

# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: the scepter and eagle mark (1)













The present factory of Berlin was founded in 1761 by Johann Ernst Gotzkowsky, who picked up the pieces of the factory of Wilhelm Casper Wegely, who went broke in 1757. In fact the making of porcelain in Berlin started in 1751 when Wegely, a wool-manufacturer, obtained a licence to set up a factory. With the help of many workers of the Meissen and Höchst factories (also the necessary kaolin and a model of a kiln was supplied), Wegely was able to produce porcelain but the quality was not of a high standard. The business was not very succesful with the result that Wegely had to close the factory due to financial problems.

During its existance, Heinrich Reichard was the master-modeller and Isaak Jacob Clauce the painter. Wares of the Wegely factory were marked with the initial W, this always in combination with numbers.

During the next four years, no porcelain was produced in Berlin. In 1761 it was Gotzkowsky, a merchant with great expectations, who bought the 'arcanum' from the Wegely-modeller Reichard. He also secured himself of the collaboration of the Wegely-painter Clauce and furthermore he bought the remaining stock of the Wegely factory as well. In order to improve the quality of the manufactured porcelain, Gotzkowsky hired a lot of experienced craftsmen from the Meissen factory. Amongst them the modeller Friedrich Elias Meyer and the painters Karl Wilhelm Böhme, Johann Balthasar Borrmann and Karl Jakob Christian Klipfel.

The quality of the wares did increase enormously, but the cost was increased as well... After only being two years in operation, the new established factory did already employ ca. 150 people. As the market was rather small (only the very rich could afford to buy porcelain), also Gotzkowsky was overtaken by financial difficulties and was forced to sell the factory to Frederick the Great in 1763.

 1763 - 1780 (0n0)	 1810 - 1815 (0n0)
 1763 - 1780 (0n0)	 1815 - 1820 (0n0)
 1780 - 1789 (0n0)	 1820 - 1837 (0n0)
 1790 - 1800 (0n0)	 1820 - 1837 (0n0)
 1800 - 1809 (0n0)	 1837 - 1844 (0n0)

# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: the scepter and eagle mark (2)



Frederick the Great took vigorous steps to promote his factory, with the result that during the rococo period Berlin became the leading German factory for making porcelain dinner-services. Also the figure-modelling of the brothers Meyer was outstanding and Berlin flower-painting (so called Deutsche Blumen) became an example to a lot of other factories.

Like many other porcelain factories, the Berlin factory did have its ups and downs, but it always managed to survive the difficult periods. Today it is still one of the leading porcelain manufacturers of Germany, Europe and the world.

Concerning the marks used at the Berlin factory after the 're-opening' by Gotzkowsky, we can say the following:

- From 1761 till 1763, when Gotzkowsky was in command, the porcelain was marked with the initial 'G' in blue under glaze.
- From 1763 till 1837, the porcelain was marked with the scepter mark in blue under glaze. The scepter mark was introduced when Frederick the Great bought the factory. In this period the scepter was depicted with a horizontal bar.
- From 1837 till 1844, the initials 'KPM' were added to the scepter mark (KPM was standing for Königliche Porzellan Manufaktur).
- From 1844 till 1847, the scepter in the above described mark was replaced by an eagle, holding a scepter and a globe. Be aware for objects offered with this type of mark as it is recently used by an unknown factory, producing porcelain, which is poor modelled and decorated!
- From 1847 till 1870, a circular 'seal' was used for marking purposes. It depicted the eagle as already described and surrounded by 'KOENIGL. PORZELLAN MANUFAKTUR'
- As from 1870 the scepter mark was re-introduced, but now with a diagonal bar in stead of the earlier horizontal one.



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: the scepter and eagle mark (3)



Furthermore, between 1882 and 1918, a special type of porcelain was developed by Seger. Wares made of this porcelain were marked with the scepter mark with the initials 'S.gr.P' (Seger-porzellan).

At the end of the second world war, the factory of Berlin was partly destroyed. During the rebuilding, the production was temporarily moved to a factory located in Selb. The production during this period was marked with the scepter mark with the initial 'S' added.

In addition to the factory mark, and this for wares which were decorated by painters employed by the Berlin factory, a 'decoration' mark was applied as from the 19th Century. These were stamped in blue, red or green on the glaze and were depicting or an scepter, an eagle or a globe.

On the next two pages there is an overview of all the KPM Berlin factory marks. The first one contains drawings of the marks, including the period they have been used. The second page contains a nice overview of pictures of KPM berlin marks, put in chronological order.



1946 - 1962 (DnG)



1962 - (DnG)



1822 - 1832 (OpG)



1832 - (OpG)

# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

KPM Berlin: most of the marks



Wegely (1751 - 1757)



Gotzkowsky (1761 - 1763)



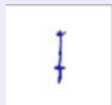
KPM (1763 - 1770)



KPM (1770 - 1780)



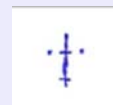
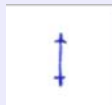
KPM (1780 - 1800)



KPM (1800 - 1820)



KPM (1820 - 1837)



KPM (1837 - 1844)



KPM (1844 - 1847)



KPM (1847 - 1849)



KPM (1849 - 1870)



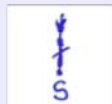
KPM (1870 - )



Seger (1882 - ) Burg G (1929 - )



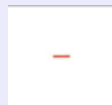
Selb



KPM Decoration marks



1802



1817



1823



1832



1911



1913



1913



1913



1914



1960

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# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: pictures of the marks



On this page some pictures of marks from the KPM Berlin porcelain factory. I have numbered the pictures, and a further explanation follows on the next page.





# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: explanation of the pictures of the marks

On this page the explanation of the KPM Berlin marks shown on the previous page.

- 01-02-03: Scepter marks, end of the 18th Century.
- 04: Scepter mark with initial 'N', early 19th Century.
- 05: Scepter mark with red line at the bottom as decoration mark (1817-1823).
- 06: Scepter mark with red eagle as decoration mark, also painter's mark (1823-1832).
- 07: Scepter mark with red globe (Reichsapfel) as decoration mark (1832-1836).
- 08: Scepter mark with KPM (1837-1844).
- 09: Same, but impressed. Used on unglazed porcelain plates.
- 10: Eagle mark with red globe as decoration mark (1844-1847).
- 11: Same, but impressed. Used on unglazed porcelain plates.
- 12: Pfennig mark, used between 1847 and 1849.
- 13: Same, but with the red globe decoration mark.
- 14: Scepter with Pfennig mark (1849-1870).
- 15: Same, but with the red globe decoration mark.
- 16: Scepter mark after 1870 with horizontal scratch (second choice)
- 17: Scepter mark with red owner's mark of Emperor Wilhelm (1891).
- 18: Scepter mark with blue owner's mark of Emperor Wilhelm (1903).
- 19: Mark used on Seger porcelain (1882-1910).
- 20: Scepter mark with Friedrich Rex mark in red (1913).
- 21: Same, but with mark in blue underglaze (1913).
- 22: Scepter mark with iron cross mark in blue (1914-1918).
- 23: Same, but with iron cross mark in black (1914-1918).
- 24: Scepter mark with STB, the personal mark of designer Theo Schmutz-Baudiss (ca. 1920)
- 25: Scepter mark (1945-1962).
- 26: Scepter mark with the specific mark of Burg Giebichenstein (1945-1962).
- 27: Scepter mark with 'S' added at the bottom. Production in Selb (Bavaria) between 1945 and 1957.
- 28: Same, but with 'US Zone' in green added.
- 29: Scepter mark with leaves as decoration mark..
- 30: Impressed scepter mark, used for marking unglazed porcelain.
- 31: Modern stamped mark with scepter and KPM.
- 32: Modern stamped mark (see picture below).



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: pictures of the decoration marks

The KPM porcelain factory in Berlin does have its own decorating studio. For wares decorated by this studio, a decoration mark is added to the factory mark. Hereunder an overview of these decoration marks.



- 01: Eagle mark in red, used for overglaze decoration (1823-1832).
- 02: Red globe ('Reichsapfel') used for overglaze decoration (1832-1957).
- 03: Red owner's mark of Emperor Wilhelm (W.R: Wilhelm Rex) (1891).
- 04: Blue owner's mark of Emperor Wilhelm (W.R: Wilhelm Rex) (1903).
- 05: Blue globe ('Reichsapfel'), used for underglaze decoration (1911-1957).
- 06: Red Friedrich Rex jubilee mark, used for overglaze decoration (1913).
- 07: Blue Friedrich Rex jubilee mark, used for underglaze decoration (1913).
- 08: Black iron cross mark, used for overglaze decoration (1914-1918).
- 09: Blue iron cross mark, used for underglaze decoration (1914-1918).
- 10: STB, the personal mark of designer Theo Schmuz-Baudiss (ca. 1920).
- 11: Wiener Werkstätte mark in underglaze blue.
- 12: Mark of the design studio Burg Giebichenstein.
- 13: Same as 02, but modern version, used after 1957.
- 14: Same as 05, but modern version, used after 1957.
- 15: Green globe ('Reichsapfel'), post 1957 version, used for decoration in gold. The older version was introduced in 1913.
- 16: Grey globe ('Reichsapfel'), used for printed decoration (not hand painted).

# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

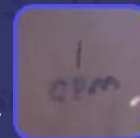
## KPM Berlin: imitations (1)



### Imitations of the scepter mark

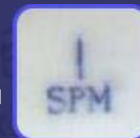
#### Chmielow (Poland)

- Founded in 1789
- Founder(s): ?
- Period: 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- The factory was founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a ceramics factory. Porcelain is only manufactured since 1842. The complete name of the factory is "Fabryka Porcelany i Wyrobów Ceramicznych w Chmielowie".



#### Eisenberg (Germany - Thuringia)

- Founded in 1865
- Founder(s): J. Schmeisser
- Period: End of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- There were more porcelain factories in operation in and around Eisenberg in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century:
  - F.A. Reinicke (1796)
  - Wilhelm Jäger (1867)
  - Bremer & Schmidt (1895)
  - Kalk (1900)



However only the factory of J. Schmeisser did imitate the scepter mark from Berlin.



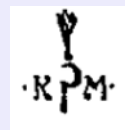
# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: imitations (2)



### Kranichfeld (Germany - Saxony)

- Founded in 1903
- Founder(s): Reinhard Rothe
- Period: Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- The "Kranichfelder Porzellan Manufaktur" (KPM) - as Berlin - had a production of mostly art porcelain. A look-a-like mark like this from the famous Berlin factory was in their favour.



### Selb (Germany - Bavaria)

- Founded in 1890
- Founder(s): Paul Muller
- Period: 1944 - 1957
- Also in Selb there were more porcelain factories: Lorenz Hutschenreuther (1857), Jacob Zeidler (1866), Philipp Rosenthal (1880), Christoph Krautheim (1889), Franz Heinrich (1896)  
The factory of Paul Muller was taken over by the Hutschenreuter company in 1917.



At the end of World War II (1944) the factory of Berlin was severely damaged by allied bombs and the production of porcelain couldn't be continued.

The production units were moved to the former Muller factory in Selb. During the next decade the 'official' production of the KPM Berlin was in fact manufactured in Selb and therefore the wares were marked with a scepter and an initial "S".

In this case we may not speak about an imitation as such.

During the period between 1955 and 1957 the whole unit was moved back towards Berlin.

# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: imitations (3)



### Moabit (Germany - Berlin)

- Founded in 1835
- Founder(s): M. Schumann
- Period: 1844 - 1847
- Based in the same region as the real Königliches Porzellan Manufaktur (KPM), the factory mark of the Schumann's Porzellan Manufaktur (SPM) was near the same as this from its big neighbour.



### Stanowitz (Germany - Lower Silesia)

- Founded in 1873
- Founder(s): C. Walter
- Period: End of the 19th Century
- The factory was founded as the "Striegauer Porzellan Manufaktur (SPM)". The production was mainly focussed on tablewares.



### Waldenburg (Poland)

- Founded in 1829
- Founder(s): Carl Franz Krister
- Period: 19th Century
- This factory was founded as the "Krister Porzellan Manufaktur" and was located in Waldenburg (Silesia - former Germany, now Poland). The company became part of the Rosenthal Porcelain Group in 1921. After the second World War, the factory became the property of the government of Poland and the name was changed in "Walbryzych". The factory is nowadays still operational. The Krister company itself reopened its factory in 1952 after moving to Landstuhl in Western Germany. In general the Krister factory manufactured mostly (decorated) tablewares.



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: imitations (4)



### Imitations of the eagle mark

#### St. Petersburg (Russia)

- Founded in 1744
- Founder(s): Christoph Conrad Hunger
- Period: 1744 - 1762
- The factory of St. Petersburg was founded by Empress Elisabeth, daughter of Peter the Great, with the assistance of Christoph Conrad Hunger. Hunger however failed to produce porcelain and was dismissed in 1747.

It was Dmitri Ivanovich Vinogradov, the son of a priest, who learned a lot from Hunger and achieved the first satisfactory results from the kiln.

During the reign of Empress Elisabeth (till 1762), the wares were marked with a double-headed eagle. So the "eagle"-mark was already in use before the KPM factory of Berlin was founded and therefore one can conclude that the eagle-mark of Berlin was already an imitation of this from the St. Petersburg factory.

#### Altwasser (Germany - Silesia)

- Founded in 1845
- Founder(s): C. Tielsch
- Period: ca. 1875 - 1918
- The eagle-mark (with the initials C.T.) was registered in the RWZR on 18.10.1875.

In 1918 the factory became a branch of the C.M. Hutschenreuther porcelain company. After the second World War the Altwasser factory was nationalised by the Polish government.



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: imitations (5)



### Charlottenbrunn (Germany - Silesia)

- Founded in 1859
- Founder(s): J. Schachtel
- Period: Second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- The factory of Charlottenbrunn manufactured mainly porcelain pipes. The factory was closed in 1920.

### Königszelt (Germany - Silesia)

- Founded in 1860
- Founder(s): August Rappsilber
- Period: 1870 - 1880
- The eagle-mark was registered in the RWZR on 12.10.1880. The mark has been used in Königszelt with and without the initials A.R. (August Rappsilber).



### Magdeburg-Buckau (Germany - Prussia)

- Founded in 1832
- Founder(s): Paul Muller
- Period: ca. 1850
- This factory did manufacture mostly tablewares. The initials BPM (Buckau Porzellan Manufaktur) were added to the eagle-mark.



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: imitations (6)



### Moabit (Germany - Berlin)

- Founded in 1835
  - Founder(s): M. Schumann
  - Period: 1840's - 1851
  - Based in the same region as the real KPM, the factory mark of the Schumann's Porzellan Manufaktur (SPM) was near the same as this from its big neighbour.
- Till 1850 the initials "SPM" were added to the eagle-mark. In 1851 these initials were replaced by "FAS".



### Reichenstein (Germany - Prussia)

- Founded in 1835
- Founder(s): J. Hasak
- Period: 19<sup>th</sup> Century

### Stanowitz (Poland)

- Founded in 1873
- Founder(s): C. Walter
- Period: End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- The factory was founded as the "Striegauer Porzellan Manufaktur (SPM)". The production was mainly focussed on tablewares.



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: imitations (7)



### Tiefenfurt (Germany - Silesia)

- Founded in 1808
- Founder(s): Carl Hans Tuppack
- Period: 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Tuppack replaced the initials KPM by TPM (Tuppack Porzellan Manufaktur).



### Tiefenfurt (Germany - Silesia)

- Founded in 1882
- Founder(s): K. Steinmann
- Period: 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- The factory of K. Steinmann did also imitate the Berlin eagle-mark, where to the initials K.S. were added.



### Waldenburg (Poland)

- Founded in 1829
- Founder(s): Carl Franz Krister
- Period: 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- This factory was founded as the "Krister Porzellan Manufaktur" and was located in Waldenburg (Silesia - former Germany, now Poland). The company became part of the Rosenthal Porcelain Group in 1921. After the second World War, the factory became the property of the government of Poland and the name was changed in "Walbrzych". The factory is nowadays still operational. The Krister company itself reopened its factory in 1952 after moving to Landstuhl in Western Germany. In general the Krister factory manufactured mostly (decorated) tablewares.



# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: fake marks



Hereunder a few pictures of fake marks. Until a few years ago it seemed that the KPM Berlin marks were not faked that often. This has changed however...



- 01: Fake of a late 18th Century scepter mark, including the 'arrow' painter's mark in red.
- 02: Fake of a late 18th Century scepter mark, including the painter's mark in black.
- 03: Simple fake of the scepter mark. Just a blue line.
- 04: Fake of a 19th Century scepter mark, including the globe decoration mark
- 05: Same.
- 06: Fake of the KPM eagle mark with 1914 added. This fake is a printed mark. The original KPM eagle mark was used between 1844 and 1847.
- 07: Fake of the KPM eagle mark, also printed. This fake is probably the most spread KPM fake mark.

09: This is not a fake but I found it interesting to show. Although the Berlin factory has its own decoration studio, KPM porcelain has been decorated outside the factory as well. In this example, the decoration was done by the Ambrosius Lamm painting studio in Dresden.

# Porcelain: KPM Berlin

## KPM Berlin: other 'KPM' marks on porcelain

Here some examples of other 'KMP' marks you can find on porcelain.



- 01-07: All marks from the Carl Franz Krister porcelain factory in Waldenburg (German period).
- 08: Same factory, but now with "made in Poland" (Walbryzych). Post WW II.
- 09-10: Marks from the A. W. Fr. Krister porcelain factory in Scheibe-Alsbach (Thuringia). This factory was founded in 1836. Currently they use the crossed 'S' as factory mark.
- 11-12: Royal KPM porcelain. Rosenthal marks (Selb-Bavaria-Germany)
- 13-14: Kobenhavns Porcellains Malerei. Decorating studio in Copenhagen-Denmark.
- 15: Wallendorf. Initial 'W' with KPM.
- 16: Japanese porcelain. (USA Arnart import).