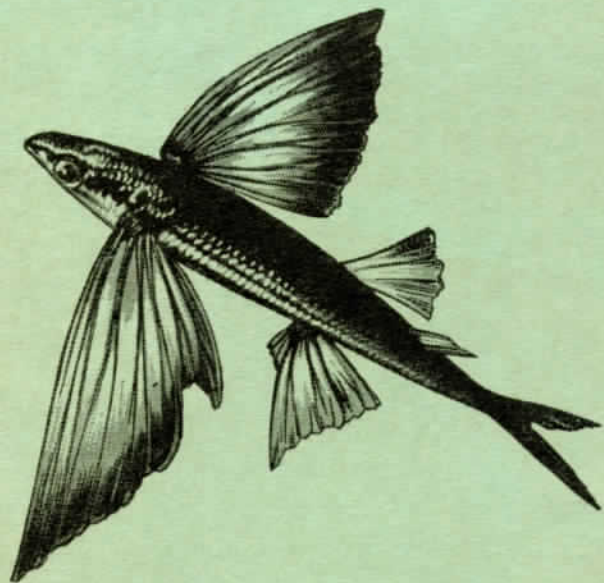
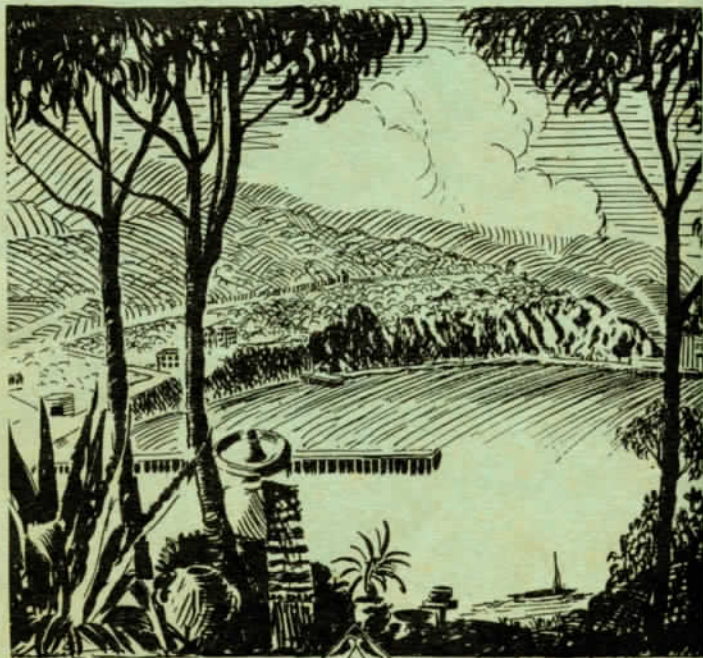


Catalina



Tables

Catalina Tables



CATALINA ISLAND, known the world over as a famous pleasure resort, basks in the sun out in the blue Pacific, twenty-five miles off the coast of Southern California. This romantic isle was first discovered in 1542 when Don Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, an adventurous Portuguese navigator, sailing under the flag of Spain anchored his fleet of three small caravels in Avalon Bay and named the island La Vittoria, after his flagship. Sebastian Viscaino, who followed Cabrillo in 1602 also in the service of Spain, renamed the island Santa Catalina.

It is in the chronicles of Father Torquemada, who accompanied Viscaino



as historian, that a graphic picture is drawn of the tribe of "white" Indians, a friendly, happy people, who inhabited Catalina Island and bartered with the Indians of the mainland, exchanging great urns, bowls and ollas of stone which they tediously chiseled with their crude implements of flint, for baskets and pottery. Little did they dream that close at hand were finer clays than those to which their red brothers of the mainland had access, silicas for glazes and mineral oxides for colorings from which they could have made pottery of such beauty that far excelled that for which they bartered. The vivid red and yellow ochres the Catalina Indian knew only as a means for personal



adornment and to paint the symbols of the sun and the moon on the wooden "anatomy" of their great sun god, Chinigchinch.

It has been but recently that the extensive deposits of many fine clays, unknown for centuries, have been found in the fern covered canyons and on the sunny hills of Catalina Island. These clays, similar to the rich clays found in Egypt deposited by the Nile, have, in this modern age, led to the oldest of crafts and arts, that of hand made and hand decorated tile. One exceptionally rare clay is found at the bottom of Echo Lake, which is situated near the summit of one of the highest mountains on the island,



Mt. Black Jack. This is a very "fat," black plastic clay rich in kaolin which lends itself to the molding of the finest of ornamental tile. Silicas and aluminas found on the island burn into the most beautiful of glazes to which the mineral oxides known to the Indians, lend a vividness of coloring and brilliant metallic luster that is distinctive to Catalina tile.

At Pebbly Beach, at the terminus of Avalon Board walk, about three-quarters of a mile from town, is situated the Catalina tile plant where hundreds of craftsmen and artists are busily engaged in the transforming of bits of the Magic Isle into Catalina table tile. First the clays are mixed in just the right proportions,

some of the fat and some of the lean, a pinch of this and a pinch of that, much like a cook preparing the dry ingredients for a cake. If it is too much of one or the other the "biscuit" shrinks too much and the panel may come out warped. Once mixed in just the right proportions the clay is ground and re-ground to the fineness of powder, then moistened and worked into the "biscuit." To watch the hand kneading of the clay reminds one of mother in bygone days kneading the dough for bread. And what a lot of muscle it takes! After it has been kneaded and kneaded, it is pressed by hand into molds and then dried.

Each piece is hand-decorated by native

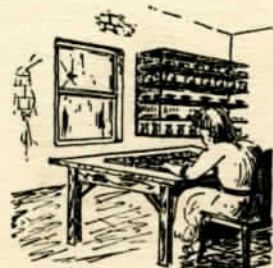


Catalina girls, trained in the art of applying the varied colored glazes. Instead of using a brush, the "painting" is done with a small syringe, dipped in a series of receptacles each containing a different mineral oxide. The pattern is marked out on the tile and great care must be taken that each glaze stays within the "dead-line" and does not flow over, or the whole design is spoiled. It is most interesting to watch these pretty girls, as with deft fingers they apply the multi-colored glazes, for strangely the colors are quite different from what they turn out to be after they are burned in the kiln—a pink may be obsidian black and a delicate blue will come out a yellow.



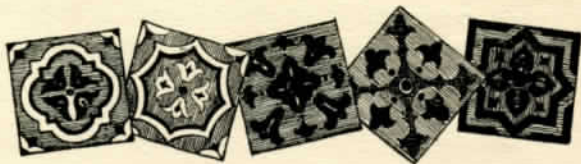
Much of the beauty and quality of Catalina tile is due also to the unusually high temperatures at which the island clays can be burned and the great care with which only perfect pieces are selected for Catalina tables. Often only one tile out of perhaps ten, twenty or more is selected as absolutely perfect.

Many of the decorative motifs of Catalina tables are suggested by subjects typical of the island—leaping swordfish, gossamer winged flying fish, exotic macaws, toucans and other brilliantly plumaged birds of the Catalina Bird Park; vivid poinsettias that abound on the island in a blaze of color; Spanish galleons and conventionalized patterns of the Spanish



and Alta California influence rich in Toyon reds, Catalina blues and Descanso greens.

Catalina Tables with their distinctive tile tops are made of the finest Philippine mahogany. The patterns are authentic reproductions of English, Italian and Spanish period motifs, in either antique walnut or a warm brown mahogany finish. If you own a Catalina Table you own a piece of furniture of which you may be justly proud and one which has more than only mere intrinsic value.



C. R. KAYSER & COMPANY
4405 Fruitland Ave., Los Angeles
Sole Distributors
of
Catalina Tables