



# *Japanese & Chinese Bonsai Pots*



*From the Personal Collection of Sam & KJ Edge*  
*Version 1*



KJ and I began to collect pots about 20 years ago when we were actively pursuing the study of bonsai. About eight years ago, we began to collect stones and within a year or so we left bonsai as a hobby and our collecting of pots began to slow down.

In the past six years we have been very active in stone collecting and have decided to pursue this passion full-time; therefore, we have made the difficult, but correct, decision to sell most of our Japanese and Chinese pot collection.

There are a handful, or two, of pots that we simply will not part with - we still have an accent collection - however most of our collector pots will be represented in this sales catalog.

All photographs contained in this catalog have been photographed by us. We have attempted to color correct each photo to match the color and contrast as close to the original as possible. Each pot was photographed using a Canon 5d Mark iii using a Canon 85mm f/1.4 lens. They were lit via daylight fluorescent blubs that best approximate sunlight. Nevertheless, there will be some color shift depending on which device you view this catalog.

If you have interest in a particular pot and would like more information or photographs, please contact us at [suiseki@yahoo.com](mailto:suiseki@yahoo.com).

Even if you are not in the market for additional containers, we hope that you will enjoy viewing and studying them. We are grateful to have owned them and to be able to pass them along.

Best wishes, Sam and KJ Edge



# Tsukinowa Yusen

月之輪湧泉 [1908 – 1998]

Kato Goichi (加藤護) or better known to bonsai pot collectors as Tsukinowa Yusen lived from 1908 to 1998. He lived in Tagimi-city of Gifu Prefecture and was a gifted painter having studied in Kyoto. His profession was that of a ceramics painter but unrelated to bonsai.

In 1960-61 he started to make pottery for himself and as he gained an interest in bonsai he began to hand paint his own pots. Sometime around 1971-74 he lived with Sei-fu Yohei and developed a partnership where Yusen would make the ceramics and Sei-fu would paint them. Sei-fu didn't always bear his signature on Yusen pots but his painting style is unique and recognizable.

Yusen normally created small porcelain pots which he painted red, blue or a mix of colors. Infrequently he would glaze his pots with a yellow frame but this is quite rare. Before Yusen there were almost no painted bonsai pots in Japan. One of Yusen's famous series of pots is his version of Ando's "53 Stations of the Tokaido Road." Other well-known motifs include the famous anthropomorphic animals, mountain landscape scenes, water scenes featuring birds, pictorial scenes of famous poetry and even one with bats! Without question, Yusen's pots rank the highest in terms of hand-painted pots. They are highly valued in and beyond Japan.





Yusen 5 x 5 cm - \$3750



## Miyazaki Isseki

Miyazaki Isseki was born in Osaka, Japan in 1920 and passed away in 1984. Many of his pots heavily use white space in his paintings. To us, a number of his pots have a loneliness to them; others, like the one presented here are full of life. Most of his pots are red or blue with a few using multiple colors.



Miyazaki Isseki 6 x 6 x 4 cm - \$3,999

# Heian Tofukuji

(平安東福寺) [1890-1970]

Perhaps one of the most famous of all Japanese bonsai pot makers. He began to make pots in the later stages of his life. He used a rental kiln in Kyoto, Japan and his signature glazes are recognized by pot collectors all over the world.

The value of his pots increased greatly after his death and you will find them in all of the important bonsai shows throughout Japan. His son also makes pots but as of now they have not reached the price of his father's.



Tofukuji 4 x 3 cm - \$800  
A rare "chicken blood" glaze.

# Heian Tofukuji

(平安東福寺) [1890-1970]



Tofukuji 4.5 x 3.75 x 1 cm - \$800





Tofukuji 6.5 x 3 cm - \$900



Tofukuji 9 x 6.5 x 3.5 - \$1,200





Tofukuji 12 x 3.5 cm - \$900



Tofukuji 10.5 x 3 cm - \$900



Tofukuji 7.5 x 4 cm - \$400  
(Maybe First Generation but I'm marking as Second generation)



Tofukuji 7.5 x 4.5 cm - \$400  
(Second Generation)





Tofukuji 7.5 x 3 cm - \$350  
(May be first but I'm marking it as Second Generation)

Seto(瀬戸) in Northern Aichi prefecture is synonymous with ceramics in Japan. Seto has a long history of ceramics. In Japan, the term Setomono (lit. Seto's things) means ceramics. During the Edo period, Tamakichi Kato, brought new methods of ceramic production to Seto and founded his own style. Eventually the clan of Owari became his patrons which allowed his style to flourish. As such, he is considered to be the father of Seto ceramics.



Antique Seto Period Japanese Bonsai Pot - 18 x 14 x 10 cm - \$1,200  
Small gold repair on the lip.





## Gekkou Ito

Pots by Gekkou Ito. His date of birth is May 22, 1939 (Showa 14). In 1959, he began to make Sometsuke pots; Sometsuke refers to the Japanese porcelain ware which is hand painted in under glaze blue, generally cobalt oxide. He grew up in a ceramic art family and made Sometsuke, Akae (red over glaze), Gosai (five colors) pots. His works are almost Horinuki without using patterns. As for his paintings on his bonsai pots, he was influenced by Tsukinowa-Yusen.



Gekkou 9 x 7.5 x 1.75 cm - \$450

A Gekkou Ito pot in the wonderful mokko shape. This is an older unused pot in perfect condition.



Gekkou 10.75 x 10.25 x 3 cm - \$700



## Heian Kouzan

Born April 28, 1905, Heian Kouzan comes from a long line of Seto potters. He is known for the precision in his pot making. Although his pots are strong in build, they still have a soft quality to them. His glazes are elegant and tend to be solid in color.



Kouzan 14 x 11 x 5 cm - \$1,250



Kouzan 9 x 2.5 cm - \$800  
A rare "chicken blood" glaze. It took us about 4 years to find this pot.

## Kamiya Ryuen

Kamiya Ryuen was born September 18, 1929, in Tokyo, Japan. He began carving bonsai pots in the mid-1970s. Unusual in manufacturing style, he carved nearly all of his pots out of a single block of clay. Having experimented with this style, it is time consuming but yields a beautifully crafted pot.

There are seven pots in this collection and the entire set can be purchased for a discount. If there is no buyer for the collection, they can be purchased separately.



Ryuen 10.75 x 8.5 x 3 cm - \$400





Ryuen 9 x 7.5 x 2 cm - \$350



Ryuen 10 x 8 x 3 cm - \$400



Ryuen 10 x 8 x 2 cm - \$350



Ryuen 10 x 4.5 cm - \$400



Ryuen 7.5 x 7.5 x 4.5 cm - \$400



Ryuen 8.5 x 8.5 x 5 cm - \$500



## Sano Daisuke

Sano Daisuke was born in 1919 in Japan and died in 2000. In 1949, he began to paint small pots. With a wide variety of shapes and styles, one can appreciate the beauty of his pots.

He collaborated with Konno Shinzan, Munakata Issu, Horie Bikoh and Ichitaro.



Sano Daisuke 5. 5 x 1.5 cm - \$400



Sano Daisuke 8.5 x 7.5 x 2.5 cm - \$550

## Shigeru Fukuda "Bushuan"

Shigeru Fukuda, a former professional race car driver, makes pots under the name Bushuan or sometimes Fujumo. He began making pots in 1986 and his works have often been compared to Heian Tofukuji. He used many colors applied onto the pot with results that are often stunning.



Bushuan 7 x 7 x 3.5 cm - \$350



Bushuan 10.5 x 5 cm - \$350



## Souzan Koto



Souzan 4.5 x 4 cm - \$425



10 x 9 x 3 cm each - \$1,000 for the pair

## Sanshu Ichiyo

Sanshu Ichiyo was born in Aichi prefecture in 1902 and passed away in 1985. He specialized in small pots. These are incredibly well made with beautiful proportions.



Ichiyo - \$900, three pots sold only as a set.



6 x 4.5 x 1.5 cm



6 x 4 x 1.5 cm



5.75 x 4 x 1.75 cm



## Shinano Chazan

Shinano Chazan 1904-1992, student of ceramics, Chazan began painting the pots made by Masao Mizuno and designed by Uematsu Chotaro around 1940, later continued painting and carving Harumatsu pots and many other ceramists, including Tsukinowa Yusen and Heian Kouzan.



Chazan 8 x 6.5 x 3.5 cm - \$250



Chazan 7 x 5.5 x 2.25 cm - \$250



Chazan 10.5 x 7 x 2 cm - \$250



## Koyo Toen

Koyo Toen, Aiba Kouichirou, was born in 1944, the son of a potter who specialized in pots for tableware and plants. Aiba Kouichirou built a new kiln in early 1970 and changed his name to Koyo Toen and thus began making bonsai pots. He is well known for his signature glazes. His better pots contain a second artist mark - a ginkgo leaf.



Koyo 15 x 11.5 x 3.5 cm - \$500

## Tetsuzan

Thanks to Ryan Bell for helping to identify this potter. Tetsuzan is an amateur potter who made this pot about 40 years ago or so. When we originally acquired it, it was thought to be Chinese, however, it is Japanese.

A nicely carved square pot that is excellent as an accent pot or for a very small tree.



Tetsuzan 4.5 x 4.5 x 3 cm - \$100

## Takao Koyo

Shiokai Kenji, born in 1947, started making pots in 1972. He has been influenced by a number of Japanese potters including Yusen, Tofukuji and Wakamatsu Aiso. It is easy to see the influence of Yusen in his painted landscape and animal pots.



Takao Koyo 9.5 x 7.5 x 2.25 cm - \$550





Takao Koyo 9.75 x 7.75 x 2.25 cm - \$550



Takao Koyo 14.75 x 13 x 4.5 cm - \$650



Takao Koyo 14.75 x 13 x 4.5 cm - \$650



Takao Koyo 7 x 6 x 2.5 cm - \$225



Takao Koyo 10 x 10 x 5 cm - \$300





6 x 4 cm - \$175



7 x 3 cm - \$150  
(Lion heads for feet)

## Heian Kosen



Heian Kosen 10 x 8 x 3 cm - \$165



Heian Kosen 9.5 x 8 x 3.5 cm - \$150



Kutani 9 x 9 x 5 cm - \$200



Older porcelain pot 5.25 x 1.5 cm - \$200

A Naka-watari bonsai pot between 100-150 years old in excellent shape. The pot has the artist mark of Gyoku-byo-shi-sei. It is an extremely lovely pot that is show worthy for the right tree. Two lines of very ancient Chinese characters.



Gyoku-byo-shi-sei 23 x 7 cm, opening 18 cm \$2,000



Example of prior use - Bay Island Bonsai 2008





Chinese Naka-watari 6.75 x 3.75 x 2.25 cm - \$500



Chinese Naka-watari 11.5 x 8 x 2.5 cm - \$750



Antique Chinese pot with cucumber glaze 11.75 x 5.25 x 2.50 cm - \$250



Chinese pot 9 x 7 x 2.25 cm - \$200



Chinese antique pear skin pot 15x 9 x 3.5 cm \$750  
Excellent condition with a wonderful patina.

