



Monticello Archaeology Lab  
Ceramics Lecture  
Field School 2023

# General Terms to Know

- **Paste**
- **Inclusions**
- **Porosity**
- **Glaze**
- **Crazing**
- **Slip**

- **Earthenwares (900°-1200°)**

- ***Coarse Earthenwares***

- Native, Colonoware, Imported (British), Local (American)

- ***Refined Earthenwares***

- Tin Enameled (Delft/Faience/Majolica), Whieldon, Creamware, Pearlware, Whiteware, Ironstone/White Granite, Yellow Ware, Bennington/Rockingham

- **Stonewares (1200°-1350°)**

- ***Imported***

- Westerwald, British Brown/Fulham, Staffordshire/North Midlands Slipware, White Salt-glazed, Dry-bodied (Black Basalt, Rosso Antico, Caneware)

- ***Local***

- American Blue and Grey

- **Porcelains (1300°-1450°)**

- ***Chinese***

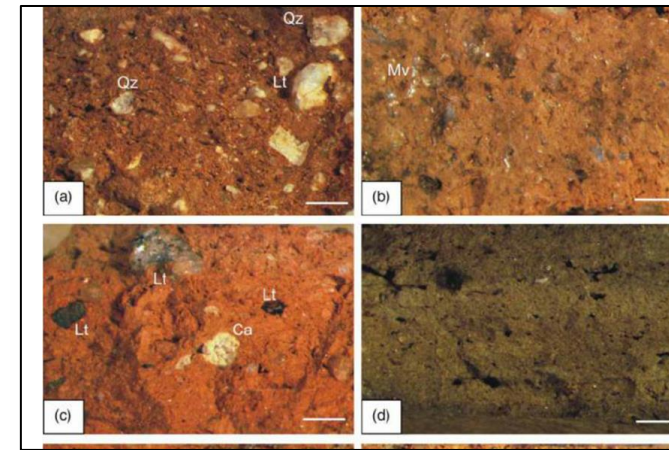
- ***Porcellaneous***

# WARE TYPES

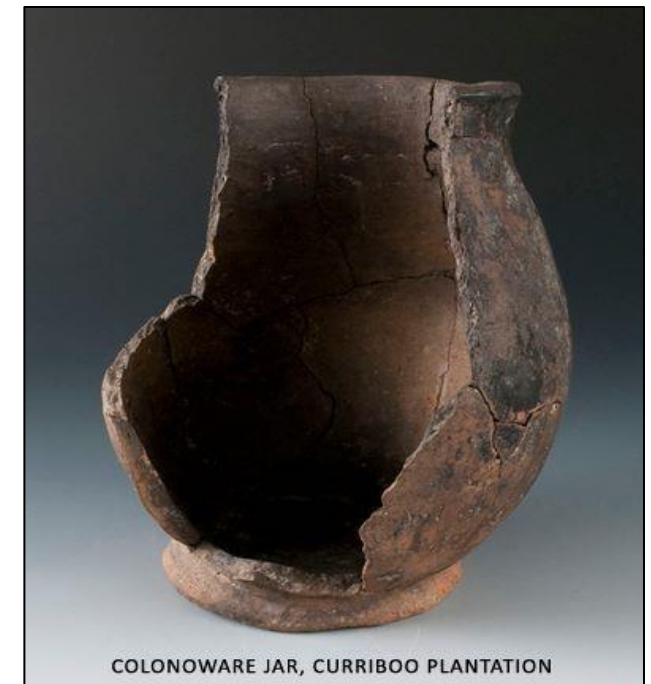
- Earthenwares

- **Coarse Earthenwares (Overview)**

- Firing Temperatures from 900°C-1200°C
    - Attributes
      - Inclusions
      - Very Porous
      - Lead glaze



[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Mineralogical-composition-of-pottery-from-Tafi-Valley-a-and-b-Coarse-pottery-of-the\\_fig3\\_272309632](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Mineralogical-composition-of-pottery-from-Tafi-Valley-a-and-b-Coarse-pottery-of-the_fig3_272309632)



Courtesy, National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park, Inde-57209



- Earthenwares

- *Coarse Earthenwares, Imported- British*

- **Buckley**

- 1720-1775
      - Agatized red body; wheel-thrown
      - Opaque black to very dark brown glaze
      - Utilitarian, undecorated



daacsrc.org

- **North Midlands/Staffordshire Slipware**

- 1670 - 1795
    - Buff-colored paste with small black, red clay or grog inclusions.
    - Will also see slightly agatized body
    - Slip decorations
    - Press-molded flat platters or dishes most common, also mugs and bowls



George Washington's Mount Vernon

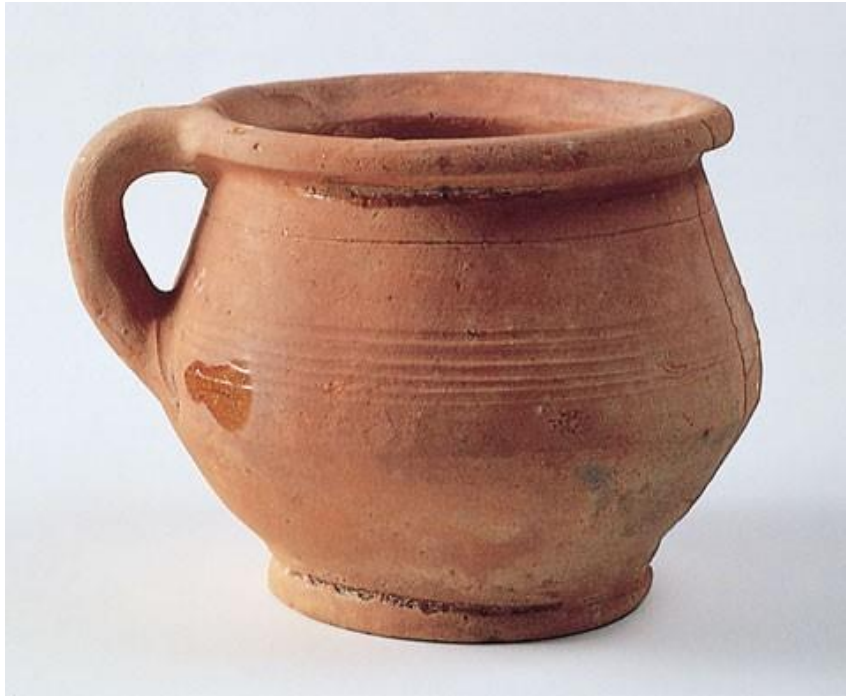


- Earthenwares

- *Coarse Earthenwares*

- **Redware**

- 1600-1900
      - Generic term for a red-bodied ceramic
      - Includes unglazed redwares (like flower pots)
      - Also includes locally made lead-glazed redwares...



Colonial  
Williamsburg  
Chamberpot



Drayton Hall

- Earthenwares

- *Coarse Earthenwares, Local- American*

- *Eastern Virginia  
(Tidewater/Coastal)*



Jamestown, chipstone.org

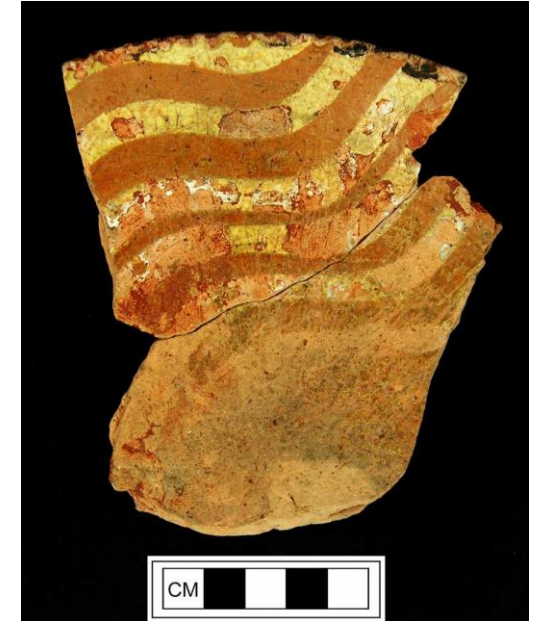


- *Western Virginia/Piedmont*



Shenandoah Valley, Monticello Department of  
Archaeology

- *Philadelphia, Alexandria,  
Baltimore (PHAB)*



Monticello, daac.org





- Earthenwares

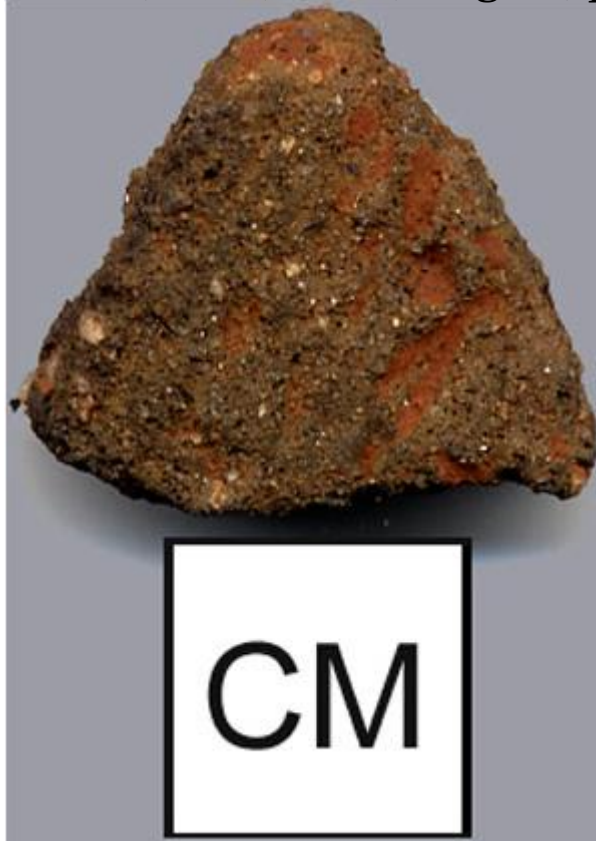
- *Coarse Earthenwares, Local*

- **Native American**

- Woodland Period (1200BC – AD 1600)
      - Locally made utilitarian vessels
      - Tempering with local materials
      - Surface Treatments (corn cob, cord, cloth, fingers, plain)



Accokeek Ware, Middle Woodland  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources



Late Woodland- Pamunky  
Simithsonianncc.edu

daacsrc.org  
Site 7



- Earthenwares

- *Coarse Earthenwares, Local*

- **Colonoware**

- 1650-1830
      - Unglazed, fire-clouded, low-fired ware
      - Utilitarian
      - Locally made by either Native Americans, African Americans, or some combination of both



Photo Credit: Karen E. Price, Mount Vernon Preservation



George Washington's Mount  
Vernon



COLONOWARE JAR, CURRIBOO PLANTATION

- Earthenwares

- ***Refined Earthenwares: Overview***

- Firing Temperatures from 1100°C-1200
- Attributes:
  - Dense cream to white-colored paste; few inclusions
  - Often press-molded
  - Lead and alkaline-lead glazes
  - Varied decorative techniques



Winterthur Museum



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Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic  
Artifacts of Maryland Website

- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported*

- ***Tin-Enameled (Delft, Faience, Majolica)***

- 1600-1800
      - “Transitional” refined earthenware
      - Lower firing temperature
      - Buff to pink color, soft, chalky paste
      - Glaze consists of lead and tin-oxide; thick and opaque; pops off



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Winterthur Museum



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- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported*

- **Jackfield-type**

- 1740-1790
      - Dense paste, ranging dark red to purple
      - Glossy, opaque black lead glaze
      - Usually very thin-bodied, typically teawares
      - Molded body decorations



FLMNH



Arkansas Archaeological Society



Jackfield

Winterthur

- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported*

- **Whieldon**

- 1740-1775
      - Cream-colored paste
      - Fired higher than coarse or tin-enameled wares
      - Lead glaze with Distinctive Decorations:
        - Tortoiseshell or Clouded
        - Molded; dot/diaper/basketweave.



All images from: [daacsrc.org](http://daacsrc.org)

- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported*

- **Creamware**

- 1762-1820
      - Cream-colored paste
      - Lead glaze that pools slightly green
      - Crazing superficial; appears like small crackling
      - Varied decorative techniques and styles
      - Major benchmark in English pottery industry



All images from: [daacsrc.org](http://daacsrc.org)



- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported*

- **Pearlware**

- 1775-1830
      - Cream-colored paste
      - Lead glaze has cobalt oxide added to give a blue or bluish-green; Glaze pools blue
      - Crazing is superficial; appears like small crackling
      - Varied decorative techniques and styles



Monticello, daacs.org



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- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported (and later Local)*

- **Whiteware**

- Post-1820
      - Cream or white-colored paste
      - Dense paste; less porous than cream and pearlware
      - Lead or alkaline-lead glaze which ranges from bright white to light blue/gray in color
      - Varied decorative techniques and styles



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland Website



David Barker, Ceramics in America, 2001



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- Earthenwares

- *Refined Earthenwares, Imported & Local*

- **Ironstone/White Granite**

- post-1840
      - White to gray, very dense paste
      - Generally alkaline-lead glaze with other whiteners or opacifiers like calcium, zinc, or tin
      - Glaze color ranges from bright white to light blue/gray in color
      - Thick glaze which has the appearance of ice cracking due to crazing
      - Decoration generally includes molding, transfer printing, gilding or painting



Saint Mary's University



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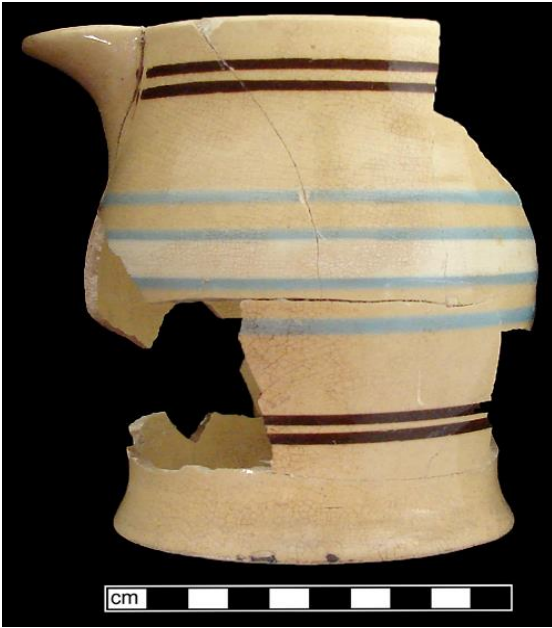
Winterthur



- Earthenwares
  - *Refined Earthenwares, Imported & Local*

- **Yellow Ware**

- 1825- 1900s



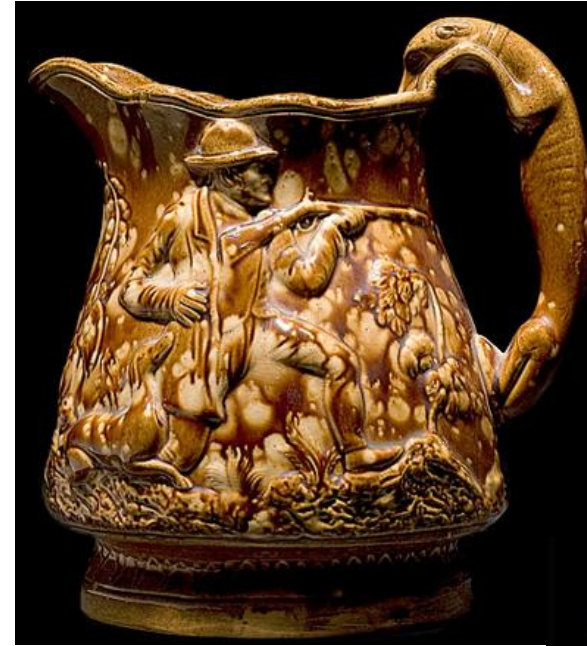
Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland



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- **Rockingham/Bennington**

- 1830-1900



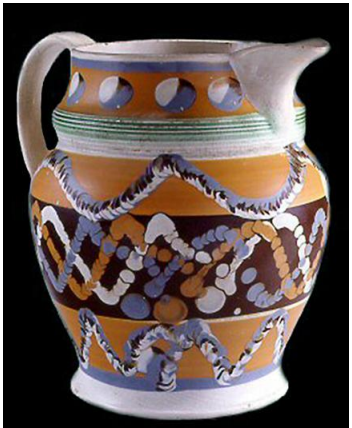
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Refined Earthenware Decorations



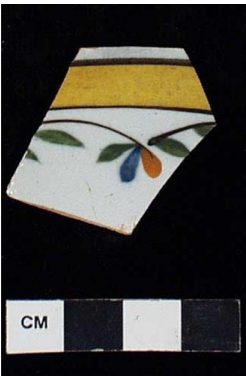
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**Factory-made Slipware**  
**1770-1840s**

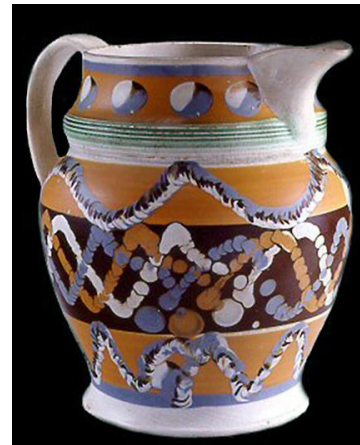
**Molded Edge**  
**Decorations**

**Hand-painted**  
**Decorations**

**Transfer-printed**  
**Decoration**  
**Post-1750**



## Decoration Genres : *Factory-made Slipware Decorations*



<http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic>



<http://libertystoneware.blogspot.com/2015/01/don-carpentier-tribute-half-saggars.html>



# Modern Transfer Printing



Minutes 1:40 – 3:00

[https://youtu.be/\\_Rel1j4ZxPc](https://youtu.be/_Rel1j4ZxPc)

- **Stonewares (Overview)**

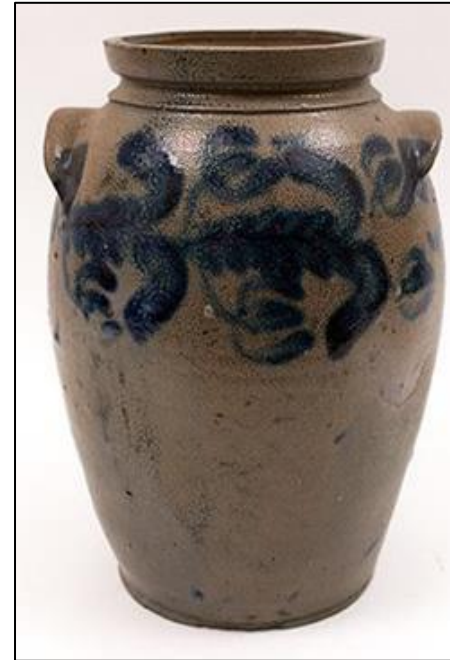
- Firing temperature 1200°C-1350°C
- Not porous
- Salt glazed or unglazed (“bisque” fired)
  - Salt glaze: look for pitted surfaces with an “orange peel” appearance
  - No crazing
- Includes ware types that are more utilitarian and/or more table or teaware



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<https://www.skinnerinc.com/auctions/2631B/lots/56>



<http://www.zandkantiques.com/American Antique Stoneware.html>



<https://www.skinnerinc.com/auctions/2850B/lots/279>



- Stonewares

- *German*

- **Westerwald/Rhenish**

- 1600-1775
      - Grey to tan paste with bluish-grey surface
      - Obvious pock-marks from salt-glaze
      - Often elaborate designs
        - molded, stamped, painted decorations
      - Painted decorations are either blue (cobalt) or purple-ish (manganese)



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland Website



George Washington's Mount Vernon



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- Stonewares

- *British*

- ***British Brown/Fulham***

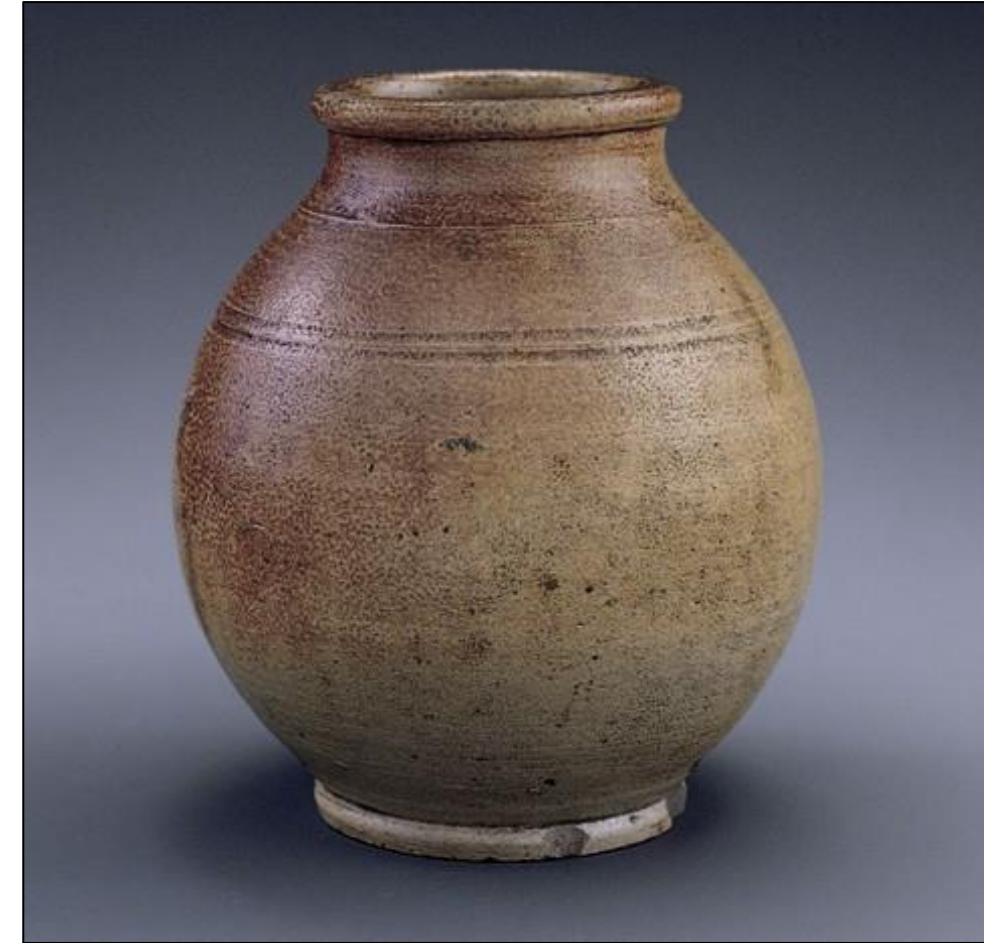
- Post-1690
      - Grey or light tan paste that is homogenous
      - Tan, brown, or grey surface
      - Obvious pock-marks from salt glaze



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland Website



George Washington's Mount Vernon



Chipstone - Ceramics in America

- Stonewares

- *British*

- **White Salt-glazed**

- 1720-1805
      - White to light grey paste and surface
      - Salt-glazed
      - Decoration includes press molded edge designs, incised bands, rouletting, sprig molding, and rustication.



George Washington's Mount Vernon



George Washington's Mount Vernon



<https://www.skinnerinc.com/auctions/2850B/lots/279>



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland Website



## Black Basalt

- 1750 - 1820
- Manufactured in England
- Key Attributes:
  - Dry bodied stoneware: normally **not glazed** on any surface
  - Grey/black paste and black surface
- Sprig molding and incised decorations



## Rosso Antico

- 1690 - 1772
- Manufactured in England
- Key Attributes:
  - Dry bodied stoneware: normally **not glazed** on any surface
  - Red/orangish paste and surface
- Incised and sprig molded decorations



## Cane ware

- 1690 - 1772
- Manufactured in England
- Key Attributes:
  - Dry bodied stoneware: normally **not glazed** on any surface
  - Buff to yellowish paste and surface
- Incised and sprig molded decorations
- Made to look like bamboo





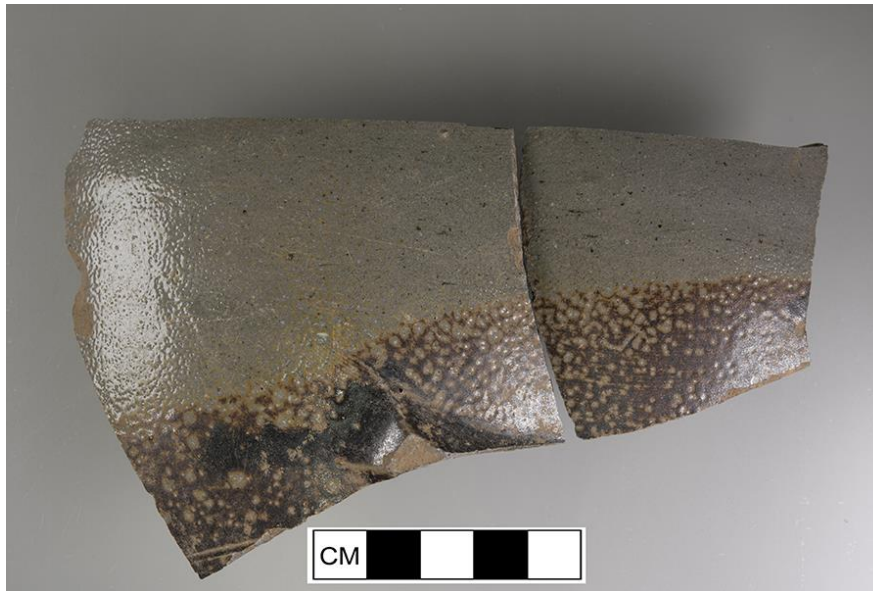
- Stonewares

- *American Stoneware*

- Post-1750 to early 20<sup>th</sup> century
    - First manuf. in America in early 18th century (Yorktown, VA)
    - Various colors of paste and surfaces
    - Inclusions of quartz or other stone in the paste
    - Salt-glaze or alkaline glaze; post-1800 Albany or Bristol glaze
    - Some handpainted Blue and Grey, slip decorations



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic  
Artifacts of Maryland Website



George Washington's Mount Vernon



BC Milburn, Alexandria- Chipstone: Ceramics in America 2013



Baltimore - Chipstone: Ceramics in America 2005

- **Porcelains (Overview)**

- Firing Temperatures from 1300 °C -1450°C
- Uses feldspathic glaze; adheres to paste
- Transformation to glass-like texture
- Overglaze and underglaze decorations



Monticello, daacsrc.org



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland



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- Porcelains

- *Chinese Porcelain*

- First appears in Europe in mid-16<sup>th</sup> c.; not major export until **post-1690** via European trade networks: Americans enter trade after 1780s
    - Vitrified, glassy paste with light blue/gray tint
    - Feldspathic glaze fused to body
    - Hand-painted decorations- over and under glaze



Thomas Jefferson's Monticello,  
DAACS



Winterthur



Thomas Jefferson's Monticello,  
DAACS



- Porcelains

- *Porcellaneous /European Hard Paste*

- In North America, post-1820s contexts (though there are exceptions)
    - European and American origins
    - Bright white paste and alkaline glaze
    - Impervious to crazing and staining
    - Hand-painted decorations and gilding



Jefferson-Patterson Museum: Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland



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# General Terms to Know

- **Paste**- The clay and minerals comprising the fabric of a ceramic vessel. The glaze adheres to this surface.
- **Glaze**- A glass-like surface coating for ceramics composed of silica that is fluxed, or mixed, with varying compounds so that it vitrifies at a temperature compatible with the maturation point (proper firing temperature) of the clay body.
- **Inclusions**- Small pieces of material within the paste that are not clay
- **Crazing**- A network of cracks in the glaze.
- **Slip**: Fluid suspension of fine clay and water used to coat vessels before firing. Can include colorants.
- **Porosity**: Refers to the permeability of the paste to liquid; less highly fired ceramics are more permeable while highly fired ceramics are not as permeable.