

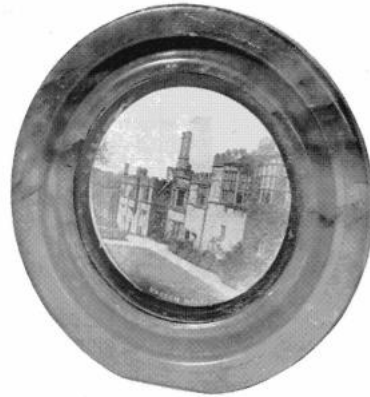
HERITAGE TRAIL



THE BAUBLE HOUSE



(a)
Tobacco Jar
(136.1958)



(b)
Picture Frame with photograph of Haddon Hall
(220.1963/1)



During the medieval period Chellaston became known worldwide for Alabaster (gypsum) mined in the area to carve monuments and tombs for churches.

A Bauble was defined as an ornament with no particular use. The industry flourished in this area in the second half of the C19. Blocks of Alabaster called Spar, was transported 12 miles by road from Chellaston by horse and cart.

The stone was sawn into rectangular blocks, before being turned and polished on a treadle lathe. The bauble was "finished" by being warmed and waxed in the oven or in front of the fire in preparation for the final polishing with fuller's earth. Some baubles, made from poorer quality spar, were painted with a simple floral ornament. The waxing, polishing and painting were usually done by the women. The baubles were sold at the seaside, either packed into crates and dispatched by rail, or some manufacturers would take a barrow of baubles to a seaside resort and sell them to visitors.

The 'Bauble House' shown was demolished in the 1950's and was the home of Charles Platts, a significant Bauble manufacturer. In the 1851 census he was 17 and living with his parents, occupation given as Spar Worker. Leonard Palmer also made baubles in Griffydam, from 1877 to 1900. John Tugby, landlord of the New Inn, Pegg's Green, was selling beer and making baubles in 1855, in 1863 and was his main source of livelihood.

Click [here](#) for further information on the Bauble Industry.

Ref A LOST LEICESTERSHIRE INDUSTRY J. A. Daniell