a ceramicist-decorator, which is my specialty.
signs are really simple, we draw flowers, stars, lines... This isn't hard, it just requires eagerness, patience and precision.

How many plates or cups can you decorate in, let's say, an hour?
I don’t work like that. I paint a whole set of tableware at once: plates, dessert plates, cups and other pieces. If a set doesn’t have many pieces and a design is fairly simple, the job is done rather quickly. For example, to decorate a “Golden lines” (Polish: “Złote linie”) or “Stamped rose” (Polish: “Róża topowana”) set, I need approximately one to two hours.

What, in your opinion, is the hardest part of your job?
Probably decorating black glaze with golden paint. Golden paint is actually black, so when it is used to paint designs on black background, it becomes invisible and it’s like decorating a piece with a blindfold on. The ornament is visible only once the ceramics is burned. It really is a difficult task.

Do you remember any extraordinary orders? Let’s say, tableware manufactured for a king or a president?
Recently, we have made several sets ordered by a customer from United Arab Emirates. Who knows, maybe our pieces will be used on a Sheikh’s table! The cups were tiny, but the plates were really large. Everything was painted in gold, the entire surface, and we decorated them with multi-color patterns.

Thank you very much for this interview. We wish you all the best, may you have many more professionally active years in good health!
GOLD LINES

GOLD LINES
BLACK RETRO
GOLDEN YEARS OF POLISH DESIGN

THE BENCHMARK FOR POLISH MODERN DESIGN REMAINS ROOTED IN THE 1960S, WHEN POLISH ARTISTS CREATED UNIQUE FURNITURE, GLASS OR CERAMICS.

TAKING OVER THE WORLD

Applied arts have been very popular on the market over the past years and Polish designers are gaining recognition in competitions and expos both in Poland and abroad. Our talent has been recognized at the Łódź Design Festival, the London Design Festival or the iF Design Award, to name just a few. The number of schools of design is growing, legendary brands are making room for new ones and talented young artists start their own businesses, manufactories and workshops where they design original furniture, household appliances, glass, ceramics, fashion and graphics. Designers focus both on large-scale production and manufacture of unique items and many strive to return to traditional handcraft. Consequently, not everyone can afford to purchase their works, but all of us can feast our eyes on the beauty of their inimitable designs.

POLISH NEW LOOK

Young Polish artists, educated under the supervision of world-class designers and already widely-recognized, often make references to the Polish design of the 1950s and 1960s, which is known as the Polish New Look. This name was first coined in 1947, in connection with the campaign for a new line by Christian Dior, and it referred to the design characterized by asymmetry, biomorphic shapes, pure colors and fine patterns. These brand-new trends arrived in Poland shortly before the period of the so-called political “thaw” of 1956, and the Warsaw Institute of Industrial Design (Polish: Instytut Wzornictwa Przemysłowego) established by Wanda Telakowska played a major part in promoting and popularizing the idea of the “good design”. Visual artists who worked in the biggest ceramics display showrooms in Poland quickly took up the idea of “good design” which allowed for the creation of original decorations over the period of just several years. Combined with our plain and simple forms of ceramics, used due to lack of technological capabilities, these experiments gave extraordinary results. Abstract creations were known as “picases” (Polish: pikasy), with reference to the works of Pablo Picasso. The New Look movement created many gems of Polish applied design, many being awarded prestigious industry prizes, such as the famous “Dorota” coffee set designed by Lubomir Tomaszewski, decorative plates intended to be put up on walls or the so-called “IID” (Polish: “iwupowskie”) figurines, whose name derives from the Polish abbreviation of the Institute of Industrial Design, where they were designed.

UNIQUE PICASES

Over the last several years, ceramics created in the 1950s and the 1960s that matches the popular
lar minimalist style perfectly, has gained a whole new life. Picases in the form of household ceramics and IID figurines are characterized by simple, organic lines and asymmetrical designs. Despite its simplicity and sometimes simplistic form, ceramics designed in the past decades at the Institute of Industrial Design remains impressive up to this day. It is also fascinating thanks to its modern shapes, pure colors, fine patterns and abstract compositions which create associations with avant-garde visual arts and surrealism, and for a good reason. Possibly, the popularity of picases is an outcome of the exhibition of Polish applied arts in the National Museum in Wrocław in 2012.

**OBJECT OF DESIRE**

Ceramics is currently associated with trendy design, and there’s a good reason for it. For ages ceramics has been changing the world of art: the Ming dynasty vases confirmed the status of their owners and the Chinese kept their methods of making porcelain secret and protected them fiercely, just like the secrets to making gunpowder. Nowadays, even popular brands, associated mainly with classic designs, co-operate with the best artists and designers so that their ceramic art becomes an object of desire not only in Poland but also worldwide. Combining traditional designs with post-modern details often gives extraordinary results, as proven by award-winning and highly appreciated Polish designs. Apart from competitions, the success of Polish designs can be measured by growing interest of customers on foreign markets. Our ceramic art is popular abroad, especially in countries such as Dubai and Japan, so Polish manufacturers can be very proud of their work. At the same time, ceramics is becoming more and more popular in regular households as a growing number of customers can now afford porcelain, which used to be a commodity that only the most affluent of us could purchase.
ROUND UNDECORATED

- Dinner Plate
- Soup Plate
- Dessert Plate
- Small Dish
- Big Dish
- Bowl
- Soup Cup with Saucer
- Cup with Saucer
- Creamer
- Sugar Bowl
- Sauceboat
- Soup Tureen
- Barrel Mug
- Boss Mug
- Slant Mug
ROYAL UNDECORATED

CUP WITH SAUCER  TEACUP WITH SAUCER  SOUP CUP WITH SAUCER  BUTTER-DISH  SUGAR BOWL

MILK JUG  POT  CANDLESTICK  TEAPOT  DINNER PLATE

SOUP PLATE  SERVING OVAL DISH  BOWL  SERVING DISH  SOUP TUREEN

RECTANGULAR TRAY  BIG DISH  SAUCEBOAT  SALT AND PEPPER  NAPKIN HOLDER
SQUARE UNDECORATED

- Dinner Plate
- Soup Plate
- Dessert Plate
- Small Dish
- Big Dish
- Bowl
- Cup with Saucer
- Creamer
- Sugarbowl
- Sauceboat
- Coffee Pot
- Soup Tureen
NBC UNDECORATED

- SALAT BOWL
- SMALL DISH
- DESSERT PLATE
- DINNER PLATE
- SOUP PLATE
- BOWL
- CUP WITH SAUCER
- MILK JUG
- SUGAR BOWL
- TEAPOT
- NBC LOW MUG
- NBC SLANT MUG
- NBC WIDE MUG
- NBC HIGH MUG
THAT’S THE WAY WE PACK OUR PORCELAIN