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Japan as a producer of a lot of cast iron candle holders! (November 2019)

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We, collectors, all know candle holders marked Japan. Large and very small ones and the Japanese know all about casting for hundreds of years. Mostly original designs but also a lot of holders, inspired by American and European designers. An overview of some castings and markings.

1. Probably of Japanese origin are the disc candle holder, marked with a label "OMC Japan". Just like the glass candle holders by Wedgwood and the porcelain holders by Carlton they exist with different numbers of discs around the stem.



2. A second style by “OMC Japan”, also with a different number of discs is shown here:



3. Also found with the label “a Price Import Japan” and JAPAN cast in the iron, there is a unique range of candle holders. I think, they where sold in two parts: the base and the candle support with the threaded pricket. Matching the different parts you will find a large range of them. After these parts where cast they where ground and polished and finished with some layers of varnish. This gives a very shiny effect.



Square candle support on bow low.

This base is the bow low (1), further you can find the bow middle high with a stem (2) and the bow high (3). In another style there is a base to find with straight legs (4), as high as the bow high. The 5th style has a simple stem and the 6th style is a hand held candle holder. Just this month I found another foot: the tripod bow. For the 7 different bases there are 4 candle supports available. The total of combinations makes is possible to collect a range of 28 cast iron candle holders! Some examples now:



The hand held candle holder with the square support with rounded corners.



The candle holder with the simple stem and the round candle support.



The bowl middle high with the stem and the round candle support is radiated.



Straight legs high with the square candle support.



The tripod bowl with the round candle support.

4. In Vienna there was the well known designer Walter Bosse with a wide range of animals, cast in bronze and some polished highlights. For example the eggcup, a kitten, laying on his back and holding the egg with his paws.



Inspired by this kitten, the Japanese introduced also a range of animals in cast iron, but not to hold an egg but a sphere shaped, ball candle! Marked with a label: a Price Import Japan.



The kitten 1.



The kitten 2.



The bear.

5. There is also a company with the name of Counterpoint, with a range of animals.



6. Well known is the nice small Flowerbud by Christel & Christer Holmgren for Illums Bolighus in 1976.



There are 4 ribs for the candle.



A Japanese holder shows a look alike with 3 ribs: