

# Magic and Beauty of Brass Bed Porcelains and Mother of Pearl.



In the early 1800's the first iron beds were created, as time passed bed artisans introduced brass to their original iron designs gradually designs became grander by adding porcelain, mirror and mother of pearl decorative features. Almost 200 years later they still capture hearts and imagination. In the years since they have been recreated and reproduced but whilst there have been good quality reproductions, they will never meet the quality of hand workmanship of the original brass and iron beds from pre 1930's.



The invention of the internet has unleashed a vast amount of information to help us research almost anything, including brass beds. However, **it is wise to be knowledgeable how to distinguish "antique" against modern reproductions.** To be an antique, the item needs to be over 100years old. However items from 1930's/1940's even up to the 1960's are incorrectly described as Antique, a more correct description would be Vintage eg. 1930's vintage era. .



We are concerned with online resale of cheap reproductions being described as beautiful antique brass bed china pieces or porcelains and many unsuspecting buyers has purchased under the belief they are originals. Whilst there are many convincing reproductions, there is a vast and obvious difference when comparing original porcelains to reproductions. The main difference is the weight of the porcelain, original porcelains were solid with only a round hole approx. 16mm hole through the centre for the threaded rod to be fed through and then brass/nickel porcelain holders where placed on either end before being fitted into the brass bed. In comparison cheaper reproductions are lightweight and have a very thin ceramic frame with a very large centre cavity hole. Next is the way they are decorated, original porcelains were hand-painted and often you are able to feel the raised surface where colour areas have been highlighted by accentuating the paint colour and one of the best signs is that each porcelain had a serial number painted on the bottom of each one. Whereas reproduction usually have a mass produced decal style picture, often an Edwardian style image.

Our knowledge has been gained over 35 years of specialising in antique brass beds and our exposure to all types of brass beds in all types of conditions. We have seen dozens of original porcelains in all shapes, and sizes. From odd singles to complete sets; the variety of colours and patterns. They are part of what makes an original antique porcelain bed – a beautiful family heirloom.



**Mother of Pearl** adorned the high end of the market brass beds featuring on centre medallions and matching spindles. Mother of Pearl is an intricate and specialised restoration process, working with a natural product every mother of pearl bed, is unique to how the mother of pearl grew and the type of shell used. Some may appear white/silver whilst others have more gold/brass colouring. Often Mother of Pearl brass beds brass beds blended mother of pearl with porcelain and/or mirror medallions and spindles. By choosing Nickle or brass finish and the colour of the bed allowed personalisation, all these options were originally offered, through original mail order catalogues Timeless Antiques is able to maintain authentic restorations to their original bed artisan designs.



Antique White, Nickle Mother of Pearl Mirror Medallion extended to Queen Size / Satin Black, Brass, Mother of Pearl Bow Front / A small selection of the vast medallion designs

