

CLOWN WALL POCKET

By Craig Nissen



The Clown wall pocket was released for sale in 1943 and sold through 1944. The catalog number was "No. WP4". This pocket is a little over 8" long (not quite the 8-1/2" stated in the catalog page) and the width is 3-3/4".

The production glaze colors were only a gloss white but the production piece was also decorated with a red and black cold paint. If you look at the cold painted areas in photo left you can see the same decorated areas on the catalog image to the right. All article photos will be in color on web site copy of this article.



The two examples pictured to the right are the production wall pocket with the red cold paint added to additional areas of the detail than the amount used in production decorating.

The two examples pictured to the right are the production wall pocket



Although difficult to see, of course, in the left photo, the usual red cold paint areas have been done with a grey cold paint. Only three examples of this grey cold paint decoration have surfaced.

The photo right is of a standard production wall pocket with red paint in the normal areas but a significant amount of black decoration has been added. But what is truly special about this piece is that it has only two button areas in the hat. As stated, it definitely is a production Clown wall pocket from all other size aspects but somehow a difference in the hat. It is unknown if this was a prototype style considered or some very talented employee that modified a piece somehow before firing.



The dollar values of the production Clown wall pockets will vary a bit based on the condition of the production cold paint. If you have an example where the paint seems to be almost completely present as originally done, the value would fall in the range of \$40-60. Should the cold paint show significant loss or even almost none, the value will drop to more in the range of \$20-35.

The examples with extra red cold paint or the grey cold paint would likely sell in the \$ 75 – 125 range. The piece with the modified hat design would probably sell in a similar range although it could go higher.

When found, the Clown wall pocket is usually free of damage as it is a pretty robust piece. It does not really have a typical area that is damage prone.

The Clown wall pocket is marked with a “McCoy” mark on the back. Unfortunately, it has been reproduced. As we typically know of most reproduction pieces, it is a little smaller than the original being approximately a 1/4" shorter in length.

As you can see in the photo to the right, with an original on the left in photo and a reproduction on the right, the mark of "McCoy" is there only faintly on the reproduction. When using an original for the pattern to make the mold, the depth of detail is lost.



The two photos below show some reproduction examples. In photo left; one has a yellow base glaze color with rose detail under glaze – the other is a white base color with a multiple of paint colors used for decoration which is not under glaze. The final photo below to the right, is an original Clown wall pocket on the left with standard production cold paint decoration and a reproduction example on the right with the cold paint decoration done in the same style as the original.... scary indeed..... but note the lip area is more of a sad look on the reproduction, maybe that's simply because he's a repro!

