

Five- Minute Antiques School- Yellow Ware

- Utilitarian earthenware pottery made in England and Scotland as well as in the U.S., primarily in New Jersey to Ohio
- Transitional ware between redware and white wares –lighter and easier to handle than stoneware, less porous and fragile than redware
- A clear alkaline glaze is applied to yellow clay base
- Color varies from light buff to dark mustard yellow
- Most early American yellow ware dates from about 1840 to the end of the 19th century-peak production in the 1860-70s
- 90% of American yellow ware is unmarked
- Still being produced (and reproduced) today
- Characteristics of earlier versus later pieces
- Many different forms: bowls most common; but also pitchers, nappies, mugs, pie plates, pepper shakers, master salts, mustard pots; colanders, rolling pins, washboards, miniatures, etc.
- Decoration: plain, banded, seaweed (or mocha), Rockingham, molded
- Collectors may focus on a particular form or type of decoration, or may prefer to assemble a diverse grouping
- Criteria to consider when buying: age, form, condition, price

References

- Gallo, John. (1985). Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Yellow Ware. Heritage Press: Richfield Springs, New York. A great handbook, still available, price guide obsolete. My favorite reference.
- McAllister, Lisa & John L. Michel. (1993, 2003). Collecting Yellow Ware: An Identification and Value Guide. Collector Books: Paducah, Kentucky. Great photos and descriptions of various forms, still available, values guide updated 2003 www.mcallisterinc.com