

Worcester Porcelain Factory Ownership 1751 – 2008

- 1751 **Original Partnership** Dr. John Wall and William Davis being 2 of the 15 partners in the Warmstry factory.
- 1776 Dr. Wall died, other partners continued to own company.
- 1783 **Flight** – Warmstry Factory sold outright for £3000 to Thomas Flight.
- 1792 **Flight & Barr** - Martin Barr buys into partnership with Thomas Flight
- 1804 **Barr, Flight & Barr** – Warmstry factory owned by Martin Barr Senior, Joseph Flight & Martin Barr Junior.
- 1813 **Flight, Barr & Barr** - owned by Joseph Flight, Martin Barr Jnr. & George Barr.
- 1840 **Chamberlain & Co** - Flight, Barr & Barr merger with Chamberlain company (formed independently in 1788.) The Barr family only retained a minor share.
- 1852 **Kerr & Binns** new partnership established and all manufacture moved to the Chamberlain factory in Severn Street.
- 1862 **Worcester Royal Porcelain Company** formed with Edward Phillips as major shareholder in a joint stock company. (From 1862 the company was known as **Royal Worcester.**)
- 1889 The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co. bought **Grainger & Co.**
- 1905 The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co bought **Hadley & Sons.**
- 1930 Harrison, Robinson & Col. Clive bought The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co from the receivers.
- 1934 C.W. Dyson Perrins bought The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co.
- 1954 **The Worcester Royal Porcelain Co.** became a public company
- 1958 **Royal Worcester Ltd**, a holding company was formed (Owning Palissy Pottery Ltd. & Worcester Royal Porcelain Co. Ltd., Worcester Royal Porcelain Co. Canada & Royal Worcester Porcelain Inc. USA)
- 1976 Royal Worcester Ltd merged with Carborundum Co. of Niagara Falls to become **Royal Worcester Spode Ltd.** (the group now included Spode Inc., Spode Canada Ltd, Hammersley China Ltd & Barthmann Cristall GmbH)
- 1978 Royal Worcester fully owned by **Royal Worcester Ltd.**
- 1983 Royal Worcester group bought by **Crystalate Ltd.**

- 1984 Royal Worcester bought by **London Rubber Co.** (later re-named London International – Welwyn electronics & RW Industrial ceramics were retained by Crystalate Ltd.)
- 1988 Royal Worcester owned by **Derby International.**
- 1993 Royal Worcester owned by **Exeter International** (subsidiary of Derby International)
- 2000 Royal Worcester owned by Royal Worcester and Spode.
- 2005 Large part of the Royal Worcester Severn Street factory site sold to developers
- 2006 Rationalisation – all production except Painted Fruit now made over-seas.
- 2008 6th November Royal Worcester and Spode taken into administration.
- 2009 Royal Worcester name purchased by Portmeirion Pottery, Stoke on Trent.
- 2009 14th June, Severn Street factory site & shops closed.

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