

R.D. Romany

Royal Doulton introduced the Romany series in 1930 and it was withdrawn from production in the early 1940's. The Romany, or Gypsies as they are more commonly known, seems to me to be a strange choice of subject for the Doulton artist to depict. They are an ethnic minority that for generations have had a tough lot all across Europe, hardly what you would think would appeal to the well healed home maker during the heart of the great depression. Of course there has always been romantic literary tradition of the naive village girl falling for the dark Traveller and running off to an idyllic life on the road in the arms of her lover, much to the horror of the families of course. I guess it was this romantic appeal that Doulton were trying to capitalize on. Romany is quite a rare series, but it always sells. The colours are great and the characters I find very appealing in their Edwardian cloths and the fanciful Caravans.

Royal Doulton Romany Heatherlea Plate - D5027 - dated code March 1930 The Romany series was introduced circa 1930 and it was withdrawn from production circa 1942. There are two pattern numbers issued against this series, each pattern number is distinctive: D.5027 which was issued in 1930 D.5809 which was issued in 1938 The D.5027 has a yellow airbrushed border and the pattern in general is much yellower. Where D.5809 is much whiter and it has a high gloss finish. This is clearly evident in the plates photographed above (D.5027) and below (D.5809).

Royal Doulton Romany Dorothy Desert Plate - D5809 - dated code March 1938 It is my belief that the Romany series had two small windows of production. Pattern D.5027 was produced during 1930 and 1931; pattern D.5809 was produced during 1938 to 1940 period. I have seen no other evidence for this other than the observation of the impressed date stamps on the back of plates and bowls. This is a rare series, to date I have only ever handled maybe 20 items in this series, of which only 3 have been pattern number D.5809 and the rest where D.5027. To date I have identified 8 scenes. I would love some input into this from anyone with dated examples of this pattern.

1. "Two male & two female gypsies drinking at a wooden table, beside a campfire."
2. "Woman leading a child on a donkey, caravans in the background"
3. "Campfire with two adults & two children."
4. "Three adults by a campfire, one holding a baby, a little girl in the foreground, caravans in the background."
5. "A man and a woman round a campfire with two caravans."
6. "Man with two ladies in front of Caravan & tent"
7. "Man with three ladies, one with basket, in front of Caravan & tent". Scene 7 is a variation of scene 6, I found scene 6 first that is why they are numbered as they are.
8. "On the Road" I named this scene, it came off the side of a Winchester Salad Bowl. Shapes Romany Vase shape 7015; pattern D5027; production era 1930 to 1932
Vase shape 7429; pattern D.5027; production era 1930 to 1932 Romany Heatherlea Teapot; D5027; production era 1930 to 1932 Romany Stein (shape 7119A); pattern D.5809; production era 1938 to 1940 Romany Heatherlea Sandwich Set ; pattern D.5027; impressed date September 1930 Romany Salad Bowl; pattern D.5027; production era 1930 to 1932 Romany Leeds Oval Fruit Bowl; pattern D.5027; impressed date June 1930 Romany Stafford Deset Bowl; pattern D.5027; production era 1930 to 1932 Romany Heatherlea Serving Bowl; pattern D.5027 The bowl below is of the same shape and style and I believe it is part of the same set and that it is for an individual portion. Romany Heatherlea Bowl; pattern D.5027; date code April 1930 Romany Slops bowl; pattern D.5027; production era 1930 to 1932 Romany Butter / Pin Dish (shape 7923); pattern D.5027; production date March 1931