

Give and Take

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1 - Leather purse

1920s

Made in Japan

This purse, made for the European market, combines a traditional Japanese scene with the European fashion for hand-held clutch bags. The style owes its popularity to the Empire exhibition held at Wembley, 1924.

2 - Fan

Early 18th century

Possibly English

Fan made of ivory sticks with painted paper leaf. The taste for decorative objects made in the Chinese style, or *chinoiserie*, can lead to confusion. Is this a European piece imitating Chinese style or a Chinese export piece designed for the western market?

3 - Fan

About 1860

Canton, China

Made from painted paper leaf and carved ivory sticks, this type of fan was commonly known as a 'fan of a thousand faces'.

4 - Vase

1825-1850

Hizen Province, Hirado Island, Japan

A white porcelain vase with a blue underglaze, made for the export market. It imitates the older Chinese blue and white wares of the Ming dynasty. Chinese potters would also imitate the designs of Japanese *Imari* porcelain as it appealed to European tastes.

5 - Shawl

1840-1860

Probably made in north-west India

In Kashmir, a shawl, from the word *shal*, was a garment worn by men of high status. Stoles and shawls began to be brought back to Europe as gifts towards the end of the 18th century. Examples like this one of hand-woven wool with metallic thread would have been highly prized. They were quickly adopted by elegant European women. Indian weavers soon modified traditional designs to suit this new market.

6 - Shawl

1840-1860

Made in Norwich or Edinburgh

Elements of traditional Indian design remain in the elongated boteh, or stylised pine cone motif. The Paisley factory in Scotland lent its name to any similar patterns, regardless of where they were made. By the 1860s 'paisley' was seen everywhere, from huge woollen shawls worn over full crinoline skirts, to men's waistcoat silks and printed cotton bed quilts.

7 - Evening mantle

About 1900-1910

Japan

In the west, 'Oriental' styles were popularised by the stage appearance of actresses and dancers like Madame Sado Yacco. Although this silk coat is cut in the style of a Chinese mandarin robe, the technique of padded embroidery is typically Japanese. Yet the rose design is very European in character. The mantle was probably made for export by one of the silk merchants in the Yokohama district of Tokyo.

8 - Blouse

Late 1960s

This printed cotton blouse was purchased in Exeter in about 1967. African inspired fabrics and clothing filtered into mainstream fashion at the end of the 1960s, influenced by the hippy and civil rights movements of the U.S.A. Here in Britain, youth culture, music and dress were all inspired by these movements leading to the mass-production of African and other 'ethnically' inspired clothes.

9 - Mini dress

About 1970-1973

Simon Massey, London

This African border printed fabric has been used for a mini dress. It is an example of American influence on British mainstream fashionable dress. In the 1960s African Americans began to show pride in their heritage through clothing inspired by West African cloths. The dashiki, a type of loose tunic, was widely adopted in the 1960s. This High Street example was worn by a Devon teenager.

10 - Boy's tunic

Before 1933

Parsee, Mumbai, India

Made in silk satin with embroidered flowers and motifs. The cut and colours are typically Indian, but the motifs and style of the embroidery are Chinese. Coins symbolised prosperity and butterflies happiness, but many motifs were used without awareness of their meaning.

11 - Ankle boots

1830-1860

Huron nation of Lorette, Quebec, Canada

Made of skin and decorated with deer hair and porcupine quill embroidery. The form is an imitation of European style women's boots of the 1840s.

12 - Punchbowl

1736-1795

Canton, China

Punch comes from a Hindi word meaning five. It relates to a refreshing drink made from five ingredients: spirit, sugar, lemon, water and tea or spices. This ornate punchbowl is decorated with a number of scenes. One of them depicts the trading establishments or Hongs at Guangzhou, or Canton, overlooking the Pearl River. Traders coming to Canton would remain here until business was completed.

13 - Ancestor figures

Before 1932

Nuristan, Afghanistan

These cedar wood figures represent deified ancestors who warned strangers against trespassing. This pair was set at the top of a pole outside a village. They were entrusted to a British military officer to prevent their destruction by invading Muslims.

14 - Playing cards (*ganjifa*)

Before 1925

Savantvadi, Maharastra region, southern India

These cards originated in Persia and were often seen by 17th century European travellers. A traditional game played with them was *As*, which is similar to poker.

15 - Pubic apron (*nzenze*)

Between 1955-1965

Kamba, Kitui area, Kenya

European glass beads were traded extensively throughout Africa. This apron is worn with other beadwork to enhance a girl's appearance, so that potential suitors can assess her father's wealth.

16 - Blouse (*huipil*)

Made in the 1990s

Maya, San Juan Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, Central America

The detail on this Guatemalan garment reflects motifs and colours arising from colonial and indigenous influences. Villages and towns use unique patterns and colours to distinguish their garments from others.

17 - Apron

Before 1965

Possibly Achuara, Otavalo market, Ecuador, South America

Items like this are made for sale to tourists. Indigenous people in Ecuador have often lost their land to developers and companies exploring for oil. Such events can have dramatic effects on the environment and the rich cultures of indigenous people.

18 - Charkha spinning box

Early 1900s

India

This charkha was given by the Indian leader Gandhi to a friend of his. Many were made and distributed, so every Indian family could spin their own yarn for cloth. It represented self-sufficiency during British rule and symbolised the independence movement.

19 - Soapstone carving

Before 1945

Puvirnituk, Nunavik, Arctic Quebec, Canada

Soft stone carving is a recent Inuit art form. Significant changes in the way of life have led to such carvings becoming symbols of national identity, as well as an important source of income.

20 - Figure of a European district officer

Early 1900s

Yoruba, Ijebu Ode, south-west Nigeria

This wooden figure was made in the style of artist Thomas Ona Odulate. He was fascinated with colonial authority and his sculpting combined traditional Yoruba carving techniques with modern imagery. Many believed that his carvings were satirical.

21 - Stupa with Buddhas

Before 1860

Rangoon, Burma, south-east Asia

The stupa has its origins in the dome-shaped burial grounds of ancient India. These monuments later held the relics of the Buddha. This stupa embodies the Buddha's enlightened mind and encouraged followers to reflect on his teachings.

22 - Christian New Testament

Before 1888

China

Christianity spread to China in the 17th century. It survived fierce opposition during the Boxer Rebellion and a ban during the Cultural Revolution. Today, there are about 100 million Christians in China.