

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

October 2024

A Message From Our President



By Tom Limback

After one last heat wave during the final week in August, the weather has started to feel like Fall, and I'm getting in the mood for outdoor BBQ, football, and Art Fairs. Time to get out those Fenton witches, scaredy cats, and ghosts for Halloween.

The 2024 Fenton Glass Gala is now history. A special appreciation goes out to everyone who joined the celebration and participated in the planning, provided glass, and worked our wonderful event! Plans are already underway for the 2025 Gala. It's hard to believe 2025 will be the 25th anni-

versary of the Fenton Glass Gala.

Please be sure to vote in the club's election. Even though both the nominees for president and treasurer are running unopposed, your vote is still needed to meet the requirements of the club's by-laws. Nominee profiles and the ballot with voting instructions are in this newsletter on page two.

Mark your calendar for the Christmas luncheon on December 14, 2024. It is a really fun time with food, camaraderie, and dirty Bingo.

Wishing everyone a Safe and Spooky Halloween!

Yours, *Tom*

Thanks to All Who Helped Behind the Gala Scenes

By Connie Duncan

I want to thank everyone for all your patience and help in making our 2024 Gala a success. When I stepped forward and took on this job, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I cannot thank Dan Madura enough for all his help and always answering my many texts and phone calls. As many of you know, Dan stepped down from being our President and heading the Gala Committee. Dan did not walk away from the club at all. He has been the backbone of helping the Club. He established our current website, which has a wealth of information. He moved our club into the digital age and we have still some growing to do in that area. He was instrumental in moving glass sales up to the second floor. Dan has accomplished so much for us.

I never have to worry about the Hospitality Room. Jackie Ogelsby is so fantastic at that position; there are not enough words to express how great a job she does, along with being the club secretary.

Now if I need a numbers person and someone who can answer all my questions regarding financial happenings, I just reach out to Janet Wilke. As our club treasurer, she can give me information from as far back as oh who knows!

Carol Rigsby came sneaking in to help Jackie in the Hospitality Room for the last few years. She stepped forward this year to do the Big Display with Amanda Herman. The Big Display is always a huge

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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City is October 12, 2024. Join us at Sterling Full Gospel Church, 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, Mo. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

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FFGKC Elections 2024

We will have elections for the positions of President and Treasurer for our club in our October meeting. Both are for a term of two years beginning in January 2025 and ending in December 2027.

To vote, please make a copy of the ballot on this page or cut it out and mail it to Jackie Oglesby, 10903 Elmwood Drive, Kansas City, Mo 64137 or Connie Duncan, 868 S. Juniper Terrace, Gardner, KS 66030.

You can also vote by email, send your vote to stogles@yahoo.com and Fenton123@aol.com. We need you to send your vote to *both* email addresses so we can verify your information. It needs to be sent from the email address we have on record for you. Include in the email who you are voting for and the position and your name and address.

Write in votes are welcome, but make sure the person is willing and able to perform the functions of the job.

At this time, we have two candidates, Tom Limback for President and Janet Wilke for Treasurer.

All ballots must be postmarked by September 30, 2024. Thank you for your support of our club.

2024 FFGKC Ballot

President

_____ Tom Limback

_____ (Write in Candidate)

Treasurer

_____ Janet Wilke

_____ (Write in Candidate)

2024 FFGKC Election Candidate Biographies

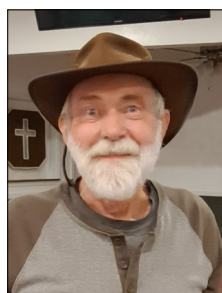
Janet Wilke, Candidate for Treasurer



I am Janet Wilke and I am running for club Treasurer. I live in Topeka, Kansas, with my husband, Ken. We are both retired. We have two cats, six children, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

I have collected glass, mainly Fenton Art Glass, since about 1994. I have been a member of Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City since 1995, have been the Treasurer and on the Gala Committee since spring of 2002. My main interests are Topaz Opalescent, Amethyst Opalescent, Leaf Plates, and whatever catches my eye.

Tom Limback, Candidate for President



I have been collecting Fenton 40 plus years now. In the late 1970s and early 1980s I started buying some of the crested lines such as Peach Crest, Silver Crest, and Crystal Crest, but didn't know much about them. I joined FFGKC in the mid-1980s. During my early years with the club, I served in all four officer roles, at times performing multiple roles concurrently. The requirement then was different from what the role requires now. Meetings focused on a review of the glass on the Drag-n-Brag table.

I was one of the early initiators for the display of Fenton glass. Melvin Lampton and I had a discussion at a HOACGA convention in KC wondering what it would be like if the FFGKC could sponsor a display of Fenton glass like HOACGA did for carnival glass. The Gala was thus born!

Currently I am serving as president completing Dan Madura's term. I have submitted my name as nominee for President of FFGKC for the 2025-2026 year. I will continue to support the preservation of Fenton's legacy and its product collectability for future generations to enjoy this American-made glass. Among the organizations I am a member of are FAGCA, NFGS, HOACGA, and Stretch glass.

Scenes from the August FFGKC Meeting

By Jackie Ogelsby

Our program for August was on Turquoise, presented by Tom Limback. He had quite a selection of Fenton's beautiful Turquoise glass for us to enjoy. Turquoise was produced by Fenton in the middle 1950s for around three years. There were many different lines, including Hobnail, Block and Star, Daisy and Button, and Tear Drop.

Tom also had some very striking examples of Fenton pieces with no molded design like the Block and Star, but just featured the beautiful glass such as the #7360 10-1/2 inch two-handled vase and the very hard-to-find Tur-

quoise hand vase as seen in the pictures. Tom even had a beautiful cake plate with the Spanish lace design in Turquoise.

The piece that excited me the most was the #5602 TU Buffet Set or footed jam set. It is two covered jam jars on a footed tray in Block and Star. It was the first time I had seen one of these sets outside a book. The footed tray comes in two pieces, with the tray sliding down the handle and resting on a ring of glass. How did he find one with no damage? Wonderful.

Please enjoy the pictures; they tell the story better than I can. Thank you, Tom, for sharing this wonderful collection with us.



A.A. Importing Co. Tumble-Ups

Third in a Series on the Midwest Wholesaler

By S. Holmes

It is astounding to me how very much reproduction merchandise A.A. Importing Co. has foisted on the American public in the past

The earliest A.A. print catalog I have is dated 1979, but I have recently gained access to electronic copies of some earlier 1970s, some 1980s editions, and some 1990s A.A. catalogs.

It seems the A.A. Importing tumble-ups have two primary mould styles, one is more rounded and the second more angular. Let's look at the rounded ones first.

While I did not find any tumble-ups in the 1971 catalog, I did find this floral enameled style in the 1977 and 1978 catalogs. It is interesting to note the overall shape of the water vessel is the same as the Mary Gregory painted vessels shown below.



In researching, I found a cut-to-clear tumble-up in the same mould shape as the enameled vessel above, and the Mary Gregory style painted vessels below. It was being sold in both ruby and blue. I was able to locate it in the A.A. Importing catalogs dated 1970, 1972, and 1975. A.A. owns a limited number of moulds, and like any other company, seeks to make the most of them.

This is the third style of tumble-up using this mould shape. As we've discussed, Mary Gregory style painting, white layered images, typically of children playing or interacting with pets, was and remains quite popular.



This night set has been available from A.A. starting in their 1978 catalog, and the last I saw it was in

the 1984 volume. A.A. offered the set in both blue and red, with images of either a boy or girl. Those purchasing the sets were not able to choose which image they received.

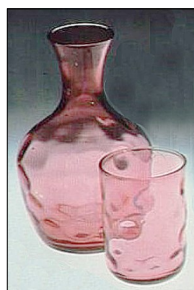
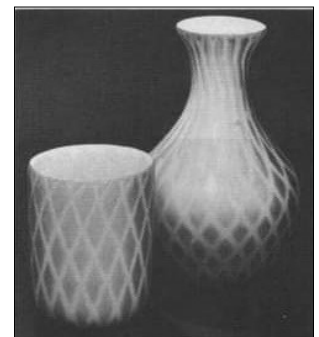
The Mary Gregory set is one where Fenton collectors need to be cautious. Fenton produced a lovely night set with Mary Gregory painting. If this is a style you collect, please be sure to study both the Fenton you desire and the A.A. Importing versions, so you can make wise purchases.



These two tumble-ups, produced in both yellow and blue satin glass, were only shown in my 1981 catalog. They are satin glass, which makes them quite similar to the drink sets and vases we looked at last time. I was not able to find

a photograph showing the tumbler removed from the vessel, but the vessel appears to be the same mould as the enameled and Mary Gregory styles.

Shown only in my 1975 A.A. Importing catalog, which was printed in black and white, was this tumble-up which they called "Mother of Pearl." It was described as "Delicate Diamond-Quilted Pattern in Pink Satin Glass." Diamond quilted glass in this style was quite popular in the 1970s, as many companies were reproducing and selling this glass that had been quite popular in the late 1800s. A.A. offered a bell, a perfume bottle, and this tumble-up in their diamond quilted line.



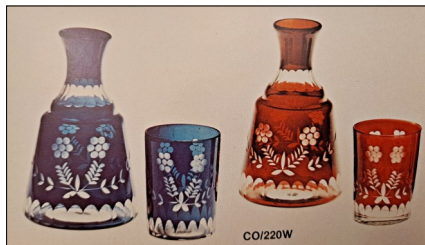
The final A.A. tumble-up I found using their rounded mould is a cranberry dot optic style. This is another one where Fenton collectors should be extra careful. I see this frequently labeled as Fenton when out antique shopping. I also see just the vessel labeled as a Fenton vase.

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Tumble-Ups by A.A.

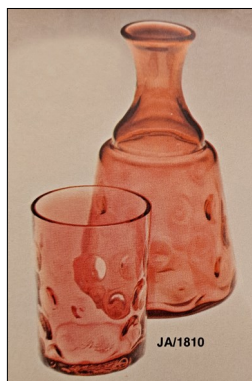
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The second style A.A. mould is more angular and the following three tumble-up styles reflect this mould.



The red and cobalt cut-to-clear tumble-up sets were the longest available, according to my research. I first saw them available in

the 1976 catalog, and they were consistently available until my last electronic catalog, dated 1996. They may have been sold both before and after the date range I've provided, but those are the catalogs to which I have access. That's a minimum of 20 years of these two tumble-ups being available to wholesalers, and I'm sure tens of thousands of them are out there on the secondary market.



The final angular-shaped tumble-up we will look at is the cranberry dot optic. While basically the same as the rounded version we looked at earlier, this is just a different shape. Again though, it is very important for Fenton collectors to recognize this shape because it is frequently labeled in shops and on-line as Fenton. It was offered to A.A.'s wholesale

customers starting in 1978 through their Fall-Winter 1982-1983 Catalog.

The very last A.A. Importing tumble-up we will look at is the Satin Swirl or Parisian Night Set. It was offered in 1986 in crystal satin and in 1985 and 1986 in pink satin. It was evidently very popular, as I have seen this set in shops and antique malls more times than I will ever be able to count, although generally it is missing the underplate..



Next time, we will begin looking at some of A.A. Importing's cruets. My database has far more than I ever dreamed possible. See you soon!

Appreciation for Gala Committee Members

(continued from page 1)

undertaking and we always wonder how we can make it as interesting or better than the years before.

Tom Limback, our President, was on the very first Gala committee 24 years ago. He is learning the ropes of the current Gala and stepping forward to pick up the slack. In 2025 Tom and Jackie will be taking over the Gala auction. I want to thank them very much for doing this.

Amanda Herman always comes forward with an idea - from helping with the Big Display this year to being our person who finds the charitable organizations we give a donation to each year.

There are not enough kind words that can be said about Craig Ricklefs!!! He was always so quiet and this last year he has contributed to the club in so many ways. He is just a phone call away when you need help. He has become the backbone of our Big Display room. He does all those jobs no one ever sees. Craig, thank you so much.

Denise Adams is everywhere we need her and this year she is taking care of Glass Sales. You will see her clerking our Auctions. Denise stepped into the Gala helping in the Hospitality Room some years back. Denise is our *Queen of Glass*.

The above people are the backbone of the 2024 Gala and the Galas of the future. They volunteer their time, resources, and knowledge and I must also say, their backs, to making the Gala a success.

So thank you to all of you for all for the wonderful help you give me in getting this accomplished. I could not do this Gala without you!!

We are starting to plan the 2025 Gala already! Watch for news in future issues of the newsletter for more information.

Great Idea for the Newsletter?

Contact me!

Email: amblackmore@yahoo.com
US Mail: Anne Blackmore
PO Box 342
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

What is the Deal With Those Wrinkly Vases?

Barcelona Line Vases by Fenton and Dugan-Diamond

By Anne Blackmore



The seller's tag on this Diamond Glass-Ware black vase indicated it was made by Consolidated. This is a common error.

In 1927, Consolidated Glass came out with their *Catalonian* line of glass. This line was designed to mimic the glass of "Old Spain" and contained many bubbles and surface wrinkles. It was a pattern by the glass designer, Reuben Haley, famous in Fenton circles for designing the highly collectible Alley Cat figurine (originally a U.S. Glass mould). A companion line similar to *Catalonian* was *Spanish Knobs*. Again, this was a wrinkly, bumpy glass mimicking old glass. As I looked at the old catalogue reprints shown in *Phoenix & Consolidated Art Glass 1926-1980* by Jack D. Wilson, however, I saw no vase shapes close to those produced by Fenton. It does indicate this type of glass

was popular and in vogue at that time.

Wilson states similarly-designed lines were produced by McKee in 1928 (their *Rebecca* line) and Morgantown beginning in 1933 (their *El Mexicano* line). He indicates Dunbar also made a similar line in 1935, but does not provide Dunbar's name for the line.

Diamond Glass-Ware's new design for 1928 was its *Barcelona* line. It was listed boldly in the February 1928 issue of *Pottery, Glass and Brass Salesman* with a full-page advertisement. The ad stated it was a "reproduction of early Spain," and indicated the line was made in colors, but did not specify which colors. According to *Dugan/Diamond The Story of Indiana, Pennsylvania Glass* by William Heacock, et al., Ernest Dugan, son of factory manager, Alfred Dugan, recalled his father talking about this line and how several pieces in pink are among the family heirlooms.

Diamond produced large and small vases, console bowls, sandwich trays, sherbets, candlesticks, jugs, tumblers, iced teas, sugar and creamer sets, plates,

and baskets in this new line.

Sadly, Diamond's *Barcelona* line was rather doomed from the beginning. With their late entry to the Spanish-look glass market, and the huge head start of Consolidated Glass with their line designed by the famous Reuben Haley, and all the other competitors, there was no further advertisement of *Barcelona* after the initial ad in February 1928 and no further mention in any other trade press after that same date. On June 27, 1931, Diamond Glass-Ware suffered a bad fire and the company did not rebuild.

Fenton Art Glass obtained several moulds from Diamond Glass-Ware, some of which were from the *Barcelona* line and they began production with them in the late 1930s. Some of the first *Barcelona* line pieces produced by Fenton were in the Cranberry



Fenton larger #187 *Barcelona* vase.



Fenton smaller #187 *Barcelona* vase.



Fenton #186 Peach Blow *Barcelona* vase.

Opalescent Spiral Optic line in 1938. These included the #186, #187, and the #187 pitcher. The pattern continued with Blue and Green Opalescent Spiral Optic, Blue Ridge, Ivory Crest, Peach Blow, Peach Crest, and Silver Crest. The #186 vase was produced in all of these colors and the larger, #187 was produced in fewer colors (including Cranberry Opalescent Spiral Optic, Blue Ridge Crest, and Peach Blow). It can be confusing to realize Fenton gave two of the *Barcelona* moulds the same ware number. The large mould used for the pitcher is #187 as is the six- to seven-inch very vertical, straight vase, seen in the crested lines. The smaller #187 vase was produced in fewer colors (including Aqua Crest and Peach Crest,).

It is interesting to note, the #186 vase changed

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Barcelona Vases - Diamond-Ware or Fenton?

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over time. At first, Fenton produced the original Barcelona vase, complete with the wrinkles, as obtained from Dugan-Ware. By the early 1940s, the wrinkles had been smoothed out and for a while the vase maintained the same ware number, but somewhere along the way, was issued a new number, #7258. In *Fenton Glass The Second Twenty-Five Years*, by William Heacock, there is an original Fenton 1940 advertisement for Aqua Crest, showing the new smooth vase with the #186. In another original advertisement in the same volume, Heacock shows Silver Crest in 1948, with the vase still be referred to as #186. By the advertisement for 1953-1954, the ware number had changed, and the #186 had become the #7258. Most of the crested lines incorporated the newer, smooth version. These include Crystal Crest, Emerald Crest, Aqua Crest, Gold Crest, Rose Crest, and Silver Jamestown.



Fenton #186 Ivory Crest Barcelona vase.

Interestingly, Ivory Crest, Silver Crest, and Peach

Crest #186 vases can be found in both the wrinkled and smooth versions because those lines were in production over the time of the change in the mould.

So, how can you tell if your Barcelona vase is a Diamond-Ware Glass product or if it was made by Fenton?



Diamond Glass-Ware Barcelona fan top vases. Left: Black based mosaic-style; Right: Pink-based vasa murrhina style.

Collectors are best-off knowing what colors were made by which company. Diamond tended to use solid colors (pink, green, black, blue) and produced some in what look like mosaic or vasa murrhina treatments. The Diamond mosaic and vasa style vases often have a fan-shaped top. While the mosaic and vasa type vases may *look* like Fenton items, it is important to remember Fenton did not use the #186 or the #7258 mould with either of those treatments, and Fenton did not produce the fan-shaped top.

A Glimpse Back in Time



Above: A rare peek into Frank's Closet.



Above: Kim Barley concentrates on painting stylized cats,

Thank you very much to Sarah Smith for sharing these photos from her trip to the 2000 FAGCA Convention!

Do you have photos to share? See page five for how to share them with us.

August 2024 Meeting Minutes FFGKC

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 10, 2024—The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City was called to order by our President, Tom Limback, at 7:10 p.m.

Tom Limback called for corrections and additions to the meeting minutes for the June 8, 2024, meeting as published in August's newsletter, but there was none. Craig Ricklefs moved they be accepted as printed. Dan Madura seconded the motion, and it was passed by a vote of our members.

Janet Wilke gave the treasurers report for June and July of 2024.

Old Business: Tom started the meeting by asking Denise Adams to give us an update on the Christmas party. Denise, along with Dan Madura, had checked out a room provided by Sugar and Spice who caters our Christmas party, located at 1443 St. North Kansas City. The room is large enough for 40 people and their kitchen is located there so the food will be hot and fresh. The cost is \$100 dollars an hour, plus the cost of food. The members approved and the Christmas party will be on December 14, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tom thanked Denise and Dan for their efforts.

Tom gave our members a brief account of how we were able to purchase the right to place our name on a display cabinet in the new Museum of Fenton Art Glass. He explained due to the timing of the process, with offers to purchase the rights needing to be in before the club meeting in August, the board of directors of the club decided to try to purchase the



rights to one of the cabinets selling for \$4500.00. We did win one of the two cabinets. Jackie Oglesby mentioned there was a lot of work to be done before the museum could open - maybe in a year. The flooring had to be replaced, doors had to be changed for emergency exits, the roof will need to be replaced in two or three years, so a lot will need to be done before the museum opens and they are still needing funds to help deal with the repairs.

New Business: Dan Madura gave a brief update on the Gala, the number of people registered, luncheons and banquets purchased. Carol Rigsby gave an update on the big display. She is still reaching out to members for glass for the display but is almost done.

We had a brief break before our program started.

Carol Rigsby won the door prize, a Provincial Blue Inverted Strawberry small compote.

The program for August was Turquoise Glass presented by Tom Limback.

Treats for August were provided by Carol Rigsby.

The program for October will be a group program on Summer and Gala Finds.

The treats for October will be provided by Janet Wilke.

Janet Wilke moved that we leave at 8:44 p.m.

Sara Speaight seconded the motion.

We left.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Oglesby



Is it Fenton or Is it Not?

Non-Fenton Items Advertised as Fenton in Shops and On-Line

By Anne Blackmore

Northwood Topaz Iris Iridescent #696 Candlesticks



Pair Northwood Topaz Iris Iridescent #696 Candlesticks, 10-1/2 inches tall. Note the "doughnut" connector between the foot and the vertical column.

Fenton produced many beautiful candlesticks, but so did lots of other companies. Sellers know the name "Fenton" will help sell glass whether or not their individual piece is, or is not, actually made by Fenton Art Glass.

These gorgeous 10-1/2 inch sticks were listed on eBay as Fenton, when in reality, they were made by Northwood beginning in 1917.

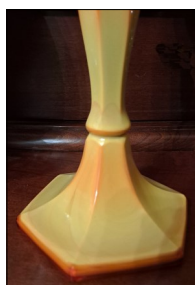
It is fairly easy to differentiate between the Fenton and the Northwood candlesticks. Just look at the connector between the foot and the vertical column. If it is puffy and rounded (like a doughnut), it is Northwood. Looking at the same connector on the very similar Fenton #349 candlestick, it is flared from the column out over the foot.

Please note, this "tell" only works for the 8-inch and 10-inch Colonial style candlesticks.

U.S. Glass Colorado Pattern Small Cup

Other than "Fenton sells glass" I cannot begin to come up with a rationale for how this Early American Pattern Glass (EAPG) small mug with a souvenir etching for the Soldiers Home Ohio came to be labeled as Fenton.

The Colorado pattern of EAPG, is also known as U.S.



Fenton #349 Flame Candlestick. Note the connector between the foot and vertical column flares downward.



Glass No. 15,057, Jewel, and Lacy Medallion. It was produced by U.S. Glass from 1899 to about 1920, according to *Early American Pattern Glass Collector's Identification & Price Guide* by Darryl Reilly and Bill Jenks.

It was made in blue, green, crystal, crystal with ruby stain, and may be known in black and topaz. It is often decorated with applied gold on the arches near the base of the piece.

Typically, souvenir glass was made using the crystal pieces of Colorado, especially the crystal with ruby stain, so it is a little unusual for this souvenir piece to have been made with a green small mug.

Houze Nile Green #851 Candlesticks

Jade pieces can be a little tricky, so it seems only fair to give sellers a break here. Some companies made jade that reacts brightly to a black light.

Other companies' jade glass does not. It takes quite a bit of effort to know who did what.



These 1-3/4 inch high jade candlesticks were listed on eBay not only as Fenton, but as *rare* Fenton #851 candlesticks. That number, 851, was embossed on the bottom of the sticks. Interestingly enough, the number was our tell as to what company produced these small jade beauties.

According to *The Glass Candlestick Book, Volume 1 Akro Agate to Fenton*, by Tom Felt and Elaine and Rich Stoer, both Akro Agate and L.J. Houze Convex Glass Co. (aka Houze) made almost identical candlesticks like these. The only discernable difference is the Houze variation has the number 851 embossed on the base.

Houze made several colors very similar to ones made by Fenton in addition to Jade, including opaque yellow and light purple, which are often mistaken for Fenton's Chinese Yellow and Lilac.

Looking Ahead to Gala Auction 2025

By Jackie Oglesby

It is with sadness we report Connie Duncan is stepping down from the role of Gala Auction Coordinator. She is turning over the role to Tom Limback and myself, Jackie Oglesby. Connie has her hands full obtaining glass for the club, and needs to cut back on something. She did a wonderful job when she took over from Bernie Johnston, and she has done a lot to make the auction function better for the people who set it up, for our consigners, and our buyers. Thank you, Connie, for all you have done.

The auction for this year went great, and we are now ready to start on the auction for 2025. Early yet, but if anyone missed out on submitting glass for this year's auction, now is the time to get your lists and pictures in for Gala auction 2025.

Send the information to Tom Limback, at telimback@aol.com and/or Jackie Oglesby, at stogles@yahoo.com. The auction is always a lot of fun and a chance to find some great glass. If you are interested in putting glass in our 2025 auction next year, please get your lists ready.

Following are the conditions and rules for putting glass in FFOGKC auction. Thank you.

1. The auction will consist of no more than 250 pieces of Fenton Glass.
2. Each member can submit 25 pieces of good quality Fenton Glass.
3. If the amount of 250 pieces is not met, we will open the auction up to those members who have already submitted glass and they may add items. The club reserves the right to fill in extra space

with club-owned glass if necessary.

4. Each consignment item must have a value of at least \$25. If not, it will be grouped with another item and the consigner can add another item to sell.
5. List of glass, with descriptions and pictures, must be submitted by March 1, 2025. Spots will not be held until lists and pictures are submitted. Glass will be listed on the auction sheet as submitted. We will not make corrections. We reserve the right to edit listing to fit our space.
6. All items must be of first quality Fenton glass and undamaged. Glass must be clean. If any damage is found, the seller will be contacted and options presented to the seller. Always remember, as a seller you are representing our club.
7. The Gala committee will accept consignments of 250 pieces of good clean quality Fenton (\$25.00 value and above per piece). The consigner must make a request to the committee at least one year in advance. This request must be made with list and pictures of the glass to be consigned. The collection should be diverse and interesting. For example, a collection consisting of all milk glass would not be appropriate. The committee has the right to accept or reject the list.
8. All auction glass must be delivered to the Gala (Embassy Suites Kansas City Airport) by Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.
9. The club charges 15-percent of the hammer price as a commission on each item.



Fenton Trivia

- Q1: Who designed the Fenton #63 Cannister?
- Q2: What year was the #63 Cannister put in production?
- Q3: What general line was the #63 cannister part of?



#63 Cannister

- A1: Stan Fistic—He was hired to design more modern/contemporary lines.
- A2: 1952
- A3: Fenton's failed attempt at modern design in the early 1950s.

Finds from the Road

A Truly Interesting Find to Melt Your Heart



By Anne Blackmore

Not too long ago, Max and I had been home for about a week because I had been down with a cold. As I was feeling better, Max asked if I would like to get out for a bit and do a little antiquing. Who could resist an offer like that? Off we went to some shops fairly near to our town.

After a drive of about 20 minutes, we found ourselves at a shop that has been a glorious place in the past, but has not provided us much in the last two or three years. Yet, we continue to go every three months or so, in an effort to not miss anything.

Shortly after arriving though, we found a sweet, simple plain white Fenton vase for a great price. In the next booth, we found a Fenton *Sweet Harvest* vase with its lovely hand painted flowers and fruits. I volunteered to run the two vases back up to the front counter holding area.

So, off I went, while Max continued to shop. At the front counter, I got caught up in conversation about Fenton and their limited editions. As our discussion progressed, I was feeling guilty, because Max was in the shop doing all the work. A moment or so later, he comes around the corner with a set of six Fenton hobnail goblets all with their original Fenton foil labels. He encourages me to come back and shop with him, so I make my excuses to end the discussion, and head back into the store.

We found a great Viking ashtray and an amber Dewdrop pattern creamer by LaBelle Glass Co. – up to the front they went.



Then, we arrived at the booth where several years ago, we found an amazing Greentown Glass Cord Drapery berry set. We tend to scour a booth, even years later if

we found something amazing there. Sadly, lightning has never struck twice. It has never happened. Nev...

Today was the day! As we entered the large-ish booth where we'd had our previous great find, Max went left and I went right, like we normally do. We were each walking and looking closely, and out of the corner of my eye, I see Max has stopped and picked up a piece. He is hunched over it, so I cannot see what has caught his attention. Then he turns his head toward me and whispers, "You need to see this." In his hands was a cigarette box, but one I'd only seen in books, never in person. I felt faint.



It was a Fenton Velva Rose #655 cigarette box with floral cutting, in perfect condition. We've seen lots of the #308 intaglio cigarette boxes, and several of the #1800 Sheffield boxes. But never have we ever seen the #655 floral cut, stretch finish

cigarette box in person. It's moments like this collectors live for!

The price tag, was of course, the next thing to look at, and with the booth's generous 20-percent discount on all items, the final price on this gorgeous and rarely-seen cigarette box was just over \$11.00.

Once again, having read, and nearly memorized, our Fenton collector books, allowed us to recognize a piece that rarely surfaces. The seller had no idea what it was, and really had few resources to find out because there are no examples on eBay, Etsy, or Google. So, make the time to read those Fenton books, folks. It really can make a difference in your collection!

This little beauty went right into our curio after receiving a good bath.

Happy Haunting this October, dear friends!

