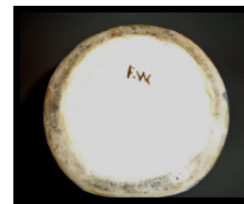


IRIDESCENT FINISH - MCCOY PIECES

By Ben Wonderin

We wanted to share an interesting Peacock Vase that surfaced a few months ago. Several collectors would have seen this colorful Vase on a public for sale listing. But the photos did not do the art work justice and definitely did not show well the fact that the base white glaze surface seemed ever so different than normal. It is, in fact, actually an iridescent tone for the base color and all of the decoration is under glaze. The bottom has initials in gold "FW".



Over time several McCoy pieces have been found by collectors that have an iridescent characteristic to the base glaze on the piece. Also, all decoration or artistic detail added has been under glaze including, in most cases, a gold or silver trim detail. Another noteworthy point is most of these pieces date to the late 1940s for McCoy production. And finally, to date, most pieces with an iridescent glaze finish have a 1-3 initial signing on the bottom... EPA, A, EA and FW. Likely this was the artist that added the wonderful detail to these pieces.

These two photos have the addition of detail identifying the 1949 Glad Show in Waterloo Iowa. Hard to see that iridescent finish but it is there!



What is not known is if McCoy did this iridescent glaze or not. It covers into the inside surfaces on some examples but not all. These pieces might have done on a contract basis. We may never get an answer to those questions. However, it would also seem a fair guess that the detail art added on these pcs were done by someone outside the plant. Maybe similar in fashion to the work Shafer was doing with gold trim accents which were also during the same era. Shafer might have done this detail work but then why would they have not stamped them with their name. Instead usually these pieces have initials in gold or silver as already mentioned. It seems most likely that they were done by others on a more local smaller scale but given all detail is under glaze it might suggest a smaller business effort?

Here we have photos of additional pieces. All of the following pieces have an iridescent base finish over a normal glaze base color. The first is the well-known Swan Vase. The second is another well-known Vase with decoration for a 25th Anniversary in Silver Trim. We do not know if these were company or individual events being celebrated.



These photos include a beautiful Tulip Vase with a 50th Anniversary detail. The other piece in photos is a Stump Planter that besides the special iridescent glaze...note the artist put "Mr & Mrs" on the piece in gold over the initials already there in the pottery detail!



Finally, this beautiful pair of Lily Bookends that have the iridescent glaze over the standard production colors. In addition, a nice gold trim detail.



Again, some questions in the content above that we may never get an answer to but certainly this style of work reminds us of all the wonderful artistry that was taking place on pottery in that time frame. And, of course, that with McCoy collecting we just never know what may pop up!! So, keep on the lookout for McCoy pieces with an iridescent base glaze!