

Transferware

THE ANNA SAFLEY HOUSTON COLLECTION



Transferware pottery has a pattern applied by transferring a print from a copper plate to paper and finally to the pottery body. The process was developed in Staffordshire, England, in the second half of the 18th century for a newly emerging British middle class.



Early transfer patterns copied blue and white Chinese designs; later, European designs were developed. After the War of 1812, English potters tapped into the American market with scenes of important buildings, landscapes, and war heroes.



Houston Museum
of Decorative Arts

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Gibson Girl Plates

24-piece series designed by Charles Dana Gibson and produced by Royal Doulton between 1901 and 1902

Staffordshire was the center for pottery-making for more than 200 years. Other areas of Great Britain such as Leeds, Liverpool, Swansea, and Scotland were also producing transferware patterns for the mass market.

Flow Blue transferware's rich dark blue was prepared from cobalt oxide. The blue sank into the porous ware and blurred a bit into the glazing, giving a softness to the finished product. Other colors were also used—puce, mulberry, and sepia—but blue was the most popular.



Anna Safley Houston, pioneering businesswoman and antiques collector, curated a remarkable collection of over 15,000 items, spanning glassware, pottery, textiles, furniture, and much more.

