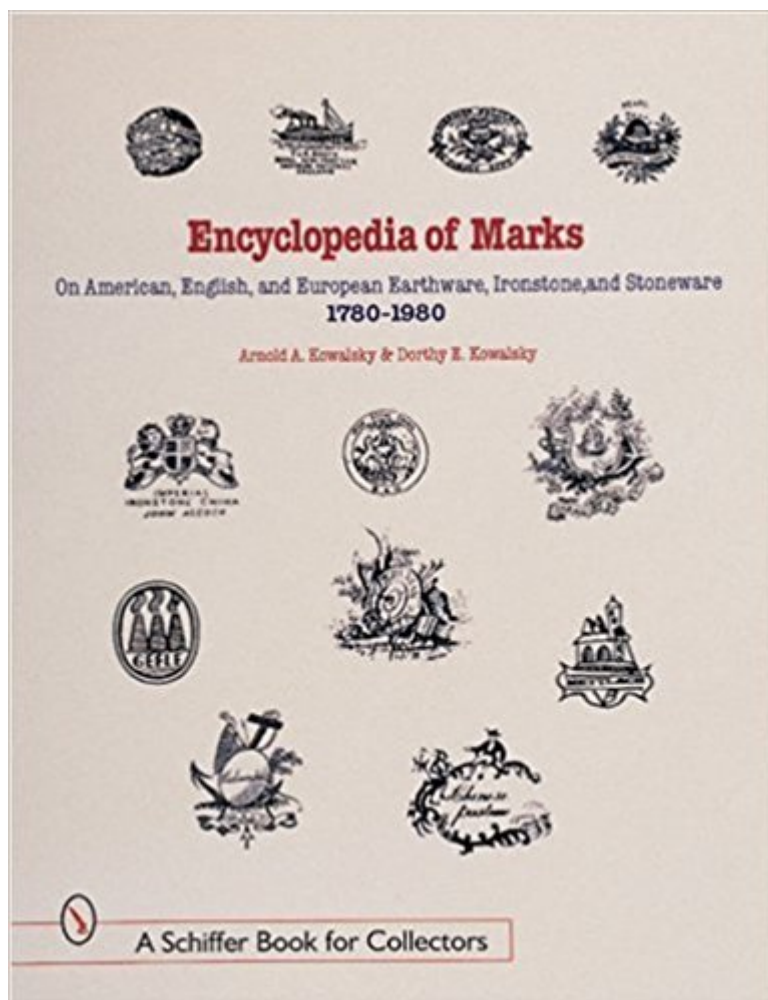


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Encyclopedia Of American, English, And European Earthenware, Ironstone, Stoneware, 1780-1980: Makers, Marks, And Patterns In Blue And White, Historic ... Ironstone (Schiffer Book For Collectors)





Synopsis

This authoritative reference work identifies thousands of marks from American, English and European potters. In the main body of the text, the marks are presented by potter in alphabetical order. Included in each potter's listing is the location of the firm, a brief history of the company, the span of years from the firm's establishment until its dissolution, and any former and subsequent company affiliations associated with that firm. The marks associated with that potter are presented in chronological order. Also provided are listings of further readings for those wishing either to delve deeper into the history of the firm or to view images of wares upon which these marks appear. American and Canadian importers, and the potters for whom they imported wares, are also identified. In addition, numerous appendices provide future information pertaining to ware types and printed patterns produced by the various potters, registry dates, and much more. A glossary of pottery terms and an extensive bibliography round out the presentation. This encyclopedia, years in the making, provides the most current research on potters spanning two hundred years and is the essential reference for everyone interested in ceramics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The title of this book pretty much sums up its contents. It features listings of a variety of marks associated with each pottery firm, the location of the firms, and their history and dates of operation. The same "Marks Numbering System" devised by Geoffrey A. Godden, the reigning expert on

British pottery, is continued for each entry in this book (the book is, in fact, dedicated to Godden and includes an introduction by him as well). In addition, there are numerous appendixes that list, for example, patterns of each firm in alphabetical order, major importers, merchants, and auctioneers specializing in earthenwares in the United States and Canada; a glossary of pottery terms and separate indexes for English, continental, and American potters. Although the book's coverage of "European" potters' marks (as opposed to English potters and their marks) is limited to just 22 pages--slightly more than 20 different potters--this is nonetheless a valuable reference tool and would be a useful addition to most public libraries and all specialized art libraries.-Margarete Gross, Chicago P.L. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Arnold A. Kowalsky has been a serious ceramics researcher for many years. He is also a dealer in Flow Blue ceramics. He and his wife Dorothy, who entered every listing for this encyclopedia into the computer, live in New York.

Great Book for researching china makers patterns and importers.

good

The book is a very comprehensive directory of pottery and porcelain marks of English American and European factories. It is extremely reliable. The back half of the book is of particular interest to those who collect printed pottery as it has indexes of pattern names giving their maker, and an index of makers with their pattern names. Invaluable resource and not found anywhere else.

Fantastic reference for collectors of antique chine.

An invaluable resource with very helpful appendices.

One of the best books on the subject I've owned. It has become a constant reference for me and is usually the stopping point in any hunt for a mark I'm unfamiliar with.

This is a good book to have if you ever come across a rare makers mark sherd in archaeology. I used this book a lot more when I lived on the east coast, not as much in El Paso, TX.... Still a good one to have on the shelf.

At first glance the big fat book of pottery marks that every historical archaeologist dreams of, this is actually a somewhat idiosyncratic albeit highly useful work. The subtitle is telling and more accurate than the title proper: "Makers, Marks, and Patterns in Blue and White, Historic Blue, Flow Blue, Mulberry, Romantic Transferware, Tea Leaf, and White Ironstone." The presence of the word "Stoneware" in the title especially seems a bit unfortunate, however, since the book certainly does not cover materials generally thought of as stoneware in North America. In effect, the Kowalskys have created an enormous compendium of British and American marks found on pottery that interests them. It would not be my first choice for the purpose of identifying an unknown pottery backstamp; but, to be fair, that is not the intent of the book. As Geoffrey Godden, to whom the book is dedicated, aptly puts it in his studied foreword: "The end result may be rather uneven, due to personal taste, situation or pure chance but the benefit is undoubted." Although Godden is writing about specialist books and papers on different types of collectable ceramics in general, his words apply to the Kowalskys' compendium as well. Virtually a third of the book-- 224 pages-- is indexes and tables that are potentially quite useful in certain circumstances. If, say, one has a ceramic sherd bearing only the word "Best," Appendix B7 handily identifies this as made probably by either Mayer & Elliott or Livesley, Powell & Co. There are also tables of selected pottery chronologies, lists by name and by initials, a listing of patterns arranged by pottery, as well as a table of categories of ware produced by each pottery, various chronological listings of British pottery by Registry dates, and so forth. There is even a brief section on European potters, patterns, and marks. To cut to the chase, the book includes marks of 106 American (U.S.) potteries and 680 British potteries. Godden, the dean of British ceramic historians, gracefully acknowledges that while the Kowalskys have not engaged in first-hand research in European archives, they have painstakingly combed the published literature and resolved many discrepancies, even correcting some of his original views and erroneous dates. Reviewing only the U.S. section and restricting comments to the pottery types of interest to the authors, there are a number of omissions. Pope-Gosser China, for example, definitely produced Flow Blue; the Steubenville Pottery produced Flow Blue with their Porc-granite and Canton China backstamps, which are not included. Morley & Co. is included because of its ironstone manufacture, but there is only one mark, whereas DeBolt (1994) illustrates no fewer than five Morley marks that include the word "Ironstone" or "Stone China." The Vance Faience Co. of Tiltonsville, Ohio, did not produce any ironstone and it is extremely unlikely that any of the white earthenware produced by its successor, the Avon Faience Co., qualifies as ironstone. In any case, the "F. M. & Co." mark included under this company is unquestionably that of the Faience

Manufacturing Co. of Greenpoint, New York, and not that of the Vance Faience Co. The well-known gold Laughlin Art China backstamp is not present although that line included some very impressive examples of Flow Blue. There are also some surprising inclusions. The American Beleck Co. of Fredericksburg, Ohio, in business for a scant six months, is listed although it did not produce beleck. The ambiguous "ACC" coat-of-arms mark is included for the American China Co. of Toronto, Ohio, but no mention is made of the Akron China Co., of Akron, Ohio, which contemporary expert William Barber recorded as using the same mark and which very likely made flow blue ware; this backstamp, incidentally, has been found at the Akron pottery site. Based upon the similarity to an undisputed Brunt Pottery backstamp, a coat-of-arms backstamp is attributed to the Brunt Pottery by DeBolt; but the Kowalskys attribute the same mark to Knowles, Taylor & Knowles. It appears that in order to represent their early "K.T. & K" mark, the Kowalskys used the Brunt mark with the notation that it occurs with K.T. & K. Unfortunately, they do not actually depict the mark they describe, nor do they include an undoubted but quite dissimilar K.T. & K. coat-of-arms backstamp illustrated by both DeBolt and Gates and Ormerod. The cautious researcher needs more than their remark that this backstamp occurs with the letters K.T. & K. For purposes of identification and dating, DeBolt's 1994 "Dictionary of American Pottery Marks, Whiteware & Porcelain" remains the most complete and accurate study. Lehner's 1988 "Lehner's Encyclopedia of U. S. Marks on Pottery, Porcelain & Clay" is the most ambitious and the most comprehensive in scope but is sadly deficient in terms of accuracy. Gates and Ormerod's 1982 "The East Liverpool, Ohio, Pottery District: Identification of Manufacturers and Marks" is the only monographic work to include photographs of marks and is rigorous in its standards of historic accuracy though deliberately limited in geographic scope. The Kowalskys' compendium offers some useful approaches to identification, especially if one is dealing with a partial mark or a particular style of pottery, such as flow blue, transferware or tealeaf, but probably is not a necessary purchase for most historical archaeologists. It may be of limited appeal to collectors of flow blue, mulberry, tealeaf, etc., but much of the data included is available in other publications on these specific types of ceramics or other books on ceramic marks.

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