

Red Wing's Concord Line

PART 2 OF 2

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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

Red Wing introduced the Concord shape in 1941. A total of 17 to 20 Concord patterns were introduced between 1941 and 1957; the number depends on whether you consider color variations to be distinct patterns. The patterns introduced in 1941, 1952 and 1955 had hollow ware decorated to match the flatware; patterns introduced in other years were glazed in solid colors that were usually shared with other patterns. A 1942 price list showed that covers were initially considered optional for the Provincial and Concord lines. Sugar bowls, cream soup bowls and casseroles could be purchased either with or without a cover. Also, new pieces not made for the 1941 introduction were added later to both lines. For example, the covered beverage server was added in 1949. By this time, Orleans and Brittany were being phased out and Harvest had been discontinued, thus no beverage servers in those patterns were ever made. New items such as the celery, relish and butter dishes, spoon rest, divided vegetable, egg plate, supper trays and gravy boat were added to the Concord line in the late 1940s and early 1950s. These items can be difficult to find in the Lexington pattern because they were not made until nearly the end of Lexington production, and they were never made in the Harvest pattern.

Iris Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1951 - 1956

Zinnia Availability: 2 Interest: 3 Years: 1951 - 1953



Iris, Zinnia, Quartette and Leaf Magic were introduced in 1951 and with them came three new exterior colors. Quartette was the only solid-colored Concord pattern, and all pieces were available in four colors: Chartreuse, Ming Green, Mulberry and Copper Glow. A set of Quartette could have been purchased all in a single color or the colors could have been mixed and matched as was done in the days of Gypsy Trail. Leaf Magic was not really a dinnerware pattern; the only item was a white dinner plate decorated with three leaves in the Quartette colors. Leaf Magic was intended to be an optional dinner plate for use with Quartette. Besides being Quartette colors, pieces with Mulberry and Chartreuse exteriors were also made to go with Iris, while Copper Glow and Ming Green go with Zinnia. Thus, a Copper Glow base could become either Zinnia (add a white cover with Zinnia artwork) or Quartette (add a Copper Glow cover). Iris and Zinnia flatware had a white background with a hand-painted Iris or Zinnia flower. Iris is considered by many collectors to be Red Wing's prettiest dinnerware pattern.



Quartette Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: 1951 - 1956

Leaf Magic Availability: 2 Interest: 2 Years: 1951 - 1953



Several new items were added to the Concord line in 1951. Two styles of supper trays were added; one with the same squared shape and 10.5" size as the dinner plate, the other being oblong and 12" x 9.5". These trays had raised ridges that served as dividers, as well as a place to set a cup. The butter dish, celery dish, relish dish and spoon rest were also added in 1951.



Fruit Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: 1952 - 1955

Lanterns Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: 1952 - 1955



Fantasy Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1952 - 1955

An internal company document described the upcoming addition of four new Concord patterns: Lanterns, Fruit, Asters and Buds. Lanterns and Fruit went into production as planned while the name Fantasy replaced Asters prior to production. Buds was shown at a trade show, was not well received, and was subsequently scrapped before being put into production. The only examples of Buds likely to exist were those made as samples or for the trade show, thus any piece of Buds is quite rare and highly desired by collectors. All four new patterns featured hand-painted hollowware, decorated to match the flatware as had been done with Lexington. Fruit was decorated with an apple, pear, grapes and flowers on a pink background. Fantasy featured "an impressionistic interpretation of the lovely aster" on a pink background. Lanterns was decorated with a branch of Chinese Lantern flowers on a light chartreuse background. Buds displayed budding branches on a white background.

The egg plate with center compartment cover and the divided vegetable dish were added to the Concord line in 1952, and the deep-sided coffee cup was added in 1954.



Buds Availability: 1 Interest: 1 Years: 1952



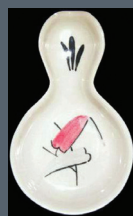
Nassau Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1952 - 1955

Spring Song Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1952 - 1955

1953 saw the introduction and quick demise of the Nassau pattern. Nassau flatware was decorated with branches of fern-like leaves in shades of green, yellow and brown on a white background. The exterior of Nassau hollow ware was glazed with a solid dark brown color; it differed distinctly from the more common metallic brown found on many Concord pieces. This color was softer, more of a coffee or cocoa brown, and was used exclusively on Nassau hollow ware. Nassau did not sell and was promptly dropped.



Spring Song flatware featured two birds sitting on multicolored branches on a white background. Hollow ware exteriors were solid-colored and available in two new colors that were used only with the Spring Song pattern. Initially hollow ware was available only in Honey Beige (tan), but soon robin's egg blue was a second color option. Apparently Spring Song didn't catch on with the public as it was produced for only a brief period.



Willow Wind Pink Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1952 - 1955

Willow Wind Turquoise Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1952 - 1955



Willow Wind, the last Concord pattern to be introduced, was available in two colors: Willow Wind Pink and Willow Wind Turquoise. The second version is commonly called Willow Wind Blue, but company literature referred to it as Willow Wind Turquoise. Both flatware and hollow ware were hand-painted with branches of willow leaves in either pink or turquoise (blue) on a white background. Like Spring Song, both versions of Willow Wind remained in production for only a brief period as the Concord line was being phased out in favor of newer designs.