

MCCOY LIGHT – “Let’s Talk about Kids’ Stuff Lamps”

By Mal Anderson

While at any Pottery Week festivities, it has always been very interesting and enjoyable to attend auctions by our Society’s friend, Jeff Koehler. At one of his auctions a few years ago, my lamp collecting took a little bend in the course of finding undiscovered lamps. As many of you know, Nelson McCoy lamps hold my main interest within the collecting of McCoy Pottery. I also have a great interest in early lamps cast by the Brush/McCoy Company and later ones made during the Brush era.

Anyway, I had not known of any electric lamps made during the McCoy Limited years starting in 1985. Surprisingly one day, I received a Nelson McCoy advertisement brochure from my friend Frank Poolas. It offered a line of “Lamps, Cookie Jars, Banks and Sit Arounds” (small animal figurines) called “Kids’ Stuff”. Naturally, my interest went immediately to the lamps shown.



While looking further into the “Kids’ Stuff” line, I tried to find out exactly when and who produced it meaning which McCoy company. Not long after receiving the brochure, I found a “Kids’ Stuff” Dog Lamp for sale on the internet. I, of course, had to buy it; (see photo to the left). Looking back, it seemed like a year or two had passed after that first buy and I found lamp success again while attending a Koehler Auction in July. This time it was a “Kids’ Stuff” Cat Lamp. (See right and below for bottom configuration).

To further my curiosity and to be a little more concise about when and who made these lamps, I wanted to discuss what I knew with Craig Nissen. I believe our conclusion was that although the design sketches for the “Kids’ Stuff Line” were made during the McCoy Limited years (1985-1988), the Line was later marketed by Designer Accents. Designer Accents got into the McCoy business when Lancaster Colony sold to them in 1985. McCoy Limited however was also producing pottery when they started in 1985.



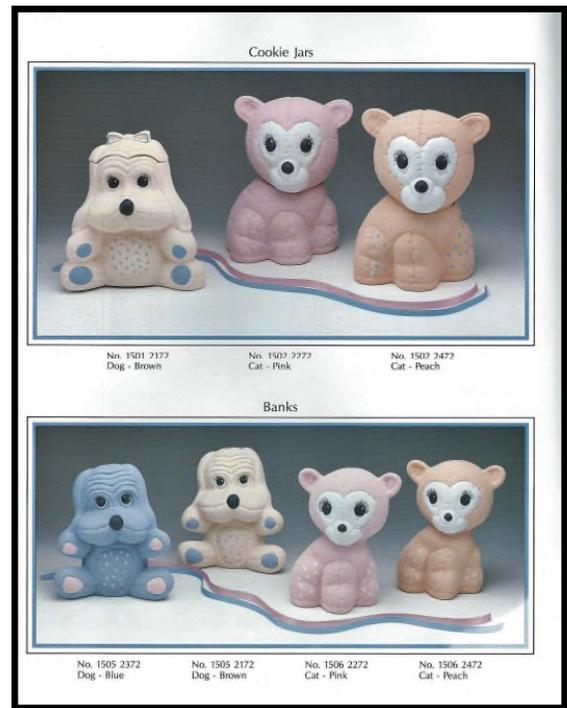
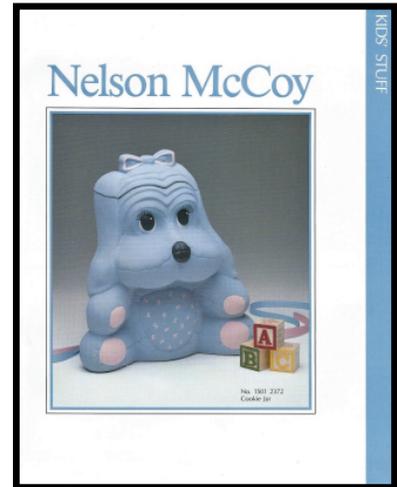
Later around 1987-88, it is believed that the “Line” was marketed initially by McCoy Limited and in 1988 by Designer Accents. During 1988, McCoy Limited sold their product lines to Designer Accents but not the name. The McCoy Limited business



continued to exist and Nelson and Billie started another Line called “The McCoy Collection”. The “McCoy Collection” was produced under the McCoy Limited name.

In the first half of “Nelson and Billie’s Collection” auction by Jeff Koehler two summers ago, there was another “Kids’ Stuff” lamp for sale. Of course, I had to have it. It was another “Cat” lamp but in a different glaze then my first purchase.

To the right is the cover of the brochure for this Line and below two catalog pages showing the Lamps as well as Banks, Cookie Jars and the “Sit Arounds” animals.



I still don’t know much about this line of neat McCoy products but I’m sure that research will find many more interesting tidbits about it in the future. Stay tuned, “Happy Hunting”, be safe with this virus going around and keep those lamps lit.