

McCOY WALL POCKETS – FAKES

By Craig Nissen

Over the last 17 Issues of the Society Journal, we have run a series of articles completely covering the topic of Nelson McCoy Pottery Wall Pockets. This includes over 30 individual articles on all the production McCoy wall pockets and also non-production examples. In addition, each individual wall pocket article includes information where reproductions of that wall pocket are known. All of these articles can be found in color under the Articles tab on the Society web site. This is the final article in this series. In this case, we have kept “the worst” for last; “Fake” McCoy wall pockets!

So let us start with a brief description of a “Fake” for our purposes. A wall pocket pottery piece that is a design never created or produced by the Nelson McCoy Pottery Company; yet it has the “McCoy” mark on the back of the piece in the pottery. We will show some back mark examples but know that all wall pockets and pieces in this article have a “McCoy” mark in the pottery on the back.

In a few cases someone has taken a known wall pocket produced by another maker and used that as a pattern to make a mold and then add the McCoy mark on the back of that piece. Others are simply designs with generally no known maker but indeed have the McCoy mark.



Left; the first of the fake wall pockets. The “Cornucopia with Bird” wall pocket. This was a Shawnee Pottery product and did not carry any mark. This fake is made in several other colors including yellow, light blue, cobalt blue and green.



Right; the back of the wall pocket showing the “McCoy” mark.

Right; the origin of the design of this McCoy fake Frog wall pocket is unknown. It is pictured in a green glaze color but has been found in 3 or 4 other glaze colors.

The back of the fake Frog wall pocket showing the “McCoy USA ” mark is also included.



Right; this fake wall pocket was actually a Hull Pottery wall pocket design made from 1949 to the early 50's. It was decorated in several different styles, known as the "Woodlands" lines. None like these!



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Left; a Roseville Pottery wall pocket from the Iris line made in the late 1930s was where the original design for this fake wall pocket came from. Dark brown glaze. The same wall pocket has been found in a pink color glaze as shown. As with the Hull style fake, there are a couple other color combinations that have surfaced but again, none like the original Roseville decoration.

Right; the origin of the design of this fake wall pocket is also from Roseville Pottery, the Donatello line made in 1915. It is pictured in a two-glaze color decoration example. Also found in a lighter blue glaze color.





This Clock wall pocket is another fake out there. Dimensions are about 7-1/2" long and 5-1/2" wide. Has surfaced in several solid glaze colors. Hard to see McCoy mark in photo right but it is there!



This McCoy fake below is a half Bowl wall piece. It is 9-5/8" wide and 4" in height. A rather poor-quality glaze. Back of the fake Bowl wall piece shows the "McCoy" mark.



Right, we have a photo of a rather large grapes wall pocket. Not many of these have been found so hopefully not many out there! Is is roughly 10 inches across the top to the outer detail of the leaves so indeed large.



Below we have photos of a couple other Fake pieces that are not technically wall pockets but can be wall mounted and have a McCoy on the back.



This McCoy fake is a Cat string holder. It is about five inches tall to give you a perspective of size! Has been found in several solid glaze colors.



And finally, a wall decoration piece. This little Pear wall piece is sold as a set with an Orange and a Peach. The Pear is about 5-1/2" long and 3" wide. All three have similar design styles and carry the "McCoy" mark. Pencil has been added lightly around mark to assist in viewing location and style although still difficult to see in photo of back.



We hope you have found this article of some assistance for those that collect McCoy Wall Pockets. The good news is most are easy to identify once you know they may be Fakes.