

Spode copeland spode the works and its people 177 Ebook

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Understanding the rich history of Spode, Copeland, and the works associated with these iconic pottery brands offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of British ceramics. Spode, Copeland, and the Works are not just names but represent a legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and cultural significance that spans over two centuries. This article explores the origins, development, and the remarkable people behind the success of these storied pottery manufacturers, with a particular focus on the year 177, which marks a notable milestone in their history.

The Origins of Spode, Copeland, and Their Legacy

Early Beginnings of Spode

Founded in 1770 by Josiah Spode in Stoke-on-Trent, England, Spode quickly established itself as a leading figure in ceramic manufacturing. Renowned for its high-quality earthenware and innovative techniques, Spode revolutionized British pottery with the introduction of new glazes and patterns.

Key milestones in Spode's early history include:

- Introduction of the iconic blue and white Willow pattern in 1814.
- Development of transfer printing techniques, which allowed for detailed designs at scale.
- Expansion of manufacturing facilities to meet growing demand.

Copeland's Emergence and Growth

William Copeland joined the ceramic industry in the early 19th century, eventually forming the Copeland company in 1847. The Copeland works became synonymous with innovation and artistic excellence, often collaborating with prominent designers and artists.

Highlights of Copeland's influence:

- Introduction of new decorative styles, blending traditional and contemporary motifs.
- Development of durable stoneware and earthenware products.

- Strategic mergers that expanded their market reach.

The Merger and the Formation of Spode, Copeland & Sons

In 1970, Spode and the Copeland companies merged to form Spode, Copeland & Sons, consolidating their strengths and heritage. This union marked a new chapter, emphasizing innovation while preserving traditional craftsmanship.

Significance of this merger includes:

- Streamlining production processes.
- Enhancing design collaborations across the brands.
- Maintaining high standards of quality and craftsmanship.

Notable Works and Collections

Heritage and Iconic Designs

Spode and Copeland are celebrated for their distinctive patterns and high-quality craftsmanship. Some of their most renowned collections include:

- **The Willow Pattern:** A classic blue and white design inspired by Chinese porcelain, first introduced by Spode in 1814.
- **Cambridge Shape:** Elegant dinnerware characterized by its refined form and intricate decoration.
- **Florentine and Italianate patterns:** Inspired by classical Italian art, popular in the 19th century.
- **Modernist Designs:** Embracing contemporary aesthetics in the 20th century.

Special Editions and Collectibles

Over the years, Spode and Copeland have produced limited editions and collectible items, which are highly sought after by collectors worldwide. These include:

- Commemorative plates for royal events and anniversaries.
- Artistic collaborations with renowned designers and artists.
- Unique handcrafted pieces showcasing traditional techniques.

The People Behind the Legacy

Key Figures in Spode and Copeland's History

The success of Spode and Copeland can be largely attributed to visionary individuals whose dedication, creativity, and leadership shaped the companies' destinies.

- **Josiah Spode (1733-1797):** The founder of Spode, credited with pioneering important technical innovations and establishing the company's reputation.
- **William Copeland (1816-1874):** A key figure in expanding the Copeland business and fostering artistic collaborations.
- **Henry Sandon (1928-2020):** A renowned ceramic historian and former curator of the Spode Museum, instrumental in preserving and promoting the company's heritage.
- **Contemporary Designers:** Modern artists and designers continue to contribute to the brand's legacy, blending traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetics.

Workforce and Craftsmanship

The people behind the scenes—craftsmen, artisans, and factory workers—have played a vital role in maintaining quality standards. Their expertise in:

- Pottery shaping and moulding
- Glazing and firing techniques
- Hand-painted decoration

ensures that each piece upholds the brand's reputation for excellence.

Spode, Copeland & The Works Today

Modern Developments and Innovations

Today, Spode and Copeland continue to innovate, embracing new technologies while respecting traditional methods. The brand has expanded its product range to include:

- Contemporary dinnerware and home décor
- Collaborations with modern designers
- Sustainable manufacturing practices

Preservation of Heritage and Cultural Impact

The legacy of Spode and Copeland remains vital, with museums, collectors, and enthusiasts worldwide celebrating their contributions to ceramics. The Spode Museum and various exhibitions highlight their historical significance and ongoing influence.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Spode, Copeland, and Their People

The story of Spode, Copeland, and the works associated with them is a testament to innovation, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage. The year 177 marks an important chapter, but their influence extends far beyond, shaping the landscape of British ceramics and inspiring generations of artisans and collectors alike. Their people—founders, designers, artisans—have left an indelible mark on the art of pottery, ensuring that their legacy continues to thrive in the modern era.

Whether through iconic patterns like the Willow or through innovative contemporary pieces, the enduring spirit of Spode and Copeland exemplifies excellence in craftsmanship. Their history provides valuable insights into the evolution of ceramic arts, and their continued relevance underscores the importance of preserving traditional techniques in a rapidly changing world.

Spode Copeland Spode The Works and Its People 177: A Deep Dive into a Ceramic Dynasty

The story of Spode Copeland Spode The Works and Its People 177 is a compelling narrative that encapsulates over two centuries of innovation, craftsmanship, and cultural influence in the world of ceramics. From its humble beginnings in the late 18th century to its enduring legacy today, this iconic brand and its dedicated artisans have left an indelible mark on both the decorative arts and the history of British manufacturing. This article offers a comprehensive exploration of the origins, evolution, and key figures behind Spode, illuminating how the company's people and their craftsmanship shaped its enduring reputation.

Origins of Spode: The Birth of a Ceramic Legacy

Early Foundations and the Founding of the Business

In 1770, Josiah Spode established a pottery works in Stoke-on-Trent, often referred to as the Potteries, an area renowned for its ceramic production. Spode's innovative approach to ceramics quickly set his enterprise apart. His focus was on creating high-quality earthenware that combined aesthetic appeal with practical durability. The company's early success was rooted in the mastery of traditional techniques and a pioneering spirit that sought to push the boundaries of ceramic design.

The Development of a Distinctive Style

By the late 18th century, Spode had developed a signature style characterized by finely detailed

transfer printing and a distinctive blue-and-white palette inspired by Chinese porcelain. This period marked the beginning of a series of innovations that would cement Spode's reputation as a leader in ceramic design.

The Growth and Expansion of Spode Copeland

The Copeland Partnership and Merger

In the 19th century, the company expanded through strategic partnerships. Notably, in 1817, Josiah Spode's son, Josiah Spode II, joined forces with other local manufacturers, leading to the formation of Copeland and Garrett, later evolving into Copeland & Sons. The expansion was driven by a desire to meet increasing demand and to innovate new ceramic products.

The Incorporation of John Copeland

John Copeland's involvement from the early 19th century was pivotal. His expertise in manufacturing processes and business acumen helped propel the company into a period of prolific growth. The 'Copeland' name became synonymous with quality and innovation, blending traditional craftsmanship with emerging industrial techniques.

The Artistic and Technological Innovations

Transfer Printing and Pattern Design

One of Spode's hallmark contributions was the refinement of transfer printing techniques. This process allowed for intricate designs to be transferred onto ceramics efficiently, enabling mass production of detailed patterns. The popular "Blue Italian" pattern, introduced in the early 19th century, exemplifies this innovation and remains iconic today.

The Introduction of Bone China

Spode was among the first British manufacturers to produce bone china, a material known for its strength, whiteness, and translucency. This development marked a significant technological breakthrough, elevating the company's products to a luxury status.

Notable Product Lines and Collections

- Blue Italian: An enduring classic inspired by Chinese porcelain motifs.
- Churchill Ware: Durable tableware for everyday use.
- Victoria Series: Named after Queen Victoria, reflecting the Victorian era's tastes.

The People Behind Spode: Masters, Artisans, and Innovators

The success of Spode was driven not only by technological innovation but also by the talented individuals who worked behind the scenes. Understanding these key figures offers insight into the company's creative and operational backbone.

Josiah Spode (1733?1797)

- Founder of the company.
- Innovator in developing fine earthenware and transfer printing.
- Pioneered the use of cobalt blue decoration in Britain.

Josiah Spode II (1774?1843)

- Expanded the business and modernized production.
- Introduced new patterns and improved manufacturing techniques.
- Maintained the company's reputation during a period of industrial change.

John Copeland (c. 1781?1850)

- Business partner and key figure in the company's growth.
- Focused on manufacturing processes and expanding product lines.
- Helped integrate early industrial practices into ceramic production.

Influential Artisans and Designers

Throughout its history, Spode employed numerous talented artists and decorators who contributed to its distinctive aesthetic. Their skills ensured that each piece was a work of art, blending industrial efficiency with artistic expression.

The Transition to Copeland & Garrett and Beyond

Mergers and Acquisitions

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Spode underwent several mergers, including the notable integration into the Copeland family business. The brand became part of the renowned Copeland Group, which expanded its reach globally.

The Impact of Industrialization

The advent of mechanization allowed Spode to increase production volumes while maintaining quality. However, it also posed challenges to traditional craftsmanship, leading to a balance between mass production and artisanal techniques.

Modern Era and Revival

In the 20th century, Spode faced competition from emerging ceramics firms but experienced revival efforts driven by collectors and enthusiasts. Today, the brand continues to produce ceramics that honor its historic designs while embracing contemporary trends.

Spode Today: Legacy and Cultural Significance

Preservation of Heritage

The original Spode factory in Stoke-on-Trent is now a heritage site and museum, showcasing its rich history and the craftsmanship of its people.

Collecting and Antiques

Vintage Spode pieces, especially those from the 18th and 19th centuries, are highly valued among collectors. Their enduring appeal lies in their historical significance and exquisite craftsmanship.

Contemporary Relevance

Modern Spode continues to produce ceramics inspired by its historic collections, blending tradition with innovation and maintaining its reputation as a symbol of British ceramic artistry.

Key Takeaways and Conclusion

- Spode Copeland Spode The Works and Its People 177 encapsulates over two centuries of innovation, craftsmanship, and cultural influence in ceramics.
- The company's success was driven by visionary founders like Josiah Spode, strategic partnerships, and the talented artisans who brought designs to life.
- Technological innovations such as transfer printing and bone china production revolutionized the industry.
- The people behind Spode—artists, designers, and business leaders—played crucial roles in shaping its aesthetic and operational direction.
- Today, Spode remains an iconic name, celebrated for its historical significance and enduring

craftsmanship.

Understanding the legacy of Spode and its people offers invaluable insights into the evolution of British ceramics and the artistry that continues to influence the decorative arts today. Whether you're a collector, a historian, or an enthusiast of fine craftsmanship, the story of Spode Copeland Spode The Works and Its People 177 is a testament to the enduring power of innovation, tradition, and dedicated craftsmanship in creating timeless works of art.

Question What is the significance of 'Spode Copeland Spode the Works and its People 177' in the context of ceramic history? This publication highlights the rich history and contributions of the Spode and Copeland pottery works, emphasizing their influence on ceramic craftsmanship and design from 177 to the present, and showcasing the people behind their success. Who were the key figures featured in 'Spode Copeland Spode the Works and its People 177'? The book features notable figures such as Josiah Spode, known for developing bone china, and other influential artisans and managers who played vital roles in shaping the company's legacy over the years. How does 'Spode Copeland Spode the Works and its People 177' contribute to understanding British ceramic heritage? It provides detailed insights into the evolution of Spode and Copeland pottery, illustrating technological innovations, artistic developments, and the community of craftsmen that contributed to British ceramic excellence. What are some unique aspects of the pottery produced at Spode and Copeland as discussed in the book? The book covers unique aspects like the development of iconic patterns such as Blue Italian and the production of fine bone china, as well as the integration of artistic design with industrial manufacturing processes. Why is the year '177' significant in the context of Spode and Copeland's history? The year '177' marks a pivotal period in the company's history, possibly indicating the founding year or a notable milestone, which is explored in the book to understand the origins and growth of these historic pottery works.

Related keywords: Spode, Copeland, ceramics, pottery, porcelain, 1770s, Staffordshire, pottery works, 18th-century ceramics, British pottery

New Handbook Of British Pottery And Porcelain Marks

new handbook of british pottery and porcelain marks is an essential resource for collectors, historians, and enthusiasts eager to identify and authenticate British ceramics. This comprehensive guide provides detailed insights into the myriad of marks that adorn pottery and porcelain pieces produced across the United Kingdom, spanning from the early 18th century to contemporary works. Whether you are a seasoned collector seeking to verify the provenance of a cherished item or a novice just beginning your journey into the world of ceramics, understanding British pottery and porcelain marks is fundamental. This article explores the significance of these marks, the history

behind their development, and how the new handbook serves as an invaluable tool for identification and valuation.

Understanding British Pottery and Porcelain Marks

What Are Pottery and Porcelain Marks?

Pottery and porcelain marks are symbols, initials, logos, or inscriptions stamped, painted, or impressed onto ceramic pieces. They serve multiple purposes:

- Indicate the maker or manufacturer
- Date the piece
- Show the origin or place of manufacture
- Reflect the pattern or series
- Authenticate the piece

These marks often appear on the underside of items, but some may be found on the sides, handles, or decorative elements.

The Importance of Marks in Collecting and Authentication

For collectors and appraisers, marks are crucial in:

- Determining the age of a piece
- Confirming authenticity
- Identifying the manufacturer
- Assessing rarity and value
- Tracing historical significance

Accurate interpretation of these marks requires detailed reference materials?hence the importance of the new handbook.

The Evolution of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks

Historical Development

British pottery and porcelain marks evolved over centuries, reflecting technological advancements, branding strategies, and legal requirements. Early marks from the 18th century were often simple initials or symbols, while later marks became more elaborate, incorporating coats of arms, factory

logos, and artist signatures.

Key historical phases include:

- Early 18th Century: Marks were often crude, consisting of initials or simple symbols.
- Mid-18th Century: Introduction of painted or impressed marks, often with the name or initials of the maker.
- 19th Century: The advent of transfer printing allowed for more detailed marks, including factory logos and decorative marks.
- 20th Century to Present: Marks became more standardized, including date codes, trademarks, and country of origin labels, especially after trade laws and export regulations.

Major British Pottery and Porcelain Manufacturers

Some of the most significant manufacturers whose marks are detailed in the new handbook include:

- Wedgwood
- Royal Doulton
- Spode
- Paragon
- Minton
- Shelley
- T.G. Green & Co.
- Crown Derby
- Royal Worcester
- Burleigh

Each manufacturer developed unique marks that evolved over time, making their identification a key focus of the handbook.

Features of the New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks

Comprehensive Coverage

The new handbook provides an extensive database of marks from over 200 British manufacturers, including:

- Historical marks

- Contemporary marks
- Factory-specific variations
- Special edition marks

High-Quality Illustrations

The guide features high-resolution images of each mark, allowing readers to compare their items accurately.

Chronological Tables

To aid dating, the handbook includes detailed timelines showing when specific marks were used, making it easier to estimate the age of a piece.

Identification Tips and FAQs

Practical advice on:

- Differentiating between similar marks
- Recognizing fake or reproduction marks
- Understanding mark deterioration or modifications

Additional Resources

The handbook also links to online databases, museums, and auction house archives for further research.

How to Use the Handbook Effectively

Step-by-Step Identification Process

- Examine the Piece Carefully: Note the location, shape, and style of the mark.
- Photograph the Mark: Capture clear images for comparison.
- Compare with Handbook Images: Use the illustrations and descriptions as reference.
- Determine the Manufacturer and Date: Cross-reference with timelines and factory histories.
- Verify Authenticity: Check for signs of reproduction or fake marks.

Tips for Collectors and Dealers

- Keep updated with new editions or revisions of the handbook.
- Use magnification tools to examine marks closely.
- Record detailed notes and photographs for provenance documentation.
- Consult online forums and expert communities for complex identifications.

Benefits of the New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks

For Collectors

- Accurate identification of rare or valuable pieces
- Enhanced knowledge leading to informed purchasing decisions
- Improved ability to date and authenticate items

For Dealers and Appraisers

- Streamlined valuation process
- Better understanding of market trends
- Enhanced credibility with clients

For Historians and Researchers

- Deeper insights into manufacturing trends and regional differences
- Better understanding of historical contexts influencing ceramic production

Where to Purchase the New Handbook and Supplementary Resources

The latest edition of the handbook is available through:

- Major bookstores specializing in antiques and collectibles
- Online retailers such as Amazon and specialized antique bookshops
- Museums and historical societies focusing on British ceramics
- Digital versions or apps for quick reference on the go

In addition to the physical book, many online databases and forums complement the handbook, offering up-to-date information, user contributions, and expert advice.

Conclusion: Why the New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain

Marks Is Indispensable

The new handbook stands as a definitive guide for anyone interested in British ceramics. Its thorough coverage, detailed illustrations, and practical identification tips make it an essential tool for authenticating and valuing pottery and porcelain pieces. As the world of ceramics continues to evolve, staying informed with the latest reference materials ensures that collectors and professionals alike can appreciate, preserve, and celebrate Britain's rich ceramic heritage.

Whether you are a seasoned collector seeking to expand your collection or a newcomer eager to learn the craft, investing in this comprehensive guide will undoubtedly enhance your understanding and enjoyment of British pottery and porcelain. Embrace the knowledge contained within this new handbook and elevate your appreciation for one of the world's most storied ceramic traditions.

New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks: A Comprehensive Guide for Collectors and Enthusiasts

For collectors, historians, and enthusiasts of British ceramics, understanding the origins and authenticity of pottery and porcelain pieces is essential. The new handbook of British pottery and porcelain marks offers an invaluable resource, providing detailed insights into the marks used by manufacturers across centuries. This guide aims to demystify the complexities of these marks, helping readers identify, date, and authenticate pieces with confidence.

Introduction: The Significance of Pottery and Porcelain Marks

British pottery and porcelain have long been celebrated worldwide for their quality, craftsmanship, and distinctive styles. From the elegant porcelain of Wedgwood to the vibrant ceramics of Moorcroft, marks serve as vital identifiers that reveal a piece's origin, age, and sometimes its maker. As the market for antique ceramics continues to grow, so does the importance of accurate mark identification.

The new handbook of British pottery and porcelain marks consolidates decades of research and discovery into a comprehensive, accessible resource. It covers a wide range of manufacturers, from well-known giants to lesser-known producers, offering detailed illustrations and explanations of their marks.

Why a New Handbook?

While many existing references are valuable, they often become outdated or incomplete as new marks are discovered or reinterpreted. The new handbook addresses these gaps by incorporating:

- Updated research and newly identified marks
- Clearer illustrations and high-resolution images
- Contextual information about manufacturers and their marks
- Guidance on dating and authenticating pieces
- Cross-references to related marks and variations

This makes it an essential tool for serious collectors, dealers, appraisers, and museums.

Understanding British Pottery and Porcelain Marks

Types of Marks

British pottery and porcelain marks can generally be categorized into several types:

- **Factory Marks:** Usually stamped or painted onto the piece, representing the manufacturer or brand.
- **Backstamps:** Often include the factory name, location, and sometimes a date code.
- **Pattern Marks:** Indicate specific patterns or designs.
- **Royal Warrants and Emblems:** Signify official endorsements or royal patronage.
- **Painter's or Decorator Marks:** Identifies individual artisans or workshops.

Common Marking Techniques

Marks can be applied in various ways, including:

- **Stamped:** Raised or indented impressions pressed into the clay or glaze.
- **Printed:** Using transfer printing or decals.
- **Painted:** Hand-painted marks, often signatures or symbols.
- **Underglaze and Overglaze:** Marks inscribed beneath or on top of the glaze.

Understanding these techniques helps in identifying the period and authenticity of a piece.

Key Features Covered in the Handbook

The new handbook of British pottery and porcelain marks delves into numerous aspects of marks, including:

- **Manufacturer Histories**

A detailed background on each manufacturer, their origins, and evolution.

- Mark Variations

Illustrations and explanations of different variations of a manufacturer's marks over time, which is vital for precise dating.

- Dating Guides

Timelines and clues to help date pieces based on mark styles, shape, and decoration.

- Regional and Special Marks

Coverage of regional potteries, studio marks, and special commemorative marks.

- Notable Makers and Their Marks

Profiles of key British manufacturers like Wedgwood, Royal Doulton, Spode, Moorcroft, and others, with visual references.

How to Use the Handbook Effectively

Step 1: Examine Your Piece Carefully

- Identify the location of the mark (bottom, side, backstamp).
- Note the shape, size, and color of the mark.
- Observe any distinctive features or symbols.

Step 2: Match the Mark with Illustrations

- Use high-resolution images in the handbook for comparison.
- Pay attention to variations that may indicate different periods.

Step 3: Cross-Reference with Contextual Clues

- Match the style, pattern, and shape of your piece with known periods.
- Consider any maker's marks, signatures, or additional symbols.

Step 4: Confirm and Date

- Use the chronological guides and notes to approximate the piece's age.
- Consult additional references or experts if necessary.

Popular British Pottery and Porcelain Makers and Their Marks

Wedgwood

- Early Marks: The famous "Wedgwood" in script, often with "England" or "Made in England."
- Jasperware Marks: Typically include the impressed or printed marks with the date codes.
- Royal Warrant: A mark indicating royal patronage.

Royal Doulton

- Doulton Marks: Usually a circle or shield with "Doulton," sometimes with "Made in England."
- Backstamps: Progress through various logos, including lion and crown motifs.
- Date Codes: Introduced in the 20th century, allowing precise dating.

Spode

- Classic Marks: Usually a crown over "Spode," with variations over time.
- Pattern Numbering: Often accompanied by pattern numbers stamped or painted.

Moorcroft

- Studio Marks: Typically signed by the artist, with a distinctive "Moorcroft" logo.
- Signature Styles: Hand-painted signatures and numbers.

Other Notable Makers

- Royal Worcester: Marks include "Royal Worcester," sometimes with date codes.

- Crown Staffordshire: Often marked with a crown over ?Staffordshire? or ?Crown Staffordshire.?

Challenges in Mark Identification

While marks are invaluable, several challenges can arise:

- Fakes and Forgeries: Reproductions may mimic genuine marks, requiring careful analysis.
- Wear and Damage: Marks can become obscured or worn, complicating identification.
- Variations and Revisions: Manufacturers often altered their marks over time, necessitating detailed knowledge.

The new handbook provides guidance on recognizing authentic marks and spotting common fakes.

Conclusion: The Value of the New Handbook

The new handbook of British pottery and porcelain marks stands as a vital resource for anyone engaged with British ceramics. Its detailed illustrations, historical context, and practical guidance empower collectors and professionals alike to make informed judgments about their pieces. Whether you are dating a rare find, authenticating a purchase, or simply expanding your knowledge, this comprehensive guide is an essential addition to your reference library.

Embrace the rich history of British ceramics with confidence?unlock the stories behind every mark!

Question What is the main focus of the 'New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks'? The handbook provides comprehensive information on identifying and authenticating British pottery and porcelain marks, including historical context, marking techniques, and collector tips. How can the 'New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks' help collectors? It helps collectors accurately identify makers, dates, and styles of pottery and porcelain, preventing forgeries and enhancing appreciation of valuable pieces. Does the handbook include marks from all major British pottery manufacturers? Yes, it covers a wide range of major and lesser-known British pottery and porcelain manufacturers, with detailed illustrations and descriptions of their marks. Are there updates or new additions in the latest edition of the handbook? The latest edition includes recent discoveries, new marks, and updated historical information to reflect current research and market trends. Can this handbook help identify marks on antique British porcelain? Absolutely, it is an essential reference for identifying antique British porcelain marks, including dating and authenticity verification. Is the 'New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks' suitable for beginners? Yes, it is designed to be accessible for beginners while also providing detailed information for advanced collectors and experts. Does the book include visual guides or illustrations of marks? Yes, it features numerous high-quality images and illustrations to assist in visual identification of various marks. How does this handbook compare to other reference guides on British pottery and porcelain?

It is considered one of the most comprehensive and updated guides, offering detailed analysis, clear illustrations, and expert insights that surpass many older references. Is the 'New Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks' available in digital format? Yes, it is available as both a printed book and in digital formats, making it accessible for modern collectors and researchers. Can this handbook assist in appraising the value of British pottery and porcelain pieces? While primarily focused on marks and identification, it provides valuable information that can aid in appraising the authenticity and potential value of pieces.

Related keywords: British pottery marks, porcelain marks guide, pottery identification, ceramic marks, antique pottery marks, British ceramics, porcelain mark catalog, pottery marking system, pottery collectibles, ceramic authentication

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