

MODERN JAPANESE MARKS

America imported vast amounts of ceramic products from Japan for many years. Up until 1891, most of those goods were marked with Japanese characters (or nothing at all).

However, in 1891 America passed the McKinley Tariff act, which required companies importing into the country to label their products with their country of origin. So Japan began to mark their goods "Nippon," which means Japan in Japanese.

In 1915 the US further required the words "Made in" to be added, and then later, in 1921, the country name to appear in English.

Imports into the US ended with WWII, but during the America occupation of Japan that followed, merchandise was labeled "Made in Occupied Japan" (1947-1952).

After that date, items were usually marked simply "Japan" with the occasional "Made in Japan," making it tricky to date those pieces. By the 1970's much of the cheaper ceramics market had been taken over by Taiwan and Korea.



1891-1914



1915-1940



1940-1945

WWII

1947-1952



1953-Present

