LOCAL HISTORY

Right, checking the stamp on the back of Syracuse China that was selected for use in the Marriott Syracuse Downtown (the old Hotel Syracuse). Below, the Onondaga Historical Association’s permanent exhibit on the history of Syracuse China at its museum in downtown Syracuse. Right, Dennis Nett/dnett@syracuse.com; below, Onondaga Historical Association photo

51 Years Ago: On Jan. 21, 1966, the Onondaga Pottery Co. officially changed its name to the Syracuse China Corp. The company’s president, William Salisbury, announced that the change had been made because of “the broad national and international identification of the product name with the company.” The Onondaga Pottery Co. was organized in 1871 and initially made only earthenware. However, after James Pass joined the organization in 1885, he soon developed a new type of translucent chinaware that came to be known as “Syracuse China.” The Onondaga Pottery Co. began producing the first American-made vitreous china in the early 1890s, and by 1895 the name “Syracuse China” appeared in the backstamp. Syracuse China would come to be used in hotels, clubs, airplanes, trains, cruise ships, and restaurants around the world.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association