





While RW has been collected for decades, it was Barbara Conroy who turned a spotlight on it with the publication of her two books “Restaurant China Vols. 1 and 2” in 1998 and 1999. Conroy highlighted RW by categories and manufacturers with photos of their work, plus information on the companies’ histories, backstamps and date codes.

Then in 2000, Jackie and Frank Tromble brought RW to the internet when they opened the Restaurant Ware Collectors Network (RWCN), giving collectors, sellers and researchers a welcoming place to hang out, share finds and trade stories. This turned into so much more over the years as it became a repository for the group’s collective research with the opening of the IDwiki.

These members represent the no-rules gamut of RW collecting. There are those who simply buy what they love. There are diehard fans of one shape: Plates are easy to stack and store, and butter pats and handleless creamers with their diminutive size are easy to display. There are fans of airbrushed patterns and elegant hotel service plates. Western patterns. Mugs. Transportation china. Quick lunch restaurants of the early 20th century. Automats. Another subset focuses on a single manufacturer.

While we all tend to find our own niche, we do agree that ideally pieces should have few utensil marks and no cracks or chips. Luckily it is unusual to find crazing in vitrified china. There will be some manufacturing flaws and a few tend to be tolerated.

Our best advice to new collectors is to buy what interests you, do your research, and if it’s not a hard-to-find pattern or one with gold decoration, use it,

---

Right, Quick lunch plates, from top: Baltimore Dairy Lunch, made by Grindley Hotel Ware (England) circa 1920s-early 1940s; White Lunch, made by Maddock Pottery circa 1910-12; Plymouth Lunch System, made by Maddock Pottery with the New Buckingham border pattern, circa 1912-19.



enjoy it and yes, put it in the dishwasher.

*Susan and Ed Phillips have been collecting restaurant china for about 30 years. Susan's particular passion is flip-top bowls and Ed has a website devoted to Carr China (CarrChinaCompany.com). Following in the footsteps of a group of RWCN members, they have searched for shards at the Carr China site in Grafton, W.V., and have taken subsequent trips to document 11 other closed pottery sites in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.*



Above, Mugs, from left: White Tower, 1946; and United Soda, date unknown, both made by Carr China.

*The RWCN has now reorganized as a Facebook group and welcomes new members: <http://facebook.com/groups/TheRWCN>.*



Left, Airbrushed plates, clockwise from top left: The Dwarf restaurants, located in Tennessee, made by Jackson China in the 1970s; Kin Chu Café and 620 Club, both located in Minneapolis and made by Syracuse China in 1953 and 1952, respectively; Confucius pattern, made by TEPCO (Technical Porcelain and China Ware Co.) between 1931-68.