

Information cards: the production and purchase of Delftware

<p>1. This kind of pottery is called Delftware because it was first made in Delft in the Netherlands. By the mid-17th century pottery of this kind – with a tin-based glaze was also being made in England, (particularly in parts of London and Bristol (Brislington).</p>	<p>2. There was very little machinery or mechanisation involved in making it. Although it was thrown on a potter's wheel, this wheel was powered by a foot pedal). The painting was all done by hand.</p>
<p>3. It was quite expensive to make the pottery and to glaze it. Most decoration used only 3 or 4 main colours (blue, yellow, red and orange – as well as the white background.)</p>	<p>4. Painting individual faces takes considerable time. It is quicker to create a rough image and use symbols or initials to indicate particular people. Individual monarchs were shown by using their first initial, along with 'R' for Rex/Regina (which means King or Queen in Latin).</p>
<p>5. The cost of this pottery meant that it was likely to be bought by the new 'middling' sort of people. While it might be used on special occasions at the table, it could also be hung on the wall (some plates have little holes on the back) or displayed on a dresser or sideboard.</p>	<p>6. Although many images on plates are copied from engravings there are no engravings that show Charles II standing between some arches. The arches in on the plate showing Charles II seem to have been copied from plates made earlier in the 1650s that showed Charles I as King.</p>
<p>7. Designers often used crowns as a way to mark a particular person as King or Queen. Another symbol of power was the 'orb' – a kind of globe for the monarch to hold at their coronation, showing their authority over the land. (The cross on top of the orb shows that the authority comes from God.)</p>	<p>8. Historians think that P and PS stand for Prince and Princess. In the late 1690s, the most important Princess was Anne (the second daughter of James I). Once Mary had died in 1694, without any children, William III was still King – but the next person in line was Princess Anne.</p>
<p>9. Fruit could also be used as a symbol – to represent the idea of fertility (trees producing lots of fruit – like people producing children). An image of fruit tress might show a hope that the couple in the picture would produce lots of heirs.</p>	<p>10. The countries of England and Scotland can both be represented by flowers as a kind of national symbol: the rose for England and the thistle for Scotland.</p>