

GUIDES TO DATING POTTERY FROM BACKSTAMPS

Company names and dates can be traced through - "Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks" by Geoffrey Godden (Barrie & Jenkins 1964)

Dick Henrywood's "Staffordshire Potters 1781-1900: A Comprehensive List Assembled from all known Contemporary Directories with Selected Marks" (Antique Collectors' Club 2002) is a useful addendum to this

John Cushion's "Pocket Book of British Ceramic Marks including Index to Registered Designs 1842-1883" (Faber & Faber 1995) is most useful for its index of registered designs.

General clues to dates can be given by words which appear in the backstamp.

ENGLAND Often added to marks after 1891, to comply with the American McKinley Tariff Act.

MADE IN ENGLAND 20th century, usually after 1914.

LIMITED After the 1860 Companies Act, not usually on pottery until after 1880.

TRADE MARK After the Trade Mark Act of 1862, not normally on pottery until 1875.

'DIAMOND' mark used between 1842 and 1883 for designs registered at the Patent Office

REGISTERED NUMBER Registered After 1884 - see design registration numbers guide sheet.

ROYAL ARMS 19th century or later. Arms after 1837 have simple quartered shield, pre 1837 have an inescutcheon or extra shield in the centre.

NAME OF PATTERN After 1810

'ROYAL' After 1850

'BONE CHINA' 20th century.