

Pink Zsolnay!

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Style Editor

THE all pink, charming exhibition of 552 household objects at the **Hap Gallery** tells the story of a more obscure chapter

in the history of the great Zsolnay ceramics factory in Pécs, developed by Vilmos Zsolnay from a small workshop initially established in 1853.

These monochromatic items are uncharacteristic of the familiar and more elaborate, flowery style of Zsolnay. They were mass-produced at an earlier stage, which belonged to the initial period of development of the Zsolnay brand.

Barnabás Winkler, the owner of this special, less-known line, started to collect the items 36 years ago. His first object was a wine holder that he inherited from an aunt. Because this had no Zsolnay trademark on it – some of the earlier objects didn't – the wine holder bore no special significance in this sense until Winkler paired his object with a similar one found at a flea market in

Esztergom. This latter one looked strikingly similar to his own and bore the Zsolnay mark. This revelation triggered Winkler's interest in knowing and collecting more of these, and he went as far as Vienna and Brussels to complete his ever-expanding pink group.

The materials used for the making of pots were natural and from local resources. These were formerly used for

jam making or storing goose fat, or for the manufacturing of the more decorative wine and holy water holders, or for the vases offered as wedding gifts as early as 1890.

Vilmos Zsolnay branded these materials porcelain-faience (which was white but not yet porcelain), and counted it as one of his three major inventions, alongside the remarkable pyrogranite (used

for architectural ceramic) and the iridescent multicolored glaze eosin.

At first there was pink – stories and pictures about the pink Zsolnay household objects

Hap Gallery
Buda II, Margit krt 24.
Until Aug 31.
Mon-Fri: 2-7^{pm}

