

Majolica was popular during the Victorian era and returned to favor in the 1960s.

The whimsical, brightly colored ware is made of earthenware covered with opaque tin or lead enamel and decorated with metallic-oxide glaze. Designs are usually in relief and feature classical, floral, and animal forms. The design may match the use of the piece, such as a figural lobster on the lid of a lobster dish or a bunch of asparagus on an asparagus server.

Majolica was developed by Herbert Minton and Leon Arnoux in 1849 and was made by many potteries in Europe and the U.S. The first products were vases, tiles, and architectural items. American manufacturers made pottery that resembled English majolica and it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Most of the pottery made in America was decorated by female employees with limited training and, therefore, the quality varies. Most majolica was not marked.

In the 1880s, majolica was offered as a premium by many companies, including the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Mother's Oats, and Price and Company Baking Powder. About 1900, overproduction, poor workmanship, and labor problems contributed to the decline in popularity.

Because of its soft earthenware composition, majolica is rarely found in perfect condition. Hairline cracks, crazing, and small flakes or chips do not significantly affect value, but avoid pieces with large cracks, missing lids, or missing handles. Collectors will buy a rare piece even if it is damaged. Never use bleach to remove stains--it may damage the finish. Stains should be removed professionally.

The marks shown here are from *Majolica: A Complete History and Illustrated Survey* by Marilyn G. Karmason with Joan B. Stacked (Harry N. Abrams, NY, c1989).

For more information, see *Majolica: British, Continental and American Wares, 1851-1915* by Victoria Bergesen (Barrie & Jenkins, London, c1989) and *Majolica Pottery* by Mariann K. Marks (Collector Books, Paducah, KY, c1983, values updated 1989). Clubs and a publication for majolica collectors include Majolica Collectors Association, P.O. Box 332, Wolcottville, IN 46795; and Majolica International Society (Newsletter of M.I.S.), 1275 First Avenue, Suite #103, New York, NY 10021.

MINTON 1140  
C N X N

Minton & Co.

Stoke, Staffordshire, England  
Impressed mark includes date symbol for 1867, shape number, factory, and (possibly) artisan.



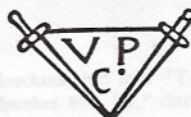
George Jones & Sons

Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England  
Impressed mark used from December 1873.



Joseph Holdcraft

Longton, Staffordshire, England  
Produced majolica from 1870-1885.  
Impressed mark.



Victoria Pottery Company

Stoke, Staffordshire, England  
Established in 1882. Impressed mark.



Mafra and Son

Caldas de Rainha, Portugal  
1853-present  
Mark used after 1890.

W. S. & S.

Wilhelm Schiller and Sons

Bodenbach, Bohemia  
1829-1895



Griffen, Smith and Hill

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania  
Mark used from 1880.



Chesapeake Pottery Co.

Baltimore, Maryland  
In business 1880-1914.  
Clifton is the pattern name.

**Correction:** In the January 1990 Dictionary of Marks, the dates for the Heintz Art Metal Shop should be 1906 to c.1935.

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Barbie is now a "lifestyle," not just a doll. Mattel is making dozens of new Barbie items, but not in doll sizes. Young girls' dresses, sheets, and even Barbie pictures on "baseball cards" are being marketed. Barbie must be tired of Ken after 29 years, so she is finding some new boy friends: Donnie, Jordan, Joe, Danny, and Jonathan. For those of you over 25, those are the members of today's hot group "New Kids on the Block."

Black light can help identify glass. Cambridge, Tiffin, Duncan Miller, and Heisey clear glass will turn lettuce green under a black light. Imperial glass will glow purple. (*The Daze*)

Cereal box collectors will want the Kellogg Company Froot Loops, Frosted Flakes and Rice Krispies boxes with the holograms of Toucan Sam, Tony the Tiger, and Snap, Crackle and Pop. There are several designs for each brand. There is even a *Hologram Collectors Book* so you can save all of the pictures.

Fakes can be useful. Robert Lawrence Trotter was recently found guilty of forging folk art and other paintings. As part of the sentence, the judge ordered four fake paintings sent to the Yale Art Gallery. They will be used as part of a study collection to help students learn how to recognize fakes. (*Hartford Courant*, March 1)