

FLOWER BOWL ORNAMENTS (From Jan 2005 Journal)

By Craig Nissen

These wonderful little white pieces have long been highly sought-after favorites of many collectors of Nelson McCoy Pottery. Back in October of 1992, I wrote an article on the "Ladder Pieces." This is what collectors at that time affectionately called all the smaller pieces on the ladder on page 133 of the McCoy Pottery reference book authored by the Huxfords in the late 1970s which has the black colored book cover. This article ran in the October issue of the McCoy Lovers newsletter at that time which was called Our McCoy Matters. Not long after that article was published, we collectors discovered that several of the white pieces that are pictured on the top of "that ladder" were at one time, called "Flower Bowl Ornaments" by the McCoy Pottery Company. Since 1992 additional information, including a catalog page included in this article, has surfaced about these pieces, so it seems timely to revisit these desirable little white pieces and share all the new information.

Let's start with the best information; the documented facts:

- Production pieces of the Flower Bowl Ornaments were only produced with a matte white glaze color.
- Only six shapes are documented to date that were sold as a part of the Flower Bowl Ornament Line. (See the catalog page on the following page.) It is based on this information that Bob & Margaret Hanson and myself did not include any others in our Volume I (pages 94 & 95) presentation of the Flower Bowl Ornaments.



THE SIX DOCUMENTED FLOWER BOWL ORNAMENTS

The catalog names of the ornaments from left to right are:

Bird Ornament (No. 11) – *More commonly called The Wren by collectors.*

Peacock Ornament (No.13)

Duck Ornament (No.14)

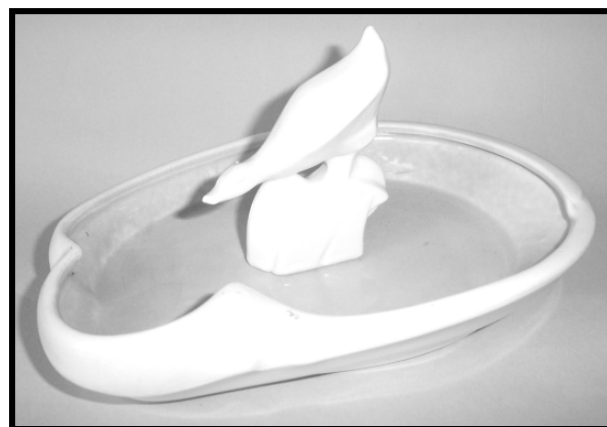
Fawn Ornament Head Front (No.15)

Fawn Ornament Head Back (No. 17)

Fawn Ornament Head Up (No. 18) - *All Fawns are more commonly called Deer by Collectors*

NO.	ITEM	DOZEN	CTN. CTN.
C-5	FLOWER BOWL 9-1/2" LONG, 6-1/2" WIDE. COLORS: GLOSS YELLOW INSIDE - WHITE OUTSIDE TURQUOISE INSIDE - WHITE OUTSIDE	\$3.60	2 DZ. 40%
C-5-W	FLOWER BOWL 9-1/2" X 6-1/2" COLOR: MATT WHITE ONLY (INSIDE AND OUT)	2.40	2 DZ. 40%
C-7	FLOWER BOWL 9-1/2" X 6-1/2" COLORS: GLOSS YELLOW INSIDE - WHITE OUTSIDE TURQUOISE INSIDE - WHITE OUTSIDE	3.60	2 DZ. 40%
C-7-W	FLOWER BOWL 9-1/2" X 6-1/2" COLOR: MATT WHITE ONLY (INSIDE AND OUT)	2.40	2 DZ. 40%
<u>FLOWER BOWL ORNAMENTS</u>			
N-11	BIRD ORNAMENT COLOR: MATT WHITE ONLY	.74	6 DZ. 12%
N-13	PEACOCK ORNAMENT COLOR: DITTO	.74	6 " 12%
N-14	DUCK ORNAMENT COLOR: DITTO	.74	6 " 12%
N-15	FAWN ORNAMENT HEAD FRONT. COLOR: DITTO	.74	6 " 12%
N-17	FAWN ORNAMENT HEAD BACK. COLOR: DITTO	.74	6 " 12%
N-18	FAWN ORNAMENT HEAD UP. COLOR: DITTO	.74	6 " 12%
<u>COOKIE JARS</u>			
3	1 GAL. COOKIE JAR GLAZED & HAND PAINTED COLORS: BLACK - YELLOW - GREEN ALL WITH BRIGHT FLOWERS	2.88	1/2 " 48%

The Flower Bowl Ornaments were an optional accessory to two styles of Flower Bowls. The bowls are listed on the top of the catalog sheet included with this article. These Flower Bowls came in all white or all white outside with a gloss yellow or turquoise inside. (Reference color photo on page 45 in HNH Volume II). As shown on the catalog page, these Flower Bowls were Catalog Nos. C-5 & C-5-W and C-7 and C-7-W respectively.



THE TWO STYLES OF FLOWER BOWLS WITH SELECTED ORNAMENTS

Of these six pieces, only the “Fawn Ornament Head Up” No. 18 carries a mark, the “NM” letters mark on the lower side surface of the piece. All the other five ornaments do not have any mark.

Another excellent method of helping one identify these Flower Bowl Ornaments is by the design of the bottom coring. Note the following photograph of the six white pieces all tipped over to show the bottoms. All have the pieces have a very similar style of this coring design characteristic. So, if you find a small white piece and suspect it may be a possible piece from this group, check the bottom and make sure it passes this coring design test.

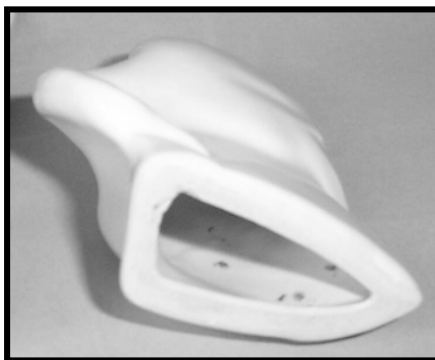


A BOTTOM VIEW OF THE SIX DOCUMENTED ORNAMENTS

We know that there was at least one other little white piece sold as part of this line. Look at the following image which contains a listing of “Novelties” and it includes a “No. 19 Swan” in addition to the other six white pieces listed above. This wonderful piece of information was first brought to collector’s attention by the Society’s First Journal Editor, Dewayne Imsand, in an article he wrote for the September 1998 issue of the NMX newsletter. (Our Society Journal did not start until 2003.) The image shown below left is portion of page 3 of a price list dated November 1, 1941. (See pages 28 & 29 in the McCoy Wall Pocket book for page 1 & page 2 of this same price list.) The price list also shows that these little white pieces were not cataloged as Flower Bowl Ornaments when initially released for sale.

NOVELTIES				
Pastel Green, Pastel Yellow, Matt White, Gloss Pink				
4x3 1/4"	No. N-1, Pigeon	\$2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
4x3 1/4"	No. N-2, Cornucopia	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
4x3 1/4"	No. N-3, Pitcher	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
4 1/4 x 3 1/2"	No. N-4, Swan	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
3 1/2 x 3 1/4"	No. N-5, Vase	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
4 1/2 x 2"	No. N-6, Turtle	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
4 1/4 x 3 1/4"	No. N-8, Fish	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
3 1/2 x 2 3/4"	No. N-10, Hands	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	30
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Packed Assorted Styles to Carton.				
Color: Matt White				
No. N-11, Bird	\$2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	
No. N-13, Peacock	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	
No. N-14, Duck	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	
No. N-15, Fawn, Head Front	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	
No. N-17, Fawn, Head Back	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	
No. N-18, Fawn, Head Up	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	
No. N-19, Swan	2.20 Dz.	6 Dz.	12	

In these two photos you will find a Swan shaped piece. This Swan piece was first documented in my article from 1992, and was suggested then as a strong candidate as part of the family of white Flower Bowl Ornaments. In the photo of the bottom of the Swan piece, notice how the bottom has a very similar coring design style, including wall thickness, as that of the bottom of the six Flower Bowl Ornaments. Could this be the No. 19 Swan included in the 1941 Novelties listing? It certainly makes a very strong case for being “the Real McCoy”. I think the consensus among collectors at this time is “yes”.



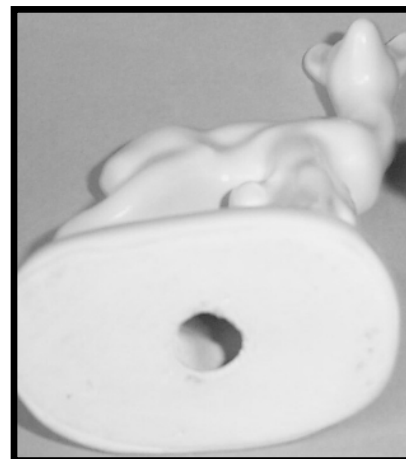
An additional interesting point is to review the numbering sequence of the white pieces on the catalog page as well as in the price list. There you will see that No. 12 and No. 16 are missing in the sequence. Why would that be? One scenario might be that there were two other pieces planned for this line but for one of many possible reasons, never made it into production.



In the photo on the left, you will see a Deer piece, which is on the “Ladder” (top shelf, third from the left) on page 133 of the “Black McCoy Book.” In the photo on the right, note the style of the bottom coring of the Deer. It is certainly inconsistent with the design of the coring in the Flower Bowl Ornaments. It is also important to add the fact that this Deer shape piece has been found in a slightly smaller size with a few other glaze colorings that are not consistent with glazes from Nelson McCoy Pottery at that time.

The consensus of collectors seems to be that first, that this Deer was not part of the Flower Bowl Ornament Series and secondly, given the other glaze colorings and the coring style, it

is most likely not a McCoy made product. However, until documentation surfaces, it remains an unknown maker piece.



So, when were these Flower Bowl Ornaments made? As is usually the case, catalog documents and price list pages hold the best clues to this question.

- In a 1940's catalog, a page titled “New Novelty Flower Holders and Planters” included four of the “Stretch Animal” pieces; the Pony (Horse), Goat (Standing), Dog (Large Dog) and Hound (Dachshund). However, it did not include any information on these little white pieces.
- The late 1941 price list contains only two “Stretch” pieces, the Goat and the Pony.
- A catalog page, dated 1942, presents the series of pieces including the Fish, Pigeon, Turtle, etc., as the “Flower Holders” in exact style and format of the text and images as that of the catalog page in this article of the “Flower Bowl Ornaments.” In addition, that same page has only one Stretch Animal, the Pony.

- A 1943 catalog does not have any text or image presentation of the Flower Bowl Ornaments.

The conclusion is that the series of white pieces we now call the Flower Bowl Ornaments were likely released for sale in late 1940 or early 1941 and were sold only through 1942. The facts noted above related to the Stretch pieces also explains why the Pony is the easiest to acquire - it was sold for more years than all of the other pieces.

Finally, to the unpleasant topic of reproductions, there are no known reproductions of these Flower Bowl Ornaments presently being made and let's hope it stays that way! However, a couple reproductions of the Peacock and the Swan were found several years ago. When compared side by side with the originals, they are slightly smaller and, more importantly, they have a gloss glaze in off-white, or beige color. When next to the "Real McCoy" they are easy to identify, but if they are sitting on a shelf in a mall, or worse, on eBay, color identification may be difficult. The good news is that it does not seem that these reproductions were made in any volume. But the "Best rule" is, if one of these pieces is found with a gloss glaze, take a pass, because all of the originals of these pieces were made in a matte white glaze.

In summary, hope you have found some of the above content, and this wonderful catalog page and price list, both interesting and informative. These Flower Bowl Ornaments are still very "findable" as they must have been a very successful product. Best of Luck in your hunt to fill out a complete set of these great Flower Bowl Ornaments for your collection!

