



## Della Robbia Pottery, Birkenhead, 1894-1906

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- Provides a background to the pottery and its workers, as well as many illustrations of the wares, for collectors and dealers
- Interesting for those studying the social history of the area and the ceramics industry
- Arts and Crafts ideals put into practice

The Della Robbia Pottery was an integral part of the British Arts and Crafts Movement. The intention was to produce artistically designed ceramics for architectural and domestic use, inspired by works from sixteenth-century Italy and the British Pre-Raphaelite tradition. The guiding philosophy of the founder, Harold Rathbone, was that of William Morris, and he followed this rigidly, encouraging his pottery artists to express themselves freely but deploring slickness and any semblance of mass production. Whilst this resulted in some inspired and memorable designs, other pieces lacked sophistication and were not easy to sell. The Pottery never made a working profit, and when artistic tastes changed in the 1900s it was forced to close. Della Robbia wares have recently enjoyed a revival in popularity and this comprehensive, beautifully illustrated history examines the background circumstances and objectives of the pottery, as well as the lives of those who worked there. Chapter Headings: Introduction; The Background; The Founding of the Della Robbia Pottery; Premises, Methods and Workforce; First Period of Business 1894-1900; Second Period 1900-1906: The Della Robbia Pottery and Marble Co. Ltd; The Final Years; A to Z of Della Robbia Pottery Artists, Workmen and Associates; Della Robbia Pottery Marks; Appendices.

**Peter Hyland** is the author of *'The Herculaneum Pottery: Liverpool's Forgotten Glory'* (2005) and is a member of many ceramic societies, including the Northern Ceramic Society (whose journal he edits) and the English Ceramic Circle. He is a Senior Volunteer at the Wedgwood Museum at Barlaston, Staffordshire.

