

THE WELL-BAKED MAN

After Man Maker the magician made the world, it came to him that he wanted other beings on earth, not just animals. He shaped clay into figures like himself and built an oven. He gathered wood, heated the oven and set the figures inside.

As usual, Coyote the Trickster was hanging around. Coyote pestered Man Maker to take them out too soon and when he did, Man Maker said "They're underdone. They're not brown enough. They don't belong here. They belong across the water. I can't use them here". And off he sent them!

The magician tried again and soon said: "I think they're ready now". "No" Coyote said. "You don't want them too light again, leave them in a little longer". After waiting a time, they took them out. "Oh my! These are overdone. They've burned too dark. Maybe I can use them in a place across the water. They don't belong here". And off he sent them too!

Making more figures, the magician didn't heed Coyote this time, but took them out when he thought they were done. He then breathed life into them. These two beings walked, talked, laughed and behaved in a seemly fashion. They were neither underdone or overdone. "These are exactly right". said Man Maker. "These really belong here. These I will use". (hover in circle below)

- A Pima Legend, based on fragments recorded in the 1880s



Man Maker's underdone and overdone mistakes with the properly done Red Man
Early domestic use of a one penny Mulready envelope to Wolverhampton
Backstamped Birmingham, 21 May 1840
First sold on 1 May 1840, first day of use 6 May 1840