

BUTTERFLY WALL POCKET

By Craig Nissen



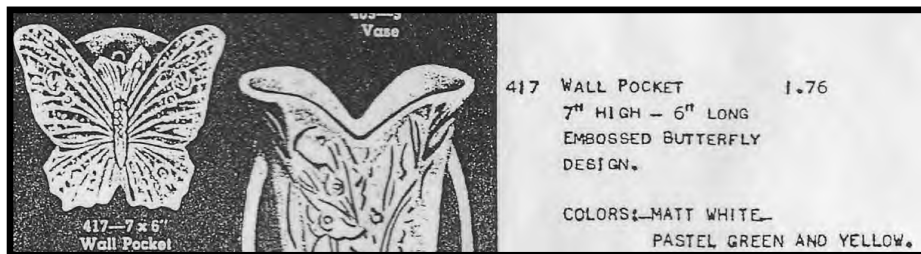
The Butterfly wall pocket was released for sale by the Nelson McCoy Pottery Company in 1942 and sold into 1943. The catalog number was "No. 417", and was part of the Butterfly Line.

The size is about 6" long and the width about 7".



When it comes to glaze colors offered, it is very interesting. The first image below shows you the colors listed on the 1942 Butterfly Line catalog sheet. As you can see, the colors were green (aqua), blue, pink (lavender as we collectors call it), yellow and white. Yet on the area where the specific wall pocket detail is listed which is shown in the next image, the wall pocket is limited to the white, yellow and green. This may not seem to make sense unless we remind ourselves that the three Lily Bud wall pockets were also limited to those three colors even though other shapes in the Lily Bud Line were made in other colors.

BUTTERFLY DESIGN - PASTEL COLORED WARE
ASSORTED COLORS OR AS WANTED - GREEN - BLUE - PINK -
YELLOW - MATT WHITE - STATE COLORS WANTED.
PKD. WGT.
1 TO 250



To date; there have been only four examples of the Butterfly wall pocket that has surfaced with the matte blue glaze. There is one example with a mustard style glaze that was used in production on a couple other pieces. The most commonly used was on the candleholder bookends, also marked NM – see photo right. To date, no examples have surfaced with a matte pink (lavender) or with a matte coral (as described by collectors) which has shown up on other Butterfly shapes.



The Butterfly wall pocket has an “NM” only mark on the back surface. See photo right.

The wall pocket is regularly found without damage. If any tendency exists, it might be to check for top rim hairlines, especially on the back wall.



There has been an occasional example of the Butterfly wall pocket that has turned up with some form of decorative addition. None of these were production decoration. Below are a few examples of some of these. The first one on the left has some orange color added in the round circle areas and on the top of the antennae of the butterfly. The only reason for singling this one out is that it came from the Cope Gallery Collection. The others all appear to be decoration likely added by an owner sometime after the production period. As with all decoration of this nature, difficult to know when these were done but the appearance of most of these materials would lead to them having been done more in the 40s-50s era as opposed to the last 20 yrs or so but the age is really not any notable factor in any estimated value.





The Butterfly Wall Pocket has always been one of the more valuable of the McCoy production wall pockets. This may partially be due to their not being easy finds. They certainly pop up for sale or auction every now and then but not regularly. The white and yellow colors are presently selling in the \$150 – 200 range. The aqua is a little higher and can probably demand \$25-50 more per piece.

The Blue examples are very hard to value. Their extreme rarity sets the value up there right away but what is even more of a factor, is they are the piece in the Butterfly Line that if you are collecting that beautiful matte blue, you would love to fill out your blue collection. This adds a little more to the desirability above that of just rarity. It would not be a shock to see one of these sell into the four figures should it be offered on the market. Because the mustard example does not have the “complete the color” aspect, it would likely sell for something less than a blue example but still significant given the rarity.

The examples with cold paint style decoration would likely sell for 10-20% more than a standard plain glaze color production piece.

The Butterfly wall pocket has thankfully never been reproduced. However, a reproduction of the Butterfly Shape Vase from the Line has been reproduced and a hanging hole added in the back to make it possible to hang it if desired. The photos below show an example of this reproduction. Gloss color and marked McCoy on the bottom which is once again a great thing for collectors because no Butterfly Line pieces ever had a McCoy name on them. This makes it much easier to single out as a reproduction.

