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RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY



VOL. 44 #5

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

“Do You Want to Build a Snowman?”

Pottery Museum of
Red Wing News
5

Hudson's Bay
Advertising Jugs
6-7

Red Wing's Salt Glaze
& Transition-Era Mugs
8-11

Red Wing Seed
Bowls
12-13



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FROM THE EDITOR

As RWCS Vice President Russa Robinson shared in the September *RWCS Newsletter*, the December newsletter costs more to mail than the other issues. This is because we send it via 1st Class postage to all members to cut through the increased mail volume during the holidays. Simply shifting the newsletter back a few weeks will allow us to mail it via Standard mail to members who live in the Midwest, which is the bulk of our membership. This will save the RWCS between \$600 and \$800 annually. Therefore, we're implementing a new production schedule for 2020 and 2021. Here's a look at the new newsletter mail dates:

2020: February 15, April 15, June 15, September 1 and November 1

2021: January 6, March 15, May 15, September 1 and November 1

Standard mail provides a good way for the RWCS to save money. In fact, the club has saved more than \$30,000 in postage costs since it started utilizing the service back in 2014. But there is a sacrifice for this cost savings – the speed in which the newsletter is delivered.

According to the USPS, 1st Class mail is typically delivered within 1-4 days. Standard mail typically takes 3-15 days, but there are instances when it can take up to 27 days or more because each postal location gives priority to processing 1st Class mail. We've found that the newsletters mailed via Standard mail usually arrive within 7-10 days. But there are cases in which the newsletter takes much longer to arrive, and that's what happened with our last issue.

Unfortunately many members experienced a substantial delay in receiving the October *RWCS Newsletter*. Printed in Milwaukee, it mailed out on Oct. 17. While members in Southeastern Wisconsin and even Red Wing and the Twin Cities reported receiving their copy in 6 to 8 days, many members in the Midwest didn't receive their copies until Nov. 2. It arrived even later in the Dakotas, Missouri and Nebraska. What caused this delay? Simply put, these newsletters sat in a big pile at some unidentified post office location along the way for at least a week.

This is really frustrating, but it's the sacrifice we have to make to save money and help keep the RWCS afloat. Of the 30 or so issues of the newsletter that have mailed out via Standard mail, we've experienced delays on a large scale only two or three times. That means we've hit that 7-10 day desired delivery window at least 90 percent of the time. So in the grand scheme of things, it's been worth the occasional inconvenience to save the club a nice chunk of cash.

Remember, if you're ever impacted by a postal delay and you're too excited to wait to read your printed copy, we have you covered. You can log onto the Members Only section of the RWCS website on the dates listed above and read the electronic version.



Rick Natynski, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|------|---|-------|--------------------------|
| 3 | News Briefs, About the Cover | 12-13 | Red Wing Seed Bowls |
| 4 | MidWinter Preview | 14 | Classified Ads |
| 5 | Pottery Museum of Red Wing News | 15 | Big Stoneware Auction Ad |
| 6-7 | Hudson's Bay Advertising Jugs | 16 | Letters to the Editor |
| 8-11 | Red Wing's Salt Glaze & Transition Mugs | | |

Primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$35 annually; associate membership is \$15. There must be at least one primary member per household in order to have an associate membership. Members can pay for up to two years when renewing their membership. Contact the RWCS Business Office for additional details.

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NEWS BRIEFS

LAST CALL FOR RWCS BOARD NOMINATIONS

As announced in the October *RWCS Newsletter*, the RWCS is holding elections this spring for Board of Directors President, Secretary and three managerial positions – Auction, Commemorative and Education. Each position carries a term of four years.

As RWCS Vice President, I serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. In that capacity, I am asking any members who have an interest in running for an open position on the Board to please contact me. Nominations and bios of all candidates will be published in the February 2020 *RWCS Newsletter*, so prospective candidates must contact me and submit their bio by mid-January.

Voting will be done electronically. A link to the online RWCS election ballot will be e-mailed to all primary and associate members in good standing as of April 15, 2020. If you don't have an e-mail address on file with the RWCS, you must contact the office to request a paper ballot be mailed to you. If you're unsure if we have your current e-mail address on file, please e-mail Stacy at director@redwingcollectors.org to confirm. The successful candidates will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting to be held at Red Wing's River Bluff School on July 10, 2020. Thank you for your interest. My contact info is on pg. 2 and I look forward to hearing from those of you who are interested in running! -RWCS Vice President Russa Robinson

2020 CONVENTION COUNTDOWN: JULY 9-11

The February *RWCS Newsletter* will contain forms for Convention registration, auction submissions, commemorative orders and more. It's not too early to think about volunteering at Convention; every event needs your help, and no one will be turned away. Contact the office and we'll add you to the volunteer lists!

WATCH 2017-19 EDUCATION SEMINARS ONLINE

Would you like to watch education seminars from past Conventions online, from the comfort of your own home? Log into the RWCS website with your membership number and password and visit "Videos" under the Members Only menu. Is there a seminar prior to 2017 you would like posted? Contact the office and we can try to upload it. The RWCS also has a video/DVD collection of more than 200 past educational presentations that you can borrow for FREE! Contact the office for a complete list and request one today.

HOLDING A ROOM SALE AT MIDWINTER?

The RWCS is promoting MidWinter room sellers on the RWCS website, printed programs and e-mails to members. We will work with the Isle Casino Hotel to ensure that room sellers are placed on the lowest floors depending on room type and availability. We will get the room numbers directly from the hotel prior to publication. If you're a room seller, please contact Ann Klundt directly to ensure that your reservation is coded as a seller and located on the lower floors. She can be reached at 563-441-7115 or ann.kludt@islebettendorf.com.

INTRODUCING NEW RWCS DISPLAY CHAIR TIM BROETZMANN

In October, RWCS Member Tyler Green informed the RWCS Board of Directors that he decided to step down from the position of Convention Display Chair due to a number of unforeseen changes in his life, including moving to the other side of South Dakota. We thank Tyler for his contributions! He would like to continue to volunteer in display and our new display chair would like to mentor him into the position in the future, should Tyler still be interested. Fortunately the search for a replacement was a short one. We're excited to announce that RWCS Member Tim Broetzmann has been appointed to the position! No stranger to the Display Room; Tim has displayed from 2013-2019, winning each category at least once. He submitted the following bio to introduce himself:

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder; however, distance trumps absence. My wife Jo Ellen and I lived in Wisconsin all of our lives until 1991, when we moved to Alabama. In 1992, we joined the RWCS. We returned to Wisconsin for a one-week vacation every June, but could not attend Convention due to my work commitments in July. I retired four times due to caregiving responsibilities that brought us back to Wisconsin for the final time in 2007, when we attended our first Convention. My last full position was as a Michelin Tire Corp. Regional Controller living in South Carolina with financial responsibilities both foreign and domestic.

Continued on pg. 4



ABOUT THE COVER

RWCS Member Liz Jacobson brought a simile to the faces of many RWCS Facebook Chapter members last December when she posted this photo of the snowman she made out of Red Wing stoneware. A lot of people enjoyed it, and several wondered what inspired her to come up with the creative idea.

"I started collecting about a year and half ago," Liz notes. "I had too many pieces scattered on the counter and RWCS Facebook Chapter President David "Yoshi" Hoffman asked people to post photos of their Christmas decorating displays. I started stacking and it just happened by accident. I have a thing for blue."

Liz built the snowman by stacking 5 lb, 2 lb and 1 lb blue butter crocks upside down for the body and white and blue 5 inch milk pans for the head. She completed the table display by using a ribbon for a scarf, pine branches for the arms and pinecones for the hands.

Considering all the different colors and sizes of bowls, butter crocks and other pieces Red Wing made, the possibilities for creating your own stoneware snowman at home are endless. Frosty can be somewhat fragile though, so just make sure you keep him away from cats, dogs, children and high traffic areas. 🍷

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MIDWINTER PREVIEW

Happy Holidays, collectors! MidWinter is Feb.28-March 1 in Bettendorf, IA and we have lots of exciting things going on again! I'm sure everyone is busy with the holiday season upon us, but attending MidWinter makes a great gift! If you have a friend or family member who is into stoneware or pottery, call the office to buy them RWCS membership and MidWinter registration for Christmas. Note, the office will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 1.

If you haven't registered yourself for MidWinter yet, take the time to get signed up. You can also book your spot at the MidWinter Show & Sale; we still have some tables available!

We're running a raffle again at MidWinter this year. Ticket sales will begin at the event on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Prizes include: a THREE-night stay at the Red Wing Holiday Inn for the July Convention, a 5 ft long panoramic print of historic Red Wing and a Red Wing Framing & Fine Art Printing collector-themed shadow box. There may be a few more prizes added to the raffle before MidWinter. The winning tickets will be drawn and announced at the MidWinter General Session starting at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 29. You must be present to win!

All RWCS members registered for MidWinter are invited to attend the Iowa Chapter's Wine & Cheese event Thursday, the Collector Meet-up on Friday night, and educational workshops on Saturday. Read David Hoffman's article below to learn about the education seminars scheduled for MidWinter. All RWCS members registered for MidWinter also receive the reduced lodging rates and included breakfast at the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf, IA.

Are you planning to have a room sale at MidWinter? Contact the office so we can list you on the website and the MidWinter program. We're looking for a few folks to volunteer for registration, set up and tear down. Please contact the office today – no amount of volunteer time will be turned away!

Watch your e-mail and visit the RWCS website to learn more about MidWinter. We look forward to seeing you! And on behalf of the RWCS Board of Directors, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🍷🍷



STACY WEGNER
Executive Director

News Briefs continued from pg. 9

"My interest in antiques started at an early age when I lived with my grandparents. So many things to play with like TV and radio knobs, things that "ticked and tocked" and "binged and bonged." My grandfather's office had a 3 gallon Red Wing salt glazed crock used as a wastebasket. My creative mind converted that crock to candy storage and a basketball hoop. Woe to me when grandpa would empty the wastebasket.



Tim Broetzmann

"I sell in three antique shops close to my home in Rice Lake, WI. My appreciation for antiques lies in the manual effort expended to make an item. To make something with your hands is the ultimate, as everything is unique. When discovering a 'find' at an auction or a relative's house, or during an archeological dig or a trip to the dump, I try to maintain the patina of the item, which is its personality. I am a journey person, as I enjoy the hunt, working on something and determining its value.

"The seed of addiction to Red Wing was planted when we received a Red Wing pineapple marmalade jar as a wedding gift – the artware. When a little girl, my wife remembers the store displays of Bob White plates, cups, and saucers – the dinnerware. A neighbor had a yard sale from which we bought several Red Wing crocks – the stoneware. My sister-in-law says we should join Crocks-A-Holics Anonymous and in a peculiar way we do – we belong to the RWCS and we support the Pottery Museum of Red Wing. We have moved from a house to a condo and downsized our Red Wing collection dramatically. Once a seller, always a buyer.

"I'm passionate about displaying at the RWCS Convention. Those of us who have Red Wing pottery were born to display these items. 'Do not keep your candlelight under a bushel basket.' Being your Display Chair is an honor. Let's do it together. Collecting and displaying Red Wing is like dividing a number in half; we will never get to zero. When you think you've seen it all, something else shows up. And when it does, you must display it!" -RWCS Display Chair Tim Broetzmann 🍷

Season's Greetings, Red Wingers! It's my pleasure to announce the speakers presenting at the 2020 MidWinter GetTogether. Coming off his 2019 induction into the RWCS Hall of Fame with wife Barb, RWCS Hall of Famer Steve Brown will give the keynote presentation: A Reflection of Minnesota Culture: The Red Wing Potteries. Steve really knows his stuff, so it'll be great!

RWCS Hall of Famer Dennis Nygaard will give an educational presentation on "Whiteware, Bricks and Broken Banks" – a review of his recent digging efforts, info about Red Wing's use of white clay in their stoneware production, and his 2019 venture into the sewer pipe dump that unearthed more than 50 different manufactured fire bricks among other fun sewer pipe finds. He'll also retell the story of finding the Dime Savings Bank for the 1893 World's Fair.

Longtime RWCS Member Laura Beall will present "How to Set Up a Stellar Display at Convention". As past display room chairperson, she'll walk attendees through the process of picking an interesting theme, packing your items and how to artfully present your display for maximum effect. She'll also cover the Display Room rules. If you've always wanted to display at Convention, Laura's tips and experiences will surely help you create a wonderful display.

Finally, RWCS Hall of Famers Terry Moe and Larry Roschen will present Red Wing's Village Green Line. The Society's foremost experts in Red Wing dinnerware, they first presented a seminar on Village Green in 2007. This seminar will revisit all the patterns in the line along with additional photos and information discovered since then. Village Wheat, the Provincial bakeware set and items produced for Ernest Sohn will be covered, as well. This seminar will be presented over two sessions, each with different content. As a side note, a big thanks to the Gopher Chapter, which donated \$300 to sponsor the 2020 MidWinter Education Program. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Bettendorf! 🍷

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DAVID HOFFMAN
Interim Education Manager

POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING NEWS



Story and Photos by Char Henn, Pottery Museum of Red Wing Director

Thank you! It's Thanksgiving Week as I write this and we are feeling even more grateful for – and to – you. Give to the Max 2019 has been successful. As of today, we have received \$35,033 from supporters like you. Your support is vital to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing and we appreciate each and every one of you – THANK YOU! Donations are still coming in from Give to the Max Day. If you'd like to make a gift, please visit www.potterymuseumredwing.org/donate or call me at 651-327-2220.

It is hard to believe that another year is quickly drawing to a close. Looking back, we have been very busy in what has been a banner year. We have welcomed more than 46,000 visitors and 54 tours. Our rental space has been used 67 times – for trainings, celebrations of life, meetings, a baptism and other life celebration parties. We have added television to our résumé, too. Steve Ketcham and I were on a local news segment, *Finding Minnesota*, to discuss the saloon exhibit and Prohibition. Steve Brown was on *Almanac* to talk about C.L. McGrew and pottery cemetery markers. My story, discussing a gangster murder just outside of Red Wing during Prohibition, will air on *Almanac* in the coming months.

Of course, Museum Manager Nancy Featherstone and I don't do this alone. We are grateful for the numerous dedicated volunteers who give tours, operate the gift shop, work with gifts and collections items, perform yardwork and building maintenance, serve on committees, and do so much more. We appreciate all of you for giving your time and talents to the museum.

While visitation slows a bit during the winter, we will stay busy. Nancy is preparing for the return of the tourist season. I am finishing work on charitable solicitation compliance and discussing plans for rearranging the storeroom (which can only be done with the help of several good volunteers). 2020 marks the centennial of the beginning of Prohibition, and we plan to mark the occasion in several ways.

As 2019 ends and we plan for 2020, we look forward to seeing you at the museum. And, just in case we have overlooked this, THANK YOU! You make the Pottery Museum of Red Wing possible. 🍁



Above: The Pottery Museum of Red Wing Gift Shop is looking sharp for the holidays!
Below: RWCS Members and museum volunteers Wayne Miller (left) and Steve Wipperling working hard on fall cleanup.



Below: One of the many tours that came through the museum in early fall. At left: Potters Hall decked out for a baptismal party.



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Above: Red Wing made jugs for the Hudson's Bay Co. with three different advertising stamps. The standard black coat of arms (at left) was referred to as "Stamp #740" in the Red Wing Potteries Ledger and is found most often. The blue coat of arms (center) has "Lethbridge, Alta" in the lower banner. Although unconfirmed, it's likely that Red Wing assigned a different number for this stamp. The black Nelson, B.C. stamp (at right) appeared both on brown-top jugs and all-white versions.

Hudson's Bay Co. Advertising Jugs

Story by Rick Natynski, RWCS Newsletter Editor

Below: According to the Red Wing Potteries Ledger, Red Wing made at least 174 3 gallon HBC jugs. It's unknown how many were stamped with a wing. This example is obviously really tough to find.



There are a number of really cool stamps to look for when collecting Red Wing jugs with Canadian advertising. But one in particular, the Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) coat of arms, has perhaps the widest appeal to antique collectors across the board. Not only is it an attractive ad, but as the oldest company in North America, nothing is as deeply rooted in Canada's history as HBC.

As indicated in the *Red Wing Potteries Ledger*, Red Wing made more than 5,000 advertising jugs for Hudson's Bay – and that doesn't include the jugs that were ordered either before or after this ledger was used. That said, they aren't particularly easy to find because collectors tend to hang on to them. Much like a 20 gallon salt glaze butterfly crock, they aren't necessarily rare, but they are quite desirable. Here's a look at the HBC orders recorded in the *Ledger*.

Stamp #740 – the HBC Coat of Arms

Twelve orders for Hudson's Bay Co. advertising jugs appear in the *Red Wing Potteries Ledger* between March 14, 1911 and Feb. 25, 1914. While three different HBC advertising stamps were put on Red Wing jugs, all but one of the orders in the *Ledger* were made with the standard HBC coat of arms. Red Wing identified this as "Stamp #740".

A total of 5,205 of these jugs were ordered (2145 ½ gal, 2550 1 gal, 235 2 gal, 199 3 gal and 76 5 gal). Most of the entries didn't mention the branch that placed the order, but Winnipeg, Calgary and Lethbridge, AB were each listed once. While Red Wing also made jugs with a blue HBC coat of arms specifically for the Lethbridge branch (pictured above center), that most likely would have been assigned a different stamp number. If that's the case, an order for that particular jug didn't appear in the *Ledger*.

Below left: A Hudson's Bay trading post in Ft. St. John, B.C., circa 1903-1906 (Glenbow Archives). Below right: Members of the US Army Corps of Engineers in front of a Hudson's Bay post in Lower Post, B.C. in 1942 (NARA Bureau of Roads).





Above: The Hudson's Bay Co. also commissioned Canadian potteries to make jugs, crocks and other stoneware items for them. These three jugs could easily be mistaken for Red Wing products, but they were likely made by Medalta Pottery in Medicine Hat, AB. The jug on the right with the blue HBC coat of arms says "Incorporated 1670" in the banner, unlike the Red Wing version on the opposite page that has "Lethbridge, Alta" in the banner.

Stamp #662 – Nelson, B.C.

Only one order for the Nelson, B.C. jugs appears in the *Ledger*. 72 ½ gal jugs and 72 1 gal jugs were ordered on Sept. 18, 1912. We know at least one more order was placed though, because brown- and white-top versions were made.



About the Hudson's Bay Co.

After two French traders discovered a wealth of fur in the interior of North America accessible through the inland sea of Hudson Bay, an English Royal Charter granted exclusive trading rights of the Hudson Bay watershed to "the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson Bay" on May 2, 1670. It was confined to a few forts and posts around the shores of the James and Hudson bays in its first century. Trappers annually brought furs to barter for manufactured goods like knives, kettles, beads, needles and blankets. By the late 18th century, competition forced HBC to expand into the interior of the continent. A string of posts grew along the river networks of the west, foreshadowing the modern cities that would follow, like Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton.

The fur trade became less important by the end of the 19th century due to new fashion trends. But Western settlement and the Gold Rush led to more customers shopping with cash, so the company shifted to retail and transformed trading posts into shops stocked with a wide variety of goods.

In 1912, HBC began an aggressive modernization program, resulting in the "original six" HBC department stores: Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. Later retailers in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa were acquired. A thriving wholesale business featuring liquor, canned salmon, coffee, tea and tobacco supplemented fur and retail pursuits. Large holdings of land took the company into real estate. The sale of homesteads evolved into a full-scale interest in commercial development. Shipping and natural resources like oil and gas were also pursued.

A downturn in the 1980s caused the company to sell off non-retail assets such as the fur trade, wholesale and ventures in gas and oil. Still, HBC remained one of Canada's largest firms at the beginning of the 21st century; it operates multiple businesses in North America, including the Hudson's Bay and Saks Fifth Avenue chains. But growing competition from online retailers has led shares to drop by 60 percent in the past five years, and shareholders are currently considering a buyout. Surely HBC will survive this new challenge in some form, but exactly what that is remains to be seen.

Below left: The Hudson's Bay department store in downtown Winnipeg in 1972 (Manitoba Historical Society) and downtown Vancouver's Hudson's Bay department store as it looks today (TheBay.com). Visit www.hbcheritage.ca for a lot more HBC history.



Quintessentially Canadian

With its iconic Point Blankets and multi-striped products, the authenticity and recognition of the Hudson's Bay brand is something few other retailers can replicate. Shown in the background, the multi stripe has been in production since 1800. It is the most popular color of all the HBC Point Blankets, past or present. Over time it has become the product most identified with HBC, and by extension, Canada as a whole.

RED WING'S SALT GLAZE & TRANSITION-ERA MUGS

Story by Rick Natynski, RWCS Newsletter Editor, with contributions from RWCS Member Chris Osterholz

There certainly isn't a shortage of items to acquire if you collect Red Wing mugs. Red Wing's potteries began turning out mugs in its early salt glaze days and production reached all the way into the 1960s with various dinnerware patterns. Considering all the shapes and sizes that the Potteries produced, a person could limit their collection to Red Wing mugs and still easily have a couple hundred different pieces when taking into account all the different stoneware advertising mugs that were made into the early 1930s.

What is it about these handled drinking vessels that make them so popular with collectors? As any coffee drinker can attest, mugs are a fairly personal item. Of all Red Wing's wares, mugs are one of the few that a person could carry around all morning without having their sanity questioned. And although a lot of beer drinkers chug straight from the bottle or can, there's nothing like a cold frothy brew in a stoneware mug.

This pictorial focuses on Red Wing's earliest mugs – the salt glazed versions and their transition-era, zinc-glazed counterparts. We'll delve into different lines of Red Wing mugs in future issues of the *RWCS Newsletter*.



Despite appearing on page 20 of the 1894 Illustrated Catalogue of The Red Stoneware Company, the above illustration really isn't a true depiction of what the Red Wing mugs looked like. Aside from the sidewall-stamped "Red Wing Stoneware Company" signatures, which didn't carry over to production, these drawings appear to be based off the mugs made by Whites Utica Pottery of New York (examples pictured on pg. 11).

Although the basic barrel and straight-sided shapes are reflected in Red Wing's salt glaze and zinc transition mugs pictured below, note that they don't have incised double blue bands flanking the decorative coggle wheel banding. They have only one stripe on the top and bottom of the mug, which aren't incised. Red Wing's cogging isn't as well-defined as the illustration suggests, either. And finally, the handle on Red Wing's barrel-shaped mug usually isn't as decorative as the one in the drawing.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.

This barrel-shaped mug made by the Red Wing Stoneware Co. is the 2nd largest of the salt glaze and transition-era mugs. It measures 4 ¾ inches tall and holds 14 oz.



Of the five different styles featured in this pictorial, the straight-sided Red Wing Stoneware Co. mug is probably found most often. It's 4 ½ inches tall and holds 10 oz.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.



WHAT MAKES IT RED WING?

Identifying Red Wing salt glaze mugs out in the wild can be tricky for beginning collectors. Reason being, a lot of potteries made similar-looking blue-banded salt glaze mugs in various shapes and sizes back in the late 1800s. Many of these were mass-produced in the Eastern U.S. and can often be found in antique malls across the country priced in the \$20 to \$50 range.

Red Wing's salt glaze mugs are fairly scarce, however, which is why they're so coveted by collectors.

The Red Wing Potteries turned out four standard production salt glaze mugs along with a rare fifth version. Three are attributed to the Red Wing Stoneware Co. and two were made by the Minnesota Stoneware Co. (To date, no mugs have been attributed to the North Star Stoneware Co.) The four standard production styles continued into the transition era, as identical shapes were also made in zinc glaze – just like the Potteries did with its spittoons and Success Filters. Examples of each mug are included in this pictorial.

But keep in mind that since these mugs were handmade, different variations also exist. While the basic shapes and sizes remain the same, Red Wing's potters occasionally took some artistic license in the decorative banding. Several of these variants are also included in this pictorial, along with a special 'Lunch Hour' piece. Finally, examples of non-Red Wing mugs are pictured on page 11 to show how close some look to Red Wing.

Although the mugs illustrated in the 1894 *Illustrated Catalogue of The Red Stoneware Company* indicate otherwise, neither of Red Wing's potteries signed its mugs. In fact, their bottoms are completely free of any markings, which in itself is a factor to consider when identifying a mug as Red Wing. Often those \$20 to \$50 non-Red Wing mugs mentioned earlier are found with a number, name or symbol stamped into the bottom.

Continued on pg. 10

At left: Three straight-sided transition-era zinc glaze mugs. The mug on the left is Red Wing Stoneware's standard production piece, and the mug positioned in the center is Minnesota Stoneware's standard version with advertising. It's the only style of transition-era mug known to carry an ad. At least a half-dozen of these Excelsior Springs advertising mugs are known to exist, but more were likely made.

The mug on the right is a hybrid variant of these two standard production shapes. The shape and squared-off handle are Red Wing characteristics, but it lacks decorative coggling and has a concave bottom like the Minnesota Stoneware version. The single cobalt stripes are incised. Which of Red Wing's potteries made it? That's a good question, but it was definitely one of them.



The salt glaze mug pictured above left was made by the Minnesota Stoneware Company. The telltale factor is the decorative coggle wheel banding, which is identical to the coggling that was applied to the rim of the top jar of the Minnesota Stoneware filters (zinc filter coggling shown at right). Its concave bottom is pictured below. Note that unlike each of the other Red Wing salt glaze mugs, this one typically didn't come with an Albany slip interior. It has incised cobalt bands though, and a C-shaped handle. It measures about 4 ½ inches tall and holds 12 oz. Minnesota Stoneware continued to produce this style of mug after converting to zinc glaze, but dropped the decorative coggling.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.

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Continued from pg. 9

Evidenced by the ridges felt inside these mugs, all of them were hand-turned. The three Red Wing Stoneware Co. versions have a raised base, while the straight-sided Minnesota Stoneware Co. mug has a concave bottom. The large tankard attributed to Minnesota Stoneware at right has a flat bottom.

The salt glaze mugs made in Red Wing tend to have a nice glossy, orange-peel glaze, whereas the mugs made by other potteries often have more of a smooth finish.

Some mugs made by other potteries are found with a small hole on top of the handle to secure a tin flip lid used to keep bugs from flying into the beer. These were especially popular on German steins and tankards, but Red Wing didn't incorporate them on their standard production salt glaze mugs. Red Wing didn't apply cobalt on the handles of their standard production mugs, either.

The exact date that Red Wing's potteries discontinued production of these mugs in favor of its more commonly seen molded zinc glaze mugs with double blue bands is unclear. The first order for advertising mugs in this style appeared in the *Red Wing Potteries Ledger* on Aug. 27, 1906, but it's likely that they were introduced earlier since the first order placed in the *Ledger* was recorded only a couple of months earlier.

While this sums up Red Wing's standard production salt glaze and transition-era zinc glaze mugs, it's certainly possible that other limited production run pieces or one-offs exist. It's also likely that there are personalized 'Lunch Hour' mugs nestled away in collections that Red Wing potters made for personal use or a friend or family member. The "BM" 'Lunch Hour' piece on the opposite page is a perfect example.



4
Attributed to the Minnesota Stoneware Co., these large barrel-shaped tankards are behemoths. They measure 7 ¼ inches tall and hold a whopping 80 oz. or 2 ½ quarts, which is more than 5 times the size of the smaller Red Wing Stoneware barrel mug. That's a lot of beer! The cobalt blue bands are incised and the bottoms are flat. This is probably the hardest to find style of the four standard production salt glaze mugs.



5
It would be a stretch to refer to this rare fifth version as a standard production Red Wing mug. Longtime RWCS Member Chris Osterholz knows of only one other like it. The smallest of the salt glaze mugs in this pictorial, this Red Wing Stoneware Co. piece measures 3 ¾ inches tall and holds 6 oz. Note the circular coggle wheel banding, which was used on the Red Wing Stoneware Company's German spittoon (above right). It has incised cobalt stripes and it's the only mug in this pictorial that has cobalt on the handle. No transition-era zinc glaze versions are known to exist. At right, it's pictured next to a standard Red Wing Stoneware 4 ¾-inch barrel mug for perspective. (Mug photos courtesy of Chris Osterholz.)

10

RED WING VARIANTS



Since these early Red Wing mugs were made by hand, don't be surprised if you run into slightly different variants from time-to-time. For example, the cobalt stripes on the Red Wing Stoneware Co. straight-sided mugs above and barrel-shaped mugs below were usually applied inside the decorative coggle-wheel bands. But as the photos show, they can be found applied outside the bands, as well.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.



Above: Note how the handles were attached on different spots on the two large barrel-shaped zinc glaze tankards. Below: Pictured next to its standard production counterpart, the 14 oz. Red Wing Stoneware Co. barrel-shaped mug at right was made with incised double blue bands and no decorative cogging, so it looks like a smaller version of the Minnesota Stoneware tankard above. These differences make collecting fun and add further distinction to a collection.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.

RED WING 'LUNCH HOUR'



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.



Photo courtesy of RWCS Member Chris Osterholz.

This barrel-shaped Red Wing salt glaze 'Lunch Hour' tankard personalized with the initials "BM" is an odd size. Standing 6 inches tall, it holds 26 oz., has an Albany slip interior and incised bands, and was made without a handle. Chris provided these photos in memory of his dad, Marv Osterholz, who bought this unique piece from RWCS Charter Member Jewell Peterson's auction many years ago. A paper tag came with it that says it was "Brought home to Ruth Redker from her brother, Ernie, who was treasurer at the Pottery."

SIMILAR MUGS MADE BY OTHER POTTERIES



The mugs pictured above are dead ringers for the illustrations that Red Wing Stoneware pictured in its 1894 catalog below, but they're in fact attributed to Whites Utica of New



York. The barrel is stamped "No. 21" on the bottom, while the straight-sided mug has a hole on the handle and a "7" stamped on the bottom. It appears Red Wing also used an illustration of a Whites Utica spittoon in its 1894 catalog (below). Close examination shows a Greek key design in the decorative cogging. The NY pottery had this pattern on its spittoons, but Red Wing did not.

Although it has some Red Wing characteristics, the zinc glaze mug at right is bottom-signed by Peoria Pottery.



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RED WING'S SEED BOWLS

Story by Rick Natynski, RWCS Newsletter Editor

Stoneware collectors obviously have a lot to choose from when it comes to building a collection. But if you gravitate to the more primitive, utilitarian wares that were intended to be more useful than they were decorative, Red Wing's large, hand-turned seed bowls are a must-have.

A small population of collectors was long confident that these hefty, no-frill bowls were Red Wing products due to the shape, clay and glaze (or lack thereof in the case of the bisque version). However, there wasn't any actual proof that Red Wing made them until RWCS Hall of Famers David & Bonnie Hutchson donated the *Red Wing Potteries Ledger* to the RWCS Foundation in 2006. The special orders recorded in this book between 1906 and 1911 provided the documentation needed, and suddenly the bowls became a lot more desirable. As one might expect, the salt glaze version is generally the most-demanded by collectors, followed by the zinc glaze and all-bisque versions.

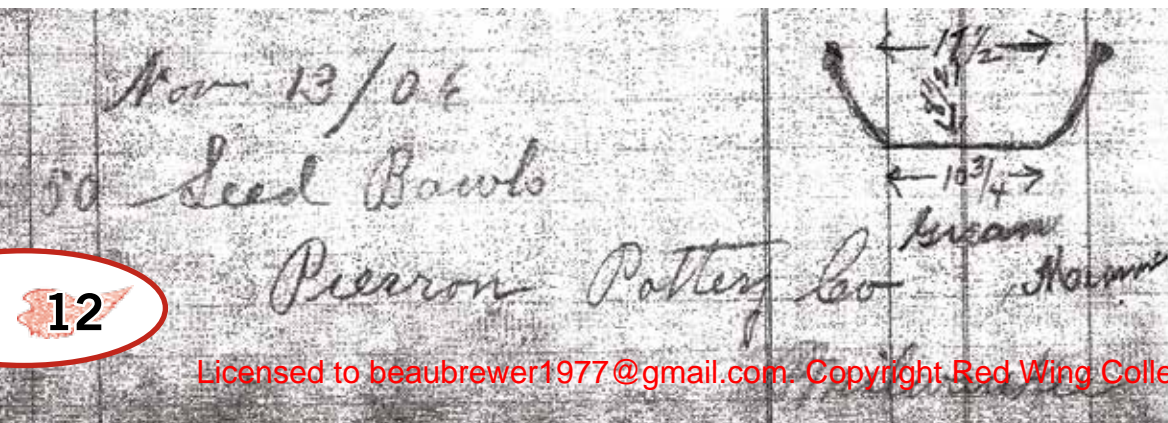
Red Wing started producing seed bowls during its salt glaze era, but the first documentation came on June 25, 1906 when the C.A. Gamm Drug Store in Watertown, WI placed an order for two dozen bowls. In total, four orders for 124 cumulative seed bowls appear in the *Ledger* – two of which were placed by Milwaukee's Pierron Pottery Co., which ordered large quantities of stoneware from Red Wing before closing in 1935. They were also likely the source of a third order in the *Ledger* that lacked a business name, but had Milwaukee as the destination.

Since it was once referred to as the "Wis. Shape" in the *Ledger*, it's believed that this special order bowl was requested exclusively by Wisconsin businesses. This theory holds up where they've turned up in the wild, as I've spoken with several collectors who shared that they found their seed bowls in the Dairy State. I've personally owned six of them over the years – four of which I purchased in Wisconsin at antique shops, shows or flea markets, and two I acquired from collectors who found them in Wisconsin themselves.

The sketch that accompanies the order below placed on Nov. 13, 1906 shows the "Green Measure" of the seed bowl was to be 17 1/2 inches wide at the top, 10 3/4 inches wide at the base and 8 1/2 inches deep. Green measure refers to the size of the bowl before it was fired in the kiln and the clay shrank in size by 8 to 12 percent. I've found the finished dimensions vary from bowl to bowl, but thanks to Red Wing's skilled potters, most seed bowls generally have the same shape, despite being turned by hand. However, some footed versions were made in zinc glaze (center of opposite page), and at 11 inches, the bisque version sitting next to a mini jug below is significantly taller than others.



This zinc glaze Red Wing seed bowl measures 15" wide at the top, 9 1/4" wide at the base and 7 1/2" tall.





Salt glaze seed bowl photos courtesy of RWGS Member Scott Spominato



Above: This particular salt glaze seed bowl measures 13" across the top and stands 7 1/2" tall. A wider example with a diameter of 16" also exists.

Above: "Simple, yet still attractive" best describes this all-bisque Red Wing seed bowl. It measures 13 1/2" inches wide at the top and 7 inches tall.



Photo courtesy of RWGS Members Jeff & Paulette Floyd



Above: A footed Red Wing zinc glaze seed bowl.



THE PURPOSE OF A SEED BOWL

Soaking seeds before planting is an old-time trick that gardeners employ to speed up germination. Boosting moisture content around seeds breaks down their natural defenses, signaling to the seed that it is safe to begin growing. As a result, gardens can start bearing fruits and vegetables in a shorter amount of time.

The process can vary depending on whom you

talk to, but the basic concept is to expose the seeds to moisture and warmth. When using a seed bowl, gardeners would fill it with hot water and soak their seeds for 12 to 24 hours. The interior usually has pronounced ridges and was left unglazed (aka "bisque") so that once the water was removed, the seeds would stick along the sides of the bowl, exposing them to air to discourage mold from developing. If the interior was coated with Albany slip or zinc glaze, the seeds would have slid down and piled in the bottom of the bowl.

Some gardeners would choose to plant the seeds at this point, while others might take it a step further and wait until the seeds begin to sprout. This would virtually eliminate the risk of planting non-viable seeds, as you can tell right away which seeds are alive and which seeds should be discarded. So in addition to saving time, pre-germinating seeds can help reduce gaps in your garden and increase production. Whether you're growing in a greenhouse or a garden, pre-sprouting can shorten the growing window by days or even weeks.

These days, gardeners use different methods to pre-germinate their seeds, like gently wrapping them in damp paper towels or immersing them in a cornstarch and water gel until they sprout. According to Rimol Greenhouse Systems*, crops that are well-suited for pre-sprouting are cucumbers, tomatoes, peas, carrots, corn, parsley, pepper, eggplant, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and beet root. While beans can be pre-sprouted, it's better to just plant them because germinating beans can crack easily. 🐾

* www.rimolgreenhouses.com/blog/pre-sprouting-seeds-101

AD RATES

Classified ads are 20¢ per word for members and 30¢ per word for non-members; \$4 minimum charge and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to appearing in the newsletter, classifieds and display ads are posted on the RWCS website.

Ads are divided into the following sections: Red Wing For Sale, Red Wing Wanted, Other Pottery For Sale, Other Pottery Wanted, Events, Auctions, Clubs & Publications and Websites, Announcements and Services. You will not be charged for these words, but please indicate which section your ad should be placed in. If ad is to run in more than one issue, please indicate at time of placement. (Note: the small number at the end of an ad tells when the ad expires, e.g., 12/19.) Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission.

DISPLAY ADS

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1/4 page	150
1/8 page	85

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DISPLAY AD DIMENSIONS

Full Page	8 x 10.5
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1/4 page	4 x 5.25
1/8 page	4 x 2.125

Display ads are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The publisher reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason.

Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or PDF file. If you are unsure about acceptability, inquire with the editor. There is an additional 10 percent fee for design and makeup if needed (\$10 minimum).

DEADLINES

Issue	Ads	Editorial	Mail Date
February	Jan. 10	Jan. 1	Feb. 15
April	March 10	March 1	April 15
June	May 10	May 1	June 15
September	July 25	July 15	Aug. 31
November	Oct. 1	Oct. 1	Nov. 1

EDITOR ADDRESS

Make checks payable to RWCS and mail with ads:

Rick Natynski, RWCS
PO Box 198
Pewaukee, WI 53072

You can also submit ads by e-mail. Send to newsletter@redwingcollectors.org and send checks separately. Or, call Rick at 414-416-WING (9464).

CLASSIFIEDS

RED WING FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 5 gal Red Wing salt glaze churn w/ cobalt leaf, several RWCS Commemoratives from 1987-2017 and 4 gal Western Stoneware maple leaf churn. Pick up in Plymouth, MN. Call 701-238-6626.

FOR SALE: 9 RW Patio line supper trays & cups - 3 Ming Green, 3 Chartreuse, 3 Mulberry (missing one cup) and 3 Copper Glow. Mint except for chip on 1 green plate. Also Copper Glow Quartette sugar & creamer and metallic brown Concord beverage server without lid. Pickup in St. Cloud. Call Margie at 320-266-1093. (12/19)

FOR SALE: 50-year collection of Village Green & Oomph dinnerware. 70+ pieces in excellent condition including mixing bowls, pitchers, casseroles, divided dishes, teapots, coffee server, mugs, water cooler, meat roaster, bean pot, gravy boat w/underplate, butter dish, salt & pepper and several restaurant pieces. Pick up in Stillwater, MN. Contact bevj@paulbunyan.net or 612-202-9210 for photos/price.

RED WING WANTED

WANTED: Still, and always looking for jugs and crocks with Montana advertising. Working hard to improve my collection. Contact Aaron at adbliss@3riversdbs.net or 406-788-7851.

WANTED: Ash receivers, rooster vases and any other animals. Call or text 907-947-1765.

WANTED: Will pay strong price for RW bean pot with Westby, Wis. advertising. Contact Rich at repatlargeeast@redwingcollectors.org or 608-617-7424.

WANTED: Bob White 4¾" true coffee mug. Contact Rob at rkuklasr@hotmail.com or 920-222-1363.

WANTED: 2 and 3 gallon Elephant Ear Ice Water coolers and any other 2 gallon Ice Water. Call or text 907-252-6799.

WANTED: Montana born & raised – looking for Montana advertising jugs & crocks. Call or text 406-945-0434.

WANTED: Mini & salesman sample flower pots in any colors. Contact cobe142@cox.net or 402-598-1315.

WANTED: Seeking quality jugs & crocks with North Dakota advertising. Butter crocks & churns, too. The more rare the better! Will pay top \$\$ for the right pieces. Contact 701-270-0242 or beehive@polarcomm.com.

WANTED: Red Wing advertising bean pots from Shamokin, PA & Frazer, MT. Also mint #687 Blue Chromoline vase. Contact Rick at 414-416-WING or newsletter@redwingcollectors.org.

RWCS MIDWINTER AUCTION

4:30 PM – SATURDAY, FEB. 29, 2020
Isle Casino Hotel, 1800 Isle Pkwy, Bettendorf, IA

ZINC WING CROCKS: 30, 25, 20, 15, 12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 GAL; SALT GLAZE CROCKS: 4, 3, 2, 1 GAL; BIRCHLEAF CROCKS: 15, 5, 4, 3, 2 GAL; CHURNS: 5, 4, 3, 2 GAL; WATER COOLERS: 6 & 3 GAL; KOREC FEEDERS; #5 KOVERWATE; 3 GAL PACKING JAR; ASS'T OF ART POTTERY; BRUSHED WARE VASES; ROUND UP: WATER COOLER, TEAPOT W/STAND, SALAD BOWL, WATER JUG, BEVERAGE SERVER; ASS'T COOKIE JARS, BUTTER JARS, SPONGEBAND CASSEROLES, BEAN POTS W/ADVERTISING, BOWLS AND PITCHERS. HEARTHSIDE DINNERWARE; (3) KASHMIR PLATES; RWCS COMMEMORATIVES, PLUS MUCH MORE.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START COLLECTING

As new collectors of Red Wing and having joined the RWCS in April of 2019, we thought you and fellow collectors would enjoy a couple pictures of our favorite pieces. Mine is the Red Wing Christmas Tree Stand and my husband John's is the 60 gallon Red Wing crock. I'm leaving the Christmas Tree Stand out year-round, placing it in our sewing room on a 30 gallon crock.

Several of the ornaments on the tree are keepsakes from childhood and the crochet snowflakes were made by a great aunt.

We attended our first Convention in July and had a wonderful time, coming home with several Red Wing treasures! We're both retired

and enjoy traveling and collecting Red Wing. -RWCS Members Donna & John Phillips



WAS EVERY #159 VASE DIFFERENT?

Differences between the scenes on these #159 vases show they were hand-drawn.

Perhaps I'm the last one to think about this, but I recently wondered if the Egyptian vase designs were already placed into the mold, or if they were unique. So I compared my vase with one that was listed on eBay and the answer is clear. -RWCS Member Jerry Aronberg

Editor's Note: Good catch, Jerry! Also called the "Grecian" vase, Red Wing made this #159 shape in three sizes from 1929 to 1932 – 9, 12 and 15 inches. It appears that they used the same "sgraffito" process that RWCS Hall of Famer Ron Linde wrote about in the December 2010 RWCS Newsletter. Here's an excerpt from that article:

"Carving on pottery and scratching in designs has been known for centuries in many cultures. While ancient Chinese and Greek cultures used carved designs, the Italians popularized sgraffito in the 1200s and hence the Italian name derived from the Italian word for 'scratching'."

Ron then discussed how prolific designer Charles Murphy used the process for Red Wing's Sgraffito Line in 1955, more than 20 years after the Potteries made the #159 vase.

"After initial glazing was done, each pot had to be carefully hand-carved before a first firing. Then a clear glaze firing followed. Murphy commented that the process of producing the Sgraffito Line with the hand painting and carving was labor intensive and costly. These factors certainly played a major role in the limited one-year production from 1955-56."

When you closely inspect the scenes, using the sgraffito process on the #159 vase had to take even more time considering it required a bit more artistry than simple shapes and squiggles.

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