1986VanPATTERN, Joan F.: The Collectior’s Encyclopedia of NIPPON PORCELAIN Third Series.

COLLECTOR BOOKS

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GLOSSARY

American Indian design—a popular collectible in Nippon porcelain, these designs include the Indian in a canoe, Indian warrior, Indian hunting wild game and the Indian maiden.

Apricot (ume)　梅　in Japan, stands for strength and nobility, is also a symbols of good luck.

Art Decoアールデコ　a style of decoration which hit its peak in Europe and America around 1925 although items were manufactured with this décor as early as 1910. The style was modernistic: geometric patterns were popular. Motifs used were shapes such as circles, rectangles, cylinders and cones.

Art Nouveauアールヌボー　the name is derived from the French words meaning “new art.” During the period of 1885-1925, artists tended to use bolder colors, and realism was rejected. Free-flowing designs were used, breaking away from the imitations of the past.

Artist signed—items signed by the artist, most appear to be of English extraction probably painted during the heyday of hand painting chinaware at the turn of the century.

Azalea pattern ツツジ [G] 乾燥したpattern found on Nippon items, pink azaleas with green to gray leaves and gold rims. Nippon marked pieces match the Noritake marked azalea pattern items. The Azalea pattern was originally offered by the Larkin Co. to its customers as premiums.

Backstamp　高台（こうだい）の銘、印mark found on Nippon porcelain items identifying the manufacturer, exporter or importer and country of origin.

Bamboo tree竹　in Japan, symbolic of strength, faithfulness and honesty, also a good luck symbol. The bamboo resists the storm but it yields to it and rises again.

Beading　ビーズgenerally a series of clay dots applied on Nippon porcelain, very often enameled over in gold. Later Nippon pieces merely had dots of enameling.

Bisquit　ビスクイック（ビスケット）clay which has been fired but unglazed.

Bisque—same as biscuit, term also used by collectors to describe a matte finish （マット仕上げ、光沢なし）on an items.

Blank—greenware of bisque items devoid of decoration.

Blown-out items—this terms is used by collectors and dealers for items that have a molded relief pattern embossed on by the mold in which the article was shaped. It is not actually “blown-out” as glass items are, but the pattern is raised up from the background of the item. (See Molded Relief)

Bottger, Johan F. ヨハン・ベットガー（1682-1719） a young German alchemist who supposedly discovered the value of kaolin in making porcelain. This discovery helped to revolutionize the china making industry in Europe beginning in the early 1700s.　ドイツ・マイセン窯

Carp – fish that symbolizes strength and perseverance.

Casting – the process of making reproductions by pouring slip into molds.

Cha no yu – Japanese tea ceremony.

Chargers 大皿 archaic term for larger platters or plates.

Cheese hard clay – same as leather hard clay.

Cherry blossoms 桜 national flower of Japan and emblem of the faithful warrior.

Ching-te-Chen 景徳鎮　ancient city in China where nearly a million people lived and worked with almost all devoted to the making of porcelain.

Chrysanthemum キク depicts health and longevity, the crest of the Emperor of Japan. The chrysanthemum blossoms late in the year of lives longer than other flowers.

Citron シトロン stands for wealth.

Cloissone on Porcelain クロワゾン、七宝（しっぽう） on Nippon porcelain wares it resembles the other cloisonné pieces except that it was produced on a porcelain body instead of metal. The decoration is divided in to cells called cloisons. These cloisons were divided by strips of metal wire which kept the colors separated during the firing.

Cobalt oxyde コバルト酸化物　blue oxide imported to Japan after 1838 for decoration of wares. Gosu, a pebble found in Oriental riverbeds had previously been used but was scarce and more expensive than the imported oxide. Cobalt oxide is the most powerful of all the coloring oxides fro tinting.

Coralene items珊瑚　were made by firing small colored beads on the wares. Most are signed Kinran, US Patent, NBR 912171, February 9, 1909 Japan. Tiny glass beads had previously been applied to glass items I the shapes of birds, flowers, leaves, etc. and no dout this was an attempt to copy it. Japanese coralene was patented by Alban L. Rock, an American living in Yokohama, Japan. The vitreous coating of beads gave the item a plush velvety look. The beads were permanently fired on and gave a luminescence to the design. The most popular design had been one of seaweed and coral, hence the name coralene was given to this type of design.

Crane 鶴 a symbol of good luck in Japan, also stands for martial fidelity and is an emblem of longevity.

Daffodil 水仙　a sign of spring to the Japanese.

Decalcomania デカルコマニア（転写法）a process of transferring a wet paper print onto the surface of an item. It was made to resemble hand painted work.

Deer – stand for divine messenger.

Diaper pattern ダイヤパー（菱形） repetitive pattern of small design used on Nippon porcelain, often geometric or floral.

Dragon (ryu) 龍 a symbol of strength, goodness and good fortune. The Japanese dragon has three claws and was thought to reside in the sky. Clouds, water and lightening often accompany the dragon. The dragon is often portrayed in high relief using the slip trailing method of décor.

Dragon mold – a mold used in making hollow ware. Liquid slip is poured into the mold until the desired thickness of the walls is achieved. The excess clay is poured out. When the item starts to shrink away from the mold, it is removed.

Drape mold 雄型 or flopover mold, used to make flat bottomed items. Moist clay is rolled out and draped over the mold. It is then pressed firmly into shape.

Dutch scenes – popularo Nippon items, include those of windmills, and men and women dressed in Dutch costumes.

Edo – or Yedo, the largest city in Jpan, later renamed Tokyo, meaning eastern capitol.

Embossed design – see molded relief.

Enamel beading エナメル・ビーズdots of enameling painted by the artist in gold or other colors and often made to resemble jewels such as emeralds and rubies. Many times this raised beading will be found in brown or black colors.

Fairings 土産もの items won or bought at fairs as souvenirs.

Feldspar 長石　most common rock found on earth.

Fern Leaves シダ symbolic of ample good fortune.

Fettles or Mold Marks 型跡を除く ridges formed where sections of molds are joined at the seam. These fettles have to be removed before the item is decorated.

Finial 先端の飾り the top knob on a cover on an item, used of lift the cover off.

Firing – the cooking or baking of clay ware.

Flopover mold – same as drape mold.

Flux フラックス、溶融剤 an ingredient added to glaze to assist in making the item fire properly. It causes the glaze to melt at the specified temperature.

Glaze釉薬（ゆうやく）（うわぐすり） composed of silica, alumina and flux, and is applied to porcelain pieces. During the firming process, the glaze joins together with the clay item to form a glasslike surface. It seals the pores and makes the item impervious to liquids.

Gold trim – has to be fired at lower temperatures or the gold would sink into the enameled decoration. If overfired, the gold becomes discolored.

Gouda ceramics ゴーダ originally made in Gouda, a province of South Holland. These items were copies on the Nippon wares and were patterned after the Art Nouveau style.

Gosu 呉須 pebble found in Oriental riverbeds, a natural cobalt. It was used to color items until 1868 when oxidized cobalt was introduce in to Japan. \*染め付け用の鉱物顔料。酸化コバルトを含み、還元炎により、藍青色、紫青色に発色する。

Greenware 生地陶磁（まだ焼かれていない）clay which has been molded but not fired.

Hard paste porcelain- paste meaning the body of substance, porcelain being made from clay using kaolin. This produces a hard translucent body when fired.

Ho-o bird 鳳凰 sort of a bird of pardise who resides on earth and is associated with the Empress of Japan. Also see phoenix bird.

Incised backstamp 印刻の銘 the backstamp marking is scratched into the surface of a clay item.

Incised decoration – a sharp tool or stick was used to roduce the design right onto the body of the article while it was still in a state of soft clay.

Iris イリス、あやめ the Japanese believe this flower wards off evil: associated with warriors because of its sword-like leaves.

Jasper Ware 碧玉（みどり） see Wedgewood.

Jigger 機械ろくろa machine resembling a potter’s wheel. Soft pliable clay is place onto a convex revolving modl. As the wheel turns, a template is held against it, trimming off the excess clay on the outside. The revolving modl shapes the inside of the item and the template cuts the outside.

Jolley ジョリー、機械ろくろ a machine like a jigger only in reverse. The revolving mold is concave and the template forms the inside of the item. The template is lowered inside the revolving mold. The mold forms the outside surface while the template cuts the inside.

Jomon 縄文 Neolithic hunters and fishermen in Japan dating back to approximately 2500 BC. \_Their pottery was hand formed and marked with an overall rope or cord pattern. It was made of unwashed clay, unglazed and was baked in open fires.

Kaga – province in Japan.

Kaolin カオリン　highly refractory clay and one of the principal ingredients used in making porcelain. It is a pure white residual clay, a decomposition of granite.

Kao-ling カオリン Chinese word meaning “the high hills”, the word kaolin is derived from it.

Kiln キルン、窯、炉 oven in which pottery is fired.

Leather hard clay – clay which is dry enough to hold its shape but still damp and moist, no longer in a plastic state also called cheese hard.

Li quid slip – clay in a liquid state.

Lobster – symbol of long life.

Luster decoration ラスター a metallic type of coloring decorations, gives an irridescent effects.

Matte finish マット仕上げ（なし地仕上げ） also referred to as mat and matt. A dull glaze having a low reflectance when fired.

McKinley Tariff Act of 1899 – Chapter 1244, Section 6 states “That on and after the first day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, all articles of foreign manufacture, such as are usually or ordinarily marked, stamped, branded, or labeled, and all packages containing such or other imported articles, shall, respectively, be plainly marked, stamped, branded, or labeled in legible English words, so marked, stamped, branded, or labeled, they shall not be admitted to entry.”

Meiji period – period of 1868 to 1912 in Japan when Emperor Mutsuhito reigned. It means “enlightened rule”.

Middle East scenes – design used on Nippon pieces, featuring pyramids, deserts, palm trees and riders on camels.

Model – the shape from which the mold is made.

Molded relief items – the pattern is embossed on the item by the mold in which the article is shaped. These items give the appearance that the pattern is caused by some type of upward pressure from the underside. Collectors often refer to these items a “blown-out”.

Molds 型 contain a cavity in which castings are made. They are generally made from plaster of paris and are used for shaping clay objects. Both liquid and plastic clay may be used. The mold can also be made of clay or rubber, however, plaster was generally used as it absorbed moisture immediately from the clay. Raised ornamentation may also be formed directly in the mold.

Moriage 盛り上げ refers to applied clay (slip) relief decoration. On Nippon items this was usually done by ‘slip trailing’ or hand rolling and shaping the clay on an item.

Mutsuhito – Emperor of Japan from 1868 to 1912, His reign was called the Meiji period which meant enlightened rule.

Nagoya – a large city in Japan.

Narcissus – stands for good fortune.

Ningyo – Japanese name for doll, meaning human being and image.

Nippon – the name the Japanese people called their country. It comes from Chinese phrase meaning “ the source of the sun” and sounds like Neehon in Japanese.

Noritake Co. – originally registered as Nippon Gomei Kaisha. In 1917 the name was changed to Nippon Toki Kabushiki Toki. From 1918 the word Noritake appeared in conjunction with Nippon which was the designation of country of origin.

Orchid ラン、蘭　means hidden beauty and modesty to the Japanese.

Over-glazed decoration 釉薬（うわぐすり） a design is either painted or a decal applied to an item which already has a fired glaze surface. The article is then re-fired to made the decoration permanent.

Pattern stamping （銘、印） the design was achieved by using a special stamp or a plaster roll having the design cut into it. The design was pressed into the soft clay body of an item.

Panch パンチ drink originating in India consisting of lemon juice, arrack, tea.\, sugar and water.

Paulownia flower 桐　crest of the Empress of Japan.

Peach 桃　 stands fro marriage.

Peacock 孔雀 stand for elegance and beauty.

Peony ボタン、芍薬 considered the king of flowers in Japan.

Perry, Matthew, Comm., USN – helped to fashion the Kanagawa treaty in 1854 between the United States and Japan. This treaty opened the small ports of Shimoda and Hakodate to trade. Shipwrecked sailors were also to receive good treatment and an American Consul was permitted to reside at Shimoda.

Petuntse 白不子（はくとん）チャイナストーン　clay founds in felspathic rocks such as granite. Its addition to porcelain made the items more durable. Petuntse is also called china stone.

Phoenix bird 不死鳥 sort of bird of paradise which resides on earth and is associated with the Empress of Japan. This bird appears to be a cross between a peacock, a pheasant and gamecock. There appear to be many designs fro this bird a each artist had his own conception as to how it should look. It is also a symbol to the Japanese of all that is beautiful.

Pickard Co. – a china decorating studio originally located in Chicago. This firm decorated blank wares imported from a number of countries including Nippon.

Pine tree- to the Japanese this tree is symbolic of friendship and prosperity and depicts the winter season. It is also a sign of good luck and a sign of strength.

Plastic clay – clay in a malleable state, able to be shaped and formed without collapsing.

Plum – stands for womanhood. Plum blossoms reflect bravery.

Porcelain – a mixture composed mainly of kaolin and petuntse which are fired at a high temperature and vitrified.

Porcelain slip – porcelain clay in a liquid form.

Porcellaine – French adaptation of the word porcelain.

Porcellana – Italian word meaning cowry shell. The Chinese ware which was brought back to Venice in the 15th century was thought to resemble the cowry shell and was called porcellana.

Portrait items – items decorated with portraits, many of Victorian ladies. Some appear to be hand painted, others are decal work.

Potter’s wheel – rotating device onto which a ball of plastic clay is placed. The wheel is turned and the potter molds the clay with his hands and is capable of producing cycling decal objects.

Pottery – in its broadest sense, includes all forms of wares made from clay.

Press mold used to make handles, finials, figurines, etc. A two-piece mold into which soft clay is placed. The two pieces are pressed together to form items.

Relief- molded (See Molded Relief Items).

Royal Ceramics – name of Nippon pieces marked with RC on backstamp.

Satsuma – a sea-going principality in Japan, an area where many of the old famous kilns are found, and also a type of Japanese ware. Satsuma is a cream colored glazed pottery which is finely crackled.

Sllip 泥漿（でいしょう） liquid clay.

Slip trailing 一陳盛り（いっちん）（管から少しづつ絞り出して、陶器に絵付け）a process where liquid clay was applied to porcelain via a bamboo or rubber tube. A form of painting but with clay instead of paint. The slip is often applied quite heavily and gives a thick, raised appearance.

Slurry- thick slip.

Solid casting mold – used for shallow type items such as bowls and plates. In this type of mold, the thickness of the walls is determined by the mold and every piece is formed identical. The mold shapes both the inside and the outside of the piece and the thickness of the walls can be controlled. Solid casting can be done with either liquid or plastic clay.

Sometsuke 染め付けstyle decoration – items decorated with and underglaze of blue and white colors.　白地に呉須で下絵付けをし、透明な釉薬をかけて焼成すると青色に発色。日本では、伊万里。青花（せいか）

Sprigging – the application of small molded relief decoration to the surface of porcelain by use of liquid clay as in Jasper Ware.

Sprig mold 小枝模様a one-piece mod used in making ornaments. Clay is fitted or poured onto a mold which is incised with a design. Only one side is molded and the exposed side becomes the back of the finished item.

Taisho – name of the period reigned over by Emperor Yoshihito in Japan from 1912 to 1926. It means “great peace”.

Tapestry タピストリー、絨毯a type of décor used on Nippon porcelain. A cloth was dipped into liquid slip and then stretched onto the porcelain item. During the bisque firing the material burned off and left a textured look on the porcelain piece resembling needlepoint in many cases. The item was then painted and fired again in the usual manner.

Template –profile of the pattern being cut.

Throwing 轆轤（ろくと）に粘土を放り込む the art of forming a clay object on a potter’s wheel.

Tiger (tora) 虎 a symbol of longevity.

Transfer print 転写印刷 see Decalcomania

Translucent – not transparent but clear enough to allow rays of light to pass through.

Ultra violet lamp – lamp used to detect cracks and hidden repairs in items.

Underglaze decoration – this type of decoration is applied on bisque china (fired once), then the item is glazed and fired again.

\*下絵付け→透明釉薬→本窯→上絵付け→上絵窯

Victorian Age design– décor used on some Nippon pieces, gaudy and extremely bold colors used.

Vitreous- glass-like.

Vitrify　ガラス化するto change into a glasslike substance due to the application of heat.

Wasters キズもの（陶磁器） name given to pieces ruined or marred in the kiln.

Water lilies 睡蓮represents autumn in Japan.

Wedgewood – term used to refer to Nippon pieces which attempt to imitate Josiah Wedgewood’s Japer Ware. The items generally have a light blue or green background. The Nippon pieces were produced with a slip trailing décor however, rather than the sprigging ornamentation made popular by Wedgewood. White clay slip was trailed onto the background color of the item by use of tubing to form the pattern.

Yamato 大和district in central Japan.

Yayoi 弥生 people of the bronze and iron culture in Japan dating back to 300-100 BCE. They were basically an agricultural people. They made pottery using the potter’s wheel.

Yedo 江戸or Edo, the largest city in Japan, renamed Tokyo meaning eastern capital.

Yoshihito – Emeperor of Japan from 1912 to 1926. He took the name of Taisho which mean “great peace”.