

THE LILY BUD WALL POCKETS

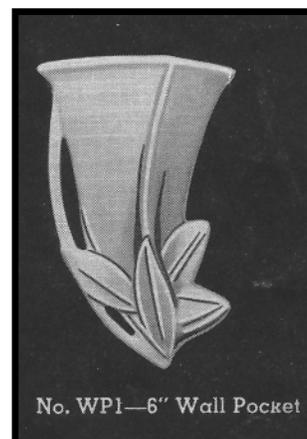
By Craig Nissen

SMALL LILY BUD WALL POCKET



The Small Lily Bud wall pocket was released for sale by the Nelson McCoy Pottery Company in 1941. The catalog designation was No. WP1. This wall pocket was produced from late 1941 to 1944.

This wall pocket is about 6" long and the width is 4". The production glaze colors found on this Small Lily Bud wall pocket are all matte pastels. The catalog information indicates only matte white, yellow and aqua colors.



These three production color glazes are similar in findability. However, a few other examples of the small Lily Bud wall pocket have been found with other production glaze colors from that era. There are two examples known with the gloss rose glaze like that used on the Flower Holder pieces.....Turtle, Hands of Friendship, etc. There are two examples known with a matte lavender color and then but one example known with a matte blue glaze.

Like with many wall pockets, a few known examples exist of the Small Lily Bud where either an employee or simply an owner of a wall pocket decided at some point to add their own decoration. Examples are pictured here and will also be on the web site in color. The first example on the left is a matte yellow piece with period cold paint decoration. The other two examples are more difficult to guess as to whether period or done much later in their life.



The Small Lily Bud Wall Pocket is usually relatively free of common damage but the one area to carefully check is the thin arm on the left side of the wall pocket. All too often you will find a hairline somewhere in that thin arm.

The back of the Small Lily Bud wall pocket shows an "NM" mark with USA below it. The "NM" of course stands for "Nelson McCoy". On most examples, the mark is not very deep into the pottery so if a piece was made later in the life of the mold, it may be somewhat challenging to read but knowing it is there, usually some evidence of it can be seen.



The production colors of the Small Lily Bud wall pocket; matte yellow, white and aqua, are relatively easy to obtain. This is likely a result of their selling very well in the early 1940s. The value range for any of these colors, with no damage, would be about \$15-30 each.

The five known examples in the three non-Lily Bud wall pocket colors, are obviously a different story. These very rare examples would still maintain a notable value in today's market. An estimated range of any of these wall pockets would be \$150-300. With the right two collectors at an auction, it could go higher.

The Small Lily Bud wall pockets with cold paint and other non-production decoration would be in the \$75 -125 range. However, these non-production decorated pieces are always tough to estimate and can vary greatly from one selling point to another at a different time. The period cold paint style non-production decoration would have a tendency to more consistently carry a higher value than one that is harder to definitely peg the time frame it was decorated.



LARGE LILY BUD WALL POCKET



The Large Lily Bud wall pocket was likely released for sale by McCoy Pottery in 1941. The catalog designation was No. WP2. It has the same "NM" mark on the back as the Small Lily Bud wall pocket; see photo right. This wall pocket was produced from late 1941 to 1942. To date, there is no image document of this design as the WP2. So, let's look at a few facts and then present a likely scenario as to when and for how long this wall pocket was produced.



First, the Square Flower Wall Pocket that was part of the Rustic Line was produced in 1945-46. It was assigned a catalog designation of WP5. The Rustic decoration was then dropped in 1947 and the same Square Wall Pocket was offered in three gloss glaze colors but still carried the same WP5 catalog number. Keep this fact in mind as we now go back to the Large Lily Bud wall pocket. In the 1941 catalog, the only wall pocket image is the Mexican Wall Pocket. However, in the November price list from 1941, there was a WP1 and WP2 wall pocket listed as well as the Mexican wall pocket. To date, there are no known images of any wall pockets in any 1942 catalog pages. The 1943 catalog shows five wall pocket images; the Mexican, the Small Lily Bud with WP1 noted, the Large FANCY Lily Bud with WP2 designation as well as the Clown and Lady with Bonnet wall pockets.

With all of those facts in mind, here is the suggested scenario:

The markings on the Small and Large Lily Bud wall pockets are identical in style. The Large Fancy Lily Bud has a "McCoy" mark. So; it would seem, the Large with the NM mark was the WP2 design that was released for sale in late 1941 with the Small one and sometime late 1942 or at the start of 1943, the Large NM marked style was replaced by the Large Fancy style. The fact that we are suggesting that the two larger designs were sold for about 2 years each would also make sense in that they are both found with about the same level of availability. One might argue the Fancy style is a little less commonly found and that may be true given the production in the plant was much more effected by WWII in those years than in 1941 and 1942. Now if you do not need to re-read these couple paragraphs you are either not really interested, which is ok, or you are at the front of the class with your talent for speed of detail understanding!

This wall pocket is about is 8" long and 6-1/4" wide. The production glaze colors are all the same matte pastels as the Small Lily Bud wall pocket. Again, they are matte white, yellow and aqua.

The Large Lily Bud Wall Pocket is usually relativley free of common damage but the areas to carefully check is the main arm coming down in the middle of the wall pocket and the small two side arm areas for hairlines. Also, hairlines on the top rim areas which are a little susceptible with their thinner walls. Finally, the tip of the front bud has somewhat of a regular issue with a flake or glaze miss.

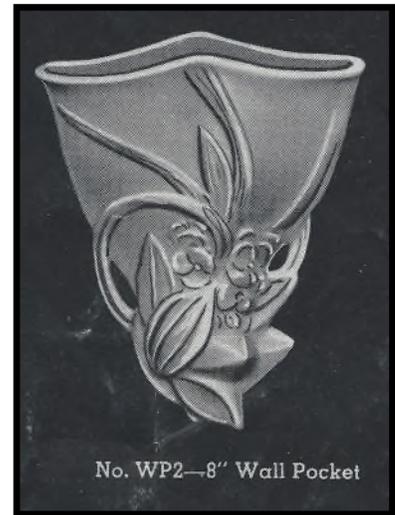
The production colors of the Large Lily Bud wall pocket, matte yellow, white and aqua, are relatively available. The value range for any of these colors, with no damage, would be about \$75 -125 each in today's market. Unlike the Small Lily Bud wall pocket; to date there has never been an example of this wall pocket in any other glaze color that has surfaced.



LARGE FANCY LILY BUD WALL POCKET



The Large Fancy Lily Bud wall pocket was likely released for sale late 1942 or 1943 as noted in the Large Lily Bud information and sold through 1944. The catalog designation was again No. WP2. To the right is the catalog image used in the 1943 catalog.



This wall pocket is the same in size as the Large Lily Bud, roughly 8" long and 6-1/4" wide. The production glaze colors are again the same matte pastels; white, yellow and aqua colors.

It has a "McCoy" mark on the back – see photo.

The availability of these three production colors of the Large Fancy Lily Bud wall pocket is similar to that of the Large Lily Bud with maybe a slight bit more difficult. The value range for any of these colors, with no damage, would be about \$125-175 each in today's market. To date there has never been an example of this wall pocket in any other glaze color that has surfaced.

