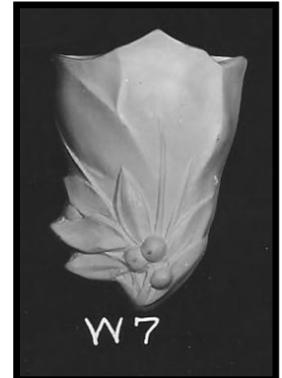


LEAVES & BERRIES WALL POCKET

By Craig Nissen



The Leaves and Berries wall pocket was the first made by the Nelson McCoy Pottery Company. Released for sale in 1940, it was actually catalog #W7 as you can see in the catalog image to the right. The “Leaves and Berries” name was created by collectors. This wall pocket is about 7-1/4” long and 5” wide. The glaze colors found on this L&B wall pocket are typical of the glaze colors offered on many other pieces in the 1939-1942 time frame. It was produced from approximately 1940 – 1942.

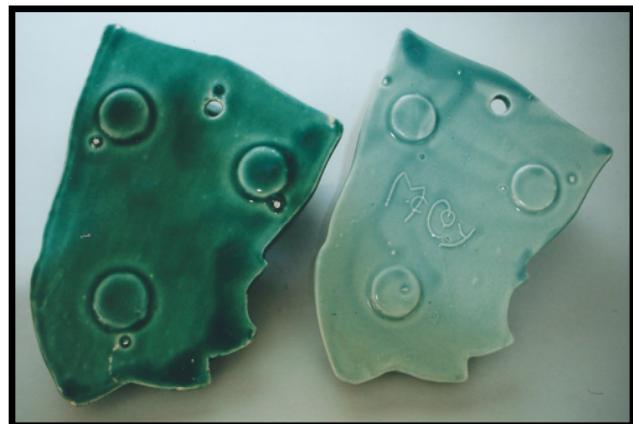


The known production colors include, matte white and the balance are gloss colors; burgundy, cobalt blue, yellow, aqua, and a darker green – some might call a forest green. Specific colors offered were not documented in catalog information. Examples of all are shown later in this article.

While none of these original color examples are common or easy finds, the difficulty definitely varies based on color. The “least difficult” are the matte white and the gloss yellow. To somewhat state the obvious, likely the most popular colors purchased, which does make sense given they are both a little more neutral. For the next challenge level, we go to the burgundy and “forest green” colors. Tough to find but they do seem to surface a couple times per year. The most difficult for sure is the cobalt blue followed by the gloss aqua. We are not sure we can explain the why of that fact but it certainly is true. Values have changed over time but not so much for the very difficult production wall pockets. A white or yellow might likely sell for \$75 – 125. A burgundy or green, likely \$125-175. The cobalt blue and the aqua might be a little more difficult to estimate because so few are out there. However, certainly \$ 175 - 250 would be a good conservative estimate of what it might take to purchase one.

Any piece of pottery can, of course, get a chip anywhere. Having said that, the first area to check on a Leaves & Berries wall pocket is the upper edges for hairlines. This would be especially true of the front of the upper area. It is not well supported in the design and is the most susceptible to a little bump and a hairline is born.

The back of the wall pocket shows no mark. This is one of the few Nelson McCoy wall pockets that is not marked. This fact is important as there unfortunately are reproductions of this wall pocket. The somewhat good news is that the reproductions are marked with “McCoy”!



A somewhat humorous point; when the reproductions first surfaced, the “McCoy” mark was backwards on the piece. Obviously, someone did not realize if you write the name in the mold it will come out backwards on the final piece. Photo bottom right of previous page shows production example on left and repro with mark on the right. The reproduction, as with the majority of reproductions in general, is smaller than the original. It is about 6-3/4” long and 4-3/4” wide. This is usually the case as the maker of these reproductions uses an original to make the pattern so then the piece out of their new mold will be slightly smaller.

There are five known colors of the reproduction to date. Again, they are shown at the end of this web site article. The light blue, light pink and the green tone on the bottom are colors not used by McCoy so on this wall pocket, it is a little easier to recognize these repros. There are two examples of the pink glaze shown together; one almost looking more coral or salmon colored but it is in fact, just a variation of the pink colored glaze that was used.

However, the cobalt blue and yellow reproductions are much more in the family of those colors on original Leaves & Berries wall pockets. You will find two photos of the original wall pocket on the left with the repro on the right; a little scary when comparing these two colors. When sitting next to each other, the reproduction may be somewhat obvious but when sitting by itself for sale anywhere, it might just not be that easy.....fortunate for collectors that they also have the “McCoy” mark to identify them.

These photos below are of the six production glaze colors:



COMPARISON - ORIGINAL LEFT VS REPRODUCITON ON RIGHT



OTHER REPRODUCTION COLORS

