

Worcester Porcelain & Key Dates in History

- 1751 - First Worcester Porcelain factory founded by Dr. Wall and 14 partners
- 1753 – The British Museum is established
- 1754 - First company showroom opened in Aldersgate Street, London
- 1756 – Printing on porcelain is invented at Worcester by Robert Hancock.
- 1760 – George III becomes King
- 1764 - Start of the Industrial Revolution in England
- 1767 - Exhibition room opened in Spring Gardens, Charing Cross
- 1768 – Royal Academy founded with Sir Joshua Reynolds as its first president.
- 1770 – The first Royal dinner service made by Worcester for George III's brother, the Duke of Gloucester.
- 1773 – The Boston Tea Party
- 1774 - Dr Wall retired leaving William Davis as manager of the factory
- 1776 - American Declaration of Independence
- 1783 - Thomas Flight bought the Worcester factory, for his sons Joseph and John
- 1783 – Robert Chamberlain establishes a rival porcelain factory in Severn Street, Worcester.
- 1788 – King George III and Queen Charlotte attended the Worcester Music Meeting (forerunner to the Three Choirs Festival) and visited Flight's Worcester factory.
- 1788 – The most prestigious shop No.1 Coventry Street (off Piccadilly Circus) opened on the advice of King George III, run by Joseph Flight
- 1789 – George Washington became the first President of the USA
- 1789 - King George III awarded Worcester its first Royal Warrant, allowing use of the Royal Coat of Arms and the words 'Manufacturers to their Majesties'.
- 1802 – Admiral Nelson and Emma Hamilton visit Chamberlain's factory and order a large service.
- 1804 - Napoleon was crowned Emperor of France
- 1805 – Nelson dies at the Battle of Trafalgar
- 1811 Chamberlain created a book of 400 designs for The Prince Regent

- 1815 – Wellington defeats Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo
- 1820 – Chamberlain experiments with bone china production
- 1825 – The first passenger railway is opened
- 1830 – Flight, Barr & Barr make the Coronation Service for King William IV
- 1837 – Queen Victoria ascended the throne
- 1839 – William Henry Fox Talbot invents the Calotype photograph
- 1840 - First adhesive postage stamp, the 'Penny Black', was issued in Britain
- 1840 – The former rivals, Chamberlain and Flight & Barr merge to form one company
- 1847 – The factory Act restricts working to 10 hours per day for women & children
- 1851 - Australian Gold Rush
- 1851 – The Great Exhibition held at Crystal Palace
- 1851 – The Worcester Royal Porcelain Company is managed by Richard William Binns and William Henry Kerr.
- 1853 – David Livingstone discovers Victoria Falls
- 1854 - The Charge of the Light Brigade
- 1859 – Charles Darwin publishes The Origin of Species
- 1851-1887 – Severn Street factory expanded from 70 to 700 employees. The factory concentrated on figurines and vases and introduced 2500 new decorative items
- 1860 – Prince Albert admires the Worcester Enamels and orders a dessert service for Queen Victoria, painted by Thomas Bott.
- 1862 – The formation of Royal Worcester**
- 1862 – Prince Albert dies of Typhoid
- 1869 - Suez Canal opened
- 1874 – The first Exhibition of the Impressionists in Paris
- 1876 - Invention of the telephone (Alexander Graham Bell)
- 1878 – Royal Worcester displayed The Potter's Vases at the Paris Exhibition.
- 1880– The first piece of Royal Worcester Painted Fruit was painted by Octar Copson.
- 1884 – Visit to Royal Worcester by the Prince and Princess of Wales
- 1885 - Invention of motorcar engine (Benz and Daimler independently)
- 1887 – Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
- 1889 – Royal Worcester buys out the Grainger porcelain company
- 1889 – Vincent Van Gogh painted Starry Night
- 1891 – Charles William Dyson Perrins becomes a Director of Royal Worcester
- 1893 – The Chicago World Fair – George Owen perfects pierced porcelain

1895 – The first cinema opened in Paris

1896 – Hadley & Sons Art Pottery set up in Diglis Road, Worcester

1901 – Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII becomes King

1902 – The Grainger factory closed and the workforce move to Royal Worcester

1905 – Hadley & Sons is bought by Royal Worcester

1908 - Henry Ford produced first Model T car

1911 – Coronation of George V

1912 - Titanic struck an iceberg in the Atlantic

1914- The start of The First World War,

1914 - The Government asks Royal Worcester to make hard porcelain for use in hospitals, laboratories and schools.

1925 - Invention of the television (John Logie Baird)

1926 – The General Strike

1927 – The launch of BBC Radio

1927 – C.W.Dyson Perrins purchased the museum collection

1929 - Wall Street Crash

1931 - Royal Worcester launched a new range of bone china figures at Beaux Arts Gallery, London

1931 - Tableware was revolutionised by the introduction of fireproof porcelain.

1934 - Charles Dyson Perrins buys Royal Worcester and becomes Chairman.

1935 – George V and Queen Mary are the first limited edition figures made by Royal Worcester.

1936 - The launch of BBC television

1936 – Dorothy Doughty designs the first in a series of over sixty models of American Birds.

1939 - The start of The Second World War – The Royal Worcester factory is used to make electrical resistors and spark plugs.

1946 – The Dyson Perrins Museum Trust founded to care for the museum collection.

1947 – Doris Lindner models a portrait of Princess Elizabeth on her horse, Tommy.

1948 - The establishment of the National Health Service

1949 - First non-stop round the world flight

1951 – Princess Elizabeth visits the Royal Worcester factory and opens the new museum.

1952 - Elizabeth II becomes Queen

1953 - Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay were the first men to climb Everest.

1954 – The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co. becomes a public company

1958 – The EEC established by the Treaty of Rome

1958 – The first motorway opened in Britain

1961 - First man in Space (Yuri Gagarin, Soviet Union)

1962 - Evesham Pattern was designed by Professor Robert Baker, Ronald Van Ruyckvelt and other members of the team in Royal Worcester's Design Department.

1963 – The Great Train Robbery

1963 - Assassination of US President John F. Kennedy

1968 – The investiture of The Prince of Wales.

1968 – Apollo 11, First moon walk (Neil Armstrong and Buz Aldrin)

1972 – Ronald van Ruyckvelt designs a large model of two white doves to celebrate the Silver Wedding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh

1976 - Royal Worcester and Spode came under common ownership

1976 - Concorde brought into regular service.

1979 - Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first woman Prime Minister

1982 – The Falklands War

1986 - Completion of the M25

1990 – The Berlin Wall is pulled down

2001 - Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Royal Worcester as part of the 250th Anniversary celebrations.

2006 - Ceramic Production finished at Severn Street – top painting and gilding only operating.

2009 - The Royal Worcester name purchased by Portmeirion Pottery & Severn Street Factory closed.

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