

# COMPARING APPLES-TO-APPLES

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## A brief overview of RB Apples

by Kat Thacker Sept 2011



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This whole presentation came about when I purchased an Apple Lot at a local auction house last Fall. Even though we had a few apples already, I got them for a good price & decided to just "trade-up" by keeping my favorites and selling off the duplicates.

I pulled everything together & discovered there was quite a surprising variation in sizes/molds for supposedly "identical" pitchers. In comparing two Water Pitchers, it appeared they had completely different molds all together. This also was the case with several creamers. Did the Royal Bayreuth Factory in Tettau have totally different molds of the same items???

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In reading through Mary's books, It's noted that the Apples/Fruit were made from 1885-WWI. I've found a variety of marks on the pieces in our collection, so I figured some were definitely earlier than others, but Mary reminded me that according to the factory, sometimes the marks were arbitrary, so NOT truly date-specific.

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The variety found so far include:

- ❑ Lemonade/Cider pitcher
- ❑ Water Pitcher
- ❑ Milk Pitcher
- ❑ Creamer
- ❑ Covered Boxes w/underplates (3 sizes)
- ❑ Covered Sugar Bowl
- ❑ Covered Mustard/Marmalade w/underplate & spoon
- ❑ Demi Cup & Saucer
- ❑ Salt & Pepper
- ❑ Teapots w/lids (2 sizes)
- ❑ Wall Pocket?

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In talking about this to Mary, we went through what she had been told on her visit to the factory - pieces varied a bit in sizes/shapes depending on how old & "worn-out" the actual mold was.

We've all seen that phenomenon in our personal collecting, but this group seemed much more different.

Of course the paint/glazes varied from piece to piece depending on who was doing the painting that day.

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MAJOR VARIATIONS found in my Apple Pitcher Collection:

In comparing my 2 Waters, it is obvious they came from different molds.



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The larger of the two has the #9/2B blue mark, is taller & wider overall, w/a bumpier, more European shape to the apple. This one holds 5 1/2 cups. It also feels heavier. The handle is inset solidly into the apple w/o any gaps or hollows...

The smaller Water is more defined & crisp in the mold, with a smoother shape to the apple. This one holds 4 1/2 cups. The handle has the usual hollow inside where it inserts into the apple. This one has the #10/4B blue mark...

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I also have several Creamers that vary beyond the usual:

A light green with some touches of red is the largest of the group. It is more round in shape with the overall appearance being softer & thicker. It has the #15 small green mark along w/a 27 stamp in black. It holds slightly more than the usual cup.

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I have a more commonly colored yellow/red that bears the #10/4B mark in blue. This is slightly larger overall than usual.

The next one down in size is another yellow/red that has a very crisp & slightly taller appearance. It has the #9/2B mark in blue.

My last creamer is the traditional yellow/red that looks "normal" with the same marks as the creamer above.



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I'm including some interesting items from the Cappel's Apples!!!

Wanna-bees include:

Tutti Frutti RB: Several different styles of dessert knives in holders. They felt these particular designed knives looked much like the strawberry set they had of RB. Also a lovely plate, and cute condiment set.

Thanks to the Cappels for their help & beautiful pics of their amazing apple collection.

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## Oddities & Wanna-Bees:

In the June 2000 issue of our newsletter, Art Ward wrote in his article "Error Figurals" about a few "bad" apples... He found a tomato creamer and a melon both painted like apples!

Open for discussion... Apples vs Peaches. The battle rages on... Is it an apple or a peach wall pocket? Half polled at convention though it was a peach and half thought it was an apple – so there you are.....

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THANK YOU