

# 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 Ruyckevelt 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 **Apollo 11, First moon exploration (Neil Armstrong and Buz Aldrin)**
- 1968 **The investiture of The Prince of Wales**
- 1972 Ronald van Ruyckevelt 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 to as part of the 250th Anniversary celebrations.

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