

LITERATURE CITATIONS - SILVER OVERLAY

David E. Fairbrothers

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SILVER DEPOSIT - SILVER OVERLAY

David E. Fairbrothers

1. Silver deposit, silver overlay, silver-electroplate, silver inlay, solid deposit are terms applied to the same process. This electrolytic process for decorating objects was high fashion from 1890-1920. After 1950 relatively few silver deposit objects were produced.
2. This is the deposit of silver (solid or sterling) on glass, porcelain, china, pottery, wood or metal by electrolytic processes.
3. Process - The base (flux) is a mixture of powdered chemicals including silver, which are dissolved in a solution and designated a wash or paint. A design is painted on an object which is then fired in a kiln to set the flux. The object receiving the deposit is attached to a negatively charged wire, the positively charged pure silver bar is suspended in the same solution. An electric current flows through the solution and silver particles from the bar (+) are deposited (electroplated) onto the flux (-) of the object being decorated.
4. Invention - F. Shirley (1879), Erard & Round (1889) and J. Scharling (1892, 1893).
5. Objects with a light coating of silver are designated silver deposit; while a heavy coating of silver is designated silver overlay. This designation is a misnomer; however, common usage continues to prevail.
6. Companies which produced silver deposit on objects:
(a) Alvin Mfg. Co. (NJ, NY, RI), (b) Depasse Mfg. Co. (NY), (c) E.J. Bass (NY), (d) Electrolytic Art Metal Co., (EAMCO) (NJ), (e) Gorham Mfg. Co. (RI), (f) Hopewell Silver Co. (MA), (g) La Pierre Mfg. Co. (NJ, NY), (h) Mauser Mfg. Co. (NY), (i) Rockwell Silver Co. (CT), (j) Scharling & Co. Inc. (NJ), (k) Stevens & Williams (England), (l) R. Wallace & Sons Mfg. Co. (CT), (m) Archibald-Klement (NJ), (n) Bergen Silver Deposit (NJ) (CT), (o) National Silver Depositware (NY), (p) Pairpoint (MA), (q) Pauly & Cie (Italy), (r) Reed & Barton (MA), (s) Silber Porzellan (Germany), (t) Silver City Glass (CT), (u) Black, Starr & Frost (NY), (v) Flogel Decorating Works (NY), (w) G.A. Henckel & Co. (NY), (x) Hennegan, Bates Co. (MD), (y) Lotus Glass Co. (OH), (z) Mathews Co. (NJ), (aa) Richter Mfg. Co. (RI), (bb) Utopian Silver Deposit Co. (NY), (cc) G. A. Zasche (Czech).
7. Companies producing objects decorated by silver deposit:
(a) Cambridge (OH), (b) Fry (PA), (c) Heisey (OH), (d) Hutschenreuther (Germany), (e) Lenox (NJ), (f) Limoges (France), (g) Loetz (Bohemia), (h) Quezal (NY), (i) Rookwood (OH), (j) Rosenthal (Germany), (k) Steuben (NY), (l) Stevens and Williams (England), (m) Tiffany (NY), (n) Tuthill (NY), (o) Willets (NJ), (p) G.A. Zasche (Bohemia), (q) Bergen Cut Glass (NJ), (r) George Duncan & Sons Glass, later Duncan & Miller Glass (PA), (s) Edelstein (Germany), (t)

Fenton (WV), (u) Fostoria (OH), (v) Imperial (OH), (w) Mount Washington (MA), (x) New Martinsville (WV), (y) Pairpoint (MA), (z) Tiffin Glass (OH), (aa) Lotus Glass Co. (OH).

8. Lenox, Inc., Trenton, NJ - The Lenox Belleek palette mark was designated for undecorated ware and used from 1906-1926. Lenox made only one hatpin holder (shape #882) in white ware porcelain which is 5" high. This holder was sold from 1909 (65¢) - 1920 (75¢).
9. Willets Belleek, Trenton, NJ - Belleek was manufactured by Willets Company from 1884 or 1885 and continued to be produced until 1909.
10. Rosenthal porcelain factory was established in 1879 in Selb, Germany and still produces porcelain. From 1918-1939 the U.S. outlet was Rosenthal China Corp. A.G. located in N.Y.C. A.G. = Aktiengesellschaft = joint stock company.
11. Some objects decorated with a silver design did not result from using an electrolytic process. These objects were decorated using a pre-cut silver design which was shaped and fitted (wrapped) around the piece (often glass) and the joints were silver soldered. The number of pieces to be found, decorated using pre-cut silver, dating between 1890-1940 are relatively few in the present-day marketplace. Some excellently crafted and beautiful Chinese objects dating from the 1920's and early 1930's can be found. Such handmade silver decorated objects have been produced in Mexico (designated and trademarked in Spanish) in the last 50 years and are available in the present-day marketplace.
12. The term EROSE means the margins or edges appear to be eroded or gnawed, or jaggedness of the edges. This is an indication of poor craftsmanship when the silver deposit is erose.
13. Higgins & Seiter Chinaware & Glass Co. (NY) was an emporium selling abundant silver overlay items (china, porcelain, cut glass, crystal and other glass). This company sometimes covered the maker's mark with a trademark paper label.
14. The quantity and quality of silver overlay (deposit) produced in the United States was the best in the world.
15. In 1932 non-tarnish silver was developed by depositing rhodium on the surface. Lotus Glass Co., Barnesville, OH offered non-tarnish silver deposit as early as 1932. Silver City Glass Co. and Rockwell Silver Co. produced the largest quantity of non-tarnish silver.