



Red Wing Dinnerware & the CeramaStone Line

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The information presented here has been gleaned from vintage Red Wing brochures, catalogs, price lists and internal documents as well as trade journals and magazines. In this discussion, a “pattern” is a dinnerware set in a particular shape with a unique handpainted design or color scheme. A “line” is a group of patterns that share the same shapes but have different handpainted designs or colors. Some of the introduction and exit dates presented have not been verified because of gaps in available documentation. When uncertain, an estimated date is provided. The end point of a pattern can be difficult to ascertain. In the 1940s and 1950s a discontinued pattern no longer appeared on price lists; in the 1960s patterns that were no longer in production remained on price lists as “limited stock” with only a few pieces listed. Here a pattern is considered to be discontinued when a full range of items was no longer available and orders were limited to remaining stock.

Each pattern has been assigned an Availability rating and a Collector Interest rating as described below. Availability represents an average for the pattern in question, however the scarcity of certain pieces within the pattern may differ. Collector Interest refers to the pattern in general, but there may be specific pieces in any pattern that are of greater interest to specialty collectors (teapots, pitchers, salt & peppers, etc). Please keep in mind these ratings are the authors’ observations; your experience may vary.

Availability

- 1 – Rare
- 2 – Very scarce
- 3 – Hard to find
- 4 – Average
- 5 – Readily available

Collector Interest

- 1 – Highly sought, demand exceeds supply
- 2 – Primarily of interest to specialty collectors
- 3 – Above average
- 4 – Average
- 5 – Below average

CERAMASTONE Line

CeramaStone was the last Red Wing dinnerware line. The line was well-received at trade shows, giving the company hope that CeramaStone would be the break it needed to remain competitive. But a labor dispute ultimately led to the closing of Red Wing Potteries in 1967; thus the CeramaStone patterns were short-lived.

A CeramaStone brochure described the line as “Improved Stoneware”. It stated “CeramaStone is improved stoneware because it combines the basic materials of stoneware, yet we remove the impurities and fire at extremely high temperatures (2200 degrees). The result is a harder, more chip resistant, dishwasher and ovenproof dinnerware.” Another promotional piece stated the clay was an “expertly blended formula” that includes kaolin clay, ball clays, feldspar, flint and talc. CeramaStone pieces featured an alternating design of raised lines and ovals around the sides of hollowware and on the rims of flatware. Each pattern had its own color scheme. The CeramaStone line had several unique pieces including a tall single candleholder that resembled a Tiki figure, a triple candleholder in the shape of a stylized pig, a handled serving dish that resembled a coal scoop, and a set of canisters in three sizes. The push to reduce labor costs continued with this line. Most pieces were produced in solid colors or featured the swirled effect used with Ebb Tide. Only two patterns included hand painted designs, and they were applied to only a few pieces.

The CeramaStone line was in full production when the Potteries closed abruptly in 1967. Many CeramaStone pieces remained in various stages of completion. To prepare this stock for sale to the public, greenware was fired using various leftover glazes. Items that had been glazed with a base CeramaStone color, but not completed, were sold partially finished. Thus today we find CeramaStone pieces in non-CeramaStone colors or in color schemes that don’t match any CeramaStone pattern. Learning to differentiate these post-production pieces from standard production items can be tricky.

Greenwichstone **Availability: 4** **Interest: 4** **Years: July 1966-1967**



The interiors of Greenwichstone bowls and plates utilized the same swirl effect and colors as Ebb Tide. The rims of the flatware and all surfaces of hollowware and the cup & saucer were a dark olive green. The brochure described the pattern as “An unaffected blending of slate green and sand yellow. The swirl center gives a distinctively personal, hand-turned look.” Greenwichstone is the only CeramaStone pattern to appear on the August 1966 dealer price list. *At left: Greenwichstone dinner plate.*



Colors of the CeramaStone Line serving pieces: Beverage servers (left to right) in dark brown, olive green, dark gold and dark blue-green. Salt & pepper shakers in orange.



The interiors of these Greenwichstone sauce bowls show the dramatic variation that can be found in the swirl taken from the Ebb Tide pattern.



HEARTHSTONE BEIGE
by Red Wing

Hearthstone Beige Availability: 3 Interest: 4
Hearthstone Orange Availability: 4 Interest: 4

Years: July 1966-1967
Years: July 1966-1967



Dinner plates from both patterns.

These two patterns were made exclusively for sale by Sears. They did not appear on any Red Wing price lists. The brochure at left that introduced them included the Sears logo and stated "Available at Sears Retail Stores Only".

Hearthstone Beige was quite similar to Greenwichstone. The center of the flatware was light brown or beige and had a slight swirl design, though less pronounced than Greenwichstone or Ebb Tide. The same light brown color was found on covers and the interior of the cup. Hollowware, the rims of flatware, the saucer and the 6 inch plate were dark brown.



As the name implied, orange was the base color of Hearthstone Orange. The shade was close to pumpkin and there were no swirls in this pattern. All three sizes of plates, the platters and the two larger bowls had orange centers with dark brown rims. The cup, creamer, smaller bowls and other items that did not have covers were all orange. But pieces that had covers are dark brown with orange covers. To confuse the color issue even more, one can find dinner plates and possibly other pieces that should have a dark brown rim, but are all orange. These pieces were only partially finished prior to the closing of the company and were sold to the public "as-is".



Above: *Hearthstone Orange Tiki girl single candleholder.*

From left to right, these brochure photos show the CeramaStone round vegetable dish, serving platter, covered sugar, creamer, beverage server, cup & saucer and three sizes of plates: dinner, salad and bread & butter. The brochure lists Charles Murphy as the designer of the patterns.



HEARTHSTONE ORANGE
by Red Wing



Above: *Hearthstone Orange pig triple candleholder.*

a dark brown rim, but are all orange. These pieces were only partially finished prior to the closing of the company and were sold to the public "as-is".



Adobestone Availability: 3 Interest: 4 Year: 1967

All Adobestone pieces were a solid matte dark gold color. It was the only CeramaStone pattern that didn't mix colors on the flatware and hollowware. The brochure stated "The flowing properties of the gold and wood brown glazes result in a subtle blending of the colors, highlighting the boldly embossed shape." In other words the glaze adhered differently to the raised design than to the flat areas, which emphasized the design and gave the piece a two-toned effect.



Above: *Adobestone handled serving dish.*
 Below: *Adobestone Gravy boat.*

Adobestone dinner plate



Heatherstone Availability: 3 Interest: 4 Year: 1967

Heatherstone and Charstone Bleu were the only two CeramaStone patterns that included a handpainted decoration. But the decoration appeared only on the dinner plate, salad plate, platter and round vegetable dish (nappy). For Heatherstone, the center of these pieces had a floral design in gold, white and dark brown against a light brown background. The rims were dark brown and the backs of these pieces were white. All other Heatherstone pieces were entirely dark brown, including the covers. This makes it difficult for collectors to differentiate most Heatherstone hollowware from Hearthstone Beige and Hearthstone Orange hollowware. All had dark brown bases; the only difference was the color of the covers. And all-brown pieces that did not have covers could go with either Hearthstone Beige or Heatherstone. This can be very confusing until one learns the differences in the color schemes.



Heatherstone canister



Heatherstone dinner plate

All other Heatherstone pieces were entirely dark brown, including the covers. This makes it difficult for collectors to differentiate most Heatherstone hollowware from Hearthstone Beige and Hearthstone Orange hollowware. All had dark brown bases; the only difference was the color of the covers. And all-brown pieces that did not have covers could go with either Hearthstone Beige or Heatherstone. This can be very confusing until one learns the differences in the color schemes.



Charstone Bleu Availability: 3 Interest: 4 Year: 1967

Like Heatherstone, Charstone Bleu had a handpainted decoration on the dinner plate, salad plate, platter and round vegetable dish (nappy). For Charstone Bleu, the center of these pieces had a snowflake design in dark blue-green, white and turquoise against a light blue-green background. The rims were dark blue-green and the backs of these pieces were white. All other Charstone Bleu pieces were entirely dark blue-green in a matte finish, including the covers.



Above: *Charstone Bleu round vegetable dish and teapot*



Editor's note: After running for five years, the Introduction to Dinnerware Series will be completed in the next issue of the RWCS Newsletter.