

Frankoma Pottery and Advertising Items/ Specials.

**Bob & Vickie McBain – LeGrand Iowa
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Frankoma has made thousands of advertising items and specials over the years, and continues to do so. We have all seen the advertising items, such as ashtrays, small leaf trays, cups, etc. What most people don't know is that Frankoma did pieces for advertising to help pay the bills in the early years.

I am going to try to hit some of the more unique items, as well as some of the scarce items. This is by no means the complete list of advertising items or specials, but hopefully you will pick up some information you did not have before, and maybe a better understanding. Also, who knows what treasure you have back home, that you were wondering about.

Advertising items and specials can be organized into 14 different areas. This is just one way of doing it and everyone will have a different method or idea.

- 1 – Items especially designed for a company, organization, or special occasion.
- 2 – Stock Items used for specials.
- 3 – Salesmen tools.
- 4 – Specials designed for someone/something, ended up becoming a stock item.
- 5 – Trivets.
- 6 – Plates
- 7 – Early Pieces
- 8 – Special Events
- 9 – Honey Jugs
- 10 – Advertising Ashtrays
- 11 – Two Tone Items
- 12 – Lunch time Specials
- 13 – Experimental Items
- 14 – Other

1 – Items especially designed for a company, organization, or special occasion.

These were mostly one time orders, like Oklahoma Natural Gas, Schmidt Beer Mug, Roman Nose Park, Conestoga Plate, etc. Or they could be items that were created for a one time but were re-ordered like the Amana Plate. The Biliken is another piece that I would include as it was produced especially for an organization.



Some of the more unique items are the #97 – AAA Root Beer Mug made in 1949. You don't see this too often, but it does exist.



Another mug was the Schmidt Beer mug. This was produced in the 1960's. There are 3 styles of this item.

The Cleveland National Bank Vase is a unique advertising item that was produced by Frankoma.



One of the more interesting items produced by Frankoma was the #187 Biliken. This was produced twice over the years, with the first being in 1954, and again in 1977-78. They normally had some writing on the bottom, such as "Jester's Day May 7-8, 1954, Host K.S. Boot's Adams", "Phillip's Oil, Jester's Day, Bartlesville", "Kansas, Wichita Court #76", "Tulsa Court No. 47 R.O.J.", "Muskogee Court, No 99", "St. Louis Court. No 81".



The Greyhound piece was produced twice, as far as we can tell. The pedals on the back will tell you what group the piece belongs to.



Some other special items that were done are the Schreiber's Drug Store and Ann's Bakery. Again unique items for customer give-aways.



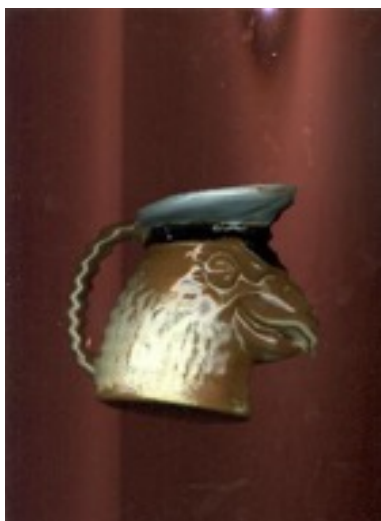


The Mo-Vi spoon was produced to be given away as a prize for dog food purchases.



The NBTA was created as an award for what we don't really know. We think that was for bowling, but no one really knows for sure. An interesting item to say the least.

This item was produced as a give-a-way for American Airlines. It was given to employees of this company for special recognition.



2 – Stock Items used for specials.

These could be like class reunions, open house for a company, anniversaries, etc. This is by far the biggest category. They also could be used as gifts by a company, which might use the same item, but change color or date. (Lee Supply is an example of this), or it could be a company keeping the same logo, but changing the items/piece (Jet Tire is an example). The Swanee Lions also would be in this category, as they had Frankoma produce items for Chuckwagon days over the years.

One of the earliest advertising companies that Frankoma worked with is the Farmer's and Merchant Bank. Frankoma did a small Aztec creamer (7A) with the Farmer's and Merchant National Bank on it. Frankoma continued to produce advertising items thought the year for this bank (7JH), as well as other banks, such as the American National Bank.



Frankoma also did items for Security State Bank. In 1953 Frankoma produced the #35 – Mint Bowl for this bank.

Frankoma did advertising for Dickson-Goodman Furniture. They did a lot of business for this advertiser over the years. You can find them in the leaf tray (#225 and #226), the Shell bowl (#214), as well as other pieces.

Another item that was produced during the 1942 time frame was the Old Man on the Mountain. Frankoma produced the following items for this, #502 small vase, #59 canteen, #42 and 42A creamer and sugar, #87H salt & pepper and #455 Cigar Ashtray. These items had on one side an image of the Old Man of the Mountain, and the other side saying White Mts, N. H.





You can also find this items with Lost River N.H.



One of the more interesting items produced in 1940-42 timeframe was the #166 mini bull. This one was labeled Radcliff. It was produced for Radcliff Electric in Kentucky. #555 was also produced for Radcliff Electric



The #455 Cigar ashtray was used for different companies. Gabe's Office Supply of Sapulpa is an example of this.



Frankoma did the #89 3-cup jug for advertising for different companies. The Brown Hotel was one in the 1936 time frame. Frankoma also did one for the Texas Centennial in 1936.

Frankoma produced the #88 pitcher in

advertising items. Cox Furniture is one that is well known. Hot Spring National Park, Foster Furniture, Sulphur and Saint James have all been on the side of this pitcher. One of the earliest would be Crosley and Norge. There were more produced in the #88 than just the ones that I have listed.



The #90 pitcher was also a popular item for advertising. Oklahoma Pond was a 1936 advertising item. Frankoma also produced this for Nowata Okla, as well as Norge, and others.





The #4D pitcher was used for Nowata Oklahoma.



One of the more interesting items that Frankoma did was the #457 Broadmoor ashtray. It was done in a variety of colors, and some people think that Frankoma never did this item. But there are examples of this piece that could sway people one way or another. The color was not a Frankoma color, or the clay is just not right. I think that Frankoma, and other pottery makers did this item. That is where the confusion arises.



Frankoma used the #458 ashtray to do advertising for companies. You can find this item in many different colors and advertisers.



#m662



#m662

The #458 was used for special occasions. The photo is of one for the Chemereic Conference, 1947 held in Oklahoma

City.

The #512 mini leaf tray was used for many different groups and celebrations. It can be found with any number of different designs.



The #488 ashtray was used for many different events or company celebrations. It was used to celebrate Daily BB gun, as well as DX oil company. The #488 was used for the 1970 PGA gold championship held in Tulsa.



Frankoma produced promotional items for Jet Tire Service. You can find the following items with the Jet logo on them. They are #6C – Mug, the #6N – Bowl, the #17 – Vase, the #25H – S&P, the #C12 – Cup, the #4M – Mug, and a Crock,



as well as other items.



Frankoma produced items over the years for the annual Drumright Oklahoma celebration.

The #551 Mini-Mayan Pitcher has been used over the year for advertising. In 1950 Frankoma produced this item for the SASC, the 1953 Pan American Fiesta, the YWCA Centennial, as well as for other occasions and companies..



Frankoma used the #472 for the Pancake days celebration. There are three or four makes of this.





Frankoma produced the #5DB sugar for White Satin Sugar.



Frankoma used the #501 sugar bowl to do advertising for Charnn Beauty Shop.



Frankoma made many items for the local electric companies, such as Indian Electric Coop & Verdigris Valley Electric over the years.



Frankoma used the 26G for advertising for different companies and organizations. One of the more common ones is for a local milk producer.



Frankoma used the 40A&B for the Country Fare in Tulsa as a Salad Dressing dispenser.



Frankoma also used the 40A&B for Lamoni Iowa Centennial item, as well as the C1 cup.

One of the longer running one was for the ChuckWagon event. This was put on by the Shawee Lions Club. I has seen items for this from 1953 to 1983.





Frankoma used the 475 Mini Arrowhead for specials and advertisement.

Frankoma supported the Boy Scouts, as well as other organizations, and made different items for their use. One of the more common one is the mug that was used by local BSA troops to raise money for the National Jamboree in Idaho. Frankoma used the arrowhead jewelry piece to produce for a local OA (Order of the Arrow, Boy Scout of America) chapter as a commemorative item. Frankoma used the C1 cup to recognize the Oklahoma Scouter of the year. You have probably also seen the 5C cup produced for the John Zink Scout Ranch.



3 – Salesmen tools.

These items may or may not have made it into the general stock.

State items are an example of this, plates, ashtrays, etc. Also in here are the items that John Frank designed, and had his name on it. These were to be given away by salesmen to wholesale accounts that the salesmen thought deserved a special “Thank You”. There was no stock number and they were never sold, but are highly sought after.



4 – Specials designed for someone/something, and ended up becoming a stock item.

Club Trade Winds falls into this area. It was designed for a restaurant in Tulsa, but they had so many stolen, that they did not re-order them. Frankoma refunded the design charges to the restaurant, and put the line into stock. The Texas bake pans was an item that was produced for Texas Imagining, but ended up in general stock.



Frankoma also produced a line of items for the Club Trade Winds and Cultured Pearl restaurants in Tulsa. These items were done in the 1960's.



The Alamo planter was another item that is in this category. The market was limited, but was popular enough to put into stock.

5 – Trivets.

This is a category that is very broad. There were standard size trivets, and then those that were produced in a different size. They were produced for many different companies and occasions. Arrows to Atoms, FBI, GOP, Daisy BB, are just a few examples of these.





6 – Plates

This is a category that is just as broad as what trivets are. They were produced for many different companies and occasions. Some were meant to be a series, but it was never developed, like the Conestoga Wagon plate, others were meant for recognition, etc.



Picture Hosting by stacyb@pebox.com





7 – Early Pieces

Meadow Lanes Dairy and the Golden Guernsey is a good example of this. The #34 Phi Mu is another example. I would include the Mizpah Paperweight in this area.

One of the earliest would be the Mizpah Paperweight (#405). This was done for the White Shrine of Jerusalem, a Masonic affiliated group. It was done in two styles. The #38 Rams head vase was also produced for this group. Frankoma also produced pieces for the Eastern Star, a Masonic affiliated group, in this time period, as well as later periods. There are plates (#5F, #7E, & #7F) that have the Eastern star in the center, with Cherokee Red in one of the point of the star, wall pockets (#190) with the Eastern Star in the center, Guernsey pitcher (#93), Mini sugar (#510), as well as other items.





Another early piece would be the #34 Mint Bowl with the BEAUCEANT mark on the bottom. This was made for the Social Order of Beauceant, an organization comprised of wives of the Knights Templar, a Masonic Order. I also have from the same time frame a #34 Mint Bowl with the Phi Mu Greek letters on it.



Another early advertising item was the #16 toothpick holder. It was produced for the Eastern Star, and can be found with the "Okla Grand Chapter" on the bottom of it. It can also be found with nothing.



Frankoma produced the Golden Guernsey items for Meadow Lanes Dairy farm in the 1936 time frame. These were used as give-a-ways for the dairy. The Golden Guernsey came in a variety of sizes, at least 4 have been found (#93, #93A, #550, #93B). Frankoma produced these for 3 or 4 years for Meadow Lanes. You can find them with different inscriptions on the bottom, or without any inscriptions. Some of the inscriptions are "Merry Christmas", "Meadow Lodge Farms", etc. The #550 is one of the harder ones to find in the Golden Guernsey line. It was also produced as late as 1940.



Frankoma produced the #123 for a special event for OSU. It was called the "Dad's Association"



The #90 was used for specials, as well as used for companies. The AIA jug is an example of this.





Frankoma also produced a very beautiful and unique paperweight for Bowman Printing Company in the 1935-36 time frame. Grace Lee was from the Bowman family, and as such, she probably had a hand in the design of this item.



Another early item was produced for the Norman Chamber of Commerce.

8 – Special Events

This would be for the Golden Age plates and cups, The Semi-Centennial items, the Diamond Jubilee items, Bi-Centennial celebration, Christmas cards, Christmas Plates, and things of this nature. These items were out of normal stock, but with markings celebrating a special event.

Frankoma did a series of pieces for the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial in 1957. They did the #47H – Salt & Pepper - Tee Pee, the #49H – Salt & Pepper - Oil Derrick, the #94HL – Salt & Pepper – Horseshoes, the #453 – Ashtray – Arrowhead, the #461 – Ashtray - Oklahoma Shape, the #462S – Ashtray, the #5C – "Cup O' Kindness Club", the #ATR – Trivet - "Arrows to Atoms", the #J1 – Arrowhead Pin - "Tulsarama", #47H – S&P Teepee DECA 1907-1957, and the #4Y – Spoon Rest. So as you can see, they did a lot for this event.



Frankoma did a series of items for the Diamond Jubilee of Oklahoma. Some of the items are the 465 ashtray, etc.

Another item that was used for a convention was the #93A – Guernsey Creamer. It was made in 1950 for the SW Annual Convention held in Oklahoma City.



9 – Honey Jugs

Frankoma produced honey jugs over the year for companies to fill with honey and to put on there own labels. Most of these were done in the late 50's to early 60's.



Frankoma also did advertising for Henry's Honey. The items were the #59 Canteen, and the #8 jug.

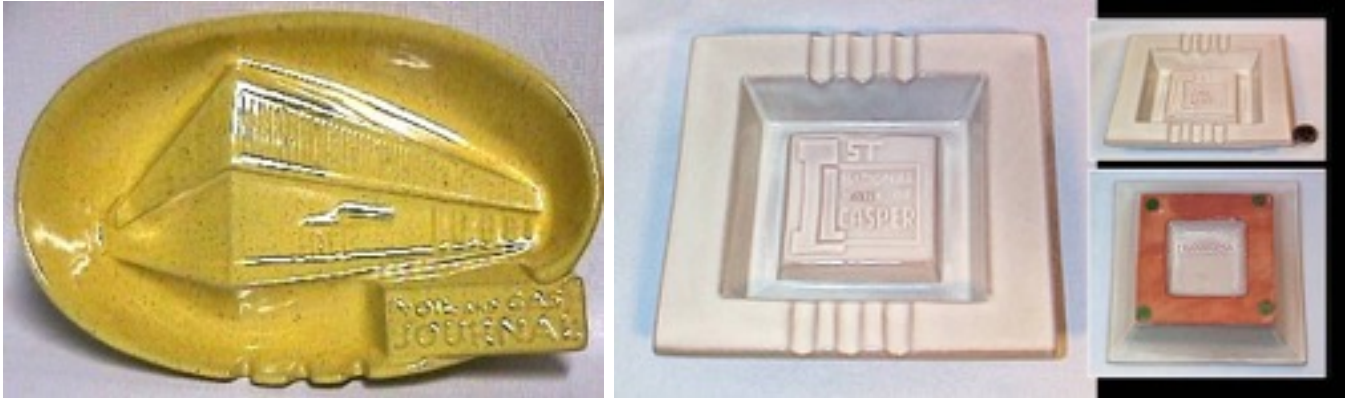


Frankoma produced the #8 jug for the Oklahoma General assembly for 1978 and 1979.



10 – Advertising Ashtrays

Frankoma produced over the years ashtrays for many different companies, and most of them were onetime designs.





Frankoma did different advertising ashtrays for Vinson Supply Company during the 1940's and 50's. I have three different examples of the Vinson Supply ashtray.



11 – Two Tone Items

John Frank, in 1942 timeframe, started to experiment with producing items in two tone colors. I would not call this an advertising example but more of a special item. This was done on a variety of items. The two most common colors used in this process was Black & Silver Sage and Black & Turquoise. I have also seen it in a Black and & Redbud combination. There are probably other examples of mixed colors, but this is all I know about to date. Black was on the outside of the item, and the other color was on it the inside. If it was a plate, black was on the bottom, and the color was on the top. There are a couple of exceptions to this, the one that is probably most recognized is the #50 vase. It is green on the inside, and terra cotta on the outside. I also have a set of three small glasses that are the 80C juice glasses. They were produced for Grace Lee's bridge club that she participated in. They are terra cotta on the outside, but glazed in different colors on the inside. There were probably originally 4 of them, but I have just the 3. The colors are Redbud, Turquoise, & Silver Sage. I also have another Terra Cotta glass that is larger than the 90C but smaller than the 80C. The two-tone items were produced from 1942 through the 1948-49 time frame.





Some of items that have been done in two-tone effect::

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| # 35 Mint Bowl | #80C Juice Glass |
| #201 Bowl | #202 Oblong Bowl |
| #205 Oriental Low Bowl | #209 Deep Swirled Oblong Bowl |
| #218 Scalloped Bowl | #222 Fluted Cornucopia |
| #225 Leaf Tray | #226 Leaf Tray |
| #300 CandleHolder – Wedding Ring | |
| #4M Coffee Mug – Lazybone | #5A Creamer – Plainsmen |
| #5B Sugar – Plainsmen | #5DA Creamer – Plainsmen |
| #5DB Sugar – Plainsmen | #5F Plate – Plainsmen |
| #5M Tankard – Plainsmen | |

12 – Lunch Time Specials

John Frank let his employee's experiment, and make items over the lunch time. These items were special items, and never put into production, but they do have a place in Frankoma history. Some of the items are very unique. Others not quite unique. There are lots of lunch time specials existing somewhere. Who knows, you might have one stored away somewhere!!!



One of the more recognized lunch time specials is the 142 Indian Chief.



This is a good example of a lunch time special. It is the #68 pillow vase that someone put a drip glaze on. Reminds a person of Winart.



Another good example is the fish ashtray done by John Lucas.



This item was done for someone named Charles in 1963. Probably a birthday or anniversary celebration.



Someone got creative and took a couple of standard Frankoma items and combined them to create this piece.



Another example of someone's creativity.



This is a good example of a lunch time special. Again combining two items to make a new one. This was the #31A ashtray and the #122 Collie head.

13 – Experimental Items/Specials

John Frank and Frankoma created items over the years that were prototypes or items that just did not work out for a variety of reasons. They might have been too big to put into production, the mold was hard to make from the prototype, or it just did not look or feel right. These pieces are hard to find, but they do exist. Sometimes they might have been put into production, but in limited quantity, and for a very short time. There are more than I have listed here, I am sure, but it is a start.



This is an example of an item that John and Grace tried to make, but neither one of them was happy with it. It was to be a patio lazy susan. You can find the sections, but are hard to come by for a full set of 6. The base for this I have never seen, but I am sure they exist somewhere.



Here is another example of an item that could have been a prototype for the #132 Indian Maiden piece, or for something else.



The Ban-o-Bug was an item that went into production, but was not a great success. I think that actually it was ahead of it's time. Look what is out there today, and compare it to this item.



This is an interesting item. From research done, it was to be an ashtray, but never was produced. It was in three pieces, as you can see in the photo.



Frankoma did a series of ashtrays that were made in the early 50's but were so large that the items would warp. These were the 31A, 32A, 33A ashtrays. Beautiful but very hard to get right, so they had a short life.



14 – Other

For everything else, like the X series of containers, the Turner Turnpike items, The Wildlife Series, etc.

1942 was a busy time for advertising item for Frankoma. They produced the #10 Poe's Liquor, #10 Uncle Slug Jug, and the plain #10. The Uncle Slug Jug was produced until 1953 time frame. #561 is a newer version of the Uncle Slug Jug. The #10 Frontier City was produced later, as it has been found only with red clay.



Another is the TTH – Turner Turnpike. This was produced for the opening of the turnpike, and was produced in two sizes. These were made in 1953. The #461 ashtray was used to honor the opening of the Turner Turnpike.

The X1-X6 series I would not call advertising, but are a neat set. They are the condiment set and were produced in the early 1960's.



The #459 Elephant Ashtray falls into this area. It was produced in 1951-1952 for the Republican National convention. It was made to look like an elephant's footprint.



In the early 1950's, Frankoma produced for Iowa an item called the Iowa Sunshine Jug. Also about this time Frankoma produced the #810 Golda's Corn Jug. This item was produced in 1951 for a corn milling company, and contained cornmeal.

Frankoma produced for a PTA group in 1945 the PTA Cup. It is a small cup that, I think, was given out to a local PTA group as gifts.



Frankoma has done more than this over the years, such as the State trivets, State plates, the Golden Age couples plates and cups for the Oklahoma State Fair, #512 mini leaf for reunions, etc. If you have any interesting items, please feel free to send me the info, as I would like to document this for the future.

Following is a list of Frankoma pieces that have been used as advertising. This list is not complete, but a start.

- #4 – Cactus Planter – Oklahoma on the side of it.
- #7JH – Decanter – Farmer’s and Merchant National Bank
- #8 – Honey Container – Used for different advertising, like Henry’s, 1978 Oklahoma Legislator, etc.
- #10 – Slug Jug
- #10 – Poe’s Liquor
- #10 – Frontier City
- #10H – Old Man on the Mountain
- #16 – Toothpick Holder – Eastern Star
- #17 – Planter - Jet Tire
- #21 – Vase – Used for different advertisers
- #25H – Salt & Pepper – Jet Tire
- #26D – Pitcher – Used for different advertisers – Milk Producers, etc.
- #26G – Canister – Used for different advertisers – Milk Producers, etc.
- #26LC – Goblet – Used for different advertisers
- #29 – Honey Jug – Used for different advertisers
- #29J – Honey Jug – Used for different advertisers
- #34 – Small Mint Bowl – Eastern Star
- #34 – Small Mint Bowl – Pi Mu
- #35 – Large Mint Bowl – Used for many different advertisers, organizations, political themes, etc.
- #49H – Oil Well Salt & Pepper – Semi Centennial, other special things.
- #59 – Canteen – Old Man on the Mountain, Henry’s Honey, etc.
- #83 – Decanter – Used by Honey makers for marketing.
- #84 – Decanter – Used by Honey makers for marketing.
- #87H – Ball Salt & Pepper – Old Man on the Mountain
- #88 – Pitcher – Many different advertisers
- #89 – Pitcher – Many different advertisers
- #90 – Pitcher – Many different advertisers
- #91 – Pie Plate – Indian Electric, and others.
- #93 – Guernsey Line – Meadow Lanes Dairy
- #93A – Guernsey Creamer – SW Annual Convention
- #94HL – Horseshoe Salt & Pepper – Different Advertisers
- #133 – Boot – Different Advertisers
- #166 – Radcliff Mini Bull
- #187 – Biliken – Jester’s Day
- #190 – Acorn Wallpocket – Eastern Star, along with others.
- #200 – Dogwood Tray – Many different advertisers

#204 – Dogwood Tray – Many different advertisers
#204A – Dogwood Tray – Many different advertisers
#214 – Compote Shell Dish – Dickerson-Goodman, along with others.
#223 – Clover Leaf Tray – Many different advertisers
#225 – Leaf Tray – Many different advertisers
#226 – Leaf Tray – Many different advertisers
#227 – Leaf Tray – Many different advertisers
#302 – Candle Holder – Many different advertisers
#383 – Boot Bank – Many different advertisers
#405 – Mizpah – Special for Eastern Star/Masons
#453 – Arrowhead ashtray – Many different advertisers
#455 – Cigar ashtray – Many different advertisers
#456 – Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#457 – Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#458 – Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#459 – Elephant Ashtray – Republican National Convention
#461 – Oklahoma Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#463 – Mini Arrowhead Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#465 – Covered Wagon Ashtray – Different advertisers
#466 – Freeform Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#472 – Skillet Ashtray – Pancake days
#474 – Small round ashtray – Different advertisers
#477 – Mini Dogwood tray – Many different advertisers
#479 – Ashtray – Many different advertisers
#488 – Ashtray – Many different advertisers (DX, Daisy BB Gun, PGA)
#505 – Mini bud vase – Different advertisers
#510 – Mini Sugar – Eastern Star, along with others.
#512 – Mini leaf tray – Many different advertisers
#513 – Mini clover tray – Many different advertisers
#551 – Mini Aztec pitcher – Different events and advertisers.
#560 – Mini creamer – Many different advertisers
#561 – Uncle Slug Jug
#800 – Salt & Pepper – 1st Bank of Tulsa
#805 – Ashtray – Vinson Supply
#810 – Golda's Corn Flour Jug
#830 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers
#831 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers
#834 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers
#835 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers
#838 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers
#839 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers

#840 – Honey Jug – Various Honey Producers
ATR – Arrows to Atoms Trivit – Semi-Centennial event
C1 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C2 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C3 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C4 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C5 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C6 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C7 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C8 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C9 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C10 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C11 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C12 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C13 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
C33 – Coffee Cup – Different advertisers
Trivits – Different advertisers & Events
M1 – Mug – Different advertisers & Events
M2 – Mug – Different advertisers & Events

There are a lot of plates that were produced for special events, or anniversaries. Some of the more recognized ones are: Rural Letter Carrier, Sapulpa Anniv., We the People, AAUW, Golden Age Couple, OES - Iowa Chapter, Oklahoma Anniv, Braille – Helen Keller, Creek Nation Council House, Methodist – Tulsa, Helen Keller, Phoenix, Oklahoma Land Run, 60th Anniversary, Easter, etc

Candleholder - Oral Roberts
Vase - Praying Hands - Oral Roberts

Some of the more unique ashtray produced by Frankoma for companies.

Ashtray - Vinson Supply
Ashtray - "Ann's Bakery"
Ashtray - KLPR
Ashtray - KGLC
Ashtray, Bill White Chevrolet Co.
Ashtray, "KTOW"
Ashtray - Tulsa Paper Co.
Ashtray - DX-Sun Co
Ashtray - Daisy - 10th Anniversary
Ashtray - 1st National Bank - Casper
Ashtray – KVOO

Frankoma also produced cups/mugs that were not in the normal stock. Some of them are:

Cup - American Airlines Eagle

Mug - Schmidt Beer

Mug – AAA Root Beer.

Mug - John Frank Memorial Golf Tournament – This was produced for a number of years, in different colors, and dates.

NOTES: