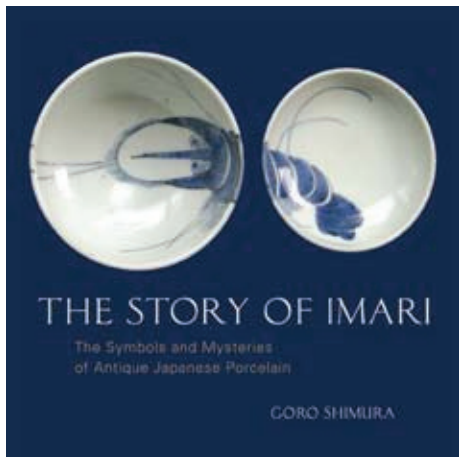


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THE STORY OF IMARI

The Symbols and Mysteries of
Antique Japanese Porcelain

By Goro Shimura

Near the port of Imari in early 17th century Japan, the technique for creating the very first Japanese porcelains was discovered. Much to the admiration of the populace, this new porcelain displayed more vibrant colors and was more durable and easier to clean than what was available before. Since then, this distinctive style of ceramics spread throughout Europe and continues to influence the porcelain industry today.

While beautiful, what makes Imari truly a collector's item is its aura of mystery. Imari has played a subtle role in shaping the Japanese culture with frequent appearances in Japanese folklore. In *The Story of Imari*, Goro Shimura successfully blends the mystical with the practical to create a deeper appreciation for Imari — an art not only known for its dramatic designs but also for its cultural significance.

With more than 300 stunning full-color photographs alongside an insightful discussion of a centuries-old art, *The Story of Imari* offers a fascinating look at one of the world's most prized porcelains.



Danjū (round container in a tier), Arita, diameter 16.4 cm (lid), ca. 1736



Dish, Swatow ware (*gosu aka-e*), diameter 16.5 cm, ca. 1600-1620



Vase, Jingdezhen, transitional ware, height 22.6 cm ca. 1628-1644

Goro Shimura is a Michael Henry Strater University Professor Emeritus in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University. He has been studying and collecting Imari for more than 30 years (his tips for collectors are included in the book). He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

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The Symbols and Mysteries of Antique Japanese Porcelain
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