

E J Ridgway

Bedford Works



“EBONY”

Jetware



TONY CURNOCK

In 1866, having ended his partnership with Abingdon in 1860, E J Ridgway removed his manufacture to his newly built Bedford Works. On the site of this pottery were eight enormous bottle kilns. L Jewitt in his *Ceramic Art of Great Britain* wrote of the works:

‘*The Bedford Works*, Bedford Road, were built by Edward John Ridgway, son of William Ridgway, in 1866, and to them he removed from the Church Works, High Street, where he had carried on business in partnership with Mr Abingdon. In 1870 Mr Ridgway took his sons into partnership and the concern was carried on as E J Ridgway & Sons. In 1872 he retired in favour of his two sons, John and Edward Ackroyd Ridgway, who were joined in partnership by Joseph Sparks, and continued the business as Ridgway, Sparks & Ridgway. Their productions include all classes of fine useful earthenware, jet, stone, terra-cotta and jasper, of very superior bodies and decoration, for the home, American and Continental markets. One of the great specialities of the firm is their jet ware, highly decorated in raised enamel ‘after the Limoges ware’. In these a remarkable richness, beauty and delicacy are obtained and the designs, as well as the treatment of the foliage and figures, are artistic and well considered for effect. Another speciality is relief decoration on various stoneware bodies, and these are faultless in taste and excellent in workmanship. The jasper (in which both tone of colour of the body and the beauty of detail in the groups and the foliage and borders of the relief decoration in white remind one forcibly of the later productions of the Wedgwoods) teapots and other articles are produced and rank high as achievements of Ceramic Art. Mosaic or inlaid decoration is also successfully carried out by the firm, and their ordinary stoneware jugs and other articles are remarkable for purity of design, the high relief of their ornament, the hardness and compactness of their body, and the beauty of their workmanship. The mark is the Staffordshire knot, enclosing the letters R.S.R.’

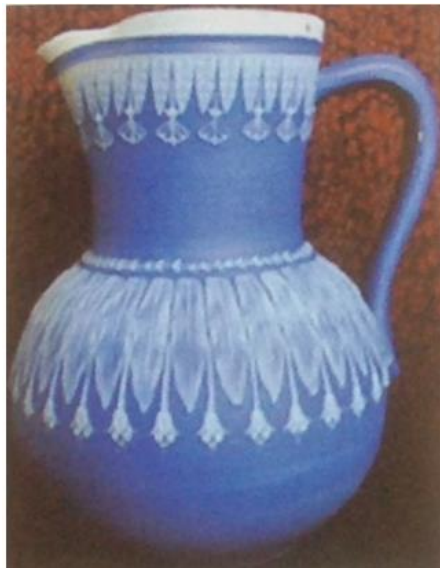
From 1866 in 20 years and three metamorphoses, the proprietors registered at least twenty designs. Some of the designs were for patterns and some for shapes. It is my object, after a fruitless search at the National Archive office, to identify the designs up to the end of the kite mark period 1884. The registrations have been put together from searches of the National Archives register and Geoffrey Godden’s very useful *A Handbook of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks*.

Kite Mark	Date	Owner	Folio Number	Description
1)	4/7/67	E J Ridgway	209362	Fluted Jug
2)	9/10/71	E J Ridgway & Sons	256538	Designs to be used for Dinnerware and Chamberware. CENIS
3)	17/4/72	E J Ridgway & Sons	261976	Toiletwares
4)	2/8/72	E J Ridgway & Sons	264685	Printed Designs
5)	2/8/72	E J Ridgway & Sons	264686	UNKOWN
6)	29/8/74	Ridgway Sparks & Ridgway	282088	UNKOWN
7)	31/5/75	Ridgway Sparks & Ridgway	291611	Printed Design CHELSEA
8)	2/2/76	Ridgway Sparks & Ridgway	298069	Printed Design CLOVELLY known in USA as NANTASKET
9)	15/6/77	Ridgway Sparks & Ridgway	310972	Printed Design INDUS
10 )	17/8/77	Ridgway Sparks & Ridgway	313080	Dinnerwares
11 )	17/4/78	Ridgway Sparks & Ridgway	320569	Printed Design YEDDO

Few of the Ebony wares are marked with the factory name and only a small number are embossed EBONY, most are marked with the Bedford factories five figure fractional pattern numbering system. The first marked item that I found was a tankard jug (Paxton shape) with a kite mark for E J Ridgway and CENIS pattern. Non Ebony wares marked by the factory also help to identify the attribution of Ebony wares, by shape and pattern. A selection of these are shown following pages.



Cenis pattern Jug with kite mark and the typical fractional number pattern mark.







23.08.2020





# “EBONY” Jetware Shapes

## 1. TEAPOTS

The first three shapes come in 4 or 5 different sizes .

Cambridge



Round Crabstock (PINE)



IMPERIAL



IMPERIAL WITH LIGHT CRABSTOCK ATTACHMENTS



Flat sided



Upright



Norwood



Bute



Dragon Spout



Coffee Pot



**TEA KETTLES** The oval shape seems to come in one size. The Crabstock has been seen in three sizes.

Oval

Crabstock

Round

Plain





# JUGS

Tankard (PAXTON) These come in five sizes



Metal attachment Tankard

Squat Shape





Low Bellied (NORWOOD)



Twisted Branch Handle



Churn



Low Bellied Round Shape



Milan shape



“Denton Handled” These come in three sizes



## Water Bottles

Water bottle Shape 1

Height 11"



Water bottle Shape 2

Two rings around the neck



The complete set

Carafes these come in four sizes



## Tobacco Jars

Height 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to Top of the knop. Marked 3/9532

There is a black circular tamper inside the jar



## VASES



Volute Krater Shape comes in 3 sizes.



Tapering shape with elaborate Handles



Pedestal shape





Low handled pedestal



Neck Handled Amphora



Oblong Handled

Square Pedestal Vase

13 ½"



Dolphin Handled Ewer

Height



Square Spill Vase



PEDESTAL Voloute Krater



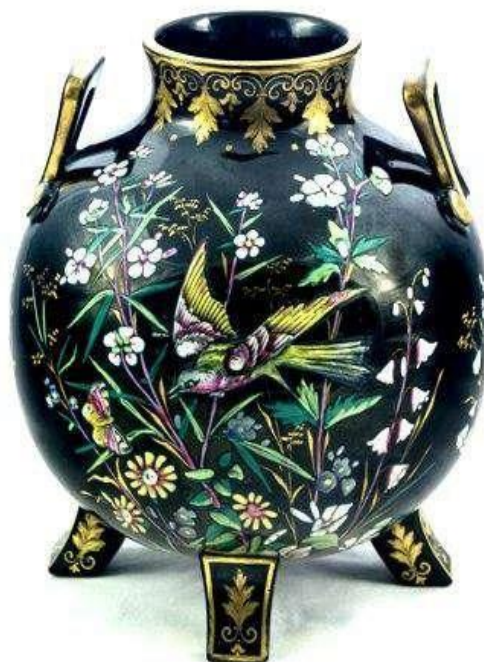
Cornucopia vase



Moon Flask



Four Footed Shape





SPILL VASE



VIOLET OR POSY POT



Lion Handled Hydra



AMPHORA





POT POURRI VASES



Rams Head Handles



Plain Loop Handles

Lions Head Handles



Pot Pourri vases appear to have two lids, an internally fitting flat lid and a pierced dome externally fitting

Pot Pourri Diam 9"



## Biscuit Barrels

Plated lid and Handle



Plated lid no handle



Pottery Lid





## Cheese Stands



Height: 10 ½"



Height 12 ½"

## PLANTERS AND CACHE POTS



Height 9 ½"



Height 7"



Lion Footed Circular Cache Pot

Height 7 ¼"

Width 8 ½"



Footed Cache pot



Cylinder Shape with Lions Head



OTHER SHAPES

2/7323



Lion handled  
Lidded Soup Bowl

Candle Extinguisher.

**Lenght 7"    Width 4 ½"    Mark 2/7003**



**Dressing Table Set**



The set comprises tray, four lidded pots and a ring stand. Stand 11" x 8 1/4" All marked 3/8173

**Sardine Box.**



**Small Bowl with White Interior**

Height 3 1/2"

Mark 4/6104





## Candlesticks

These have been seen in three sizes



## Mug Tankard shape



## ANIMALS



Height 7"

Unmarked



Height 5 3/4"

Unmarked





## TEA WARES

TEA SET IN PATTERN 3/4673



I assume tea wares were all glazed white internally. Whilst items of the same size not tea wares were left black.



## Patterns

DESCRIPTION		
1972  Blue and gold stripes and white flags		
1/4436  White bird perched on rose bush		4/435 
1/6394  Colourful birds and apple blossom		
6595  Orange classical figures		
1/8196  Golden putti on matt black		

All the above patterns except 1972 and 1/8196 await verification as Ebony items 6595 Now Alcock

<p>Mark: 2/673</p> <p>Description: Gold Greek key with band of blue and white dots between gold lines.</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/1352</p> <p>Description: Black <u>chainlink</u> in mauve bands and gilding</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/4568/5</p> <p>Description: Orange classical figures, with orange borders and gilding</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/6064</p> <p>Description: Daisies obverse Primroses</p>		<p>Mark: 2/6011</p> <p>Description: Orange transfer with black stylised flowers</p> 

<p>Mark: 2/6309</p> <p>Description: Enamelled Fox gloves in mauve and cream.</p>		
<p>Mark : 2/6385</p> <p>Description: Orange transfer "The meeting of Hector &amp; Andromache"</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/6385</p> <p>Description: Achilles obverse The meeting of Hector &amp; Andromache.</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/6386</p> <p>Description: Orange Blossom Sprigs</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/6492</p> <p>Description: Birds and blossom</p> <p>In Blue</p>		



<p>Mark: 2/6493</p> <p>Description; Birds and blossom, in pink</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/6851</p> <p>Description: Orange print of stylised leaves</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/6956</p> <p>Description: The meeting of Hector and Andromeda, green transfer</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/7003</p> <p>Description: Blue flowers entwined by white braided rope</p>		
<p>Mark; 2/7091</p> <p>Description: Orange marching Putti</p>		

<p>Mark: 2/27097</p> <p>Description: Orange transfer called "Classic border"</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/7323</p> <p>Description: Orange Shields.</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/7396</p> <p>Meeting of Hector and Andromache obv Achilles</p>	 	
<p>Mark: 2/7529</p> <p>Description: Orange and white daisy like flower border between two gold bands.</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/7978</p> <p>Meeting of Hector and Andromache obv Achilles</p>		

Mark: 2/8118

Orange  
Designs and  
broad blue  
bands



Mark:2/8392

Description: Band of  
Orange daisies on a blue  
background, with 3  
orange Puttis around



Mark: 2/8395

Description: Orange  
Birds on branches



Mark: 2/8794







Description: Orange  
transfers highlighted  
with white of oriental  
figures.






<p>Mark : 2/8861</p> <p>Description; Orange transfer roundels with black flowers and gilding</p>		
<p>Mark: 2/29017</p> <p>Description: As 2/28861 but using green transfers</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/1671</p> <p>Description: White beading On orange band under Gilded band</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/1351</p> <p>Description: Orange leaf and tendril collar, with blue and white daisy like flowers and dragon flies. <b>3/1831 on upright teapot</b></p>		
















<p>Mark: 3/1691</p> <p>Description { White transfer of birds in foliage</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/2163</p> <p>Description: Gold Fleur de lys and dots.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/2333</p> <p>Description: Hector and Achilles</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/3952</p> <p>Description: Chinese children moths and flowers.</p>		

<p>Mark: 3/4013</p> <p>Description: Gold band with black daisy in orange cartouche.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/4013</p> <p>Description: Gold band with black daisy in orange cartouche.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/4013</p> <p>Description <u>Handpainted</u> white and blue dots as flowers between two orange lines.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6030</p> <p>Description: Classical Charioteer</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6051</p> <p>Description: Yellow flowers in a garland of roses</p>		





<p>Mark: 3/6063</p> <p>Description: Pink Flowers and Green Leaves</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6098</p> <p>Description: Pink roses, blue oak leaves and gold stars.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6107</p> <p>Description: Orange band between black and white check border with geometric patterns</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6173</p> <p>Crocus and Primroses</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6347</p> <p>Description: Painted pink and white rosemary-like flowers. 3/6347</p>		







<p>Mark: 3/637 </p> <p>Description: as 3/6347</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/6864</p> <p>Description: Cherubs in clouds.</p> <p>The cherubs are found on other items with different numbers qv. 3/8173, 4/5259</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/7027</p> <p>Description: Heads of Zeus and Appolo in purple cartouches</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/7048</p> <p>Description: White Chinese figures with chinese script</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/7531</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Gold figures of Hector and Adromeche</p>		

<p>Mark: 3/8137</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Cherubs in white Clouds</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/8390</p> <p>Description: Fame, obverse de la Fontaine both in white transfer and enamel</p>		<p>Same shape 3/8809 Fame Obs. Arts</p> 
<p>Mark: 3/8421</p> <p>Description: Bird on wild rose branch and another on apple blossom.</p>		 
		
<p>Mark: 3/8526</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Birds in Blossoms</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/8794</p> <p>Description: White Puttis</p>		 











<p>Mark: 3/8803</p> <p>Description: The Arts. Obverse Descartes As 3/8390</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/9244</p> <p>Description: Posiedon . Obverse Aphrodite, in chariots</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/9432</p> <p>Description: Chinese flute player and boy riding dog</p>		
<p>Mark 3/9456</p> <p>Description: Christmas Cactus</p>		

<p>Mark: 3/9532</p> <p>Description: Two Chinese men in a basket of flowers and four men in a boat.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/9532/4</p> <p>Description: Chinese flute player and Chinese carp festival.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/9599</p> <p>Description: Chinese carp festival and boy riding a dog</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/9599</p> <p>Description: Pagoda and Chinese children.</p>		

<p>Mark: 3/9621</p> <p>Description: Chinese flute player and Chinese carp festival.</p>		
<p>Mark: 3/9897</p> <p>Description; Matt black with chariots and goddesses. White gilded handles on white body</p>		 
<p>Mark: 3/9970</p> <p>Description: Purple pine cones and green leaves.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/1024</p> <p>Fame and Shepherd</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/1183</p> <p>Description: White Blossom with golden leaves ALSO 4/1193</p>		



<p>Mark: 4/1592</p> <p>Description: Prince of Wales feathers</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/1714</p> <p>Description: Green bird on rose branch, obverse similar bird on apple blossom spray</p> <p>also 4/171</p> <p>also 4/1706on a water bottle</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/1742</p> <p>Description: Crocuses and snowdrops</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/1765</p> <p>Description; Mastiff</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/1918</p> <p>Hops</p>		 <div> <p>4/18 1918</p> </div>

<p>Mark: 4/2120</p> <p>Description; Spray of flowers and butterflies</p>		
<p>Mark : 4/2070</p> <p>Description: Lily of the Valley and mauve flowers</p> <p>Also found on Lion footed cache pot 4/4804</p> <p>Impressed Ebony</p>		 
<p>Mark: 4/2098</p> <p>Description: Massed polychrome apple blossom</p> <p>also 4/2077 on <u>voloute</u> krater vase</p>		
<p>Marked: 4/2275</p> <p>Description: Orange Chinese figures edged in white.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/2308</p> <p>Description: White dots above blue band Gold pattern and roses</p>		 

<p>Mark: 4/2384</p> <p>Description: Polychrome fuchsias.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/2388</p> <p>Description: White hops</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/2431</p> <p>Description: Ferns and butterflies.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/2903</p> <p>Description: 3 roses in a circle of gold</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/2938</p> <p>Description: Polychrome bouquets of flowers, blossoms and butterflies</p>		

N & S Mark: 4/3375 Bunch or spray of flowers plus large butterfly. One yellow and one blue butterfly on one side and one brown on the other. Flowers different on each side. Similar to 4/2120



Mark: 4/3193  
Description: Finch in teasel



Mark: 4/3800  
Description: Coloured five petal star-like flowers and leaves.



Mark: 4/3905 Description: Cranes and bamboo

The pattern is known as  
CRANES and appears on marks:  
4/4139, 4/4309, 4/4507/, 4/5443  
and 4/6023.



Mark: 4/3955  
Description: Hellebores and mistletoe



<p>Mark: 4/4139</p> <p>Description: Cranes and bamboo</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/4184</p> <p>Description: Polychrome geraniums and small flowers.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/4255</p> <p>Description: Floral spray of geraniums and other flowers.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/4268/1</p> <p>Description: Floral spray of geraniums and other flowers</p> <p>The White version of 4/4184</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/4304</p> <p>Description: Wildflowers. This pattern is known as WILDFLOWERS and is the most common pattern on Ebony.</p> <p>Found on: Teapot, jug, pot pourri, tobacco jar, tea kettle, cup and saucer, water bottle, plate, moon flask, violet pot and cheese keeper.</p> <p>The pattern also appears on marks 4/4346/6, 4/4364, 4/4555/2, 4/4669, 4/4889</p>		

Mark: 4/4817  
Description: Butterflies  
and gilded plants



Mark: 4/4867

Description: Humming  
Birds and nests  
Also 4/4598 on pedestal  
vase



Mark: 4/5176

Description:  
Creamer with white  
Interior. Balinese  
Dancers



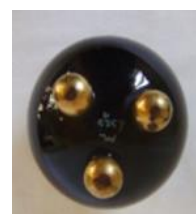
Mark: 4/5133|

Description: Orange  
Chinese figures edged  
with white.












Mark: 4/5257





Description: Cyclamen



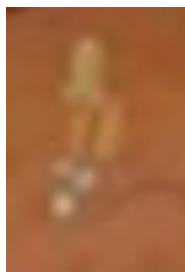
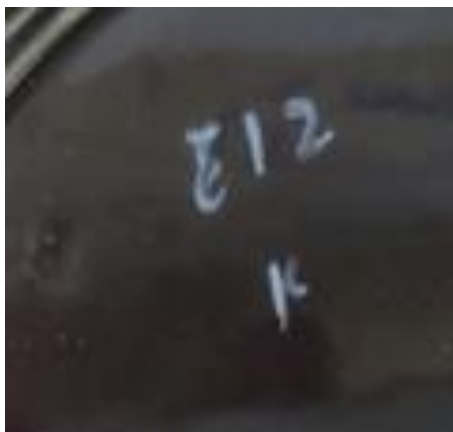


<p>Mark: 4/5259</p> <p>Description: White cupids and muses.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/5298/6</p> <p>Description: Exotic birds and nests.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/5336</p> <p>Description: Butterflies and gilded foliage</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/6311</p> <p>Description: Exotic pheasants and flowers</p>		
<p>Description: Orange transfer version of 4/6373</p>		











<p>Mark: 4/6373</p> <p>Description: Polychrome Fern leaves Grass and Butterflies</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/6423</p> <p>Description: as 4/6373</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/ 6698</p> <p>Description: Polychrome stylised flowers and butterflies.</p>		
<p>Mark 4/7101</p> <p>Description: Sprays of flowers and butterfly.</p> <p>Found on: Jug.</p> <p>The three jugs with different sprays all bear the same mark.</p>		
<p>Mark: 4/7386</p> <p>Description: “YEDDO”. Design registered by Ridgway, Sparks and Ridgway in 1878.</p>		









<p>Mark: 4/7500</p> <p>Description: Bird on turquoise branch. Named by Napier and Swift as "Tumbledown Dick".</p>		
<p>Mark; <u>4/7892</u></p> <p>Description Purple Flowers</p>		

At the end of the fractional pattern number sequence, possibly at the end of the Ridgway Sparks and Ridgway partnership, a new system was adopted. Ebony wares were marked with an E, Terracota wares with an R and Iron stone wares with an I.















<p>chinaman and trophies</p> <p>E 2</p>		
<p>Chinese travellers "EUTERPE"</p> <p>E 3</p>		
<p>Fish and Bullrushes</p> <p>E/6V</p>		
<p>Colourful pot plant and Dragon</p> <p>E/12/F</p>		
<p>Chinese lanterns</p> <p>E 13 K</p>		











<p>Japanese scene</p> <p>E16/F</p>		
<p>Ebony "Hawthenden"</p> <p>E 17</p>		
<p>Ebony "Persia"</p> <p>E 42</p>		
<p>Cornflowers</p> <p>E 83</p>		








## Unknown pattern numbers

<p>Spray of Roses</p> <p>Unk 1</p>		
<p>Band of Polychrome flowers</p> <p>Unk 4</p>		
<p>Roman Figures</p> <p>Unk5</p>		
<p>Orange Birds</p> <p>Unk 8</p>		









<p>Simple cut flower spray</p> <p>Unk 12</p>		
<p>Blackberries and leaves</p> <p>Unk 15</p>		
<p>White Balinese Dancers</p> <p>Unk 17</p>		
<p>Chrysanthemums</p> <p>Unk 19</p>		
<p>Green Transfer pattern between gold bands</p> <p>Unk 23</p>		

<p>Roses and swags</p> <p>Unk 24</p>		
<p>Swallow tail pheasants</p> <p>Unk 25</p>		
<p>Large pink lilies</p> <p>Unk 28</p>		
<p>Chinaman and Bats</p> <p>Unk 31</p>		
<p>Commemerative</p> <p>UNK33</p>		

<p>Blue dotted leaves and gold tendrils Unk 36</p>		
<p>Pink Dog Roses  Unk 37</p>		
<p>Pink yellow white and blue 6 petalled flowers  Unk 38</p>		
<p>Unk: 39 Description: Two mice at play and reading. <u>Marked: on terracotta</u>  Water bottle </p>		







<p>Angry Parrot</p> <p>Unk 40</p>		
<p>Flowers and large green leaves</p> <p>Unk 41</p>		
<p>Roman Games</p> <p>Unk42</p>		
<p>3 Gold? flowers in may leaves</p> <p>Unk43</p>		

<p>Handpainted short white crisscross</p> <p><a href="#">Unk 44</a></p>		
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<p>Polychrome band of flowers</p> <p><a href="#">Unk 45</a></p>		
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<p>Dark blue band between two gold bands</p> <p><a href="#">Unk 46</a></p>		
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<p>Orange and black Daisies in an orange band</p> <p><a href="#">Unk47</a></p>		
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<p>Hand painted large pink flower Unk 48</p>		
<p>Clams  Unk 49</p>		

### Pre EBONY jet ware.

Prior to the introduction of the EBONY range, with its terracotta body, a white body decorated with a matt black was in production.



This tea pot is unmarked, but the charioteer is seen on one side of the same shape teapot mark 1/3997



2/5117





