

Bracelet ~ Syracuse

Description:

The Bracelet pattern was made by the Onondaga Pottery Company (O. P. Co.) with the company's fine china, Syracuse China. The color is Old Ivory, encrusted with a gold band, and has a gold verge line. The set was made between 1941 and 1970.

Company Background:

W. H. Farrar started the company that was to become Syracuse China in 1841 in an area now part of Syracuse, New York. After selling out and opening a new factory in Syracuse, Farrar was able to make finer china with pure white clay brought in by the Erie Canal. In 1868 Farrar and three partners formed the Empire Pottery Company; the pottery was managed by an English potter who trained the locals. In 1871 the local Syracuse potteries were bought out and consolidated to form the Onondaga Pottery Company in Geddes, New York.

Even though O. P. Co. was located far from the country's ceramics centers in New Jersey and Ohio, it was able to purchase the materials necessary for making fine china. The Erie Canal and the growth of the railroads made this possible. Under the management of an English potter, the company was able to produce the quality of china necessary to become real competition for companies like Lenox.

By 1888 the company had produced America's truly virtuous and translucent china. This fine china was first called Imperial Geddo but in 1895 was called "Syracuse China." From then on, all O. P. Co. china had a backstamp that indicated it was Syracuse China.

With the Syracuse China and new chip resistant technology, O. P. Co. found its customers base in the hotel, railroad, and restaurant industry. It was not until a thinner, more stylish china was made that the O. P. Co. wares were found in households.

In 1926 the company introduced the Old Ivory line (which explains the idea that this set was a wedding gift). This color line became most used in the Syracuse China.

In 1966, Onondaga Pottery Company changed its name to Syracuse China because of its association with their fine china lines.

Dating the China:

The year the Bracelet pattern was introduced is conflicted between 1941 and 1949. The pattern stayed in production until 1970. At that point, the company stopped their production of consumer dinnerware because they could not compete with the low cost,

Asian made china. They then focused solely on commercial customers and soon were the largest commercial dinnerware manufacturer.

Sources say that the company had date codes but this Bracelet service seems to be without them. This leaves the date open to any time it was an active pattern. The letters do not have a recognized pattern and do not match up with any of the company's dating systems.

This set includes:

12(x2) Footed cup and saucer sets (sets include cup and saucer)

12 Rimmed cereal bowls

12 Dinner plates

12 Fruit/Dessert bowls

10 Salad plates

8 Bread and butter plates

1 Coupe Soup bowl

1 Oval platter

1 Sugar bowl w/ lid

1 Creamer

1 Round vegetable or Coupe soup bowl

83 Pieces in set

Why is it here:

Syracuse China is one of America's oldest china companies. This long history of not only being American made but being fine china explains how the service found it way to the Rayburn House. In the mid twentieth century Onondaga Pottery Company was one of Lenox's serious competitors. Like most American producers of fine china, the bodies were very similar in composition, color, and strength.

The Bracelet and Lowell patterns would have been produced around the same time and would have come to the house around the same time. A possibility is that either the Bracelet or the Lowell services were purchased to create a large enough place setting. Because they are so similar, the two sets could have been set at the same table and only the close observer would notice.

In the end, the Syracuse China would have made it to the house because of the company's reputation for making fine china.

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