NIPPON BACKSTAMPS: The Backstamps of the Morimura Company

This section endeavors to include all the Morimura Company backstamps. The most often found backstamps of the Morimura Company – Maple Leaf and M in Wreath – are addressed first. Morimura marks are often found in colors, like green, blue, or magenta, maybe red. A very few porcelain pieces, made of dark "fabrics," like some Egyptian pieces, have markings in a gold color. In her Q & A section, in her book, Van Patten ABCs of Collecting Nippon Porcelain (page 54), Joan tells us that the colors indicate the grade of the piece. Utilitarian items often have a magenta mark. Green and blue marks may indicate higher quality wares which are skillfully and lavishly decorated, or use a better mold, or both - and commanded a higher price. Kimura and Aoi, in their book, Collector's Guide for Old Noritake and Japanese Antique Porcelain with Western Style (pgs. 17, 20), assert that the application of the Morimura backstamps occurred in one of three ways: by transcription, by rubber stamp, or transfer stamp/mark.

It is thought that items exported by the Morimura Company in the first half of the Nippon era (1891 – 1911) used the Maple Leaf mark. These pieces would have the best chance of being *entirely* "hand painted" because, as demand for products increased methods were developed to replace as much labor-intensive work as could be done without sacrificing quality. This mark is followed by the mark used for the second half of the Nippon era (1911 – 1921) – "M in Wreath." This is the mark found MOST often – more than 50% of the pieces of Nippon bear this mark.

(NOTE: JVP = Joan Van Patten. Included below are the facsimiles of the backstamps and the numbers Joan assigns to each backstamp in her books. The last mark in this section (though not included in Joan' books) is the maruki - used to export to the U.K.)

JVP 52 – "Maple Leaf" – registered in Japan in 1908 – thought to be used from 1891 – 1911.

BEWARE – reproductions have been found bearing a fake Maple Leaf mark. See Reproductions!

Facsimile of JVP 52

Actual Green JVP 52

THIS MARK HAS BEEN SEEN ON REPRODUCTIONS!!

Ferner

Bowl

Green Maple Leaf (JVP 52) - a high-quality items.

Humidor

Castle on Lake-Tapestry Ewer

Cobalt Flora Bowl

Cobalt-Portrait

Blue JVP 52 - Maple Leaf Examples – 1891 – 1911- high quality items

Facsimile of JVP 52

Actual Blue JVP 52

Bowl on Pedestal

Swan-Ferner

For more info on Morimura products, members, see "Morimura: Cup to Plate to Mass Production"

Kingfisher
Moriage Vase

Tapestry Basket Vase

Piano Box

"Hunt Scene"
White Enameled-Decanter

Magenta JVP 52 Maple Leaf Examples – 1891 – 1911.

Members, see "Nippon with the Ohio China Company Backstamp" by Linda Lau AND John Henley's "Old Noritake China Bearing the Maple Leaf OCCO Mark – What Have We Learned?"

Facsimile of JVP 52

From JVP Bk 3, page 103
Red JVP 52

See "**OCCO Red Maple Leaf**"
by John Henley

JVP 47 – M in Wreath – 1911 – 1921

THIS MARK HAS BEEN REPRODUCED! Read about it in Reproductions.

The following are examples of the most prolific of the Nippon items found. These bear the Hand Painted "M in Wreath" mark (JVP 47), registered in 1911 and used until 1921. It is found in green, blue, red or magenta, and gold. The "M" stands for the importer, Morimura Bros, and is encircled with a reverse of the Morimura family crest which is wisteria. Morimura's new factory, Nippon Toki Gomei Kaisha opened in 1904 and by 1911 was in full operation. Demand had increased and to meet that demand, techniques were adapted and streamlined to reduce the decorating time that had been done entirely by hand. A beautiful, consistently high-quality product was able to be delivered. To deserve the "hand painted" label, each marked this way had some hand application though perhaps, by this time, not fully hand painted. Wares with this backstamp benefited from the new production capabilities at the new factory.

Green JVP 47 – M in Wreath – 1911 – 1921

Facsimile of JVP 47

Actual Green JVP 47

Molded Vase

"The Hunter"
Round Plaque

Above and below are a **few** examples of Nippon that bear a Green JVP 47 backstamp.

Angelus Portrait Vase

Punch Bowl on Pedestal

Whiskey Jug

Kingfisher Small Bowl

Blue JVP 47 – M in Wreath – 1911 - 1921

Facsimile of JVP 47

Actual Blue JVP 47

Enameled Humidor

Card Décor Humidor

Above and below are a **few** examples of Nippon that bear a Blue JVP 47 backstamp.

Molded Vase

"Chief Sitting Bull"
Round Plaque

Egrets
Round Plaque

Dresser Set

Magenta JVP 47 – M in Wreath – 1911 - 1921

Facsimile of JVP 47

Actual Magenta JVP 47

Covered Pitcher

Tray

Most often these pieces are utilitarian. It seems most of these are intended for everyday use.

Pieces bearing the Magenta M in Wreath are usually decorated more simplistically. As well, the molds are often less intricate. These make great serving pieces, even today.

Gold JVP 47 – M in Wreath - 1911 – 1921

Because of the fabric colors these items require a gold-colored mark. The fabric is unique – learn more about it in the Techniques section of the website – see "Colored Fabrics."

Facsimile of JVP 47

Actual Gold JVP 47

Egyptian

Vase-Egyptian

The items above and below bear the Gold JVP 47 mark.

JVP 3 – The Carpathia – Blue and White, Sometsuke Style Painting

Members, see "The Carpathia by Morimura Bros" by Linda Lau

Facsimile of JVP 3
The Carpathia M NIPPON

Actual JVP 3

JVP 48 M in Wreath D. M. Read Co. - 1912

Facsimile of JVP 48
Added to M-in-Wreath, Hand Painted NIPPON, is the company name, D.M. Read Co.

Actual JVP 48

JVP 48 is found on a souvenir that was made by Morimura for this company to hand out for a special event – Fair Week – by the D.M. Read Co.

JVP 53 – Facsimile reads "COMPLIMENTS of MORIMURA BROS 1913"

No 1913 example. Two *similar* examples shown: one stamped 1910; the other no date. This may be applied with paper or rubber stamp

Facsimile JVP 53
Morimura Bros. sticker; found on NIPPON items

Item to right is stamped on the cup and saucer with the above transcription

Compliments of Morimura Bros New York – calendar frame

JVP 66 According to JVP's book of Noritake production with this backstamp began in 1912, but the date of registration is unknown.
Joan records the colors of the stamp as either green, blue, or magenta.

Facsimile JVP 66
Noritake M-in-Wreath NIPPON;
M is Morimura Bros. In addition to green, blue, magenta, also found in red letter top/bottom around green M in Wreath

Actual Light Green JVP 66

To the left is a Sugar Bowl, an example of JVP 66.

JVP 66, continued

Facsimile of JVP 66

Actual JVP 66
Red Lettering surrounding green M in Wreath

Mark on small plates to left; this pattern later found, named Bosnia

By this time in in the Nippon era, the Morimura factory, Nippon Toki Kaisha, had been in operation for 8 years, having opened in 1904. It was a modern facility using the latest technologies for production. It is in this new factory that that the goal of producing dinnerware was met.

JVP 66, continued

Facsimile of JVP 66

Actual Green JVP 66

Saucer – pattern unknown (similar to Alais)

JVP 66, continued

The JVP 66 mark is also found with pattern names of some of the earliest Morimura dinnerware. To the right are a few examples, but more can be seen in the Nippon Era Dinnerware Backstamps section.

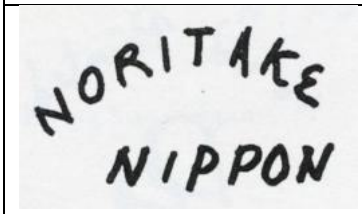
Pattern: The Bosnia

Pattern: The Chaumont

Pattern: Sahara

JVP 67 – no line between NORITAKE and NIPPON.

This mark is used on blanks sold by Nippon Toki Kaisha, the factory built by Morimura Brothers. This example is from a Pickard piece where this mark is often found.



Facsimile of JVP 67
Noritake in arch over NIPPON – 1911 - 1921. This mark is found on blanks; often found alongside the mark of the company who painted it, like JVP 77 (Pickard mark).

Actual JVP 67
Red JVP 67 is shown alongside Pickard leaf mark.

Mark to left is found on this blank. It was purchased by the Pickard Co. whose artists then painted it. It went to market with JVP 67 *and* the Pickard mark, as well.

JVP 67 is found in magenta, green, or blue. From Kimura and Aoi's book, Collector's Guide for Old Noritake and Japanese Antique Porcelain with Western Style, we learn it was used from 1911 to 1921. This mark was used on white blanks. Examples of the other colors of this mark can be found by looking at the variation of other Pickard marks below.

JVP 68 – with a line between Noritake and Nippon - used on blanks

Facsimile of JVP 68
Noritake over arched line over Nippon found in green, blue, & magenta. Mark dates from 1911 – indicates white blanks – undecorated blanks.

Actual JVP 68

Example of JVP 68

This vase had no other markings, but this mark is usually found alongside the mark of the company that bought and painted the blank. We can assume the last date of use was 1921, as this is the end of the Nippon era.

JVP 69 – Okura Art China

Facsimile of JVP 69
O.A.C. Hand Painted NIPPON (Okura Art China, branch of Noritake Co.)

Actual JVP 69

Members, for more detail on O.A.C China, see:
"Backstamp #69: Okura Art China."

Okura Art Studio (OAC) was established in 1919 with a desire to produce the finest chinaware.

NIPPON-era marks on blanks used by the Pickard Company of Chicago, Illinois

Morimura sold unpainted wares (blanks) to the Pickard Company (in addition to others). JVP 75, 76, and 77 are the JVP backstamps specific to Pickard. These backstamps have two production marks on them – one for the company that made the mold (JVP 55, 67, and 68) and one for the Pickard Co. of Chicago, Ill. By looking at both the Pickard Company mark (which has good documentation of dates for their marks) and the mark of the company who made the blank, we can get a good sense of the timeframe in which the piece was produced.

Note: JVP 76 is the Pickard gold leaf used from 1912-1918. With only the additional NIPPON mark in gold (gold JVP 55) we cannot confirm that it is a Morimura blank but, considering the quality of the mold, most likely it is.

Also included are several variations of JVP marks 76 and 77. These do NOT have their own, separate JVP number.

The last Pickard mark shown below does not appear in any of Joan's books – so NO JVP number. This is the "etched gold coin" which was used by the Pickard Company from 1912 to 1922 on etched dinnerware (and in the Nippon era) and from 1922 – 1925 on all china.

NOTE: For more on these marks, members see "PICKARD -NORITAKE" by Meg Miller

JVP 75 Pickard Mark (1919 – 1922) with JVP 68 (1911 – 1921)

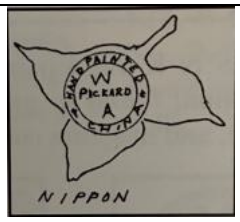
Facsimile of JVP 75
Pickard Etched China
Pickard mark in black with Noritake over Nippon in blue (JVP 68).

Actual JVP 75

JVP 75 combines a Pickard mark with JVP 68 used for blanks.

THE PICKARD PORTION OF THIS MARK HAS BEEN REPRODUCED!!!

JVP 76 Pickard Gold Leaf (1912 - !918) with Gold NIPPON (JVP 55)



Facsimile of JVP 76
W.A. Pickard Hand Painted China + Nippon – Gold JVP 55
(Morimura blank?)

Actual JVP 76
1912 – 1918 + JVP 55

Example of JVP 76

The country name, NIPPON, is gold. There is no evidence that this mark was used by the Morimura Company, but the quality indicates that it likely was a Morimura mark.

(1) Variation of JVP 76: Pickard Gold Leaf (1912 – 1918) with JVP 67 (1911 – 1921)

Plate to right:
NO JVP #.
JVP 76 Variation w/black lettering on Gold Pickard Leaf alongside
Blue JVP # 67 – (1911 – 1921)

Artist: S. Richter

Above and right:
NO JVP #
JVP 76 Variation:
Black Lettering on Gold Leaf alongside
Green JVP 67

(2) Variation of JVP 76: Pickard Gold Leaf with Magenta JVP 67 (1911 – 1921)

Mark above on bowl to right: NO JVP #
JVP 76 Variation: Black Lettering on Gold Leaf Alongside Magenta JVP 67

NO JVP #

Mark above found on right: NO JPV #
JVP Variation: Black Lettering on Gold Leaf alongside Magenta JVP 67

(3) Variation of JVP 76 (Maple Leaf used from 1912 – 1918.)

1) Red Lettering on Gold Leaf, 2) Black lettering on Gold Leaf - with JVP 68 (1911 - 1921)

1) JVP 76 Variation RED Lettering (early - toward 1912) on Gold Leaf; BUT Leaf does NOT cover the blank mark as it should: a conundrum

Variation of JVP 76
1912 - 1918

2) JVP 76 Variation: BLACK Lettering (toward 1918) on Gold Leaf

JVP 77

This mark was used by the Pickard Company from 1918 – 1919 and is BLACK print! Red JVP 67 is the blank maker mark.

Facsimile of JVP 77
W.A. Pickard Hand Painted China; Pickard mark printed in black, Noritake Nippon in Magenta

No EXACT examples of this mark were found. However, it combines a known Pickard mark used by Pickard from 1918-1919 with a Magenta JVP 67 (1911 – 1921).

Magenta JVP 67
1911 – 1 921

Pickard Mark 1918 - 1919

Variations of JVP 77: Black Pickard Mark (1918 – 1919) with 1) JVP 55 & 2) JVP 68

(1) JVP 77 Variation
This mark is from the sugar bowl to the right

(2) JVP 77 Variation with JVP 68 (1911 – 1921).
(Mark from the chocolate pot to the right.)

1) NO JVP # - Pickard "Gold Etched Coin" (1912 – 1922) with 1) Red, 2) Green JVP 67

Red JVP 67 with Gold Coin

Green JVP 67 with Gold Coin

2) NO JVP # - Pickard "Gold Etched Coin" on "All Over Gold" (AOG) with Gold (?) JVP 67

The design etched on this piece is "Morning Glory." To the right are 2 pictures of the detail of the design

All Over Gold (AOG)

JVP 79, most likely in use from 1911 to 1921 like JVP 80. JVP 79 is less commonly found than JVP 80.

Facsimile of JVP 79
RC NIPPON; RC = Royal Crockery; mark is pale green.

Actual JVP 79

Silver Overlay often has this mark

JVP 80 registered in 1911; used until 1921 per Noritake – THIS MARK HAS BEEN REPRODUCED!
RC -consensus is it stands for Royal Crockery but could be Royal China.

Facsimile of JVP 80
RC Hand Painted NIPPON; Combination of both red and green. RC-Royal Crockery; used since 1911

Actual JVP 80

Red & Green JVP 80

Red & Green JVP 80

Green JVP 81

Trademark applied for in 1906; registered in 1911 and according to Noritake, used until 1921. Used on Fancy ware for overseas export. most Backstamps found in blue or green.

Facsimile of JVP 81
RC Noritake NIPPON; "Hand Painted" in RED, RC & NIPPON in green. RC = Royal Crockery; used since 1911

Actual Green JVP 81

JVP 81 Bowl

JVP 81 Plate

Blue JVP 81

Facsimile of JVP 81
RC in green or blue. RC = Royal Crockery; used since 1911

Actual Blue JVP 81

Blue JVP 81 Pitcher

JVP 82 Noritake RC Nippon; Trademark granted May 30, 1911, used until 1921

Facsimile of JVP 82
RC Noritake Nippon; registered in 1911

Actual JVP 82

Example of JVP 82.
Gold seal says “Compliments of Morimura”

JVP 84 Rising Sun; per Noritake used from 1911 – 1921.

THIS MARK HAS BEEN REPRODUCED!

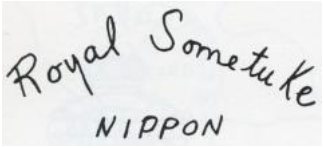
Facsimile of JVP 84
Rising Sun; NIPPON; used since 1911

Actual JVP 84
Printed in blue. Found mostly on “everyday” items.

The iconic pattern, Azalea, was marked with JVP 84. Azalea became well known as a Larkin Co. premium. Through the years, the pattern has had a number of backstamps

JVP 93 – Mark began to be used in 1906 but not registered until 1912, 1913?

Blue and white painted porcelain is commonly found, but that from Morimura utilized sophisticated transfers to create reliably beautiful patterns with consistent quality. In 1905 Morimura opened its own factory to produce decals/transfers bringing great control over this aspect of its porcelain production.

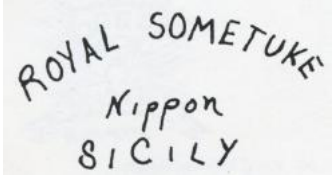


Facsimile of JVP 93
Royal Sometuke NIPPON; since 1906

Actual JVP 93

There are several patterns or designs that bear the mark “Royal Sometuke.” We see few of these in the Nippon era that also have a pattern name (Sicily, HOWO). As this era closes we begin to see that each of the designs get a pattern number, at a minimum. See more on this in Nippon Era Dinnerware.

JVP 94



Facsimile of JVP 94
Royal Sometuke Nippon Sicily

Actual JVP 94

Example of JVP 94

Royal Sometuke Pattern name - Sicily.

JVP 103: used as early as 1911 - THIS MARK HAS BEEN REPRODUCED!

Facsimile of JVP 103	No Examples of Wares with this Mark to Display Actual JVP 103		Spoke; Hand Painted; NIPPON; in existence as early as 1911

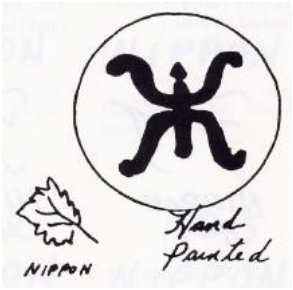
JVP 114

The mark in the circle is called a Maruki (sometimes referred to as a Komaru) and was used for export to the U.K.

Facsimile of JVP 114	No Actual Mark or Example Available Morimura Backstamps Used to Export to the United Kingdom are at the end of this section on Morimura Company Backstamps.	This is a most unusual mark. The mark in the circle is called a maruki. The maruki alone was used to mark wares exported to the UK between 1900 – 1911, but was not used on exports to the U.S. What is unusual about this mark is the addition of NIPPON (a US requirement, exclusively). Perhaps this piece was originally intended for the UK and diverted to US?	In the circle is the "Tree Crest Mark" - the clan crest of the Morimura family). It is also called "Spider Mark"

JVP 115

This mark combines a Maple Leaf with a Maruki/Tree Crest/Spider Mark

 Facsimile of JVP 115	No Actual Mark or Example Available	This presents a conundrum: this combines the Maruki mark (used for export to UK from around 1900 until 1911) and the Maple Leaf (used from 1891-1911 for US exports). Perhaps it was destined for the UK but re-directed (additionally "stamped") to the US?	In the circle is the "Tree Crest Mark" - the clan crest of the Morimura family. It is also called the "Spider Mark."

JVP 180 per Noritake Co, used from 1912 until 1921. Used with Nippon – destined for US market.

THIS MARK HAS BEEN REPRODUCED! – this or JVP 103? Or both?

Facsimile of JVP 180 Maruki symbol, Hand Painted NIPPON; since 1912	Actual JVP 180	JVP 180 Chocolate Pot	

JVP 181- this Maruki used with Nippon – destined for US

Facsimile of JVP 181
Maruki symbol, Hand Painted, NIPPON
No. 16034.
Note: Japanese characters may be fictitious

Actual of JVP 181

Assume 1911-12, as above. Nicknamed "Christmas Ball"

JVP 199, Derby (produced at Nippon Toki Kaisha – forerunner of Noritake Co.).

Facsimile of JVP 199

Actual of JVP 199 –
Pattern Name: Derby
For more: See Morimura Patterns

Nippon-era Noritake China pattern "Derby" M in Wreath found in green, blue, and magenta.

JVP 200, Sahara (produced at Nippon Toki Kaisha, forerunner of Noritake Co.)

Facsimile of JVP 200

Actual JVP 200

Nippon-era Noritake China pattern "Sahara" M in Wreath

JVP 201, The Kiva (produced by Nippon Toki Kaisha, forerunner of Noritake Co.).

Facsimile of JVP 201

Actual JVP 201

Noritake China pattern "The Kiva" M in Wreath

JVP 202, The Metz (produced by Nippon Toki Kaisha, forerunner of Noritake Co.).

Facsimile of JVP 202

Actual JVP 202

Noritake China pattern
"The Metz"
M in Wreath

Detail

JVP 203

Facsimile of JVP 203

Actual JVP 203

Other patterns that bear only this mark with no pattern name

JVP 204, Marguerite (produced by Nippon Toki Kaisha – forerunner of Noritake Co.)

Facsimile of JVP 204

Actual JVP 204

Noritake China pattern "Marguerite"

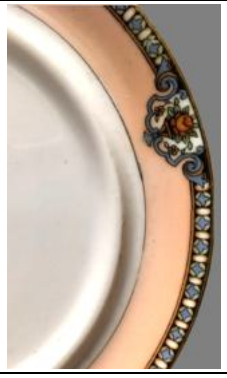
JVP 205 First official pattern, Sedan (produced at Nippon Toki Kaisha – forerunner of Noritake Co.).

See "Morimura: Cup to Plate to Mass Production" for more information on the development of the china plate.

Facsimile of JVP 205

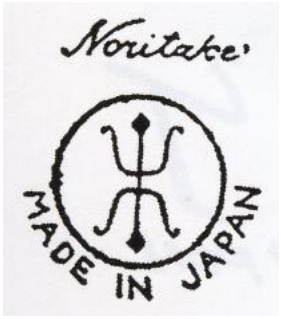
Actual JVP 205

First dinner set, China pattern "Sedan" made by Noritake in 1914.

JVP 206, The Vitry (produced by Nippon Toki Kaisha – forerunner of Noritake Co.)			
 Facsimile of JVP 206	 Actual JVP 206		Noritake China pattern “The Vitry”
JVP 208, Waverly			
 Facsimile of JVP 208	 Actual JVP 208		RC (Royal Crockery) China pattern “The Waverly”
JVP 224 RC (Royal Crockery) - 1908			
 Facsimile of JVP 224	No Actual JVP 224 No Example		RC (Royal Crockery) For export market by since 1908 and after 1916 also used for domestic market. The symbol is Yajirobe
JVP 225			
 Facsimile of JVP 225	 Actual Magenta JVP 225		RC (Royal Crockery) over Yajirobe, Noritake; This mark is for the domestic market; 1912. Green, Blue, Maroon, Gold.

JVP 225			
 Facsimile of JVP 225	 Actual JVP Green 225		RC (Royal Crockery) over Yajirobe, Noritake; for domestic market; commemorates the arrival of Emperor Showa & new construction of Nitto Pottery Company 1912; Green, Blue, Maroon, Gold
JVP 225			
 Facsimile of JVP 225	 Actual JVP Maroon 225		RC (Royal Crockery) over Yajirobe, Noritake; for domestic market; commemorates the arrival of Emperor Showa & new construction of Nitto Pottery Company 1912; Green, Blue, Maroon, Gold
JVP 226 NIPPONTOKI * RC * Nagoya			
 Facsimile of JVP 226	**No Actual JVP 226** No Example		Nippontoki - RC (Royal Crockery) -Nagoya There is some disagreement about the date of this mark: per JVP this was for export since 1911 and the publication by the Noritake Club agrees, but Kimura and Aoi assert that when Nagoya is indicated the first.
JVP 227 – Maruki w/MADE IN JAPAN -1908 – perhaps earlier? Members, see "Understanding Noritake's English Backstamps" by Linda Lau			
 Facsimile of JVP 227	No Actual JVP 227 No Example	Destination for this mark the U.K., not the U.S.? It was registered in London, used the Maruki – the Japanese mark used for exports to the U.K. and includes Made in Japan, not Nippon? Perhaps it just found its way to the U.S.	JVP records that this was registered in London in 1908. It is a medium blue Also found with Noritake over encircled spider mark in blue, green, or maroon

JVP 228 – Maruki w/ Noritake over and MADE IN JAPAN over the Maruki symbol



Facsimile of JVP 228

Actual JVP 228
Used before 1911

JVP 228 is a more refined looking version of the original Maruki registered in England in 1908. See the discussion at the end of this Backstamps Section for a better understanding of JVP 228-230

JVP 229 – Maruki w/Noritake; example adds MADE IN JAPAN over the Maruki symbol, as commonly seen.

For a better understanding of JVP marks 228 – 230 see the discussion at the end of this Backstamp Section.

Facsimile of JVP 229

Actual JVP 229
Used before 1911

Registered in London in 1908 by Noritake Co. shown with Made in Japan. appears in several variations of the colors blue, green, and maroon as well as "form." In use before 1911.

JVP 230 – Maruki w/Noritake over and MADE IN JAPAN over the Maruki symbol

Facsimile of JVP 230

Most like the facsimile is this Green JVP 230
Used after 1911

JVP 230, version in dark green, is an even more refined version of the Maruki mark of 1900; registered in London in 1911; found in variations of green, blue, and maroon, as well as form.

JVP 231 – For Export to Asia, including India and Indonesia

Facsimile of JVP 231

Actual Green JVP 231

Per detail in Joan's books: for export to Asia, including India; found in green, blue, and red; registered in 1916. BUT, according to the Noritake Club, this mark was first used in 1926.

JVP 231 – For Export to Asia, including India and Indonesia

Facsimile of JVP 231

Actual Red JVP 231

For export to Asia, including India and Indonesia; found in green, blue, and red- registered in 1916

JVP 253 – RC over the Yajirobe (balanced management) for Nippon Toki Kaisha, established in 1904.

Facsimile of JVP 253

Actual JVP 253

RC = Royal Crockery, Nippon Toki Kaisha, circa 1912; found mostly in red or green, sometimes blue; fancy ware products, like tea/coffee sets. Used even after 1914 when the dinner set was completed For domestic use.

JVP 254 – Maruki w/NIPPON – 1906 (- 1921 per Noritake)

Facsimile JVP 254

Actual JVP 254

“NIPPON” printed under the symbol. For export to the US. The pattern on this item appears on other items with different Morimura marks

JVP 255 – Noritake HOWO

Facsimile of JVP 255

Actual JVP 255

Features the HOWO bird in blue and white. Noritake HOWO Backstamp in blue– Made in Japan – circa 1916; for export

JVP 256 – Chikaramachi - 1912

Members, see "The Chikaramachi Story" by Meg Miller

Facsimile of JVP 256

Chikaramachi, registered in 1912, It is thought to have made second quality fabrics/molds and more.

This was one of the locations used to re-locate all the painting factories used by Morimura from places like Tokyo, Kyoto, and so on prior to establishing Nippon Toki Kaisha. It was united with Shumoku-cho and Nagoya to create Kin-yo-Gumi.

A Chikaramachi Pottery is thought to have been in business in the late 1800s. A Morimura painting factory was located on a street by this name. Around 1904 it was absorbed into the Noritake Company.

JVP 257 – Noritake with M in Cherry Blossom and Japan

Facsimile of JVP 257

Actual JVP 257

Noritake – M in Cherry Blossom - Japan- Circa 1916

JVP 258 – Kokura

Members, see "Kokura" by Meg Miller

Facsimile of JVP 258

Actual JVP 258

This backstamp represents a company spun off from Nippon Toki Gomei Kaisha (Japan Porcelain Company) in 1917). It produced sanitary items, as well as a line of table ware for export (1920). Located in Kokura, Japan; circa 1920.

JVP 346 – smaller version of JVP 66

Facsimile of JVP 346
From Linda Lau Bk, pg. 281

No Actual JVP 346

Re-printed from Linda Lau Bk, pg. 281

This is a smaller version of JVP 66 found on children's porcelain items 1912

Morimura Backstamps Used for Export to United Kingdom

The following is a brief synopsis of the Morimura backstamp that was used to mark wares that were exported to the U.K.. These do not have JVP numbers – only a few variations of the basic mark are included in her books in the "Nippon Backstamps" section presented earlier in this section.

The "Maruki" (丸木) was used to mark items exported to the UK from around 1902 (maybe even earlier according to Kimura and Aoi who asserts it was used as early as 1900) until 1910. It was registered in 1905 (Kimura and Aoi). It is a transcription mark in blue color and is sometimes found with MADE IN JAPAN under the symbol. Some have called this a Komaru but, according to Noritake, Maruki is the correct name. It was nicknamed "Spider Mark" by those in customs and shipping. Others have called it the tree crest which is the Morimura Family Crest. A new version of it exists from 1908, found in shades of green, shades of blue, or red. The Noritake Guild has identified several versions and I highly recommend visiting their site: http://www.noritakecollectorsguild.info. The variations are slight but starting with the Maruki registered in London in 1911 the mark has a more consistently refined look. (Members, see Linda Lau's article, "Understanding Noritake's English Backstamps.")

Earliest Backstamp for Export to Britain

NO JVP Number

Actual 1st (*early*) Maruki Backstamp; also nicknamed Spider

Ewer, *early* Maruki Backstamp

Cup & Saucer
early Maruki Backstamp

Although other backstamps might be found in the UK this, and variations of it, is found as the primary mark used to export to Britain.

The differences in the new iterations of the mark over time can be minute and require a lot of study and attention to detail.

The Maruki marks below hope to give you a "feel" for the progression of the appearance of this mark. Note the subtle refinements. There are many iterations of form and color of this mark. The wonderful research by the Noritake Guild focuses exclusively on the marks used by Noritake. Visiting their site (address above) would be beneficial for those who want to know more about the markings of products with this mark and others exported to a variety of countries. Our INCC site endeavors to include only "Noritake" marks known to be used in the Nippon era, whereas the Guild looks broadly at Noritake marks from before the Nippon era to current. Below you see the dates of the marks with an example under each.

1902		1908	1908	1911
Black	Blue (below)	Blue	Variation of the 1908 version in blue	1911 version in light green