

A MCCOY PHEASANT PLANTER LAMP?

By R.U. REAL

As McCoy Collectors know so well, even after decades and thousands of people collecting McCoy Pottery, a year never goes by without some new surprise for all to enjoy!

At first glance at these two photos, it would seem logical that most collectors might initially say something like, "Oh no, someone drilled a hole in a Pheasant Planter to try to make a Lamp out of it!"



So let's take a closer look at some of the detail. We will begin by removing the socket and cord assembly to take a look at the drilled hole in the side. McCoy collectors know that when you get a piece of McCoy with an unexpected hole in it, usually a pot/jard style piece, that if post factory, it will not have any glaze in the hole. If factory, the hole walls should have a similar glaze to the neighboring surfaces.

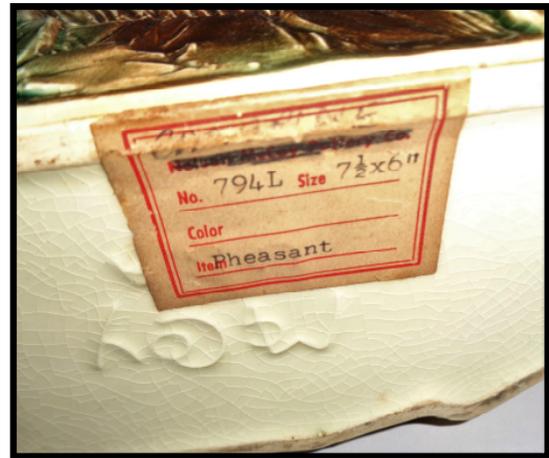


These two photos are from two different angles. Of course, in black & white you can not see the coloring but it seems the surface being glazed might be viewable. We will drop a colored copy of this article on the Society web site so you will be able to see the drilled surface color. So, with the color being of the same family as the adjacent surface, we likely have a winner as a factory piece.



But the story does not end there

When you turn the Lamp to view the bottom, what do we discover but a Nelson McCoy Pottery Company label. These were often used by a McCoy Pottery retailer to keep on an example of a piece so the retailer could easily find the catalog number for ordering or pulling from stock.



So, looking at the detail on the label, the catalog number is designated as No. 794L. If we look below, we have a copy catalog image from the 1959 McCoy catalog page of the Pheasant Planter. Note the catalog number is No. 794 – no “L” ! This is very interesting and telling.



In summary, even though not fact, it would seem that the Company was considering making this Pheasant Planter in some form of a lamp for likely one of their existing contract item customers and it just never got much farther than this sample piece. Or an employee may have made a “lunch time” piece out of an existing production planter. Maybe fair to say that an employee putting a company label on the piece would be unlikely but then the company name has been crossed out. Whatever was written above is very illegible although it does seem to end with an “L” that is underlined!

We'll have to leave the final word to collectors to reach their own best guess at the real scenario but what a wonderful find and more great fun McCoy Pottery has given us once again!

If you look closely at the 1st image of the Lamp, you can see the end of the tail had been broken off at some point. Looking at the image to the right, you can see that the owner of this special Pheasant Lamps loves it enough that he had the tail professionally repaired so to allow the piece to show in all its' original beauty!



