## Vase - Martin Ware

**Object:** Vase  
**Place of origin:** Southall (made)  
**Date:** 1901 (dated)  
**Artist/Maker:** Martin Brothers (maker)  
**Materials and Techniques:** Salt-glazed stoneware with painted decoration  
**Credit Line:** The 2nd Lieutenant Francis Bedford Marsh 1914-1918 War Memorial Gift  
**Museum number:** C.490-1919  
**Gallery location:** Ceramics, Room 143, The Timothy Sainsbury Gallery, case 23, shelf 2

### Public access description

If Martin-ware [...] has not the transparency of porcelain nor the elaborately and costly ornamentation of Sèvres [it is] pure and honest art work.

This is how the art critic Cosmo Monkhouse described the output of the Martin Brothers’ studio in The Magazine of Art in 1882. Eccentric founder Robert Wallace Martin and his siblings Charles, Walter and Edwin epitomized the energy and experimentation of the nineteenth-century art pottery movement. They regarded pottery as a means of artistic expression, rather than a product of industrial manufacture, and were particularly inspired by the rustic flora and fauna forms of the sixteenth-century potter Bernard Palissy as well as Japanese arts.

This vase is typical of the Martin Brothers’ later work and shows the influence of the emerging Art Nouveau style, inspired by natural forms such as seeds and plants.

### Descriptive line

Squat ‘Martin Ware’ vase, salt-glazed stoneware with blue and brown spotted glaze, made by Martin Bros., Southall, dated 1901

### Physical description

Small vase, flattened and bulbous. Stoneware. Blue ‘net’ over brown glaze forming irregular spot pattern.

### Dimensions

Height: 5.7 cm, Width: 11.1 cm

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### URL

[http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O150366/martin-ware-vase-martin-brothers/](http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O150366/martin-ware-vase-martin-brothers/)