

Japanware Catalogue

Have a look at the small catalogue of objects below and see if you can find modern objects that are similar to them.



Chinoiserie chafing dish.



Chinoiserie chafing dish.
Early 18th Century.
Torfaen Museum Trust.

This chafing dish was an early plate or food warmer! The plates or food would have been put in the top, and hot coals would have been placed in the pull out draw at the bottom to keep it warm. This chafing dish is decorated in a Chinese style which went out of fashion, as more flowers and fruit decoration replaced it.

Do you have a food warmer at home? Who might use a food warmer?

Argyll Pot



Argyll.
Pontypool, late 18th century.
Japanned tinplate. Torfaen
Museum Trust.

An Argyll Pot is a gravy pot. The difference between a tea pot and an Argyll is that the Argyll has a sieve inside it, to hold the lumps back while a tea pot pours the liquid and leaves through a sieve that is held above the cup.

Do you have a gravy boat at home?
What are the differences between this one and yours?

Waiter



Waiter.
Pontypool, late 18th century.
Japanned tinplate.

A waiter is a tray that waiters use to carry drinks on. This one is decorated with a perforated border and unusual bird pattern.

Do you have a tray at home?
What do you use it for?
How is the tray decorated?

Bookend



Bookend.
USK, 19th Century. Japanned
Tinplate.
Torfaen Museum Trust.

This is one of a pair of Japanware bookends. It is decorated with gilt tracery. Bookends are heavy ornaments that stop books on shelves falling down.

Do you have any bookends at home?
What do you use to prop up books at home?

Candlesticks



Pair of Candlesticks.
Late 18th Century
Japanned Tinplate.
Torfaen Museum Trust.

Do you have any candlesticks at home?
What are they made of?

This pair of Candlesticks were a part of Glantorfaen House on Commercial Street. Greenaway, the solicitor who built Glantorfaen House collected Japanware, so it is likely that these are early examples. They are now part of the Glantorfaen dining room exhibition in Pontypool Museum.

Tea Caddy



Tea Caddy.
Late 18th Century.
Japanned Tinplate.
Torfaen Museum Trust

Do you have a box that holds tea? What does it look like?
What does your tea look like – is it loose or in a tea bag?

A Tea Caddy is a box that holds tea leaves. These are loose leaf particles that are stewed and then poured through a strainer. This box was once a part of Glantorfaen House.

Dining Set



Dining Set.
Birmingham .c. 1830 – 50
Birmingham.

Do you have trays at home?
What do you use them for?
How is your tray decorated?

This is one of 3 trays, which included a bread tray. They were made by Jennings and Butteridge of Birmingham.