



Accurate Appraisals Partnership

John Scherz, Director

1680 St. Andrews Drive
Killen, Alabama 35645

256-757-9094

email: snargley@bellsouth.net



Attn: Ted & Nancy Bell
Re: Nippon Vase Appraisal

03 / 14 / 2008

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Bell:

After a careful close inspection of your pair of hand painted scenic vintage Nippon vases, I have arrived at the following conclusions. After consulting one of the worlds most recognized reference series on Nippon porcelain, the Collectors Encyclopedia of Nippon Porcelain Series 1 - 7, & Van Pattens ABCs of Collecting Nippon Porcelain / all by renowned authority Joan Van Patten, it is confirmed that your pair of 10 1/8" conical square shoulder vases are scarce forms. The prominent collar base and neck are finished in outstanding heavy enamel bead work, and the color quality & hand painted definition of the tropical / nautical scene are first rate. The bottom stamp is the proper green under glaze M-in-Wreath signature of the Morimura Bros. Co. "Hand Painted Nippon" (Van Patten mark #47) ca. 1911-1921.



These photos attest to the overall quality of the workmanship involved in producing these fine heirlooms. The prime collectible period for hand painted Nippon porcelain began with the end of individually marked Japanese Meiji period ceramics ca. 1891. This was the institution of the McKinley Tariff Act, requiring positive identification of exporting countries' wares into the United States. The oldest recognized Nippon mark is that which is referred to as the Maple Leaf Nippon mark ca. 1891. After 1921, the true value of Nippon porcelain suffers as companies such as Noritake and others attacked the domestic market with fervor, subsequently saturating the western countries with their

newer assembly line style patterns and finishes. The inevitable result was a marked decrease in both interest and inherent value of the post 1921 pieces. Another item of legend purports that the closer to 1921 items were finished, the attention to detail, especially in the hand decoration, deteriorated substantially. In many cases this may be true, making it possible to date an individual item within its stamped era. The case for production line finishing exists with certain Morimura Bros. exports, as ostensibly identical patterns will show marked differences or shortcuts within this transitional decade.

This being said, your pair of nautical / tropical scenic's are of fine quality in all aspects of potting: The hand painted scenes are cohesive through the full 360 degrees, the colors are dynamic, the hand painting is detailed, and the enamel appliqué is both bright and precise. The final piece to the puzzle is that the glaze showcases outstanding uniformity of depth. These scenic Nippon vases were obviously produced lovingly, and with great pride. They are obviously from the early portion of the signature period, ca. 1911 – 1915. The current economic conditions dictates a book value of **\$400 - \$475 each**, however, sold as a matched pair, they are innately more valuable. **We feel \$1,000 - \$1,100 is representative for a superb matches set like this.**

We hope that your experience with the Accurate Appraisals Partnership has been rewarding. We look forward to serving you in you in the future.

Cordially, John T. Scherz / and The AAP Family

