

IE&C Co. Marking Supplement

While it is very difficult to be specific concerning the chronology of the various IE&C marks the following details are provided to assist in differentiation and identification of the marks. Although this is largely a duplication of the photos presented in the main body of the article, I will provide detailed descriptions concentrating on the variations in the marks.

The **standard** mark, denoted as **IEC(S)** is found in green and, at least three sizes, 1.7 cm, 1.5 cm and 1.3 cm. The script is note worthy in that the “H” in Hand Painted is very elaborate and the “Painted” wraps under the wreath. The wreath itself is made up of blunt leaves without veins and the joining bow at the bottom resembles a 4-leaf clover. Japan is straight across the top of the interior letters. Included below are pictures of the 1.7 and 1.3 cm marks. Scale 4:1



There is, however, a variation to the standard mark, denoted as IEC(H). It is also 1.7 cm and found in green but the “H” and “P” in Hand and Painted are in a plainer and more formal script.



The **blue mark**, denoted as **IEC(B)** is 2 cm high. You will note that the “P” in Painted has more flare than found in the standard mark. Included below is the mark but also the stamp found on the vase in the article. Perhaps the stamp will generate additional information from readers.



The **green wreath**, denoted as **IEC (GW)** is 1 cm high. There are significant differences in this mark: the leaves on the wreath are pointed and veined. The bow is more elaborate with 3 leaves on the top, 2 at the bottom and a pronounced button in the middle. It is relatively smaller than the bow on the standard mark but the leaves are also rounded.



You may recall I had included a description of an upside down wreath mark and posed several possibilities. Thanks to Debby Crisp of Brisbane for supplying new photos of the marks on both the cup and the saucer she had listed on eBay as these largely resolve one of the mysteries. The photo below is the mark on the cup. The photo on the right is the mark on the saucer and the photo on the lower right is the mark that appeared on eBay. Without getting too technical, the photo on eBay was inadvertently “rotated vertically”. You will note that the letter “I”, “E” and “C O” all transpose perfectly.



I must add, however, that the account of the turn of the century heirloom vases, with the “CO” at the top, offered by the elderly lady from South Australia should not be dismissed off-hand as the likelihood of a variation or an error in application of the mark is entirely possible.

A short note on **Studio Hand Painted**, denoted **IEC (SHP)**, is timely as the core mark can be easily compared to the mark directly above it. You will note that the wreaths are not the same with the SHP wreath being the standard blunt, open leaves.



CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF IE&C.

At this stage of my analysis, it is difficult if not impossible to come to any significant conclusions about the chronology of the IEC marks. What has been proven is that all the marks are contained on items of porcelain that were produced during the “industrial revolution” and modernization of the porcelain industry in Japan. During this period from approximately 1885 to 1925, IEC porcelains were improved from ashen coloured to clear white porcelain but we have seen no evidence of Art Deco motifs.

Therefore, it will fall upon additional information and/or photographs of the wreath marks to answer many of these dating questions.

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Thanks to an eBay seller who preferred to be referenced only as Dave, MN, USA, I thought that another example of moriage vase bearing the IEC (GW) would be of interest as this vase again illustrates the painstaking efforts required to produce such an item. This is a level of artistic commitment that could not be accommodated in the “industrial revolution”.



Not only is the moriage multi-layered, it is multi-coloured. This vase and mark also illustrates how easy it is/was to make a mistake applying the mark.