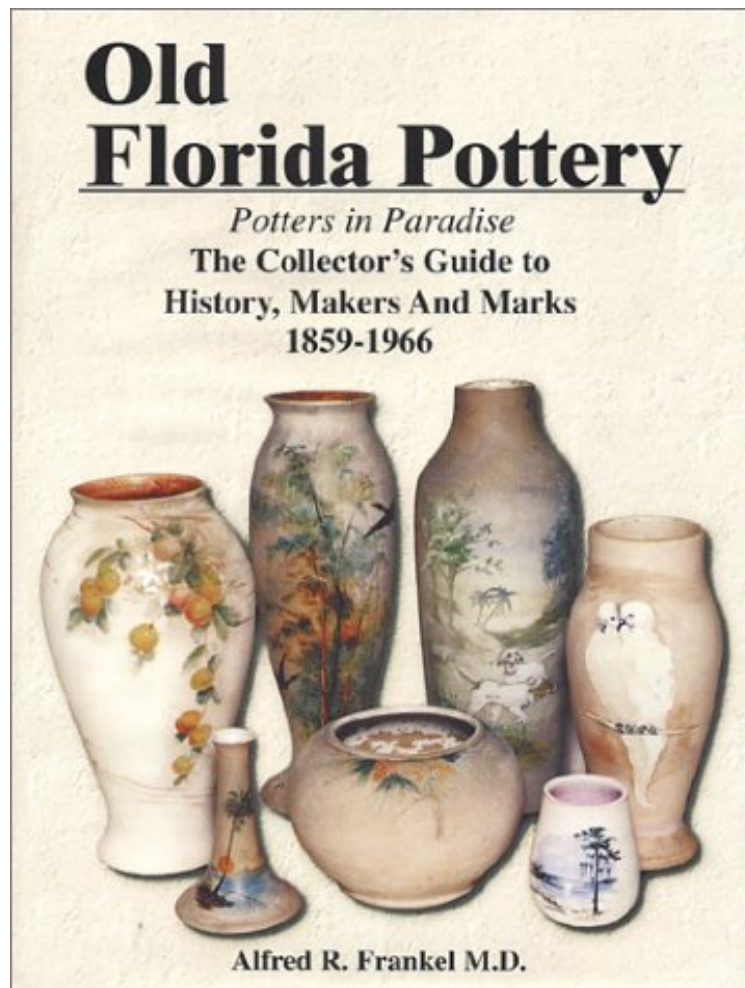


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Old Florida Pottery: Potters in Paradise: The Collector's Guide to History, Makers, and Marks, 1859-1966

Alfred R. Frankel

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potteries. This is an excellent book on the subject. Great background information on the potters and potteries. Wonder photographs showing representative works by each. This is the best I have seen on the subject!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Jim Morrisgood book

Old Florida pottery is the definitive collectors guide to antique Florida utilitarian and art pottery made in Florida between 1859 and 1966, with hundreds of color photographs, indentifying marks and history of the potters and their production.

Fills a void, well researched, replete with good photos, tackles thirteen potteries very well, Florida pottery comes into its own. -- American Art Pottery Association, July 2000Fills a void...Dr.Frankel tackles thirteen Florida potteries...and tackles them very well. -- American Art Pottey Association It's a real pleasure to come across a book with actual content and useful, interesting information. -- Maine Antique Digest The definitive work on the subject...a valuable contribution to Florida and local history. -- Bruce Graetz, Curator, Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee. From the Inside FlapThere was some beautiful pottery made here in Florida, some of it as good as any made at the Newcomb or Rookwood potteries and not many people know about it. The story of Old Florida Pottery begins back in the days of the Florida frontier, before the advent of refrigeration. People needed to preserve, store and carry their food. The pots, churns, jugs, and jars needed to survive in the Florida wilderness were, at first, all made out of state. The first pottery in Florida was opened at Knox Hill, near present day DeFuniak Springs, in Walton County in 1859. The pottery produced alkaline and salt glazed pottery typical of that made in the South in the early 19th Century. In 1869, a young man from Detroit, Michigan, John W. Kohler, moved to Pensacola, married the daughter of the light house keeper and opened the Southern Pottery Works on Eighth Avenue in downtown Pensacola. With the beginning of the Civil War, Henry York a young man from Lake Butler just north of Gainesville, enlisted in the Seventh Florida Infantry. At Missionary Ridge, York was shot through the left chest but survived. In 1888 York began the third pottery in Florida. In 1914, Mary Ward moved to Bradentown and started the Manatee River Pottery. The pottery produced unglazed vases, candlesticks, wall pockets and lamp bases all hand decorated with Florida scenes. In 1921 Mary sold the Pottery to Henry A. Graack, Senior and Henry Junior. The Graacks changed the name of the pottery to Graack Pottery and continued production in Bradentown with plans for national distribution. A few years later the Graacks left Bradentown. Mary Ward with the help of Orlando's leading citizens started the Orlando Potteries in 1921. Experienced potters were brought in from East Liverpool, England and Mr. Hunt from the Rookwood Pottery in Ohio. Addison Mizner, an unknown but talented architect who would become one of the recognized geniuses of American architecture, came to Palm Beach in 1918 for some sun and rest. He started Mizner Industries and Las Manos Pottery to produce the floor and roof tile, pottery and furniture his homes needed. Joseph A. Kohler moved to St.Petersburg sometime before 1916. Kohler, the son of John W. Kohler of the Southern Pottery Works in Pensacola, started the Kohler Ware Florida Pottery in St. Petersburg in 1920. In 1935 Henry Graack Jr. who had left Bradentown in 1924, was making pottery at Ft. Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain in upstate New York, when he was invited to Ocala, Florida and the Silver Springs by William Rae the owner of the Springs. In 1933 John W. Crary II and his sons used bricks from an old family brick yard to build a kiln and were in the pottery business. The Crary Pottery at Bluff Springs produced Albany slip and Bristol slip utilitarian pottery from 1933 to 1939. In 1949, Royal Hickman, one of America's leading ceramic designers purchased some land in Tampa and started Royal Hickman Limited. The Tampa plant produced some of Hickman's best designs. Melvin Casper and his mother Peggy Jamieson founded the Merritt Island Pottery in 1937. Casper spent a few years in China with General Stillwell during World War II but returned to continue making pottery on Merritt Island. He remains there today teaching and making pottery. The study of Florida pottery has been a joyful experience for me. Eve Alsman Fuller, who was active in the art community in St. Petersburg in the 1910-1930 period, wrote in her art column for the St. Petersburg Times, " A community be it large or small should receive the creative efforts of its citizens in a prideful manner, tendering due honor and helpfulness; participating joyously in the results of the efforts." Let us begin the celebration of Florida pottery.About the AuthorAlfred R. Frankel, M.D. is a practicing emergency physician in St. Petersburg, Florida. He grew up in Hollywood, Florida where he graduated from South Broward High School. Frankel earned a Bachelors degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his M.D. from Albany Medical College. He served as a battalion surgeion with the Third Marine Division in South Vietnam and received a letter of commendation from General Lew Walt for, "service in the highest traditons of the United States Navy." Frankel has been an avid antique collector most of his adult life. Old Florida pottery is his first book and the result of nearly ten years of research.