

MCCOY LIGHT

“Something Yellow Caught My Eye”

By Mal Anderson

Yellow is broadly thought of as a beautiful and uplifting color. In fact, it captures our attention more and faster than any other color. Yellow is the most luminous of all the colors of the spectrum. It's the color of happiness, optimism, of enlightenment and creativity, sunshine and spring.

In nature, yellow catches our eyes with glowing sunflowers, beautiful daffodils, bees, canaries, lemons and don't forget egg yolks.

Looking into the human yellow world, we have Sponge Bob, Happy Faces, Post-it Notes, Tour de France Winner's Jerseys, rubber ducks and lemon meringue pies. Yellow signs also alert us to danger or caution. The yellow traffic lights worldwide indicate caution for drivers.

There is also a dark side to yellow as it indicates cowardice, betrayal, egoism and madness along with some things physical such as jaundice, malaria and pestilence.

In the pottery world, yellow pigments are toxic metals like cadmium, lead and chrome along with some other unfriendly chemicals. However, let's look on the bright side of yellow and remember how beautiful and attractive yellow ware is to us.



Nelson McCoy used yellow on a wide variety of pieces from early on in the pottery's history to near and up to the closing years. There was wide interest in yellow ware and McCoy enjoyed a profitable return using yellow on many pieces and lines.

Of course, the lightness or depth of the yellow sometimes is different depending on whether the exact chemical formula was followed. A little less or more of an individual pigment would shade the yellow one way or another. At the end of the day, employees who had their hands dipping in the glaze tubs all shift may add a little water to the mix, therefore changing its compound or its pH factor. They would do this to stretch the glaze so either they or the next employee would have a fresh start during the next shift.



Lamps were no exception and many households sought to liven up their interior decor with an attractive yellow lamp. I have included some examples of yellow lamps in this article for your enjoyment and knowledge.

Over many years, The Nelson McCoy Pottery Company used many different glaze colors however the one that most people liked for its attractiveness was yellow.

Remember to “Keep those McCoy Lamps lit.” Don’t forget to enjoy the ones you have and if you have none, start looking and use one or more to light up your collection. You’ll be glad you did. Stay safe, encourage others to join our Society and have fun hunting!

