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Historical Overview

The history of printing on ceramics is an evolving story. Until recently, it had been thought that the process was invented in England. Evidence has now been discovered that shows that it was first used in Italy. **more**

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The earliest use of transfer printing in England was probably at Birmingham about 1751. There it was initially used on enamels. Slightly later, at the Battersea factory in London (1753-56), which at one time was thought to have only produced printed enamels, it is now known that printing on delftware tiles, white saltglaze stoneware and Chinese porcelain was also carried out. **more**

The first English porcelain factory to use printed decoration on a commercial scale was Worcester, although some of the earliest printing on Worcester porcelain, dating from about 1754, may have been carried out in Birmingham rather than at the factory. Many of the engraved copper plates used to print on early Worcester porcelain were supplied by Robert Hancock but his printing plates were also used to decorate Bow and Chinese porcelain. **more**

Underglaze printing, initially only possible in blue, was introduced at Worcester about 1757 or 1758. Subsequently, the process spread to other porcelain factories, such as Bow and Derby and a number in Liverpool. By about 1775 underglaze printing had become the main technique for decorating blue and white porcelain and it was the basis for the success of the Caughley factory. The pearlware potters then began to undercut the porcelain factories as producers of blue and white ceramics. **more**

The Vauxhall porcelain factory produced some delicately printed pieces from 1755 or 1756. It also introduced a unique form of polychrome printed decoration.**more**

Liverpool was an early center for ceramic printing, beginning in about 1756. Initially, this was on locally made delftware tiles. **more**

Later, Liverpool porcelain and some from outside the town were printed there. **more**

The printing of creamware in Liverpool, mostly on blanks made in other pottery centers was a major