

The following is an excerpt from the report produced for the New Jersey Historical Society. Detailed information about the collection and the report's conclusions have been excluded to protect the privacy of the institution and its donors.

INTRODUCTION

It has already been determined that New Jersey is rich in natural resources for the production of ceramics. Therefore, this report will outline information to help determine what other stories about New Jersey and its history can be gleaned from the ceramics collection at the New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS). In addition, this report will also suggest in which direction the Society should focus their continued collecting efforts.

The ceramics collection has been divided into nine categories. Each category reflects the main use of the items that it contains. The use of categories is not meant to limit the scope in which the collection can be interpreted or exhibited; it has been done with the intention of facilitating an orderly discussion of the items.

This report begins with a statistical overview, is followed by various category discussions, and ends with a conclusion and appendixes. The result is a document that can be used to help the NJHS better utilize its ceramic collection for use in future exhibits, educational programs, and financial development. Additionally, this report will help serve as a guideline for future collecting.

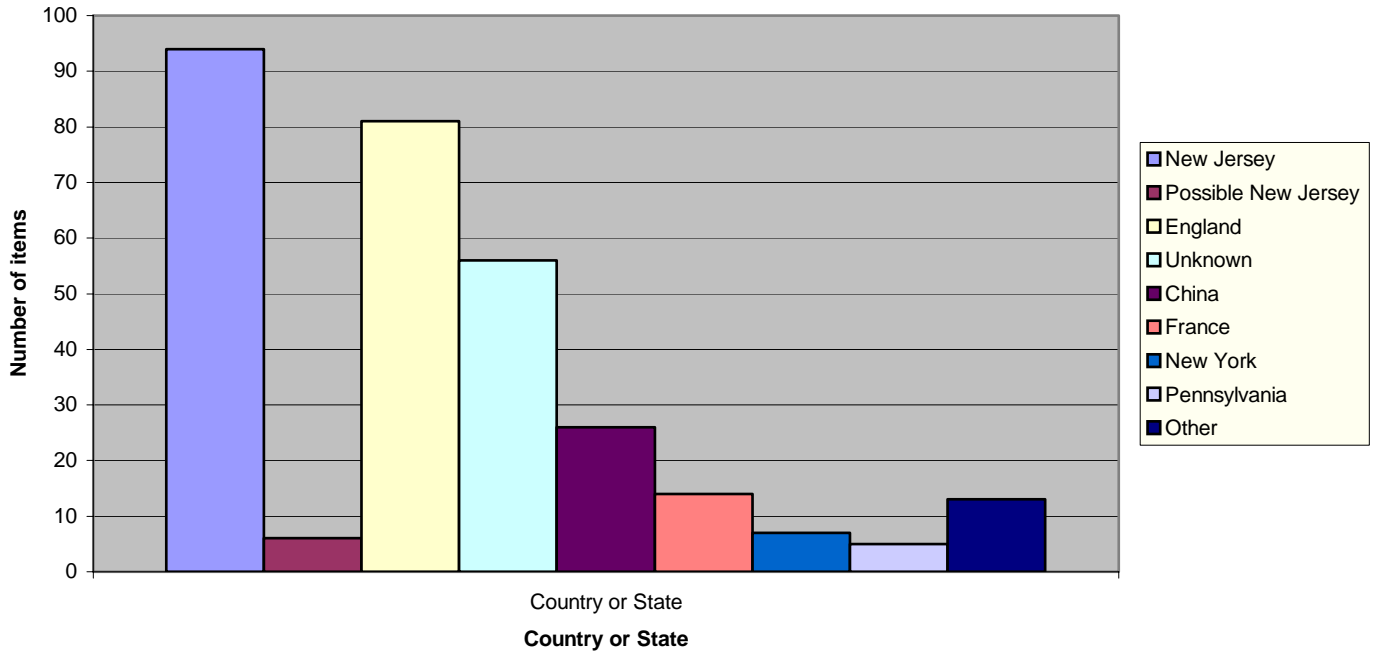
Multi-itemed collections, such as sets of dinnerware, commemorative plate series, etc., have been counted as only one item for the purpose of determining statistics and for category discussions.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Place of Manufacture

30% of the collection is confirmed made in New Jersey (94 items)
2% of the collection is of possible New Jersey manufacture (6 items)
26% of the collection is or could be of English manufacture (81 items)
18% of the collection is of unknown manufacture (56 items)
9% of the collection is or could be of Chinese manufacture (26 items)
5% of the collection is or could be of German manufacture (17 items)
4% of the collection is or could be of French manufacture (14 items)
2% of the collection is or could be of New York manufacture (7 items)
4% of the collection consists of other area manufacturers (Holland, Mexico, California, Tennessee, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) (13 items)

Places of Manufacture

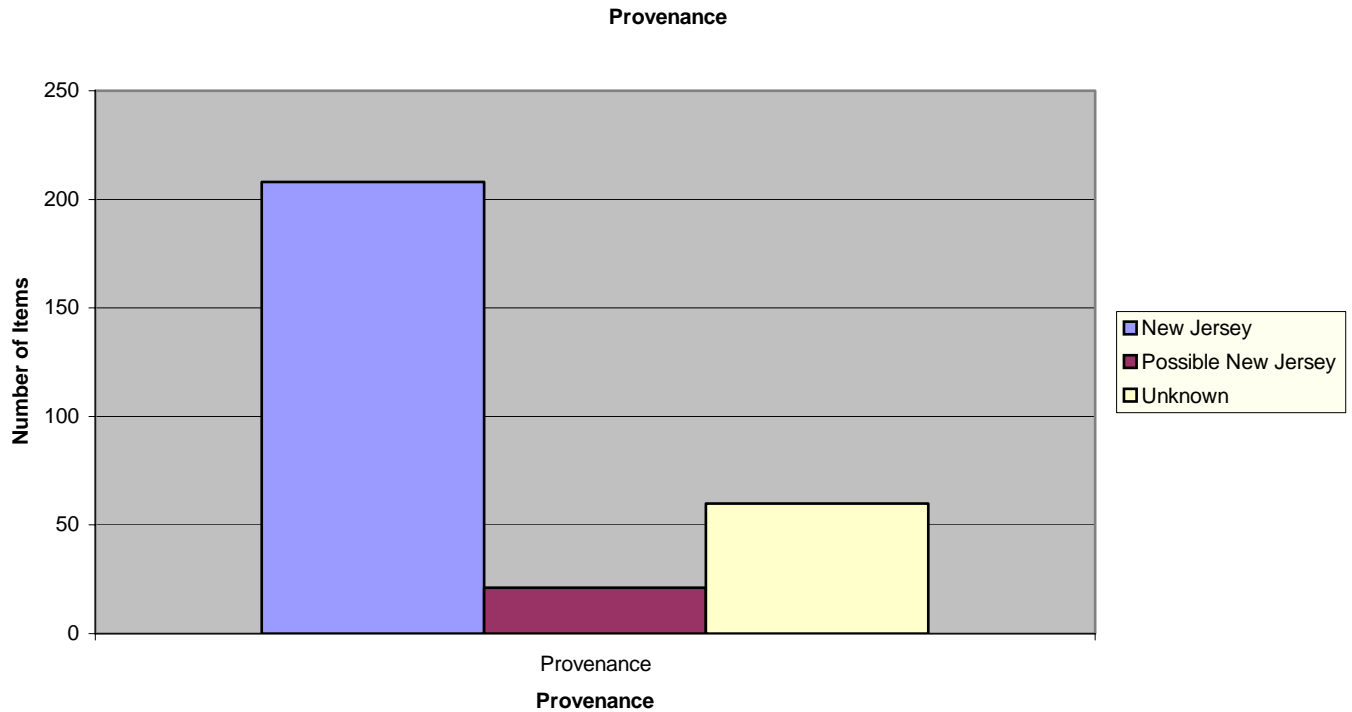


Provenance information

75% of the collection has confirmed New Jersey provenance (232 items)

6% of the collection has possible New Jersey provenance (21 items)

19% of the collection is of unknown provenance (61 items)



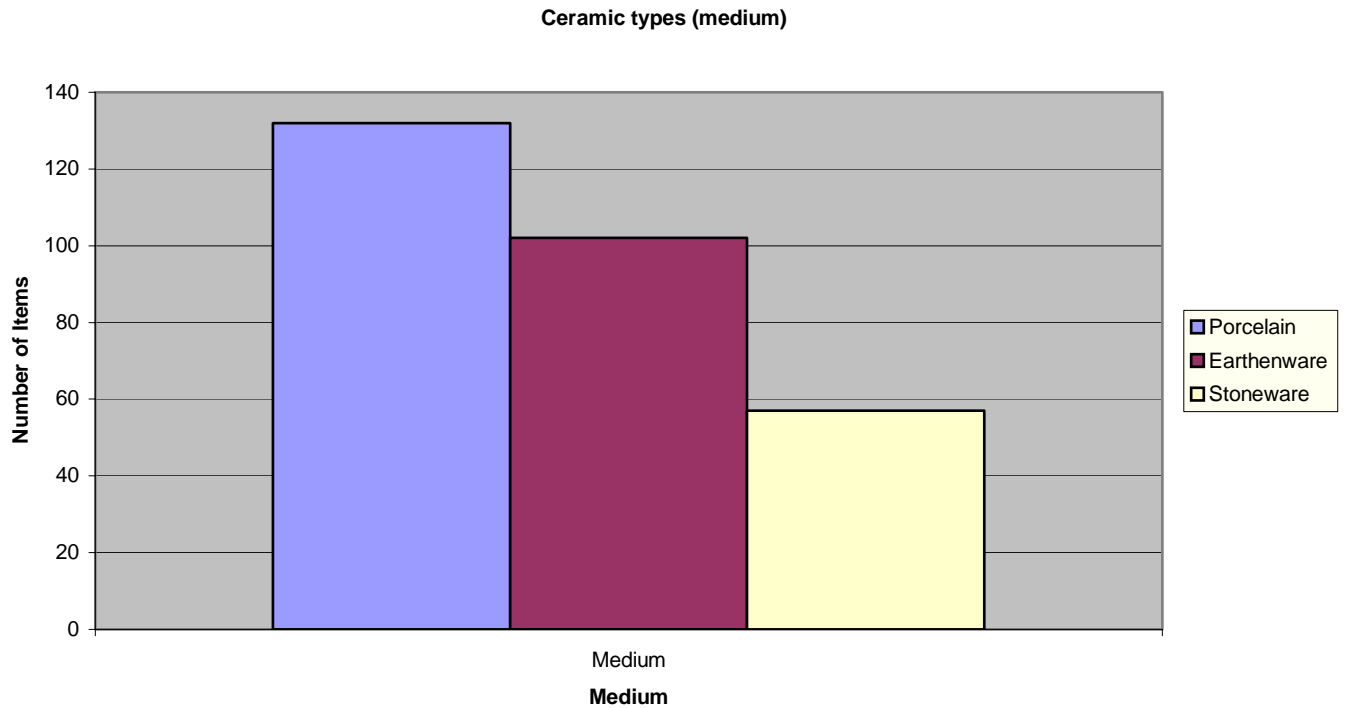
The probability that the entire ceramics collection has a New Jersey connection is strong. Items with unknown provenance were most likely donated by a New Jersey resident and unfortunately, provenance information has been misplaced, lost, or never originally documented.

Medium

42% of collection is made of porcelain (130 items)

42% of the collection is made of earthenware (132 items)

16% of the collection is made of stoneware (52 items)



Porcelain became the most popular medium for ceramic wares from the moment it arrived in Europe during the 1600s. As European and American factory began producing porcelain in the 1700s, the availability of porcelain tableware and decorative items began to increase. During the 1800s it was fairly common to find at least a porcelain tea set in the home of the most humble person. Since 67% (207 items) of the ceramic collection consists of dining or tableware for both adults and children and decorative or commemorative pieces, it seems only right that porcelain is the most common medium found in the collection.