

# THE ROYAL DOULTON COMPANY



## Royal Doulton, Then and Now

Some interesting history and information about the Manufacturer

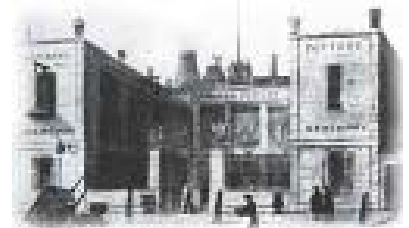


The Royal Doulton Company is one of the world's largest manufacturers and distributors in the premium ceramic tableware and giftware market, with approximately 40% of all English bone china being produced by Royal Doulton, as well as almost half of the UK's ceramic sculptures. Its illustrious brand names include Minton, Royal Albert and the core Royal Doulton brand. The Company's Royal Albert design "Old Country Roses" has become the world's best selling bone china tableware pattern since its introduction in 1962. Minton is renowned for its intricate gold patterns, where one plate can cost thousands of dollars.

## HISTORY

Royal Albert can trace its roots to 1896 when Thomas Wild and Thomas Clark Wild acquired Albert Works, a factory named in commemoration of the birth of Prince Albert. The Company specialized in making bone china tea and breakfast sets and were chosen to produce memorial pieces for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1964, Thomas Wild and Company merged with Royal Doulton and the company's name was officially changed to Royal Albert.

The Royal Doulton Company has been producing ceramics and tableware for nearly 200 years. The company founder, John Doulton, began producing practical and decorative stoneware from a small pottery inherited by his widowed business partner, Martha Jones, in Vauxhall Walk, Lambeth, along the Thames, as early as 1815. The young Doulton had just completed his apprenticeship with one of the most important of the early commercial potteries of England, The Fulham factory.



It was John Doulton's son, Henry, however, who carried the Lambeth pottery to its modern leadership role within the industry. By the time Queen Victoria came to the throne, Doulton (the company name taken in 1853) was established as a manufacturer of domestic and industrial products in a fine stoneware body that bore comparison with any in Europe. In the first decade of Victoria's reign (1837-1901), the revolution to reform personal sanitation in metropolitan England helped make Doulton Britain's top manufacturer of sanitary ware. Henry Doulton was later knighted by Queen Victoria.



In 1877, Doulton purchased a small factory in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent - the heart of the Staffordshire potteries and the home of the unique English ceramic, bone china. Henry Doulton hired the brilliant John Slater as his art director. Soon, outstanding teams of modellers, decorators and painters were producing a wide variety of figurines, vases, character jugs and decorative pieces in the new bone china body.

International acclaim and honors were being won at the great exhibitions of Chicago and Paris and the range of products expanded. In 1901 the Burslem factory was granted the Royal Warrant by King Edward VII and the right to use the title "Royal" - enabling the company to adopt the new name of Royal Doulton.

In 1960 Royal Doulton introduced a new product - English Translucent China. Thus, they were able to produce a fine translucent body while eliminating the costly calcined bone from the clay mix and offer the qualities associated with bone china to the world's markets at a relatively modest price. Known today simply as Royal Doulton Fine China, in 1966 it attained one of the first Queen's Awards for Technical Innovation.

Modern lifestyles and tastes have sprung a revival of Doulton Lambeth wares. The careful blend of tough, quartz-like compounds with feldspathic Cornish stone give Lambethware strength and a robust appearance and feel. Modern ceramic technology adds refinement of glaze and color to those qualities. The result is practical tableware that is resistant to chemicals and to extremes of hot and cold - making it oven, freezer and dishwasher safe.

Around the globe, The Royal Doulton Company is valued for its sense of heritage and quality. As one of the oldest best-recognized chinaware brands in the world, The Royal Doulton Company has earned itself a reputation for excellence, quality and distinctiveness of design - values which it intends to build on in order to take the brand forward.

## **USE AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Royal Doulton has produced durable bone and fine china products that will last for many years to come if cared for properly. They're also dishwasher safe.**

**Gold or platinum trimmed patterns should not be placed in a microwave oven.**

- ~ Do not put the pieces directly on a hot stove burner or flame.
- ~ When used over an alcohol burner or canned heat, be certain the bottom surface is covered by sufficient liquid to distribute the heat evenly.
- ~ If refrigerated, let warm to room temperature before placing in an oven for baking.
- ~ If frozen, let thaw to room temperature before placing in an oven for baking.
- ~ Use only non-abrasive cleaners or scouring pads.
- ~ Do not drop or strike against hard or sharp surfaces.

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