

The Tiffany Mirror

My dear friends,

I'm afraid I just have to declare an interest, you see to me *Wee Free Men* and *Hat Full of Sky* are two of the most lyrical books the man has ever writ.

Each to his own you will say, so why the bloody big mirror.

Well truth be told it was never meant to be, in fact the original design was for a very 'bijou' little number, quite discrete in fact.

But then the story took over.

Blame Briggsy say I, for it was his dulcet tones doing a thesp on the story tape that was playing as I was sculpting the piece.

Sean Green, a fellow wax hacker, had produced *Tiffany* for me from a photograph of young Kate Oldroyd. She caused quite a stir in her *Tiffany* costume at the CC event last year. Life imitating art Terry said, and indeed she did look the part.

So with a character to set in a landscape and the words of the book going straight behind the eyes, common sense was out the window.

Sculpting in such a large scale gave me the opportunity to really do justice to the descriptions in the books, which gave me pictures in the brain. It also allowed me to get some real movement into the piece and use texture and form to tell the story as well as figurative sculpture.

This piece has a narrative, like the books, and as the narrative moves the story so the sculpture leads the eye, and you need space to be able to do that properly.

I borrowed aspects of the piece not just from the written word, but also from other sources.

The *Daisies* are taken from Dadd's 'The Fairy Feller's Master stroke'. In fact that aspect of the piece echoes that magnificent picture.

Whale and lighthouse are from a children's book of the 1950's I borrowed from the library.

There is an icon, a shorthand in textures that echo in form the mark that *Tiffany* made on the butter pat at the end of the first book, and then the white horse high on the downs that themselves form an arch over the sea.

My *MacFeegles* tumble fighting out of the cobnut into the waves. Not as Paul visualised them, but from the memories engraved in my



Isobel wanted one mirror painted for

our eldest Granddaughter, so one is started and a week or so later, finished. Then seen in the workshop by a collector who said this pleasure should not be denied the chosen few, even though the price is enough to make a rich man gasp. So there you have it. Big, a tad costly, but something that will be telling *Tiffany*'s story long after the young lady who played the part is an old lady who tells her story to her grandchildren.

memory and bourne in the scar tissue on my knuckles from far off days when to meet a group of HLI on a twenty-four hour leave in Colchester town was a recipe for a bloody good scrap till the Redcaps arrived.

Terry has told a damn good story, one I look forward to reading to my grandchildren, and one I just had to give my all to sculpt.

This piece is 44cm. wide by 64cm. tall. It's made of a resin that bonds the high-grade brass or aluminium powder to give the work its metal surface and patina. This is not a decorated finish in the accepted sense; it is real cold cast metal. Difficult to make, and not cheap in time or skill, but the glow of the polished surfaces tell their own story amid the rich textures.

Price Painted £390 Metal £240.00

Limited Edition of 250

The Cunning Artificer's Friendly Society
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30th January, 2004

Dear Steve,

A new departure, at last we've made something useful and beautiful. Well in as much as a mirror is useful (at our age we need to check that we're not wearing our clothes inside out) And beautiful - I think so.

The Tiffany books tell a lovely story and this is echoed in the sculpting and finishes.

A choice of three finishes is available: cold cast metal in a silvery or golden hue or hand-painted in great detail. We are casting just 250 of these mirrors so we can offer only one mirror per collector.

C.A.F.S. prices as follows: Hand painted £360.00
Metallic finish £216.00

I've left payment terms open but would ask for a minimum of £50.00 per month.
Look forward to hearing from you,

Best wishes,

Isobel

Please make cheques payable to The Unreal Estate. Because this is rather a large amount of money to find in one lump, you may if you wish to, choose to pay in instalments.

Please specify which finish you would like: Hand painted £360
Metallic Brass £216
Metallic Silver £216

Tiffany Mirror @ £
Postage @ £ 6.50
Total £

Steve James
79, Ferney Rd.,
East Barnet,
Herts
EN4 8LB
Edition No 241

I enclose cheque(s) to the value of £
I wish to pay by MasterCard/Visa *

(post dated if you wish)*

- Please debit my card £ when my Mirror is ready to dispatch. *
 - Please debit my card for ----- pounds now and -----instalments of -----
- * Please put a line through the inapplicable option(s))

Card Number _____ Expiry date _____

Card Holders Signature _____