

## MEXICAN WALL POCKET

By Craig Nissen



The Mexican wall pocket was released for sale by the Nelson McCoy Pottery Company in 1941. The catalog designation was No. 101. The name/description was simply "Wall Pocket". The "Mexican" name for the Wall Pocket was created by collectors. This was likely due to the style of the hat and general attire of the figure.

The Mexican Wall Pocket is shown in the catalog image holding some sort of rectangular object; possibly a book? The production wall pocket has the figure holding a sombrero style hat with the right hand holding his garment. No example of the catalog image style has surfaced to date.



This wall pocket is about 7-1/4" long and 3-1/4" wide. The glaze colors found on this Mexican wall pocket are all matte pastel. The catalog information did not include a detail listing of colors. The colors include matte white, blue, yellow and aqua. An example with a matte lavender (pink) has not surfaced to date. It was produced from approximately 1941-1944.

The four production color glazes are all of similar degree of findability. The matte blue may be slightly less common to surface for sale but none are of a rare category.

The Mexican Wall Pocket is really a very robust piece. Of course any piece can get a chip or hairline crack but this piece is commonly found undamaged. The more common difference is in the detail of the piece. Because there is so much subtle detail to the design, as the mold began to wear, the piece can rather quickly lose the nice crisp look so this is something to note and can have some influence on the value.





There have been only a few instances where a Mexican wall pocket has surfaced different than the production pieces. One is of a production aqua glaze piece with period red and black cold paint used to accent the design. (Right photo)

Another example has a completely mustard yellow base color with black cold paint highlighting the detail. (See photo to the left)

A third example also exists. (Lower right photo). In this case, a base production piece was used and then it was hand decorated with multiple colors and re-fired so the decoration is durable.



As previously noted, the two examples with cold paint were likely done in the 1940s period. The 3<sup>rd</sup> example, with decoration colors not usually seen in the 1940s, leads one to believe it was done much later in its' life.

All of the production Mexican wall pockets carry a modest value in today's market. The overall range for a nondamaged piece would be from \$20-40 each. The white and yellow might trend toward the lower half of the range and the aqua and blue the upper half. Poor mold detail might reduce the value \$5-10. These few rare examples with cold paint and other color variation are much harder to value due to that rarity and lack of sales examples in recent history. For a serious McCoy wall pocket area collector, a conservative estimate would likely be at \$75-100 on the re-fired example and at least \$100 per piece on either of the cold painted wall pockets which could sell for \$200+ for either.



The back of the wall pocket shows no mark. It joins the Leaves & Berries wall pocket as two of the very few McCoy wall pockets that are not marked. Other good news is that to date, this wall pocket has not been reproduced.



The four photos below are of the four production glaze colors:

