

**JAPANESE
CLOISONNÉ
ENAMELS**

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A GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS
RELATING TO MANUFACTURE
AND
SOURCES FOR POEMS

Enamel / Enamel is a surface decoration made by applying ground glass to a foundation, such as metal or ceramic, and then heating it until the glass melts.

Cloisonné / Cloisonné is a form of enamel decoration in which individual colors of enamel are separated by thin metal walls, which form cells called cloisons.

Shōtai-jippō / 招待七宝 / Plique-à-jour Shōtai-jippō, or plique-à-jour enamel, is transparent or translucent enamel within metal cloisons but with no underlying support. Shōtai-jippō is often made over a metal support that is ground away or etched away using acid. The resulting object can resemble a stained-glass window.

Doro-jippō / 泥七宝 / Opaque Enamel Doro-jippō, opaque enamel, is colored enamel through which no light passes.

Suki-jippō / 隙七宝 / Translucent Enamel Suki-jippō, translucent enamel, is colored enamel through which some light passes.

Tomei-jippō / 透明七宝 / Transparent Enamel Tomei-jippō, transparent enamel, is colored enamel through which light passes freely and through which one can see underlying textures, patterns, and colors.

Basse-taille / Basse-taille refers to transparent enamel that is applied over carved metal or tooled metal foil.

Shippō-yaki / 七宝焼 The Japanese term for enamel decoration of any type, *shippō-yaki* is literally translated as “seven jewels fired.” Seven jewels is a term taken from the Buddhist tradition of pilgrims making offerings of precious gems when visiting temples.

Gin-bari-jippō / 銀張七宝 *Gin-bari-jippō* refers to transparent enamel over silver foil laid over a copper or brass foundation.

Musen-shippō / 無線七宝 *Musen-shippō* is often called “wireless cloisonné.” Wire cloisons are often used in the manufacturing musen pieces, but they are removed prior to firing. The result is a more fluid transition from one color area to another.

Yusen-shippō / 湯錢七宝 *Yusen-shippō* is the term for standard cloisonné enamel, where cells for each enamel color are created with metal strips or wires on a metal foundation.

Moriage / 盛上 *Moriage* is low-relief or “piled-up” enamel. It appears both as an enhancement of forms in standard cloisonné and as a means of distinguishing subject matter in musen (wireless cloisonné).

Uchidashi / 打出 *Uchidashi* is enamel decoration over a surface that has been hammered from the reverse to create a relief.

Nagare-gusuri / 流薬 *Nagare-gusuri* refers to the technique of applying enamel frit in order to capture the appearance of liquefied or “flowing” enamel.

SOURCES FOR JAPANESE CLOISSONNÉ ENAMELS POEMS

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