

Rosso Antico



Rosso Antico, Italian for “old red,” came about in 1765, when Wedgwood started experimenting with redware. Wedgwood released Rosso Antico pottery in small increments and then came to a stop altogether. In 1776, he resumed production of Rosso Antico per suggestion of Thomas Bentley, and this time around it continued until the twentieth century. Reason for its high success after the second release was the introduction of second colors in relief decoration, especially black. Sometime after 1790, decorative items of this ware followed motifs that were common among black basalts. Rosso Antico’s designs mimic those of Egyptian hieroglyphics and Greek pottery, similar to the Encaustic wares of Etruria.