

Collecting the Legacy

***Red Wing Collectors Society
Commemoratives 1977–1997***



**THE FIRST RED WING
COLLECTORS SOCIETY
COMMEMORATIVE AS IT
CAME OUT OF THE KILN.
UNLOADING THE KILN
ARE POTTERS BOB
BRODDERSON AND DAVE
KENYON OF SPRING
VALLEY, WISCONSIN**

Collecting the Legacy

***Red Wing Collectors Society
Commemoratives 1977-1997***

© 1997 Red Wing Collectors Society
PO Box 50, Red Wing, MN 55066 / 1-800-977-RWCS
All Rights Reserved

Text
Larry Roschen

Commemorative & Memorabilia Photography
Ron Zoromski

Editorial, Design & Production
Ekeby Publishing & Production Services

Thanks to the following individuals for sharing their collections as well as their recollections.

Wayne and Sue Chapman	Peter Jackson	Barney Olson II
Jewell Peterson	Dave Newkirk	Gerald Schleich
Tom and Carol Swoboda		

Contents

Foreword <i>Barney Olson II</i>	<i>v</i>
Introduction <i>Larry Roschen</i>	<i>vi</i>
Red Wing Collectors Society Convention	
Commemoratives	<i>1</i>
1977 <i>Salt-Glazed Crock</i>	<i>2</i>
1978 <i>Common Jug</i>	<i>6</i>
1979 <i>Butter Churn</i>	<i>9</i>
1980 <i>Spongeware Bowl</i>	<i>11</i>
1981 <i>Brown-top Shoulder Jug</i>	<i>13</i>
1982 <i>Cherryband Mug</i>	<i>15</i>
1983 <i>Stone Mason Fruit Jar</i>	<i>18</i>
1984 <i>"Salt-Glazed" Cooler</i>	<i>21</i>
1985 <i>Ice Water Cooler</i>	<i>23</i>
1986 <i>Acid Proof Measure Pitcher</i>	<i>25</i>
1987 <i>Red Wing Anniversary Ash Tray</i>	<i>27</i>
1988 <i>Pompeii Plate</i>	<i>30</i>
1989 <i>Gray Line Pitcher</i>	<i>32</i>
1990 <i>Fancy Jug</i>	<i>34</i>
1991 <i>Pantry Jar</i>	<i>37</i>
1992 <i>North Star Shoulder Jug</i>	<i>40</i>
1993 <i>Chicken Fount</i>	<i>42</i>
1994 <i>20-lb Butter Crock</i>	<i>45</i>
1995 <i>Giraffe Planter</i>	<i>48</i>
1996 <i>Gray Line Cookie Jar</i>	<i>51</i>
1997 <i>Salt-Glazed Crock</i>	<i>54</i>
RWCS Chapters	<i>57</i>
Representative Paper Tags	<i>58</i>
Commemorative Statistics	<i>61</i>
Commemorative Auction Prices	<i>63</i>
Charter Members	<i>65</i>
Officers and Committee Chairs	<i>66</i>
Display Awards	<i>69</i>
Reminiscence <i>Peter Wakefield Jackson</i>	<i>72</i>



100 North Main Street



Foreword

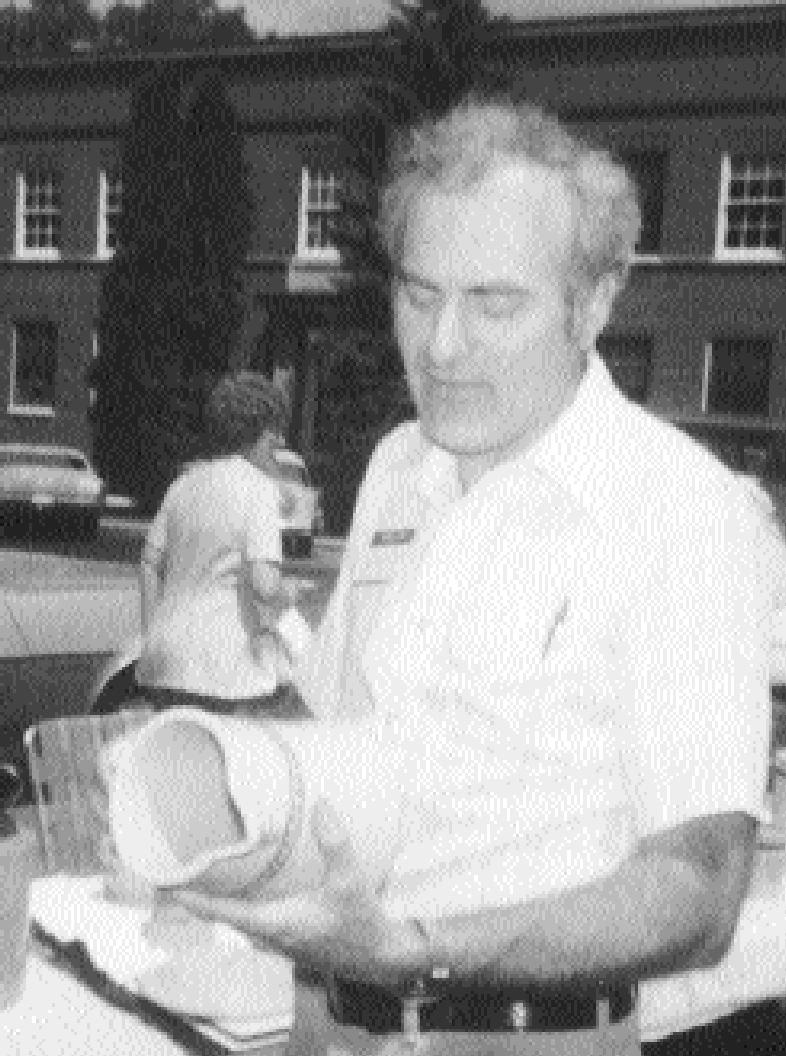
To help celebrate our 20th anniversary, this booklet has been prepared to document all of the commemoratives that the Red Wing Collectors Society has produced. The commemoratives are reflective of significant types of products produced years and years ago by the Red Wing Stoneware Company, the Minnesota Stoneware Company, the North Star Stoneware Company, and the Red Wing Potteries. I hope you will enjoy this compilation of the history of the Society and its commemoratives.

The Society has grown significantly from a very small group of

collectors into an extremely large, nationwide (even international) organization. As we move into our 21st year we are undergoing numerous changes. The size of the Society has required a search for an office and a business manager. And we now have an 800 telephone number (1-800-977-RWCS)

As we approach the new millenium, the RWCS continues to be a strong—if not the strongest—collectors group in the country. I hope you all take as much pride in your membership as I do.

BARNEY OLSON II, *President*



LYNDON VIEL AT THE FIRST RWCS
CONVENTION IN 1977.

Introduction

The growth of the Red Wing Collectors Society from the 1977 informal gathering of friends and acquaintances to the large, complex organization of today can only be described as phenomenal, and this 20th anniversary of that first meeting is an appropriate time to reflect on our extraordinary past. For long-time RWCS members, this book may rekindle fond memories. Or, if you've only recently joined, here is an opportunity to learn about the organization and perhaps gain an appreciation of its history.

According to our by-laws, we are

dedicated to the collection and preservation of Red Wing and other American stoneware and pottery. Our goals are to research the history of pottery in America, to share that information, to establish a network of collectors, to bring collectors together at an annual Convention, and to encourage the buying, selling and trading of stoneware and pottery.

It is ironic that an organization created to honor these old items also places such importance and value on replicas made “in the Red Wing style.” The Rev. Lyndon Viel, author of the *Clay Giants* series and a guiding light for the early RWCS, derided the RWCS commemorative and other modern facsimiles as “invented collectibles.” In an open letter to the membership in 1985, Viel wrote

It is tragic that we have created . . . a “fun” set of commemoratives that are now more valuable than 98% of the original objects.

He felt that while the commemorative served as a viable tribute to the original Red Wing item, it had no intrinsic value. Despite his admonition, the RWCS commemorative is one of few such collectibles made that achieves instant increased value.

Each spring the Commemorative Committee takes delivery of a large shipment of the newly-produced commemoratives. It is a strange and incredible feeling to gaze at the mountain of boxes and

know that the pieces within will soon be worth many times their cost of production. Almost from the beginning of our organization, the release of the annual commemorative has been a highly anticipated event and a focal point of the Convention.

This book summarizes the annual activities of the RWCS and documents its Convention commemorative production. While I have striven for accuracy, errors are possible as some documentation is weak or unavailable. My apologies for any inaccuracies and also to those people whose contributions to the success of the RWCS have been neglected here. There are many worthy events and people that unfortunately are not mentioned. This book has tripled in size from my initial vision, and it could easily have been much longer.

Regard this book as a review of our organization, not an in-depth history. Perhaps that task will be undertaken as part of a future anniversary celebration.

LARRY ROSCHEN





SCENES FROM 1978, 1979
AND 1987 CONVENTIONS



Collecting the Legacy

***Red Wing Collectors Society
Commemoratives 1977-1997***



1977

SALT-GLAZED CROCK

An informal, one-day event in Red Wing, Minnesota on July 9, 1977 has become known as the first Red Wing Collectors Society annual Convention. The Goodhue County Historical Society Museum was the site for the daytime activities. Stoneware and pottery displays—both inside the museum and outside on the lawn—were viewed by an estimated 300 people. Lyndon Viel sold and autographed many copies of his new book, *The Clay Giants*. The book was so popular that he ran out of copies and more had to be brought in from a local bookstore.

There was no Society-sponsored sale or auction at this first Convention but the gathering provided ample opportunity for buying, selling and trading. According to Jewell Peterson

everyone was all smiles, going from one table to the next seeing items they hadn't seen before. I wish now I'd had a movie camera to record that great day. . . .

Later that day a business meeting, social hour and banquet were held in the St. James Hotel. At the banquet, Dave Newkirk distributed a number of awards on behalf of his *Newsletter*, beginning a tradition that carried on for many years. Recipients were given a

1977 COMMEMORATIVE

1977 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed and sold by Dave Newkirk

Right REVERSE OF 1977 COMMEMORATIVE, SHOWING CONVENTION LOGO AND LEGEND: NATIONAL CONVENTION / 1ST / ANNUAL / COLLECTORS SOCIETY / JULY 9-1977 / RED WING, MINN.

signed and dated certificate to recognize contributions to the *Newsletter*. Some of the memorable names given to the awards were the *Red Quill Award*, *Birch Leaf Scholar Award*, *Master Potter* and *Gem of the Year*.

Ninety-nine people attended the first business meeting. The first officers were elected, and motions were passed that would influence the direction of the RWCS for years to come. Among those decisions:

- Hold a second Convention in Red Wing in July, 1978
- Celebrate all American-made pottery (not just Red Wing)
- Hold a day-long Show and Sale limited to members-only in the morning
- Limit attendance at Convention activities to members-only
- Work with the Goodhue County Museum to encourage donations
- Establish membership dues (with \$8 of the \$10 annual fee for the *Newsletter*)
- Establish charter members as those who joined as of July 9, 1977
- Appoint two members to look into production of a commemorative piece for the 1977 Convention

So began the concept of a Society-sponsored souvenir piece to commemorate the annual Convention. Jewell Peterson—with help



Above THE BUTTERFLY VARIATION IS FOUND ON A VERY FEW 1977 COMMEMORATIVES

Left REVERSE OF BUTTERFLY, SHOWING LOGO AND THREE POTTER'S MARKS

from Rosa Larson—was in charge of the design, production and sale of the 1977 crock. There were no commemoratives present at the 1977 Convention; the 1977 and 1978 commemoratives were both available for purchase at the 1978 Convention.

The 1977 salt-glazed crock was an appropriate choice for the first RWCS commemorative. Hand-thrown, hand-decorated in cobalt blue, salt glazed (with the Convention logo impressed on the back) it represents the earliest stoneware made by the Red Wing potteries. By the mid-1890s the potteries began the transition to machine-turned and molded stoneware with ink-stamped markings and a zinc glaze.

It has to be said that Dave Newkirk was the primary founder of the RWCS. He began publishing the *Red Wing Collectors Newsletter* in April, 1977, and, along with his wife, Lorraine, he organized the first Convention. And he was our first president.

Members sometimes ask why the Convention is held in July. Initially, Newkirk tried to reserve a Saturday in June for the first gathering at the Goodhue museum but only the second Saturday in July was available. Thus began a tradition—eventually specified in the by-laws—that our annual meeting is held around the second full weekend in July.



Above 1977 COMMEMORATIVES ON JEWELL PETERSON'S DINING ROOM TABLE, READY TO PACK AND TAKE TO THE 1978 CONVENTION

Left ROSA LARSON AT THE 1977 CONVENTION

Right JEWELL PETERSON AT THE 1978 BANQUET

Opposite DAVE NEWKIRK AT THE 1977 CONVENTION





I remember how excited I was when I got my copy of *The Antique Trader* in August, 1976, and read the article on Red Wing stoneware by Lyndon Viel. Even more exciting was the announcement that a book on the subject would soon be published. By that fall I had contacted Rev. Viel and we met at Thanksgiving in Minneapolis.

During the visit I suggested that a newsletter on Red Wing might be a good idea. He didn't think there were enough "crazies" out there to make the effort worthwhile. (In later years he admitted how wrong he had been.) I went ahead anyway and found there were several out there who collected the stuff. The first issue was mailed out in April, 1977 with just 53 subscribers.

That following summer Lorraine and I organized the first convention in Red Wing. It consisted of an autograph party for Lyndon Viel at the Goodhue County Historical Society Museum and a banquet at the St. James Hotel. As an afterthought, we had a business meeting and made plans for a convention the following year. I was honored to be elected the Society's first president.

From these humble beginnings we grew and grew and grew. It is amazing to me to think that activities this year will spread out over a week with more than 3,500 people attending.

DAVE NEWKIRK

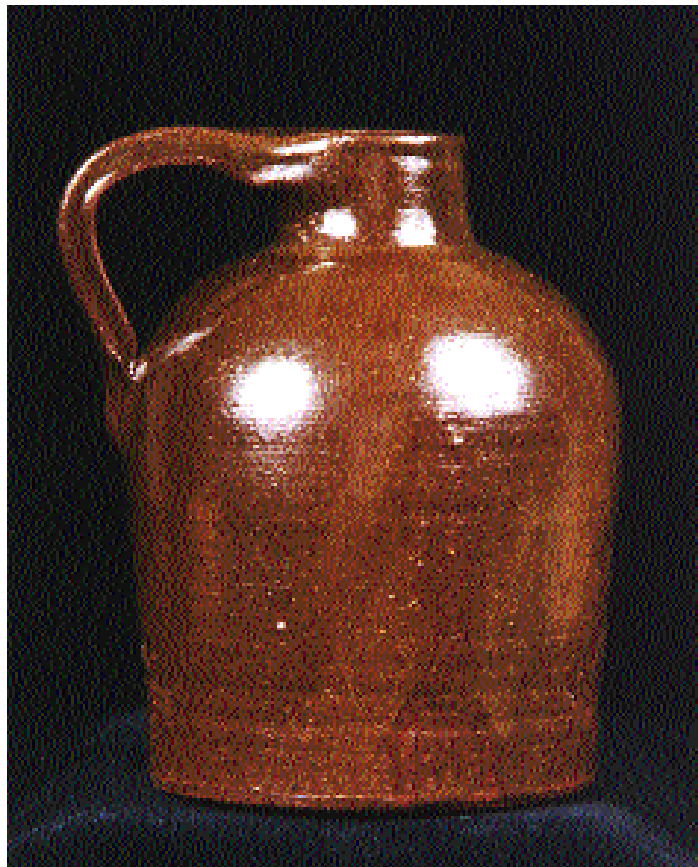
1978

COMMON JUG

The second Convention was held at the American Legion Club in Red Wing. This Convention, more formally organized than the first, was expanded to two days and several now-familiar events were added to the list of activities.

The first educational event was presented on Friday afternoon. An ambitious schedule of one dozen consecutive presentations was slated, but there was insufficient time for two speakers. Most of those who spoke to the group that day remained active members of the RWCS, and many continued to give presentations in later years.

Saturday's "Swappers Meet & Sale" was open to RWCS members in the morning and to the public in the afternoon. An impromptu auction was held late Saturday morning with a portion of the proceeds going to the RWCS: 37 items were sold and a total of \$60.70 was raised for the treasury. A North Star cookie jar and a 20-gallon salt glaze crock with cobalt leaf decoration (and hairline crack) each sold for \$60. The Saturday evening banquet featured Robert Mauk, a nationally known authority on American pottery. His slide presentation was unexpectedly interrupted when the hall was opened at 9:00 pm for a public dance.



Left
1978 COMMEMORATIVE, SIDE VIEW

Below left
1978 COMMEMORATIVE, FRONT VIEW. SIDEWALL STAMP READS:
RED WING / 1878-1978 / STONEWARE

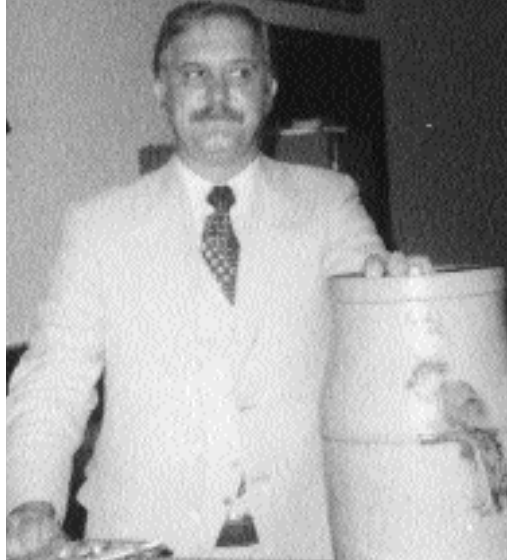
Below right
1978 COMMEMORATIVE, REAR VIEW. SIDEWALL STAMP READS:
RED WING / COLLECTOR'S / SOCIETY

1978 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed and sold by Dave Newkirk



1978 Convention Speakers and Their Topics

Jean Griffin	<i>Spongeband</i>
Anna Williams	<i>Red Wing Art Pottery</i>
Dave Hutchison	<i>Pottery Production Techniques</i>
Jewell Peterson	<i>Miniatures and Lunch Hour Pieces</i>
Larry Peterson	<i>Early Stoneware Marks</i>
Richard Cronmeyer	<i>Red Wing Fruit Jars</i>
Steve Showers	<i>Pottery Shards</i>
Gary Tefft	<i>History of the City of Red Wing</i>
Anna Williams	<i>Dinnerware of the 1930s-1950s</i>
Stan Bougie	<i>Dinnerware of the 1950s-1960s</i>
Lyndon Viel	<i>Update of The Clay Giants</i>
Jim Norine	<i>Star-in-Circle, Grape Pattern Pitchers, etc.: Are they North Star?</i>



Above
ROGER BLOHM AND HIS PARROT CHURN AT THE 1978 CONVENTION. BLOHM LATER SERVED AS THE SECOND RWCS PRESIDENT.



Below
DAVE AND RUTH STAGNER AT THE 1978 CONVENTION BANQUET. THE STAGNERS PRODUCED THE 1978 COMMEMORATIVE.

Friday evening's business meeting produced several important decisions. A motion was passed to incorporate the Red Wing Collectors Society. An annual auction was proposed, with each member allowed to place one item in the auction and 10% of the proceeds to be contributed to the Society. A Convention Committee was formed to organize the next Convention; nine members volunteered to serve.

Both the 1977 and 1978 commemoratives were available at the 1978 Convention. At this point, the commemorative project was a private enterprise not controlled by the RWCS, and the pieces were available for purchase on an unrestricted basis.

RWCS Vice-President Dave Stagner produced a brown jug for 1978 that honored the 100th anniversary of the Red Wing stoneware industry. Different styles of jugs were produced over the years at the Red Wing potteries, from the plain, "common" jugs to the more ornate speciality jugs. The 1978 commemorative is based on the common jug. These everyday use jugs were made in great numbers in a variety of sizes. A turn-of-the-century Union Stoneware Company catalog shows them available in seven sizes ranging from one-quart to five-gallons; 10-, 15-, and 20-gallon jugs were also available by special order. Collectors usually refer to common jugs three-gallons or larger as "beehives."

The commemorative jug was made with clay from the old Goodhue County clay pits, and covered with a rich brown glaze. The centennial of the Red Wing stoneware industry is honored with the years "1878-1978" impressed into the front. A paper tag tied to the jug's handle further explained the centennial connection.

1979

BUTTER CHURN

The 1979 Convention was the first to be held at the Red Wing Area Vocational-Technical School. This began a long relationship between the RWCS and the “Vo-Tech” (known in later years as the Red Wing Technical College). Most Convention activities continued to be held at the Vo-Tech through 1995.

The popular Display Competition was introduced at this third Convention. Twenty members shared their collections with theme-based exhibits. Five judges rated each display on a 100-point system on the basis of education, showmanship, variety and quality. Those receiving more than 80 points were awarded blue ribbons; 60 to 80 points earned a red ribbon. The exhibit with the most points was pronounced “Best of Show.” Members who viewed the displays voted for their favorite and the one with the most votes was declared the “People’s Choice.”

Interest in the RWCS and its Convention was growing. About 300 members attended the Friday educational seminars. The number of speakers this year was pared to two: Lyndon Viel spoke about stoneware and Stan Bougie gave a presentation on dinnerware. An estimated 700 people toured the displays and the Show & Sale. The auction was held Saturday afternoon with total proceeds of \$2,366.45 realized for 60 lots. The banquet at the St. James Hotel featured a slide presentation by Larry Peterson.



Above 1979 CONVENTION
LOGO AND TWO POTTER'S
MARKS

Left 1979
COMMEMORATIVE



1979 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed and sold by Dave Newkirk

**BETTY AND DAVE DUENOW DEMONSTRATE THEIR
SUCCESS STAFFING THE 1979 COMMEMORATIVE TABLE.
THE SIGN ON THE TABLE STATES: CHECK TO JEWELL
PETERSON / \$10 EACH / 1 PER FAMILY**



With growth came a need for more structure and organization for the Convention. Dates and times for the various Convention events were now published in the *Newsletter* months in advance. The informality of the first gathering was rapidly fading.

This need for structure was reflected in the introduction of rules for commemorative sales. A limit of one commemorative per member was established, and buyers were required to show their RWCS membership card. Those unable to attend the Convention could purchase a commemorative by sending their membership card with another member.

The 1979 annual business meeting was another reflection of the transition to a more businesslike organization. Incorporation was announced. By-laws were discussed, revised and approved. The election of officers was held; Dave Newkirk was reelected to another two-year term as president. Seven members volunteered to serve as the 1980 Convention Committee.

A number of changes involving the commemorative were also approved. Beginning in 1980 the Convention Committee and RWCS

officers would be in charge of the commemorative project, and all profits would belong to the Society. Members would be required to attend the Convention in person in order to purchase the commemorative, and a lottery system was designated to sell any surplus.

Jewell Peterson coordinated the commemorative project once again in 1979, and a zinc glaze 2-gallon butter churn with wing served as the model. The commemorative was handthrown, and significant variation exists in the size and shape of these pieces. The wing decoration was impressed, allowing the red color of the clay to show through the glaze. The blue "2" above the wing was done by hand. A cover of the same clay and glaze was included, along with a wooden dasher. The 1979 Convention logo is impressed into the underside of the churn, along with two potter's marks.

A few 1979 commemorative churns had ear handles, but the idea was subsequently dropped sometime after production began. These handled churns were variants of the standard commemorative, not a "special" commemorative purposefully made to stand apart from the standard pieces.

1980

SPONGEWARE BOWL

The location, events and activities of the 1980 Convention were for the most part unchanged from the previous year. The auction was moved from Saturday afternoon to Friday evening, after the annual business meeting. Sixty lots were sold with proceeds totaling \$5,900. A 1915 Potters Excursion jug sold for \$325. Three members shared their knowledge Friday afternoon: Gary Tefft spoke about the history of Red Wing and its potteries, Craig McNab's subject was Red Wing markings, and Jack Vye provided information on pricing. Primary speaker Robert Mauk gave a slide show and talk on the history of pottery in the United States.

There was no featured speaker at the banquet held Saturday evening at the St. James Hotel, but Dave Newkirk presented numerous awards on behalf of the *Newsletter* and drawings for door prizes were held.

The decision at the 1979 business meeting to allow only members attending the Convention to purchase the commemorative had caused quite a stir. The *Newsletter* published a number of letters-to-the-editor from unhappy members who felt the decision was

1980 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed and sold by Dave Newkirk



unfair to those unable to attend the Convention. Factors such as farm obligations, jobs, distance and family needs were cited.

A motion was passed at the 1980 business meeting to make the commemorative available to all members regardless of Convention attendance and a prepaid ordering process was established that included a \$5 shipping fee for mailed commemoratives.

1980 was the final year that the identity of the commemorative was announced prior to the Convention. A description of the piece was published in the June issue of the *Newsletter*. The following year the commemorative became a well-guarded secret not revealed until the Convention.

Production of the 1980 spongeware bowl commemorative was coordinated by Vi Malmquist. This commemorative is notable for its numerous connections to the Red Wing Potteries. The bowls were made by local potter Dave Hutchison, whose father was a mold shop foreman for the Potteries. The bowls were made from clay that remained in the long-closed Potteries factory, and they were shaped by a mold originally used to make Reed dinnerware bowls.



VI MALMQUIST

Far left
1980 COMMEMORATIVE

Above left
1980 CONVENTION LOGO: RED
WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY /
4TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION /
1980.

Below Left
RED WING AND NUMERAL 5 ON
UNDERSIDE OF BOWL.

The gray bowl was decorated with light blue and rust brown sponged markings. The underside of the bowl displays two markings: a red wing glaze stamp and the numeral “5” impressed into the clay to denote the bowl’s size. The 1980 Convention logo is glaze-stamped on the inside bottom of the bowl.

A variation of the 1980 commemorative was also produced. The wing on the bowl’s underside was done in blue on some pieces. Once again, these pieces were not intended to be “special” commemoratives, but are, rather, just a variation of the regular production process for the commemorative.

1981

BROWN-TOP SHOULDER JUG

Convention events followed about the same format as the previous two years. Four speakers shared the stage for Friday afternoon's educational seminar. Sue Gillmer's subject was nostalgia, Anna Williams spoke about Louisville pottery, Gary Tefft gave a presentation on miniatures and Stan Bougie gave a dinnerware update. Following the annual business meeting, the auction concluded Friday's activities with 130 lots sold for a total of \$13,200. The star of the auction was a 15-gallon Union Stoneware display jug, believed to have been made for a director on the company's board. The jug sold for \$2,650.

By now several events had become fixtures in their given time slots, and have remained in place to this day. This includes the viewing of Displays on Friday and Saturday, the Saturday Show & Sale and the Saturday evening banquet. The banquet was moved to the Red Wing Country Club and again there was no formal speaker but plenty of *Newsletter* awards.

At this time Bergwall Arena did not exist, and the Show & Sale was held in the Vo-Tech Commons. Long-time members will recall

1981 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed and sold by Dave Newkirk



Above FRONT AND SIDE OF 1981
COMMEMORATIVE



Below BOTTOM OF COMMEMORATIVE, WITH
"I WAS THERE" TAG ATTACHED.



GARY AND BONNIE TEFFT AT THE 1979 CONVENTION. IN 1981 THE TEFFTS BEGAN THEIR 12 YEARS OF SERVICE AS COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS. GARY ALSO SERVED AS VICE-PRESIDENT (1981–1983), AND BONNIE AS HISTORIAN (1981–1990).

1981 as the year the lights went out just as the Show & Sale began. Fortunately the blackout was brief and the event carried on without further incident.

Several new standing committees were created at the 1981 business meeting, and the RWCS Executive Committee was expanded to include committee chairs as well as officers. The committees in place at this time were Display, Convention, Commemorative, Publications, Membership and Housing. Elections for two-year terms were held for all officers and committee chairs, with Roger Blohm elected as the new president. Grace Farr was authorized to pursue production of a RWCS lapel pin; the pin was subsequently available for purchase at several future Conventions.

1981 marked the beginning of what could be called the modern era of the RWCS commemorative. Gary and Bonnie Tefft began their long, successful run with the annual project, continuing through the 1992 commemorative year. They introduced many new

ideas to the process. Production of the commemorative moved from small local potters to larger commercial potteries. Higher quality and improved piece-to-piece consistency were sought, along with greater production capacity. Custom-made molds were used to create unique pieces made exclusively for the RWCS. Prepaid orders and mailed commemoratives had their start this year. Surplus pieces were sold to members on a lottery basis (winners were drawn at the Convention). The identity of the item selected for the commemorative was kept secret until the Convention, although a photo of the Convention logo oval as seen on the commemorative was printed as a teaser in the June issue of the *Newsletter*.

The 1981 commemorative was a miniature brown-topped shoulder jug, designed to hold $\frac{1}{8}$ -pint (two ounces). Jugs of this style were common household items in the days before glass and plastic bottles. Although used for a variety of liquids, they are often referred to as whiskey jugs. Brown top jugs were a staple of the pottery industry for many years, and most have no identifying marks.

The black stamped 1981 Convention logo appears on the front of commemorative jug and the letters “R.W.C.S.” are impressed in mold on the bottom of the jug. A small cork was included.

Another tradition began with the small *I Was There* card that accompanied jugs picked up at the Convention. While commemoratives could now be ordered by mail, the card was an extra token of appreciation for members who attended the Convention. The folded card displayed a red wing on the front, with *I Was There* and the Convention logo oval printed inside. The card was attached to the jug’s handle with a red ribbon.

1982

CHERRYBAND MUG

In 1982, to accommodate new activities and changes in Friday's educational program, the Convention expanded to a three-day event by extending into Thursday.

A boat ride on the Mississippi River aboard the excursion boat *City of Red Wing* was available Thursday afternoon. The business meeting was moved to Thursday night in order to allow more time for the Friday night auction. A new Educational Materials Sale was added. For \$10 one could rent a table to sell books, catalog reprints, or other printed material. This event began Thursday afternoon and continued all day Friday. No stoneware or pottery was to be sold from these tables and all items sold required the approval of the Convention Committee.

The Friday educational program was expanded into the format still in use today. The morning opened with a general session for all attendees. Presentations made by: Bonnie Tefft (salt glaze), Jim Norine (cookie jars), Ray Pahnke (advertising ware), Jewell

1982 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed and sold by Dave Newkirk



Peterson (miniatures) and Larry Peterson (slide presentation). In the afternoon, three 40-minute concurrent small-group sessions were held. Speakers were scattered in classrooms around the Vo-Tech, and members could attend their choice of the five sessions presented during each 40-minute period.

Convention Displays continued with minor changes. There were no changes in the judging and award systems, although a "Non-competitive" category was added. Members were also encouraged to bring single items for display on the Rare Table although these were not judged. A total of 218 lots were sold at the Friday night auction for \$24,500. A 6-gallon salt glaze water cooler with butterfly decoration and RED WING STONWARE CO. mark received the top bid of \$1,400. The Show & Sale continued as in the past and the banquet returned to the St. James Hotel, where Helen Bell spoke about her childhood as a member of a pottery family in Red Wing. *Newsletter* awards were again announced by Dave Newkirk.



Far left
1982 COMMEMORATIVE
WITH CONVENTION LOGO

Above
WESTERN STONEWARE
MARK ON UNDERSIDE OF
MUGS



Below
THE FIRST "SPECIAL"
COMMEMORATIVE.
THE FOLLOWING
HANDWRITTEN NOTE
ACCOMPANIED
THE MUG:

"DUE TO REQUESTS AND
SUGGESTIONS AT THE
1981 CONVENTION, WE
ARRANGED WITH THE
POTTERY TO MAKE A
SPECIAL PIECE FOR THE
SOCIETY AUCTION. THIS
MUG WILL BE SOLD THIS
YEAR TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER AND THERE IS AN
ADDITIONAL, IDENTICAL
MUG WHICH WILL BE
SOLD AT THE 1983
AUCTION. THESE ARE
THE ONLY TWO SUCH
MUGS THAT WILL EVER
BE AVAILABLE. . . .
—GARY TEFFT"

Security and Education committees were created at the annual business meeting. A motion was passed to make the design of the Convention button an annual contest, with the winner to receive \$25. Cash awards of \$100, \$50 and \$25 were approved for the three best *Newsletter* articles published, with winners to be announced at the Convention banquet. Membership dues were raised to \$13 per year. A \$500 donation to the Goodhue County Historical Society was approved, along with the understanding that additional donations would be discussed annually at the business meeting.

The commemorative was a cherryband mug, designed as a companion piece to the popular Red Wing pitchers. Red Wing never actually made Cherryband mugs, only pitchers. “Cherryband” is a collector’s term that refers to the raised relief design around the top and bottom of these pieces; company catalogs simply called them “Blue tint pitchers.” Cherryband production probably began with the well-known August Becker pitcher, dated 1914. Merchants soon found these pitchers to be ideal for advertising, and many fine examples with merchant names and slogans exist. Pitchers were available in three sizes: 2-, 4- and 5-pint. Most cherryband pitchers have a light blue tint around the rim and base but some have a

darker blue tint. There are rare all-white examples and a 1916 company catalog also promotes them in brown tint. Cherryband pitchers continued to be made into the 1930s.

Markings on the mug include the 1982 Convention logo on the front and commemorative-maker Western Stoneware’s trademark maple leaf mark on the underside. Both marks were stamped in blue. Commemoratives picked up at the Convention again included an *I Was There* card, tied to the handle with a blue cord. The front of the folded card displayed blue birch leaves; inside was the Convention logo along with the Convention dates and *I Was There*.

In 1982 the Teffts introduced the “special” commemorative. Special commemoratives are identical to the standard piece except for one noticeable detail. The 1982 specials were all white with no blue tint. Two of these specials were made. One was sold at the 1982 auction for \$310, the second was held for the 1983 auction where it sold for \$250.

The lottery for surplus commemoratives was modified in 1982. Instead of drawing winners during the lottery, the winners were drawn from prepaid commemorative orders drawn at random before the Convention. The winners were called out during the lottery, but this didn’t resolve the noise and commotion around the commemorative table.

1983

STONE MASON FRUIT JAR

The annual Convention continued to expand as several more options were added to Thursday afternoon's agenda. A tour of Oakwood Cemetery, led by Gary Tefft, gave members an opportunity to see handmade stoneware grave markers. Guided tours of the Goodhue County Historical Society Museum were also available. On Friday morning an orientation session for new members was offered.

Several new limits and procedures were put in place for the 1983 auction. Only one item per RWCS membership could be entered. All auction pieces had to be preregistered weeks before the Convention, along with a precise description of the item. This allowed an auction catalog to be printed for bidders. The top selling auction piece was a 5-gallon salt glazed water cooler with "Double P" decoration and MINNESOTA STONEWARE CO. sidewall stamp. This cooler sold for \$1,325; total proceeds for the 218 lots were \$26,600.

The general session offered two speakers. Steve Showers showed slides and spoke on his finds and experiences in the pottery dump and Gary Tefft's presentation included an old film of demonstrations and interviews with Red Wing potters. The Show & Sale

moved to the new Bergwall Arena adjoining the Vo-Tech. The larger site provided additional seller space and made the event more comfortable for all. Sue Gillmer was the featured speaker at the banquet, held again at the St. James Hotel. She spoke about the final days of the Red Wing Potteries before the company closed in 1967.

Members had been invited to submit designs for the 1983 Convention button and at least 39 entries were received. Arden Hamrick's design was chosen and the remaining entries were posted at the Convention where members had the opportunity to vote for 1984's button design. This selection method was used for several years, and new design ideas were added continually.

As a private sideline, Gary and Bonnie Tefft produced and sold a 1-pint "1983 Potters Excursion" jug. A clever play on Red Wing's 1915 Potters Excursion jug, the Teffts' jug recognized the Convention's river cruise, but was not sponsored in any way by the RWCS. Since 1983 the Teffts have annually expanded their line of replicas, and in later years were joined by other entrepreneurs. As American pottery, these items were eligible for the Show & Sale, though some members were uncomfortable mixing old and new items on the sales floor. Eventually the number of replica and memorabilia sellers grew large enough to support a separate sales area away from the antiques. While none of these privately developed pieces displays the name of the Red Wing Collectors Society, new collectors may occasionally mistake them for official RWCS commemoratives.

Elections for officers and committee chairs were held at the business meeting. Roger Blohm was reelected president. The treasurer's election was unusual in that the outgoing treasurer was not interested



Above
 UNDERSIDE OF 1983
 COMMEMORATIVES
 SHOWING CONVENTION
 LOGO WITH
 MANUFACTURER'S
 NAME, ZIP CODE AND
 "DO NOT HOT CAN"
 WARNING

Right
 THE 1983
 COMMEMORATIVE AND
 THE SMALLER SPECIAL
 VERSION.





1983 CONVENTION BUTTON

Designed by Arden Hamrick

Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk

in reelection and there were no apparent candidates for the position. Jerry Flicek volunteered to take the office and was elected; he has continued to serve as treasurer ever since. The lack of candidates exposed the need for a nominating committee and one was formed. In other business, efforts were underway to qualify the RWCS for tax-exempt status, a \$500 donation to the Goodhue County Historical Society was approved, and the Publications Committee's responsibilities were expanded to include membership.

The 1983 commemorative was a 1-pint version of Union Stoneware's Stone Mason Fruit Jar. These highly sought jars were made for about ten years beginning around the turn of the century. They were available in 1-quart, 2-quart and 1-gallon sizes with black or blue markings. Most jars have PAT'D JAN 24, 1899 molded into the underside. However, the patent was not owned by the Red Wing potteries and similar jars were made by competitors. Red Wing Union Stoneware was eventually sued over use of the word "Mason" and forced to drop it. A new shield-shaped logo with script lettering was introduced, and at about the same time the jar's shape was changed to dome-style

shoulders. Sadly for collectors, few jars were made in this later style because glass canning jars soon overtook the market.

Development of the commemorative canning jar had some interesting twists, literally. The threads for the screw cap proved difficult to reproduce. Western Stoneware tried but gave up. A small family business named Artists in the Park worked diligently to successfully make the threads, and was awarded the contract. The zinc screw caps were no longer made or readily available, but the Ball Corporation (makers of glass canning jars) had enough old zinc lids and rubber rings on hand to include with each commemorative.

The black markings on the front of the jar were stamped. Two sets of markings appear on the underside of the jar: a black Convention logo in the center of the underside, as well as the maker's name and the words *Do Not Hot Can* molded into the perimeter of the underside. Those picked up at the Convention received a label that stated

This jar contains: CONVENTION MEMORIES

Date put up: July 7-9, 1983

Three 1983 special commemoratives were made at approximately half the size of the standard commemorative. The fruit jar label was divided in order to fit this smaller jar, half in the front and half in back. The three special commemoratives were sold at the 1983 Convention auction at prices ranging from \$325 to \$500.

The option to designate another member to pick up a prepaid commemorative was introduced this year, as was the posting of lottery winners in advance of the lottery sale.

1984

“SALT-GLAZED” COOLER

All Convention events from the previous year were continued with minimal changes, and for this year, a tour of the Red Wing Pottery building led by Sue Gillmer was added to the list of Thursday afternoon options. The main speaker at the general session was Gail DePasquale, who discussed the results of a stoneware rarity survey. Helen Bell talked about the “Good Old Days at the Pottery” at the banquet, held again at the St. James Hotel.

All Show & Sale sellers were now required to have a Minnesota Sales tax number to comply with the law. Table rental was \$15, or two for \$25.

A total of 164 lots (including Society-owned items) were auctioned for a total of \$29,851. The high bid of the night went to a 3-gallon salt glazed churn with parrot decoration and MINNESOTA STONEWARE Co. mark. This well-known piece, known as the Blondell—or Blohm (see photo p. 8)—churn, sold for \$2,850.

New Auction and Nominations committees were approved at the business meeting, as were annual \$1,000 stipends for the Treasurer and the Convention, Commemorative and Auction committees.

1984 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed by Darold Johnson
Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk



The Commemorative Committee began to keep a number of commemoratives in reserve in case of breakage during mailing. Any remaining pieces (up to 12) were to be placed in the next auction. The demand for the Society's annual commemorative finally exceeded the supply. By Friday afternoon all available commemoratives had either been sold or were reserved for members who had prepaid. While expressing regrets to those left out, the Teffts used the occasion to explain the benefits of prepaid orders.

The 1984 commemorative was a miniature representation of a 6-gallon salt-glazed cooler, complete with cover and spigot hole with hexagon-shaped reinforcement. The commemorative cooler was not actually salt-glazed but instead had a clear glaze that allowed the natural color of the clay to come through. A rich brown glaze covered the inside of the cooler. The “daisy petal” cover with button knob handle was also glazed brown except for rings on the top and underside. The classic Red Wing leaf was traced from an original and applied in blue with a rubber stamp. The underside of the cooler displays the 1984 Convention logo, also stamped in blue.



Left THE 1984 COMMEMORATIVE

Above left THE 1984 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE

Above right THE CONVENTION LOGO AS SEEN ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE COMMEMORATIVES.

A small, folded *I Was There* card accompanied each piece delivered at the Convention. The card reproduced the cooler's blue leaf on the front, and opened to show the 1984 Convention logo and the *I Was There* slogan. No wooden spigot was included with the commemorative, although a private entrepreneur later made and sold them via classified ads in the *Newsletter*.

A butterfly replaced the leaf decoration on the two special commemorative coolers that were distributed. One special sold at the auction for \$450 and the other was given as a door prize to a member drawn at random from among those attending the Convention. A total of six special commemoratives had been made but four of them were deliberately smashed and their shards mixed together. The two recipients of the special commemoratives each received a bagful of shards.

1985

ICE WATER COOLER

Several self-guided tours were Thursday afternoon options at the 1985 Convention. Maps and information for a historical tour of the city of Red Wing were available at registration. The Red Wing Shoe Company invited attendees to visit their plant. The Goodhue County Historical Society Museum was again open for visits each afternoon during the Convention.

The auction rules were changed once again in deference to complaints about the limit of 150 items in 1984. One item per \$13 membership could be registered for the auction, with no limit on the number to be accepted. Registrations received by June 15th were included in the auction catalog; those received later were added to the auction but not listed in the catalog. Over 360 lots were sold at the auction, with total proceeds of just under \$50,000. A set of RWCS commemoratives from 1977 through 1984 sold for \$1,050. Due to the large number of items the auction ran late into the night. At the next day's board meeting a motion was unanimously passed to limit the auction to the first 200 lots registered by June 15th, and to permit only one lot per household (not per membership).

1985 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed by Shirley Fihn
Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk



Dan DePasquale focused on Red Wing paper memorabilia during his talk at the general session on Friday. Jerry Flicek reflected on the past and future of stoneware collecting at the banquet.

In 1982, 1983 and 1984 a booklet listing the various Convention activities, sites, dates and times was provided to members. In 1985 the format changed: a supplement to the Red Wing *Republican Eagle* newspaper—reaching thousands of local households—provided the Convention agenda as well as informative articles, advertising, photos and biographies of RWCS officers and seminar speakers. Extra copies of this supplement were printed and available to members at Convention registration.

A committee working to update the by-laws gave a report at the annual business meeting. Terms for officers and committee chairs were to be two-year terms ending in alternate years. Officers would be elected on odd-numbered years, committee chairs on even-numbered years. The election of officers took place, and Dan DePasquale was chosen as the new president. A \$500 donation to the Goodhue County Historical Society was approved.



Above THE 1985 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE AND THE CONVENTION LOGO AS IT APPEARS ON THE UNDERSIDE. THE SPECIAL'S LOGO WAS STAMPED IN BLACK.

Left THE 1985 COMMEMORATIVE

Concerns about security grew and uniformed officers were added to the Show & Sale. President DePasquale also announced plans to form a Vision Committee to examine RWCS long-range needs.

A new incentive to participate in the Display competition was added this year as the winners of the "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" awards each received a special commemorative. A third special was given away as a Convention door prize. The sale of special commemoratives in the Convention auction was dropped.

The tooling used to make the 1984 water cooler was reused for the 1985 commemorative. High tooling costs for the 1984 piece required the expenses to be spread out over more than one year's production. The pieces are identical, the 1985 is an "Ice Water" cooler in zinc glaze decorated with elephant ear leaves.

The original coolers with this decoration were likely made in the late 1890s into the early 1900s, but the exact dates are unknown. The more common birch leaf decoration was also used at this time. Because transitional items have been found in both styles, the two designs may have been used interchangeably for a period. Eventually the elephant ear leaves were dropped, and birch leaves were used exclusively until replaced by the familiar red wing in 1912.

The commemorative's front marks were applied in blue with a stamp. The 1985 Convention logo was placed on the underside of the cooler, also in blue. Coolers picked up at the Convention again included an *I Was There* card. No spigot was included, but once again an enterprising individual soon advertised miniature metal spigots for sale in the *Newsletter*.

The front markings were omitted on the special commemoratives and the exterior of the cooler and lid were treated with mottled black over the white glaze. The Convention logo was applied in black ink instead of blue.

1986

ACID PROOF MEASURE PITCHER

The 1986 auction was limited to the first 200 items preregistered with the Auction Committee; receipts totaled \$40,000. An 8-gallon salt-glazed “Double P” water cooler with MINNESOTA STONEWARE CO. mark sold for \$2,400, the highest bid of the evening.

The Display competition was separated into two categories, Stoneware and American Art Pottery. The Art Pottery category included dinnerware, brushware and non-stoneware items. “Best of Show” and “People’s Choice” winners were selected in each category and all winners received a special commemorative.

The various tours of past years were not offered, but a tour of the Lawther Octagon House was available. The general session speaker was Joel Huntley of Wisconsin Pottery in Columbus, Wisconsin. He addressed issues involved in the modern-day production of salt-glazed, handthrown ware. The Show & Sale table rental increased to \$20, or two for \$35. The banquet was again held Saturday evening at the St. James Hotel, where Stan Bougie talked about his years of employment at Red Wing Potteries’ St. Paul outlet store.



Above THE 1986 COMMEMORATIVE

Below left THE CONVENTION LOGO AND MANUFACTURER'S MARK AS SEEN ON THE UNDERSIDE

Below right THE 1986 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE



1986 CONVENTION BUTTON

Designed by Charles Hanson

Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk

Dave Newkirk now produced the *Newsletter* for the Society on a contract basis, with the contract running through 1988. A motion was passed to reinstate the Membership Committee as a separate entity. The updated by-laws were approved, following discussion on the provision that binds the Convention to the city of Red Wing. An attempt to remove this provision failed. A \$1,000 contribution to the Goodhue County Historical Society was approved. The new Vision Committee recommended five goals: to recruit and retain members, to provide a medium for exchange of information, to preserve history, to provide an opportunity to socialize, and to foster ethical standards.

The 1986 commemorative was a 1-pint Acid Proof Measure pitcher. Intended to be a smaller version of the original 1-quart and 1/2-gallon pitchers—the only sizes then known to exist—this commemorative is actually a replica of a rare item. By coincidence, an original 1-pint pitcher was placed in the 1986 auction, the first such example known.

From the Union Stoneware name it is apparent that these pitchers were developed before the 1906 merger that created Red Wing Union Stoneware. Acid Proof Measure products are also promoted in a Red Wing Union Stoneware catalog printed shortly after the merger. Because all known examples were stamped with the Union Stoneware name, it is believed that production ceased soon after the merger. In addition to the pitchers, a stoneware funnel bearing the same Acid Proof Measure banner was also produced.

The Acid Proof Measure banner on the commemoratives was applied with a decal instead of a stamp, the first commemorative to use this more modern technology. There were several reasons for the move to decals. Unlike stamping, decals provide marks of consistent color and density. Decals can also clearly reproduce small letters and fine lines, an important consideration when scaling down large items to commemorative size.

Once again the Convention logo was stamped in blue on the underside of the commemorative. “W.S.Co.” was included in smaller letters just below the Convention logo circle, indicating the piece was made by Western Stoneware Company. A red and gold foil adhesive seal in the shape of a sunburst was included with each commemorative picked up at the Convention. The seal declared *A Full Measure of Enjoyment*, along with the Convention dates and the *I Was There* slogan.

Five special commemoratives were given to the four winners of the Display competition and to a member drawn at random from those attending the Convention. The specials were decorated with blue sponging in addition to the Acid Proof Measure banner.

1987

RED WING ANNIVERSARY ASHTRAY

1987 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed by Leo Held
Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk



The tenth anniversary Convention in 1987 introduced several format changes. All Society-sponsored tours and boat cruises previously offered on Thursdays were dropped. Instead information was provided for self-guided walking tours, and members were invited to try the public trolley tour or river excursion.

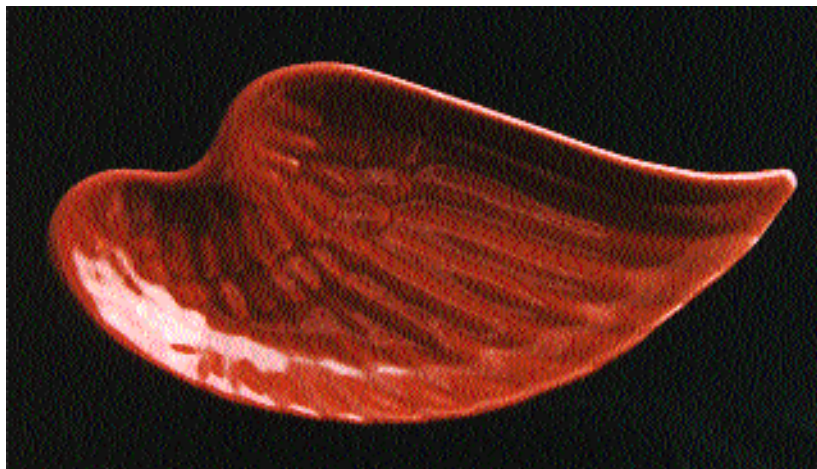
Members were also invited to visit John Falconer's pottery, located in an outbuilding on his home property. In 1990 the pottery moved to new facilities built on the far northern edge of Red Wing on U.S. Highway 61 and the name was changed from Falconer Stoneware to Red Wing Stoneware Company. Novice collectors sometimes mistake the marked wares of today's Red Wing Stoneware Company as products of the old company.

The auction continued to go through adjustments. The first 250 preregistered lots were accepted, one per household. More noticeable was the move of the auction from Friday to Thursday evening, provoking several letters to the *Newsletter*. Some writers felt the change unfairly benefitted local residents. Despite these complaints

the auction has been held on Thursday evenings since 1987, and the number of participants and sales figures continue to grow. The 1987 proceeds were \$46,500. A set of 1977–1986 RWCS commemoratives sold for \$1,600 and a 5-gallon salt-glazed jug with “Double P” and MINNESOTA STONEWARE CO. mark brought \$1,500.

The 1987 Convention was unique in that Thursday's activities (including the auction) were shifted to the Paragon Ballroom in Hager City, Wisconsin, across the river from Red Wing. This attempt to provide more comfortable accommodations was not successful as the ballroom soon grew hot and crowded. The ballroom also hosted a Friday evening social event that offered a pig roast and dance featuring a live band.

Friday's events returned to the familiar confines of the Vo-Tech. Education Day activities included a morning general session, where Gail DePasquale addressed *The Red Wing Marketplace: Past, Present, Future* and Bonnie Tefft spoke about the history of *The Red Wing Collectors Society, 1977–1987*. The banquet at the



Left and above THE 1987 COMMEMORATIVE

St. James Hotel featured RWCS member #1 Lyndon Viel's talk about his experiences while writing the three *Clay Giants* books.

At the business meeting, the Executive Committee introduced a proposal to form an Acquisitions Policy and Committee. Discussion followed amid concerns that the RWCS would compete for items against its own members. No motions were passed, and members interested in providing input were asked to contact Gary Tefft, who wrote an Acquisition Policy draft published in the October, 1987 *Newsletter*. Executive Committee members were now to be reim-

bursed for expenses to attend spring and fall meetings. President Dan DePasquale displayed three items purchased by the Society and given to the Goodhue County Historical Museum. The items were a Greek key toggle wheel, Minnesota Stoneware stamp and a small handled cup. Charter members were presented with a fringed ribbon and recognized with applause.

The tenth RWCS anniversary commemorative was a replica of an item issued by Red Wing Potteries to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Red Wing Stoneware Company. The deep red ashtray in the



Left
THE 1987
COMMEMORATIVE
BOOKLET AND THE
RIBBON PRESENTED
TO CHARTER
MEMBERS.

Left THE 1987 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE

familiar wing shape was first produced in 1953 with RED WING POTTERY 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1878-1953 molded into the bottom. These ashtrays continued to be made in later years without the anniversary wording.

The 1987 commemorative ashtray was produced in the same color and size as the original and the molded text on the underside followed a theme similar to the original's. The raised lettering declares RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY 10TH ANNIVERSARY 1977-1987. A banner-shaped foil label stating:

1977—10TH ANNIVERSARY RWCS—1987
was affixed to the underside of each commemorative. Also included was a 16-page booklet with background information and full-color photos of all existing RWCS commemoratives through 1987. Surplus copies of the well-received booklet were available for \$5 through 1994.

The five 1987 special commemoratives were covered with a 14-karat gold glaze. As in the previous year, four went to winners of the Display competition and one was given as a door prize.



1988 CONVENTION BUTTON

Designed by Diana Meyer

Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk

1988

POMPEII PLATE



Above

THE 1988 COMMEMORATIVE
(POMPEII SALAD PLATE)



Left

THE 1988 SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE (POMPEII
BREAD AND BUTTER PLATE)

As the RWCS grew larger it became apparent that not all Society business decisions could wait for the annual meeting in July. The Executive Committee took on more of the official business, and several important issues were addressed at fall and spring meetings preceding the 1988 Convention. A draft of a contract to replace the “gentleman’s agreement” with *Newsletter* editor Dave Newkirk was presented, and the concept of a RWCS executive director was examined.

The Thursday evening auction found a new home in the Bergwall Arena. Members appreciated the room and comfort provided by the Arena but the sound system performed inadequately. The auction sales were approximately \$44,000. A 5-gallon double-handled salt-glazed threshing jug decorated with a parrot sold for \$2,900, and a Chief Red Wing mug brought a bid of \$2,700.

Display Room exhibitors were given a free banquet ticket as a small reward their efforts. A total of five specials were awarded this year because the Stoneware People’s Choice winner was the combined effort of two individuals; each was given a prize.

At the general session, Lyndon Viel spoke with tongue-in-cheek about *The History of the World’s Pottery, Part One*. At the banquet—again at the St. James Hotel—Red Wing native Gary Tefft spoke about the history of the city of Red Wing.

Members greatly enjoyed the Friday evening ice cream social held at Central Park sponsored by the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce. Entertainment included "Those River Side Gals" (a women's chorus), "An Arctic Evening with Robert Service" presented by the Red Wing Summer Playhouse and the *Ding-a-Lings*, a "kitchen" band from Lake City, Minnesota.

Members at the business meeting approved an increase in dues from \$13 to \$15. Another \$1,000 contribution to the Goodhue County museum was also approved. Barney Olson gave a report on unauthorized sales of RWCS commemoratives by DeNovo Ceramics (Western Stoneware). His investigation indicated the sales were not intentional but rather the result of DeNovo's carelessness. The Teffts had previously stated that commemoratives would no longer be made by DeNovo because of problems encountered there.

Some members were unhappy with the 1988 commemorative and much discussion ensued. Concern about their lack of input into the decision-making process was expressed. Bonnie Tefft said that suggestions from members were actively sought. Eventually agreement was reached to have members of the Executive Committee annually review the item selected by the Commemorative chair.

The controversial commemorative was an original Red Wing Potteries salad plate in the *Pompeii* pattern, made in the 1960s. This item was selected because it was the only handpainted plate still available in sufficient quantities from the Red Wing Pottery Salesroom. The plates were refired with decals on the front and back to create the 1988 commemorative.

A dark brown POMPEII BY RED WING decal was fired on the back of the plate. Another decal on the front provides the RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY 1988 CONVENTION logo in blue script. A brass-plated metal display stand and an original January, 1962 *Pompeii* sales brochure accompanied each commemorative plate.

The special commemorative was a *Pompeii* bread and butter plate with the Convention logo reproduced in 14-karat gold. The bread and butter plate is about 6 inches in diameter, somewhat smaller than the standard commemorative. Thirteen specials were distributed: five to display winners and eight as door prizes.



Above
THE DECAL ADDED TO THE
BACK OF THE COMMEMORATIVE
PLATES

Left
AN ORIGINAL POMPEII
DINNERWARE BROCHURE
ACCOMPANIED EACH
COMMEMORATIVE



1989

GRAY LINE PITCHER

By 1989 the auction had comfortably settled into the Thursday evening time period. The prize this year was a 3-gallon “Fresh Buttermilk” cooler that sold for \$3,800. Total receipts for the auction were \$46,500.

Other Convention activities maintained the familiar pattern. Friday morning offered an orientation session for first-time attendees, along with the sale of educational materials. The general session speaker was Minnesota State Archeologist Dr. Christy Hohman-Caine, who spoke about Native American pottery. Eleven small-group educational seminars were available to members during three 40-minute sessions in the afternoon. The wide range of subjects included the popular stoneware/pottery identification panel, now perennially repeated. Another repeat performance was a demonstration and reminiscence by Burnyce “Bunny” Simone, who had worked as a dinnerware painter at Red Wing Potteries.

The Display competition expanded to three categories this year: Stoneware, Art Pottery and Dinnerware. *Best of Show* and *People's Choice* awards were given in each category. The *Rare Table* continued to give members an opportunity to show their hard-to-find and one-of-a-kind pieces to an appreciative audience.

1989 CONVENTION BUTTON
Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk



The annual business meeting took place Friday afternoon. A motion was passed to donate \$1,000 to the Goodhue County Historical Museum in memory of deceased members of the RWCS. An unusually large number of long-time members had died since the previous Convention, including Lyndon Viel. President Dan DePasquale reported on his research into a possible RWCS executive director and office. The final order of business was the election of officers. Although he originally did not intend to run again, DePasquale cited unfinished tasks and turnover in the Executive Committee as reasons for a change of heart and he was elected to another term as president. Treasurer Jerry Flicek and Historian Bonnie Tefft were reelected, and Dennis Yaeggi and Ann Busse were elected as vice-president and secretary. Long-time Convention Committee chairs Arlan and Phyllis Johnson had announced they would not seek another term and Dave and Diane Hallstrom were selected as Convention Chairpersons-Elect to give them a year to work with and learn from the Johnsons.

A miniature *Gray Line* pitcher served as the 1989 commemorative, and it was an immediate hit with RWCS members. *Gray Line* was a Red Wing kitchenware line in the 1920s and 30s that is



Opposite
THE 1989
COMMEMORATIVE

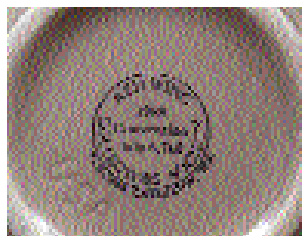
Left
THE 1989 SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE

highly prized by collectors today. After years of trying, the Teffts were at last able to offer a *Gray Line* piece that met their standards.

All markings on the commemorative used decals. The reds and blues of the original *Gray Line* pieces were glaze applied by rubber stamp. However, federal safety regulations prohibited the use of the red glaze previously used and ink intended to reproduce the old red color did not give satisfactory results. Thus the use of decals.

The front of the 1989 commemorative pitcher displays RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY enclosed in a rectangle, all in blue. *Gray Line*'s signature band of red sponge between two blue lines circles the pitcher just below the rectangle. The underside shows the blue 1989 Convention logo in a circle, along with the manufacturer's name, city and state. The letters *USA* also appear, molded into the underside. No *I Was There* tag or other paper memorabilia was distributed with this commemorative.

The special commemoratives were white with dark blue tint sprayed above the rib lines up to the rim. The blue tint replaced both the spongeband and the RWCS decals. Six specials were given to display winners and a seventh was given as a door prize.



Left
THE CONVENTION LOGO ON THE
UNDERSIDE OF THE 1989
COMMEMORATIVES.

1990

FANCY JUG

The Red Wing Technical College (formerly Vo-Tech) became partners with the RWCS in co-sponsoring the Convention. The educational content of the Convention enabled the College to form this partnership. In return for mentioning the Technical College in promotional material the RWCS was not to be charged for rent or custodial services. Although discouraged for years, a formal policy prohibiting parking lot sales was implemented by the RWCS due to concerns from the College.

During the early years of the RWCS auction, Roger Blohm and other RWCS members served as auctioneers. Later, local auctioneers were used, and in 1990 the Dick Houghton Auction Service became the sole auctioneer for the Convention auction. A new policy allowed only the RWCS to place the previous year's commemorative in the auction; members were free to submit commemoratives from years preceding the one most recent. The Auction Committee began to collect a \$1 charge for the auction catalog to offset printing costs. Total proceeds for the auction were \$48,885.

1990 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed by Todd Eichmann
Produced and sold by Dave Newkirk



Left
THE 1990 COMMEMORATIVE

Above
THE CONVENTION LOGO AS IT
APPEARS ON THE UNDERSIDE
OF THE 1990 COMMEMORATIVES

Right
THE 1990 SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE



At the auction this year, a hand-turned 3-gallon water cooler with cover and large wing sold for \$2,100.

The Display competition's 100-point judging system for the *Best of Show* was replaced by a three-person judging committee consisting of the vice-president, secretary and a member of the Display Committee. The *People's Choice* award continued as before, with all members entitled to vote for their favorite display in each category. The blue and red ribbons awarded in previous years were replaced by Certificates of Recognition. Special commemoratives continued to be given to *Best of Show* and *People's Choice* winners, but with a limit of one special commemorative awarded per winning display. Displays that won both *Best of Show* and *People's Choice* in a given category would receive only one special commemorative, with the other to be used as an additional door prize.

A special treat in the Display Room this year was the University of Minnesota's copy of the Little Brown Jug, obtained on loan by committee co-chairs Gary and Cindy Antoline. The Little Brown Jug is a painted 5-gallon Red Wing beehive jug used as a trophy by the Minnesota and Michigan college football teams. Each school retains a copy of the jug in its trophy case while the original "travelling jug" is held by the winner of the most recent Minnesota/Michigan football game.

Tensions ran high over the proposed *Newsletter* contract. Rather than deal exclusively with Dave Newkirk, the Executive Committee had opened the bidding process to any interested party. Eventually, negotiations produced a contract with Newkirk (announced at the annual business meeting) that ran through 1991. Among other subjects at the business meeting was the formation of a special Advisory

Committee headed by Barney Olson to review and propose revisions to the by-laws. A \$2,000 donation to the Goodhue County Historical Society's building fund was approved. Because of a higher workload due to increasing mail orders, motions were passed to raise the Commemorative committee stipend by \$1,000 and the commemorative mailing fee to \$7. Elections for committee chairs were held, with most incumbents reelected by unanimous consent. Ken and Dee Dee Gorgan were elected as Membership co-chairs, replacing Dave Newkirk (who did not run). Maintenance of RWCS membership files now became a function apart from *Newsletter* publication.

A 1/2-pint fancy jug was offered as the commemorative. The fancy jug was a staple of the stoneware industry, one of many types of jugs produced over the years. Fancy jugs feature rounded shoulders, with brown tops and white bottoms separated by the mold line around the middle. Sizes made in Red Wing ranged from 1/8-pint to 2-gallons. The smaller sizes were often marked with promotional slogans and given or sold as mementos of special events.

The front of the 1990 commemorative jug was decorated with a decal of a red wing. The Convention logo appears in black on the underside along with the manufacturer's name, city and state and an in-mold USA. A cork was included with each jug. A red and silver wing-shaped label stating *Red Wing 1990* was also provided with commemoratives picked up at the Convention.

The special commemorative jugs were decorated entirely in blue sponge. Six were awarded to winners in the Display Competition and another was given as a door prize.

1991

PANTRY JAR

A nine-member committee led by Barney Olson developed an initial revision and update of the RWCS by-laws. The existing by-laws and proposed changes were printed in two issues of the *Newsletter*, giving members an opportunity to study the proposal and provide input. At the annual business meeting each article of the revised by-laws was discussed and approved by the membership, as were the Rules and Regulations of the RWCS.

Among the changes enacted:

- Name change for the governing body from Executive Committee to Board of Directors
- Lengthen the term of office for all board members to four years
- Establish the vice-president as board liaison to the *Newsletter* Publisher and to be in charge of the Nominating Committee
- Eliminate the Housing and Security Committees and reassign their duties to the Convention Committee
- Establish that each committee has only one vote on the Board of Directors

1991 CONVENTION BUTTON

Designed by John Sagat

Produced and sold by the Gopher Chapter



- Establish non-voting East and West Representatives to serve as a conduit for the exchange of ideas between members and the Board
- Establish procedures for a Nominating Committee
- Strengthen and clarify the rules of conduct for RWCS members
- Establish *Robert's Rules of Order* as a guide for conducting the annual meeting, and provide for a Parliamentarian to be appointed
- Give the Board of Directors authority to take bids and make contracts with a publisher for the Society's *Newsletter*

Members voted to spend \$16,000 over three years to purchase the Eddie Swanson collection of rare Red Wing stoneware, and in turn to donate the collection to the Goodhue County Historical Society for display in its museum. A \$1,500 stipend was approved for the Membership Committee. The election of officers concluded the meeting, with Dennis Yaeggi elected as the new President.

The Executive Committee passed a motion to appoint a chapter to design, produce and sell the annual Convention button, with



Left
THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE
1991 COMMEMORATIVE

any profits to be retained by the chapter. A \$50 prize was authorized for the member submitting the design chosen for the button. The 1991 button project was given to the Gopher Chapter. The Executive Committee passed a motion to establish a RWCS Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement, with Lyndon Viel as its sole charter member.

The *Newsletter* contract was again a center of attention as the one-year contract signed with Dave Newkirk expired at the end of 1991. An ad hoc committee was formed to negotiate with Newkirk, and the vice-president was established as the official board liaison to the *Newsletter* publisher and input from the chapters was sought. Negotiations were completed during Executive Committee



Left
THE 1991 SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE

Below
BOTTOM OF THE 1991
COMMEMORATIVES



meetings at the Convention, and a contract with Newkirk running through the end of 1994 was announced at the business meeting.

Changes were made in the auction sales policy to address concerns about condition. Each item was inspected and graded at check-in, and undisclosed flaws or variances from printed catalog descriptions were announced before the auction. An 8-gallon pantry jar sold for \$1,900, followed closely by a *Gray Line* batter bowl for \$1,775. Total sales for the auction were \$58,995.

The Show & Sale was reconfigured to allow for more tables and wider aisles. Sale of non-antique items was moved to the Vo-Tech commons while antique sellers remained in Bergwall Arena.

William Gates of the Ohio Historical Society spoke about the Ohio

pottery industry at the general session. The Chamber of Commerce continued to expand on the Potter's Picnic theme for the Friday evening social event. Ice cream, pie and sodas were available, and activities included games, a scavenger hunt, a live band and door prizes. Winners of a tug-of-war received specially-made small brown jugs. Those who attended the Saturday evening banquet at the St. James heard Sue Gillmer's thoughts on "The Strike at Red Wing Potteries."

The 1991 commemorative was a 1-lb blue-and-gray pantry jar, a replica of the smallest size in Red Wing's original line of stoneware kitchen storage jars popular in the 1920s. Red Wing advertised these jars as available in seven sizes but at least nine have been found, ranging from 1-lb to 8-gallons. Blue-and-gray pantry jars were decorated with a red wing (in a different style from those found on crocks and other stoneware) between two double sets of blue bands. The covers also had blue bands.

The commemorative pantry jar combined two decorating technologies. The wing and Convention logo used decals but the blue bands were hand decorated. The wing is 2-1/4" from tip-to-tip and was made to resemble a glaze-stamped pantry jar wing as closely as possible. The blue 1991 Convention logo is on the back side of the jar. The underside is unglazed and displays the in-mold letters *USA*. The cover has a recessed button knob handle and two blue bands. Commemoratives picked up at the Convention included an *I Was There* card.

For the special commemorative the blue bands were removed. A dark blue tint was airbrushed on the jar above the wing and on the outer rim of the cover.



Above
THE 1992 COMMEMORATIVE



Right
THE NORTH STAR MARK ON THE BOT-
TOM OF THE COMMEMORATIVES



1992

NORTH STAR SHOULDER JUG

The RWCS was stunned by the sudden passing of President Dennis Yaeggi shortly before the 1992 Convention. A moment of silence was observed at the business meeting to honor Yaeggi and other RWCS members who died in the past year.

Efforts were made to get local chapters more active and involved. A meeting for chapter presidents was held Thursday morning, and rooms for chapter meetings were made available. Chapters were also invited to send a representative to all Board of Directors meetings. Also on Thursday, members were invited to the Goodhue County museum to view progress on the museum's expansion and remodeling, financed in part by the Society's donations.

The auction continued to be limited to the first 250 items submitted, but the limit was reached shortly after auction forms were distributed. The auction committee asked for member input and promised to review options before next year. A beautifully decorated 20-gallon Minnesota Stoneware salt-glazed crock sold for \$9,200; total proceeds of \$68,852.50 were realized for the auction.

The Show & Sale table rental increased to \$25 each or two for \$45. The increase generated funds to pay for parking attendants and for extra security at the Show & Sale. Exhibitors in the Display

Room were given a commemorative as a token of appreciation for their efforts instead of banquet tickets as had been done previously. Jerry Flicek was the featured speaker at Saturday evening's banquet at the St. James Hotel.

The Board of Directors addressed numerous issues over the year. Treasurer Jerry Flicek stated that the RWCS was viewed as a business by the IRS and taxed accordingly. A Convention registration fee to help cover the expenses of the Convention was discussed. The board instead voted to raise the price of the commemorative to \$15. The Commemorative Committee was authorized to purchase a computer compatible with the existing Membership computer. Evaluation of the *Newsletter* was completed, and *Newsletter* liaison Barney Olson recommended a letter be sent to Dave Newkirk expressing satisfaction.

Greg Gipe's RWCS logo design was selected by member vote at the 1991 Convention, and the board authorized Tom Trulen to create artwork to be used for all RWCS stationery and the *Newsletter*. Upon completion Trulen sold all rights to his logo artwork to the RWCS for one dollar.

The Convention's business meeting was called to order by new president Barney Olson, who announced that the Vo-Tech had requested a \$2,500 user fee for the 1993 and 1994 Conventions. Elections were held for committee chairs and for the open office of vice-president. Charter member Rich Cronemeyer was elected the vice-president, and new chairs for several committees were chosen.

The commemorative for 1992 was a miniature North Star pear-top jug, created as a tribute to the North Star Stoneware Company's

1992 CONVENTION BUTTON
Produced and sold by the Wisconsin Chapter



Left
THE 1992 SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE



founding 100 years earlier. North Star was the last of Red Wing's three big stoneware companies to be established, after the Red Wing and Minnesota Stoneware Companies. An economic depression in 1893 hurt all three, but newcomer North Star never recovered and was out of business by 1896. Because North Star was so short-lived, comparatively little of its ware exists.

The pear-top shoulder jug is North Star's most readily recognized product. The distinctive shape of the top makes it easily distinguishable from jugs of other companies and jugs with the North Star mark are highly sought. The mark features a raised five-point star with the letters N-O-R-T-H molded into the points, leaving no doubt as to the maker. Plain stars without letters were also used on North Star products, which fact causes confusion with star marks of other potteries.

The 1/2-pint commemorative jug faithfully reproduced the brown pear-top and North Star signature on the underside. While the body of the original North Star jug was salt-glazed, the commemorative used a tan-colored glaze. A folded card, tie cord and cork were included with each commemorative. The front of the card was a reproduction of a North Star calling card; inside was an short history of the North Star company.

Seven special commemoratives were again made for winners of Display awards and for a door prize. The special jugs were glazed entirely in white.

1992 marked the final year as Commemorative Committee Co-Chairs for Gary and Bonnie Tefft. Under their guidance since 1981, the RWCS commemorative realized immense growth in sales, popularity, stature and expectations from members.

1993

CHICKEN FOUNT

Until 1993 members were able to attend the annual Convention at no charge. Rising costs led to the first Convention registration fee, \$2 in advance or \$3 at the door.

The limit for the number of auction pieces accepted was raised to 275. Due to concerns about the growing number of commemoratives in the auction, a limit of 25 past commemoratives was set. A 3-gallon straight-sided elephant ear *Ice Water* cooler with lid sold for \$3,900 and a 5-gallon birch leaf churn with MSWCo in script letters brought in \$3,000. Total auction sales were \$90,240.

A new addition to the Display competition was the Dennis Yaeggi Rare Item Award. The award, honoring the late RWCS president, acknowledged a generous donation to the RWCS by Nona Yaeggi. Members were invited to display their best and rarest pieces, and viewers voted for their favorite. The winner received a special commemorative. *The Big Boys*, six Red Wing-made 15-gallon jugs in a variety of glazes and decorations, were the center of attention in the Display Room.

Helen Bell spoke about her "Memories of Growing Up in a Pottery



Left
**BOTTOM OF 1993
 COMMEMORATIVE SAUCER**

1993 CONVENTION BUTTON
*Produced and sold by the
 Cannon Valley Chapter*



Family" at Friday's general session. Local museum curator Orville Olson was the featured speaker at the banquet, held at the St. James Hotel.

At the business meeting, a motion was passed to contribute \$1,000 towards a historical marker at Hwy. 58 and Clay Bank Road to denote the site of the old Red Wing clay pits. The North Star building situation was discussed, as was the continued filling of the old potteries dump. A lengthy discussion about development of an acquisitions policy followed. After several failed motions, the end result was a \$2,000 one-year budget for the Acquisitions sub-committee, with any purchases to be donated to the Goodhue County Historical Museum.

A 1-pint version of the bell-style chicken feeder served as the 1993 commemorative. The feeders, produced in the early 1900s, were available in 1-quart, $\frac{1}{2}$ -, 1- and 2-gallon sizes. Although commonly referred to as chicken feeders, the product was designed to give poultry easy access to water or other liquids while minimizing the risk of drowning.



Left
**THE 1993
 COMMEMORATIVE**

Below left REVERSE OF 1993 COMMEMORATIVE

Below right THE 1993 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE



The blue rectangle and type on the front of the commemorative feeder were applied via decal, as was the blue 1993 Convention logo on the back. *RWCS 1993* was molded into the underside of the saucer to positively identify it as part of the commemorative. No other markings were made on the saucer. A gray folding display card accompanied each commemorative. The front of the card reproduced the chicken feeder banner and the back displayed the Convention logo; a brief narrative about the commemorative was printed inside. 1993 was the first year the commemorative was produced under the direction of Larry and Kathy Roschen.

A *Klondike Incubator Co.* advertising banner replaced the standard Red Wing feeder banner on the special commemoratives. Eight specials were distributed.



Above
A WESTERN STONEWARE EMPLOYEE BREAK-
ING THE MOLDS OF THE 1993
COMMEMORATIVE

Right
LARRY AND KATHY ROSCHEN BEGAN
PRODUCING THE COMMEMORATIVES IN 1993



1994

20-LB BUTTER CROCK

As membership in the RWCS continued to grow so did the demand to place items in the Convention auction. A limit of 250 to 300 lots had been used since the early years because no more could be comfortably sold in one evening. Access to the auction had always been on a first-come, first-served basis, but by now the quota was filled within days of mailing application forms to members. Distant members complained that mail delivery delays caused them to miss out. To address this issue, a lottery system was implemented in 1994. Some members were unhappy about the lottery method; 24 registered lots did not appear for the auction. These no-shows were viewed as a form of protest. Irregardless, the auction continued to be a success as sales totalled a record \$110,560. A straight-sided (crock-shaped) 2 gallon *Ice Water* cooler sold for \$3,400, and a stoneware lion doorstop brought in \$3,200.

A free shuttle bus to the Goodhue County Historical Museum was made available on Thursday. The Red Wing Stoneware Company encouraged RWCS members to visit their showroom, and offered a tour of the factory and free lunch on Thursday. The general session on

1994 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed by Kim McDonald
Produced and sold by the Iowa Chapter



Friday morning included a presentation by principal Larry Sonju about the development of a new Red Wing High School. Ron Linde gave a presentation on Red Wing Art Pottery, including a tribute to Charles Murphy, well-known artist and designer for Red Wing Potteries who died earlier in the year. Portions of the Eddie Swanson collection were shown in the Display Room, on loan from the Goodhue County Historical Society. Jerry Flicek spoke at Saturday evening's banquet.

The Board of Directors again faced a wide variety of issues. An Acquisitions Policy was drafted and printed for review by members before a vote at the annual business meeting. Vice-president Crone-meyer reported that as of February 15, 1994 the RWCS logo was a federally registered trademark. The board sought legal protection of the old stoneware and pottery company names not currently registered.

The dormant Vision Committee was renewed with Russ Pigott appointed as chair. After reviewing the committee's 1986 report, the group met to develop a mission statement and long-range goals. A survey for members' input was available at the Convention.

The annual business meeting was held Friday afternoon. The



Above and left
THE 1994 COMMEMORATIVE

Acquisitions Policy was approved by the membership. A budget of \$5,000 to be added to the unused \$2,000 from 1993 was approved for the acquisitions committee. A contribution of \$2,000 to the Goodhue County Historical Society was approved. Treasurer Flicek announced that the RWCS was now officially a not-for-profit corporation. Rich Cronemeyer reported the signing of a one-year *Newsletter* contract with Dave Newkirk, and announced that bidding for the *Newsletter* contract beginning in 1996 would be open to all. Debbie Olson was elected to fill the open position of Membership chair. She resigned her position as Auction chair and Russ Pigott was elected to replace her. Barney Olson was reelected as president and all other incumbent officers were reelected without opposition. Corrinne Reed won the contest for the open Historian office.

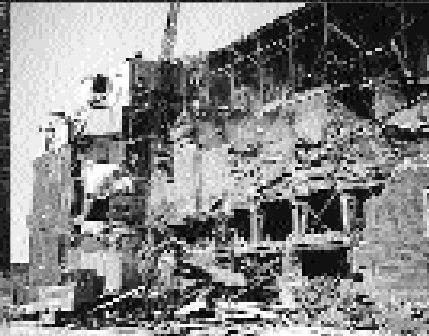
The 1994 commemorative was a miniature 20-lb butter crock. The actual size of the commemorative was approximately 1-lb. Butter crocks were another staple of the stoneware industry and most were plain pieces with no decoration. But Red Wing gave the 20-lb crock special treatment with the addition of the red wing under a blue *20 lbs.* in a rectangle. The earlier crocks featured large wings and deep colors; today these pieces are very desirable and fetch high prices. As with markings on other Red Wing products, smaller wings and fainter colors became the norm in later years. These crocks can also be found with one or another mark missing.

All marks on the commemorative crock were applied via decal. The 1994 Convention logo appears in blue on the back of the crock, enclosed by a fancy border. The commemorative also has *RWCS*

AT DAVE HALLSTROM'S
URGING, THE RWCS
BOARD AUTHORIZED
AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE
THE NORTH STAR
SYMBOL FROM THE
SOON-TO-BE
DEMOLISHED
FACTORY.
THE CONTRACTOR
WAS WILLING TO
COOPERATE BUT NOT
AT HIS EXPENSE.

HELEN BELL
CONVINCED THE
RED WING PORT
AUTHORITY OF
THE PROJECT'S
WORTHINESS, AND
THEY FINANCED
REMOVAL COSTS.
THE RWCS HELPED
TO FUND THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A
MONUMENT NEAR THE
SITE OF THE FACTORY
THAT INCORPORATES
THIS STAR.

DAVE AND DIANE
HALLSTROM AND
JEWELL PETERSON
ARE SEEN HERE WITH
THE RESCUED LOGO.





Left
THE 1994 SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE

1994 impressed into the underside of the crock. A light blue display card was included with each commemorative. The wing and 20 lbs. rectangle were reproduced on the front and the Convention logo on the back, with descriptive text printed inside.

For the special commemoratives the wing and 20 lbs. rectangle were replaced by a hand drawn 20# in cobalt blue; the Convention logo decal was retained on the back. This decoration can be found on some 20-lb butter crocks made in the earliest days of zinc glaze use. A total of 12 special commemoratives were distributed; seven to winners of the *Best of Show*, *People's Choice* and *Dennis Yaeggi* awards in the Display competition, one was placed in the 1994 auction (where it sold for \$550) and four were given as door prizes.

1995

GIRAFFE PLANTER

An untimely death again touched the RWCS as Russ Pigott, chair of the Auction and Vision committees, passed away. Russ had recently compiled the results of a Vision Committee survey and with the committee formulated a mission statement and goals for the RWCS. His leadership and enthusiasm were missed. Jeff and Paulette Floyd were chosen to chair the Auction committee on an interim basis until elections could be held at the next Convention.

Shared Interest sessions were a new Thursday afternoon event this year. Members met in small groups to share knowledge and stories about their collecting interest. By popular request Friday evening's Potter's Picnic was expanded into a real picnic with hamburgers, hot dogs and other picnic foods. Tickets were \$5 in advance or \$6 at the Convention.

The lottery system for selection of auction items was continued in 1995. To discourage "no-shows," members who registered an item but did not deliver it to the auction were disallowed from participation the following year. Total auction receipts were \$112,182.50, with a Chief Red Wing stoneware teapot receiving the top bid of \$7,200.



Above
THE UNDERSIDE OF THE 1995
COMMEMORATIVE

Right
THE 1995 COMMEMORATIVES. THE LARGER
VERSION IS THE SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE.





1995 CONVENTION BUTTON
*Produced and sold by the
 Southwest Wingers*

RWCS Volunteer shirts were given to all Convention workers as a token of appreciation and a ready means of identification. Steve Showers served as speaker for the Friday morning general session. Showers has for many years explored the pottery dumps in Red Wing, contributing greatly to our knowledge of the Red Wing stone-ware industry. At this session he presented his findings about the recently discovered North Star dump. The banquet moved to the larger facilities of Treasure Island Casino, where diners were entertained by Stevie Ray's Improv Comedy Team.

The annual business meeting spent considerable time on the *Newsletter* issue. Outgoing editor/publisher Dave Newkirk was given a standing ovation for his many years of service. Each of the three bidders for the new contract made a presentation to the members, followed by a question and answer period. Members were encouraged to view the samples displayed by the candidates and to complete a survey to provide input to the Board of Directors. By

teleconference vote in September the board chose Nicol Knappen to edit and publish the *Newsletter* in 1996 and 1997.

In other business, the Goodhue County Historical Society was granted a \$2,000 donation. The Floyds were elected to fill the position of Auction chair, and Marv Osterholz was chosen to replace Jeff Floyd as the East Representative.

The 1995 commemorative was a smaller version of a 1960s giraffe planter designed by Charles Murphy. The first commemorative produced since Murphy's death in 1994, the planter is a tribute to his national reputation and to collectors' growing interest in Red Wing Art Pottery. It was said that of the many items he designed for Red Wing, the giraffe planter was Murphy's personal favorite.

The original planters were 11" tall, handpainted and bottom-marked with shape number 896. The commemorative planter is also handpainted and the Convention logo places an "M" before 1995, consistent with the numbering style of most Murphy-designed pieces. As in the past two years a display card was included.

The special commemoratives were larger than the standard pieces. This larger size had been the manufacturer's first prototype for the commemorative but at eight inches high and six inches across it was deemed too big. Thus the standard commemorative was downsized and the prototype kept as the special. Once again twelve specials were distributed. Seven were awarded to Display Room winners, one was sold for \$1,600 at the 1995 auction and four were given as door prizes.

1996

GRAY LINE COOKIE JAR

This was a year of transition for the RWCS. Nicol Knappen, the new editor, introduced a totally different RWCS *Newsletter* with the January/February, 1996 issue. A panel of advisors for content and accuracy was assembled. Glossy paper, full-color photos, and new features were added, such as the popular *Recent Finds* and *Questions & Answers* columns. To encourage member participation, all who submitted an item for publication were eligible to win a special commemorative. Dave and Betty Knutzen—who submitted a photo for the back cover of the first “new” *Newsletter*—won the drawing, held during the 1996 Convention auction.

For the first time order forms and information for the commemorative, auction and Convention registration were mailed directly to members rather than included with the *Newsletter*. The Commemorative Committee also held a drawing for a special commemorative; all prepaid orders received by April 1 were eligible. Scott and Nancy McCune were the lucky winners.

1996 CONVENTION BUTTON
Designed by Deanna Juergens
Produced and sold by the Gopher Chapter



The *MidWinter GetTogether* was held for the first time on the weekend of March 1–3, at the Kahler Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota. The *GetTogether* began with a Friday evening social hour. Saturday featured three general session educational speakers, Shared Interest Group gatherings and a sale. Members could also buy and sell from their hotel rooms. The event ended with a Sunday morning continental breakfast. More than 500 registrants and show attendees participated in this inaugural *MidWinter GetTogether*.

After 17 years at the Technical College, the Convention moved to the brand new Red Wing High School. The Show & Sale and auction were held in the school's gymnasium. The theater-style auditorium was used for the general session and business meeting. Larger classrooms allowed for greater participation in the education seminars.

The Convention opened with two dedication ceremonies Wednesday afternoon. The first was at the monument that incorporated the brick North Star logo, preserved in late 1993 primarily through



Above left
THE 1996 COMMEMORATIVE

Above right
THE 1996 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE

Below left
CONVENTION LOGO ON INSIDE OF JARS

Below right
THE UNDERSIDE OF LID (LEFT) AND
BOTTOM OF JAR (RIGHT)



the efforts of Dave and Diane Hallstrom. The star is set between two plaques that describe the history of the Red Wing clay industry.

The second dedication took place later that afternoon at a historical marker near the old Claybank pits, the source of the clay for the Red Wing stoneware industry, 10 miles south of Red Wing on Highway 58. The marker holds two plaques. One honors potter John Paul who has been given credit for the origins of the Red Wing clay industry; the other remembers the Claybank pit operation and its many workers. RWCS member John Schwartau led the effort to install this marker, which was funded by the RWCS and the Cannon Valley Red Wing Collectors Club.

A \$10 minimum commission was imposed on auction items that sold for less than \$100; the standard 10% commission applied to lots sold for more than \$100. Another record for total sales was set with receipts of \$134,535. A group of 13 RWCS commemoratives (including the first three) fetched the highest bid at \$5,500. A 1-gallon dome-top canning jar with shield logo sold for \$4,000.

Most Convention events continued as before with little change from the previous year. Friday's general session featured Byron Gunderson's presentation on RumRill. The Saturday banquet was again held at Treasure Island where comedian Scott Novotny entertained.

At the fall, 1995 board meeting, a 20th Anniversary committee was formed to plan the 1997 Convention. At the July board meeting the Vision Committee, lead by Jerry Flicek, presented a proposal to restructure the RWCS Board of Directors to include a central office and business manager. Flicek also reported that the acquisition of nine old pottery names for preservation by the RWCS was complete.

At the business meeting two by-laws amendments were passed. The first change made the East and West Representatives voting members of the Board; the second clarified the rules for dealing with member misconduct. Elections for all committee chairs were held. Sue Gillmer and Sandy Short were chosen, respectively, for the open Publicity and Education chairs, and Wally Armstrong was elected to fill Sandy Short's term as West Representative. John and Kim Key won a contested election for Membership chair; all other incumbent chairs were reelected without opposition.

A miniature *Gray Line* cookie jar served as the commemorative in 1996. *Gray Line*, or "spongeband" as it is commonly known, was a kitchenware line produced in the 1920s and into the 1930s. All *Gray Line* pieces are extremely popular with collectors and have consistently increased in value over the years.

Decals were used for the two bands, the *Cookies* banner and Convention logo. Both the jar and lid have *RWCS 1996* molded into the clay for positive identification. The Convention logo was placed inside the cookie jar to simulate the advertising slogans frequently found on *Gray Line* pieces. A display card was included with each commemorative. The card featured the *Cookies* banner and Convention logo on front and back, respectively, with narrative text inside.

The outer surfaces of this year's special commemoratives were hand-sponged in red and blue. The *Cookies* and Convention logo decals were applied but not the two bands. Thirteen special commemoratives were distributed in 1996; one was sold at the 1996 auction for \$900.

SALT-GLAZED CROCK

This volume has shown how the Society has gradually evolved from its modest beginning to a complex organization with an annual budget of nearly a half-million dollars. At the 20-year mark, the need for a central office has become obvious, and a search for a full-time staff person and an office has begun. And an 800 telephone number has already been established to facilitate member/club contact (1-800-977-RWCS).

Further indication that we are moving along with the times is the member interest in developing a RWCS internet website. An Internet Subcommittee has been given a budget and authorized to design and construct a website.

This 20th year of activity for the RWCS demonstrates the enormous vitality of our organization. The second *MidWinter GetTogether* was held in Rochester in late February. The increased member participation (approximately 700) signifies that this event will become a regular feature of the RWCS calendar year.

The Convention activities have been greatly expanded for the anniversary celebration, beginning with a Sunday morning antique show July 6, and ending with a brunch at the St. James one full week later. The centerpiece of the Convention will be a RWCS-sponsored

comprehensive display of Red Wing clay products. Hands-on pottery-making seminars are also being featured.

The 1997 Twentieth Anniversary Commemorative is a miniature 20-gallon salt-glazed crock with a cobalt blue butterfly decoration. The commemorative is completely handmade, like the originals made before the turn of the century. The 20 gallon mark was an obvious choice for the 20th Anniversary piece, and genuine salt-glaze serves as a connection with the very first commemorative and the beginnings of the RWCS. The 1977 and 1997 commemoratives are the only two produced with an authentic salt glaze. This is also the first handthrown commemorative since 1979.

The cobalt blue 20 and butterfly were applied by hand, and the interior of the crock has a brown slip coating. Like the sidewall stamps of long ago, the Convention logo was impressed into the clay with a die stamp on the back of the crock. The logo notes the 20th Anniversary of the Red Wing Collectors Society; it also includes the *Collecting the Legacy* slogan and the years 1977 and 1997. Below the logo at the base of the crock is a small potter's mark. The mark is the potter's personal symbol and is placed on all



Above and left
THE 1997 COMMEMORATIVE, FRONT AND BACK,
AND DETAIL OF SIDEWALL STAMP



1997 CONVENTION BUTTON

Designed by Corrinne Reed

Produced and sold by Wisconsin Chapter



Right

THE 1997 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE

pieces thrown by that particular potter. Because several potters worked on this project, a variety of potter's marks will be found on the commemoratives.

For this year's special commemoratives the butterfly decoration was replaced with a parrot. A new Memorabilia category has been added to the Display Competition, thus requiring two more specials for winners of the new category's *Best of Show* and *People's Choice* awards. While the exact number was not certain at the time of this writing, 14 to 16 specials are expected to be distributed in 1997. Nine specials will go to winners in the Display Competition,

one is to be sold in the 1997 auction, one each will go to winners of the *Newsletter* participation and commemorative early-order drawings and two to four are likely to be given as doorprizes.

A project of this nature and scope required extra time, effort and planning. Larry Roschen made initial contact with Rockdale Union Stoneware in the fall of 1993. After touring the pottery's facilities in 1995 and after an intensive sampling and design process, production began in August, 1996 and was completed in February 1997. Production of this volume, which accompanies each commemorative, began in the summer of 1996.

RWCS Chapters

RWCS members who wish to maintain contact with fellow collectors in their geographical area may form a chapter. Per our by-laws, a new chapter must apply for recognition from the RWCS and be approved by a vote of the general membership at the annual business meeting. Chapters may organize a variety of events including meetings, tours, picnics, swap meets and auc-

tions. Many chapters produce their own commemorative, publish their own newsletter and charge annual membership dues. The list below shows the officially recognized chapters of the Red Wing Collectors Society.

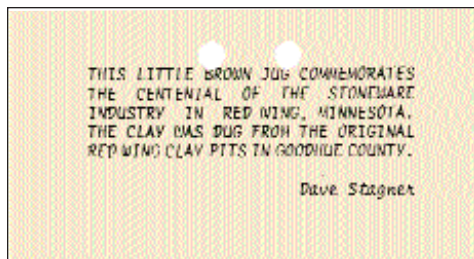
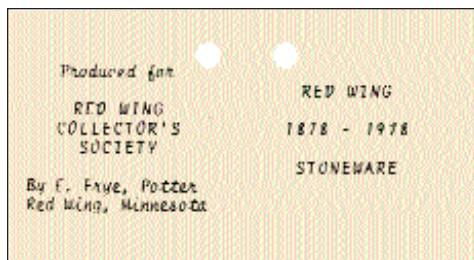
Members who are interested in joining or forming a chapter should contact the RWCS secretary for additional information.

CHAPTER	YEAR RECOGNIZED BY RWCS
Iowa	1979 (reactivated 1992)
Gopher (Minnesota)	1979
Wisconsin	1980
Southwest Wingers (Arizona)	1983
Golden State (California)	1987
Rocky Mountain (Colorado)	1987
Cannon Valley (Minnesota)	1987
Puget Sound (Washington)	1988
Nebraska	1991 (applied for reactivation 1997)
Michigan	1991
Big Sky (Montana)	1995

Representative Paper Tags

Below

OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF FOLDING TAG ATTACHED TO THE HANDLE OF THE 1978 COMMEMORATIVE. THE TAG MEASURES 4-1/8" X 2-1/4".

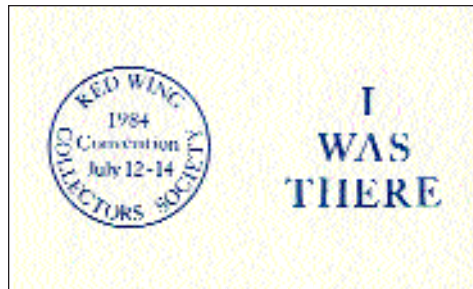
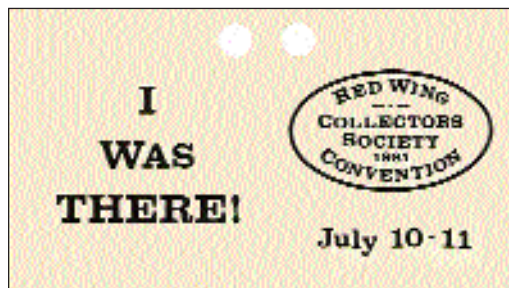


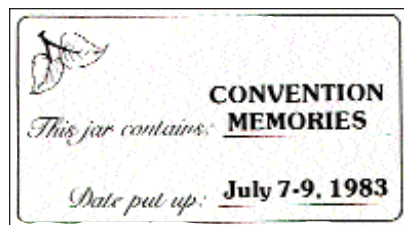
Above

OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF FOLDING TAG ATTACHED TO 1981 COMMEMORATIVES PICKED UP AT THE CONVENTION. THE TAG MEASURES 3-1/2" X 2".

Below

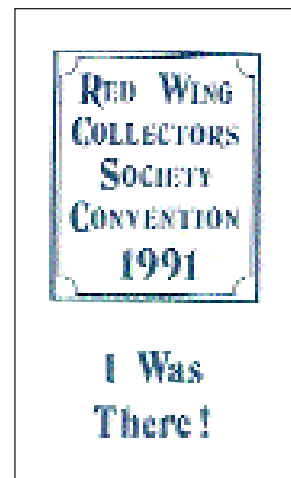
OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF FOLDING TAG THAT CAME WITH 1984 COMMEMORATIVES PICKED UP AT THE CONVENTION. THE TAG MEASURES 4" X 2-7/16".



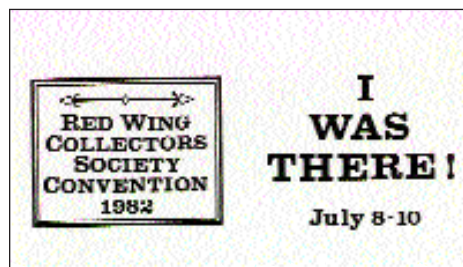


Left
 LABEL INCLUDED
 WITH 1983 COM-
 MEMORATIVES
 PICKED UP AT
 THE CONVENTION.
 THE LABEL
 MEASURES
 2-5/8" X 1-1/2".

Right
 THE TWO SIDES
 OF THE 3-1/2" X 2"
 CARD THAT
 ACCOMPANIED 1991
 COMMEMORATIVES.



Below
 ONE SIDE OF A TENT CARD PRODUCED FOR THE 1982 CONVENTION. THE REVERSE DEPICTED THE ELEPHANT EAR LEAVES DESIGN ON THE COMMEMORATIVE. THE CARD MEASURES 3-1/2" X 2". A SIMILAR FOLDING TAG ACCOMPANIED COMMEMORATIVES PICKED UP AT THE CONVENTION.



Left
 FRONT OF TENT CARD
 THAT ACCOMPANIED THE
 1992 COMMEMORATIVE.

THE DESIGN
 REPRODUCES A
 NORTH STAR STONWARE
 BUSINESS CARD.
 THE TEXT INSIDE GIVES
 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
 POTTERY COMPANY AND
 A DESCRIPTION OF THE
 COMMEMORATIVE.
 THE CARD MEASURES
 3-1/2" X 2".





THE WESTERN STONEWARE CO. PLANT IN MONMOUTH, ILLINOIS. THIS SURVIVING ONE-TIME COMPETITOR OF THE RED WING STONEWARE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN THE MANUFACTURER FOR MANY OF THE RWCS COMMEMORATIVES.

Commemorative Statistics

COMMEMORATIVE	ORIGINAL PRICE	NUMBER SOLD	MEMBERSHIP (AT YEAR END)	DIMENSIONS	MANUFACTURER
1977 Salt-Glazed Crock	\$ 7.50	250	304	4 1/4" D x 4 1/2" H (handthrown, varies)	Dave Kenyon and Bob Brodderson Spring Valley, Wisconsin
1978 Common Jug	\$ 4	350	467	3 1/4" D x 4 1/2" H	Eileen Frye Red Wing, Minnesota
1979 Butter Churn	\$10	400	595	3 1/2" D x 5" H (handthrown, varies)	Peter Dineen St. Paul, Minnesota
1980 Spongeware Bowl	\$10	400	712	5 1/4" to 5 1/2" D (varies)	Dave Hutchison Red Wing, Minnesota
1981 Brown-top Jug	\$ 8	750	824	1 3/4" D x 3" H	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1982 Cherryband Mug	\$10	697	876	3 1/4" D x 4 3/4" H	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1983 Stone Mason Fruit Jar	\$12	1,026	1,081	3 1/2" D at base x 5" H	Artists in the Park Deer Park, Wisconsin
1984 "Salt-Glazed" Cooler	\$12	1,161	1,528	3 1/4" D at base x 4" H (cooler) 3 1/2" D (cover)	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1985 Ice Water Cooler	\$12	1,750	2,049	3 1/4" D at base x 4" H (cooler) 3 1/2" D (cover)	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1986 Acid Proof Measure	\$12	1,982	2,352	3 1/2" D at base x 4 1/2" H	DeNovo Ceramics, d/b/a Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois

Commemorative statistics, continued

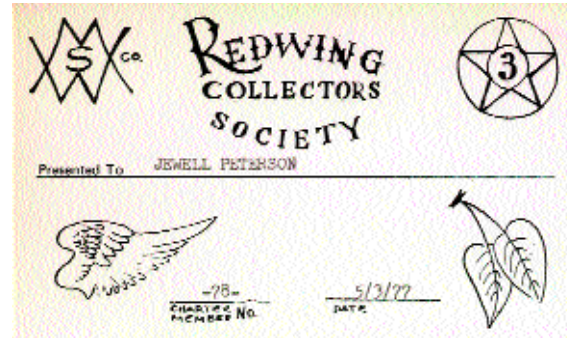
COMMEMORATIVE	ORIGINAL PRICE	NUMBER SOLD	MEMBERSHIP (AT YEAR END)	DIMENSIONS	MANUFACTURER
1987 Red Wing Ashtray	\$12	2,328	2,496	7 ¹ / ₄ " W x 3 ¹ / ₂ " H	Gris Pottery Carpentersville, Illinois
1988 <i>Pompeii</i> Plate	\$12	2,600	2,665	7 ¹ / ₂ " D	Red Wing Potteries Red Wing, Minnesota
1989 <i>Gray Line</i> Pitcher	\$12	2,682	2,937	3 ¹ / ₂ " D at base x 4 ³ / ₄ " H	R & N China Co. Carrollton, Ohio
1990 Fancy Jug	\$12	3,540	3,301	2 ³ / ₄ " D at base x 4 ¹ / ₄ " H	R & N China Co. Carrollton, Ohio
1991 Pantry Jar	\$12	3,551	4,056	3 ¹ / ₄ " D at base x 4 ¹ / ₄ " H (jar) 3" D (cover)	R & N China Co. Carrollton, Ohio
1992 North Star Jug	\$15	4,260	4,479	3" D at base x 4 ¹ / ₂ " H	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1993 Chicken Fount	\$15	4,819	4,942	4" D x 4 ³ / ₄ " H (bell) 5 ¹ / ₂ " D (saucer)	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1994 20-lb Crock	\$15	5,660	5,677	4" D at base x 2 ³ / ₄ " H	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1995 Giraffe Planter	\$20	6,186	5,928	6" H x 4 ¹ / ₂ " W	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1996 Cookie Jar	\$20	7,175	6,248	4 ³ / ₄ " D at rim x 2 ³ / ₄ " H 4" D (lid)	Western Stoneware Monmouth, Illinois
1997 Salt-Glazed Crock	\$30	???		3 ³ / ₄ " D at base x 4 ¹ / ₄ " H (varies)	Rockdale Union Stoneware Edgerton, Wisconsin

RWCS Commemorative Auction Prices

This table lists prices paid for commemoratives at RWCS Convention auctions. Although private sale prices may differ, the Convention auction records provide an excellent year-to-year comparison of commemorative values. Only sales of individual com-

memoratives are shown, lots or set sales are not included as there is no way to determine the price paid per individual piece. Asterisks denote the highest bid received if more than one commemorative from a given year sold.

COMMEMORATIVE	AUCTION YEAR														
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
1977	\$225			\$325	\$500	\$400		\$525			\$925				\$2,000
1978	120	\$300	\$260*		275				\$620						
1979	130	165*	190*		170	275	\$280			\$330			\$875	\$900	
1980	45	80*		130	110		150	260					625		750
1981				120	140*	130	150		125	130	175		340		250
1982		70*	115*	110	150	200		175		270	350		500*		500
1983			110*	100*	110*	100	105	155*					450	475	
1984				90*	65	95	90	80	100	120	190			375	320
1985					65	75	60	60		100	140			225	
1986						50	65	75	75	80	130				180
1987							35		50	55	100				
1988									45		40				
1989									115*	140	160		275	275*	325*
1990									60*	80					
1991											125*		110		175
1992													70	100	
1993													80*		
1994														75	
1995															105*



Above

AN ORIGINAL RWCS MEMBERSHIP CARD.
THE CARD MEASURES 3" X 5".

Left

A CHARTER MEMBER CERTIFICATE ISSUED
TO THE PETERSON FAMILY. THE CERTIFICATE
MEASURES 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 11".

Charter Members

Charter members are defined by the RWCS by-laws as those who were members of the Red Wing Collectors Society as of July 9, 1977. The names seen below are those of individuals who have maintained continuous membership since that date and who are currently active members. Unfortunately, the original list of charter members no longer exists. This list has been compiled from the cur-

rent membership database as well as from a similar list developed in 1987. The memories of several charter members were also helpful. We extend sincere apologies to any legitimate, currently active charter member whose name has been omitted; the oversight was unintentional. Please be kind enough to bring any corrections to the attention of the RWCS Historian.

1 Ann Viel	28 Fred Bailey, Jr.	85 Jerry Fischbach	140 Larry Peterson
2 Goodhue County Historical Society	29 Jo Irwin	86 Martha Behrens	141 Vi Malmquist
3 David and Lorraine Newkirk	30 Rosa Larson	87 Audrey Solberg	145 Kenneth Reek
4 Ronald Hoke	35 Emil Pearson	89 John and Sandy Sorenson	146 Mary Lou Valek
5 Dave Huebner	36 Kathryne Schroeder	90 Ann Touchette	148 John and Jean Donavan
6 Millie Heins	43 Roy and Grace Farr	92 Dom Colonna	152 George and Jan Kowalchuk
7 Nancy Schmidt	46 Darrel Leipold	93 John Panek	158 John and Beverly Ehrnreiter
9 Bernadine Blumhagen	49 James Norine	95 Vance Neuberger	162 Shirley Bothum
10 Jean Chesley	56 Roger Blohm	97 John and Janice Johnston	165 Dan DePasquale/Gail Peck
12 Frank O'Dell	57 Richard and Elaine Fastenau	98 Morris and Delores Callstrom	169 Dale Heine
13 Gary and Dianne Kamp	61 Merle Edblom	100 Garry and Lonna Schroeder	170 Willie Safe
14 Marian Pitzen	64 James Walter	106 Lawrence Orlowski	171 Beverly Radkey
15 John and Jean Griffin	65 Bob and Georgia Nelson	109 Helen Bell	173 Ralph Nelson
20 Bernice Scholer	66 Jon and Grace Buck	113 James Dewitt	174 Ronald Naseth
22 Wendell Ludwig	68 Stan and Betty Moe	114 Bob and Mary Warth	177 Wayne Bell
23 Adolph Bender	69 Margaret Mayo	119 Vernetta Nelson	178 Robert and Joyce Anderson
24 Kenneth Michel	78 Jewell Peterson	130 Doyle and Maxine Brubaker	179 Vesta Hendricks
26 Evelyn Mayer	81 Ron and Grace Warner	132 Richard Cronemeyer	
	83 Loren and JoAnn Peterson	138 Anne Williams	

Officers and Committee Chairs¹

YEAR ²	PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	HISTORIAN	EAST REP	WEST REP	AUCTION
1977	David Newkirk	David Stagner	Bernice Scholer	John Johnston	Lyndon Viel			
1978					Jim Norine			
1979		Roger Blohm		Betty Duenow				
1981	Roger Blohm	Gary Tefft			Bonnie Tefft			
1983				Jerry Flicek				
1984	Dan DePasquale	Stan Bougie	Gloria Sanders					Roger Blohm
1987								
1988								Debbie & Barney Olson II
1989		Dennis Yaeggi	Ann Busse					
1990								
1991	Dennis Yaeggi	Barney Olson II			Rachel Morris	Pat Murphy	Sandy Short	
1992	Barney Olson II	Rich Cronemeyer						Debbie Olson
1994					Corrinne Reed	Jeff Floyd		Russ Pigott
1995						Marv Osterholz		Jeff & Paulette Floyd
1996							Wally Armstrong	

¹There were no formal committees until 1981. ²Year elected or appointed

Officers and Committee Chairs

AWARDS ³	COMMEMORATIVE	CONVENTION	DISPLAY	EDUCATION	HOUSING ⁴	MEMBERSHIP	PUBLICITY	SECURITY ⁴	YEAR
									1977
									1978
									1979
Jean Donovan	Bonnie & Gary Tefft	Stan Bougie & Delores Callstrom			Vi Malmquist	Betty Duenow	Jean Donovan		1981
		Vi Malquist, Arlen & Phyllis Johnson	Jean Donovan	Gail DePasquale	Delores Callstrom ²	David Newkirk	David Newkirk		1983
		Arlen & Phyllis Johnson					Helen Bell	Bob Sanders	1984
			Gary & Cindy Antoline						1987
				Mary Bang				Mike Rice	1988
									1989
		Dave & Diane Hallstrom				Dee Dee & Ken Gorgan	Steve Brown		1990
									1991
	Larry Roschen		Jeff & Ruby Benson	Larry Peterson			Chuck Drometer		1992
						Debbie Olson			1994
									1995
	Kathy & Larry Roschen			Sandy Short		John & Kim Key	Sue Gillmer		1996

³ Committee discontinued 1983 ⁴ Committee discontinued 1992

Left

A NEWSLETTER
AWARD PRESENTED
TO JEWELL
PETERSON AT THE
FIRST RWCS
CONVENTION.
EDITOR DAVE
NEWKIRK
CONTINUED TO
PRESENT AWARDS
AT THE CONVEN-
TION BANQUET FOR
MANY YEARS.
THIS CERTIFICATE
MEASURES
8" X 6-¹/₄".

Display Awards

1979

BEST OF SHOW
Stan and Marge Bougie
Dinnerware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Vi Malmquist
Pitchers

1980

BEST OF SHOW
Steve and Sharron Cypher
Wisconsin Stoneware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Steve Showers
Shards

1981

BEST OF SHOW
JoAnn and Bob Hagen
Brown Ware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jackie Valek
Chicken Feeders

1982

BEST OF SHOW
Arlan Johnson
Philleo Shards

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jackie Valek
The Beatery

1983

BEST OF SHOW
David Baum
Mugs

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Beth Slaith
Brushware

1984

BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Larry and Lawrence
Peterson
Mini Jugs

1985

BEST OF SHOW
Arlan and Phyllis Johnson
Philleo Shards

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jewell Peterson
Spongeband

1986

ART POTTERY
BEST OF SHOW
Larry and Kathy Roschen
Rare Dinnerware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Con and Sandy Short
*Animals of North Dakota
and Minnesota*

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW
Chuck and Eva Drometer
Red Wing Advertising Jugs

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Dennis Nygaard
Advertising Shards

1987

ART POTTERY
BEST OF SHOW
Byron and Tamara
Gunderson
RumRill Black & White
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Ben and Diane Kroll
Red for Red Wing

STONEWARE
BEST OF SHOW
Larry and Lawrence
Peterson
Butter Crocks
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Larry and Pat Ambler
Kitchenware

1988

ART POTTERY
BEST OF SHOW
Bob and JoAnne Hagen
Corn King
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Stan Bougie
Red Wing Dinnerware

STONEWARE
BEST OF SHOW
Pauline Roll
Brushware
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jewell Peterson and
Carol Shaffer
Home on the Farm

Display Awards, continued

1989

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jean Donovan
Nokomis Ware

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Dave and Diane Hallstrom
Hamm's Ware

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW
Ruby Benson
Chicken Feeders
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jewell Peterson and Carol Shaffer
Pitchers in the Shipping Room

1990

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW
Byron and Tamara Gunderson
RumRill

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

RON LINDE
Collecting Red Wing Pottery

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW
John and Marilee Sagat
Provincial Dinnerware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Eleanor Roschen
One-of-a-Kind Dinnerware

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW
Larry Peterson
Excelsior Springs
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Jewell Peterson
Blue Sponge

1991

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW
Curt and Karen Nyberg
Bette Davis Memorabilia

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Con and Sandy Short
Extinct Animals of North Dakota and Minnesota

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Ron Linde
Ideas for Collecting Red Wing Dinnerware

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Wayne and Sue Chapman
Red Wing "Winged" Stoneware

1992

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW
Marcia Hoel
Peaches and Cream

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Jean Donovan
Nokomis

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Roy and Grace Farr
Dinnerware, Trivets, and Memorabilia

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW
Bonnie and Gary Tefft
North Star
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Ron Linde
Churns

1993

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW

Ron Linde

Art Pottery Glazes

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Mike and Dianna Rice

Red Wing in Miniature

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW

Wayne and Sue Chapman

Watt Pottery

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Kathy Hoel

Along the Gypsy Trail

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW

Ferris Hunderdtmark

Fort Dodge Stoneware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Jim Snow

Pour Your Money into Red Wing

DENNIS YAEGGI RARE ITEM

Jim Key

Grandpa's Stoneware Log Cabin

1994

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW

Ron Linde

Charles Murphy

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Mike and Russa Robinson

Blue Fleck

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW

Dianna Rice

Teapots

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Terry and Lisa McClellen

Cookie Jars

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW

Lowell Reed

Mennig & Slater

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Dennis Nygaard

Weir Seal

DENNIS YAEGGI RARE ITEM

Diane Peterson

Frank's Last Jug

1995

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW

Don McCool and Laura Boomer

Red Wing Lamps

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Mike Rice

Magnolia

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW

Cliff Ekdahl and Marilyn Petersdorf

Ivy Pattern Dinnerware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Ron Linde

Hand Painted Dinnerware

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW

John Dougherty

Red Wing Spongeware

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Pat and Louy Stambaugh

Sponge in the Cupboard

DENNIS YAEGGI RARE ITEM

Wayne Miller

Half-gallon Vinegar Jug with Brown Top, Sponge Bottom and Red Wing

1996

ART POTTERY

BEST OF SHOW

Jennifer Keding

Red Wing Animals

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Ron Linde

Black & White Art Pottery

Made in Red Wing

DINNERWARE

BEST OF SHOW

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Lynn Huppert

Gypsy Trail

STONEWARE

BEST OF SHOW

Ferris Hunderdtmark

Plymouth Stoneware of

Ft. Dodge, Iowa

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Lowell Reed

Colfax Mineral Springs

DENNIS YAEGGI RARE ITEM

Dan Gustafson

Jug and Tumblers

with 49 signatures

Salt-glazing is a beautifully simple process, but also inherently inconsistent. Common rock salt is thrown in the kiln at the height of temperature, approximately 2,200°F. As the salt vaporizes from the extreme heat, the sodium from the salt bonds to the silica in the clay forming a coating of sodium silicate, better known as glass. Inconsistencies in the final products come from variables as diverse as the stacking pattern of the pots in the kiln, the age and condition of the kiln, the weather, and the experience and feel for the process that the kilnmaster possesses. Consistent results from salt-glazing in a traditional kiln are very difficult to achieve through objective or analytical measures. The kilnmaster has to depend more on indicators like the strength of the flame coming out of the peep holes, the sound of the burners, or the intensity of the color emanating from the firebox.

The RWCS 20th Anniversary Commemoratives bears the unmistakable characteristics of authentic salt-glazed pieces from the early days of the Red Wing potteries. Some have a very clear, pristine, cream-colored salt-glaze; others tend more toward tan or gray, and some have distinctive flashing or “kiss” marks from the kiln.

Rockdale Union Stoneware’s roots were in early American pottery. Unfortunately we have emulated one predominant characteristic of nearly all early American potteries: a beginning *and* an ending date. I joked with Larry Roschen that the RWCS membership should

commend him for being resourceful enough to find a producer for the commemorative that would be so considerate as to go out of business after making the pieces, adding to their collectability!

Our first seven or eight years were very successful. We grew from a one-person operation to one that employed 35 people and had annual sales in excess of a million dollars. In 1991 we made a big expansion, taking on much higher overhead. Unfortunately, shortly after our move, the market for traditional salt-glaze pottery began to flatten out, and eventually drop. We still had a strong niche with custom decorations, but we began to have poor results from our aging kilns, giving us unacceptable “seconds” rates.

Like the Red Wing potteries that shifted to Bristol or white glazes in the late 1890s, we were moving in that direction last year, due to the salt-glazing inconsistencies. We made enormous efforts to change our products and markets, but were not able to do it quickly or effectively enough.

Working on this large commission was a great yet harrowing experience. Problems with our salt-glaze kilns caused us to have many more seconds in this run than anticipated and we smashed close to a thousand pieces that were not up to standards.

PETER WAKEFIELD JACKSON

Founder

Rockdale Union Stoneware
(1984–1997)

PETER WAKEFIELD
JACKSON



