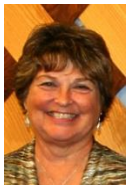


FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be MARCH 13TH, 2021 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 7:00PM. Masks will be mandatory so that members will be safe.

The board has been keeping an eye on conditions that have been improving in the last month with infections going down and vaccinations going up and we feel that it is now a safe time to resume meetings while keeping in mind that we need to practice masking and social distancing at the same time. We hope that you will agree and join us for a meeting that will feature a program on Opalescent Hobnail and, we hope, many examples of wonderful show and tell finds from the past months of isolation.

And now a word from our vice president, Connie Duncan



I do hope that by the time everyone gets this newsletter the cold weather has left. The month of February has been super cold in all parts of the US.

Due to the COVID-19 the club has not been able to meet for many months now. We are now planning a March meeting. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for updates on meetings and where we will be meeting at. The officers have been discussing the new year ahead and a few changes. Work on the Gala has begun, and we are hoping to see you all in September.

Some of the officers will be in Springfield MO at Ann and John Fenton's 25th Anniversary Bash on April 23, 24 and 25 at the Relics Event Center in Springfield MO. You can view more information at www.FentonGlassOnline.com. We hope to see you there.

Happy to say I was able to do a little shopping. Visited some new stores in Southern TX. Southern TX does not seem to have a lot of Fenton in the stores. Owners will admit they do not know much about Fenton and the pricing of it.

Good news is that Dave Fetty is out and about. We also want to share our sympathy to anyone in the club that has lost loved ones and friends due to Covid-

19 or other problems. Prayers to all those around the country suffering from the current weather.

Everyone take care be safe and happy Fenton hunting.

Thank you, Connie!

Please check out Ann and John Fenton's "Fenton Bash" in Springfield, it is sure to be lots of fun with lots of Fenton to enjoy as well as many old friends to see and new friends to make. Thank you, Connie, for telling us about it.



Finds from the Road

By Anne Blackmore

Max and I are very lucky to have friends who keep their eyes open to items ideal for our collection. Not long ago, a friend texted me a couple photographs of a jade piece, knowing I like Fenton jade. He was not sure what the piece was, or even if the item was made by Fenton. The first picture was at a strange angle, and I was not able to discern what it was. Scrolling to the second picture, I just about fell over.

There was a Fenton #1932 footed bowl, designed to hold the September Morn nymph, made for Woolworth's Department Store in the 1930s, in *Jade*! The mould shape is documented in *Fenton Art Glass Made for Other Companies 1907-1980* by Carrie and Gerald Domitz in Rose and transparent Green (we have had both). We have also found it in Crystal, and I am aware of it in Milk Glass. But I have neither seen nor heard of one in Jade. Be still my heart!

I called our friend right away and excitedly asked him where he had seen this extremely interesting bowl. He said it was to be sold at an auction near him in a few days. Did I want him to attend and bid for me? Oh, yes, please! Between Max and me, we decided on a strong high bid, added a little more to it, and shared the amount with our friend. Normally, we love to spend as little as possible on good pieces, but sometimes, one needs to be prepared to go all out for something beyond the normal scope. We thought of what Tom Smith said in his book, *Early Fenton Rarities 1907-1938*, where he gives the following advice to serious collectors:

- When was the last time I saw this piece, or have I ever seen one?
- If I see one again, how much higher will the price be then, than now?
- How many are known to exist?
- And lastly, if I walk away from this piece over a few dollars, will I regret it tomorrow?

Our friend did go to the auction and spent the better part of his evening waiting for just this one, single item to come up for bid. Then he texted and said there were only a couple more pieces ahead of it. Talk about being on pins and needles! Finally, he sent a photo of the bowl to me with an indication of the winning bid amount. It was a good thing we raised our initial high bid!

For folks like us who truly love a good bargain, it can be difficult to step up and really pay for a piece. But it is important to recognize when an item is rare enough to warrant it. No one we know, including folks who worked at the Fenton factory, has ever seen, or even heard of the #1932 in Jade previously.

A little later, we visited our friend and picked up this truly rare Jade #1932 bowl (absolutely no shipping for this piece). It was *gorgeous*. Now it is home, on the top shelf of my Jade cabinet, holding a Jade nymph. It joins our Jade flip vase painted by Otto Goertler, also a rarity, and also found for us by a dear friend.

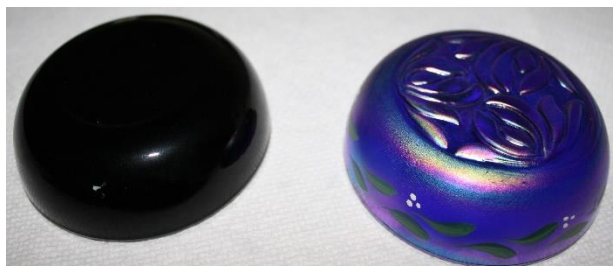
Happy hunting, dear friends, and Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all.

Thank you, Anne. It is always wonderful to learn about a piece of Fenton that has been unknown until now. It gives us something else to look and hope for. It is also always good to remember Tom Smith, Tom always gave good advice and it always makes us smile to remember him and see that his wisdom is being passed on to new collectors.

It is now possible for everyone to start making their reservations for Gala 2021. You can make your reservation online just by going to the Embassy Suites website or calling the Embassy Suites at 816-891-7788, please make sure your reservation is at the Embassy Suites by the airport as we have more than one Embassy in Kansas City. The address is 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, KCMO and the dates are Thursday, September 23 thru Saturday September 25. Please ask for the Gala rate which is \$129.00 plus taxes this year. If you want a particular room on the 2nd floor and are selling glass, please contact Dan Madura at dmadura26@gmail.com or text/call him at 816-560-3738 **after** you have made your reservation at the hotel. If you are selling glass and would like to have an extra day to set up your room, we do have rooms set aside at the Gala rate on Wednesday, September 22 but these rooms usually go fast so please if you want to take advantage of the Gala rate for an extra day make your reservations early.

Dan will assign your room not the hotel.





Now that we have most of the business taken care of, we are free to enjoy some fun stuff. That, for me, will include sharing with you some of my favorite Ginger Jars. Ginger Jars, in my opinion, are good examples of how Fenton can take one item and make hundreds of variations. The sixteen jars pictured on page four show two different shapes of Ginger Jar, one more rounded and the other with a much smaller base going up to a more rounded top (these are newer Ginger Jars). but they are similar in shape. The older jars, all produced in the 1930's have a #893 ware number and two of the newer jars with the smaller base on the bottom shelf have a #2950 ware number that would be the two Rosaline Jars. They are

similar, but all are different. The last Jar has a ware number of #5341ED. Fenton did produce some Jars that are smaller and even more rounded in the 1970's and later, they also produced some with a completely different shape and size that have been called both a temple jar and ginger jar (as seen in the picture on the top left of page five) but when I think of Fenton's Ginger Jars the shapes that are in the picture on page four are the ones that I think of as a Fenton Ginger Jar. They consist of three pieces of glass, a base, the jar itself, and a lid. In the 1940's and 50's Fenton produced many of the Coin Dot ginger jars without the base, they had the same ware number as the earlier jars, #893 that are pictured on page four, but they did not have a base and Fenton called them Rose Jars, I do not know why, most of the ones that are seen today have a black base with them (added by collectors) but the problem for collectors is the lid to the rose jar is a white Opal color, and it is very difficult if not impossible to find a base of the same color. I have never seen one and a Milk Glass base (which is easy to find) just does not match. Many of the Coin Dot rose bowls were sold to Charleton where they were decorated with red roses and a gold trim. The gold paint will often be worn off because of handling. Charleton decorated the lid as well as the jar and it can be difficult to find the decorated lid or even an original Opal lid to go with the Rose Jars, of the three I have only one is original the other two are newer Milk Glass lids. Fenton produced Ginger Jars starting in the 1920's until they closed their doors, so they remained a constant in their line of wares. It is easy for most Fenton collectors to recognize the treatments of the older Ginger Jars, beginning on the top left to right on page four, there is Crystal Ming, then a Crystal San Toy both with an original Jade lid and base, next to the San Toy there is the Crystal Wistaria with an original Crystal base and lid, then a Block Opti Ginger Jar with the original Black base and lid. The second shelf, left to right, has a nice Moonstone Ginger Jar next to a Chinese Yellow, then a Mongolian Green, and the last on the second shelf is a Mandarin Red Ginger Jar all with original Black base and lid. The third shelf features a Green Ming and Rose Ming Ginger Jars with newer bases and original lids, then a Cranberry Opalescent Rib Optic Jar with original base and lid next to a Cranberry Opalescent Swirl Jar with an original Crystal base and newer black lid and on the bottom shelf there is a nice Blue Opalescent Swirl Jar with an original base and lid, all of these jars were created in the 1930's, the last three jars are newer, two Rosaline Sandcarved Ginger Jars that were sold out of Fenton's special room in the 1990's with the original bases and lids and last but not least is the Kelsey Murphy Ginger Jar, "GIVERNY" which has a ware number of #5341ED made in 2009. These are just a few samples of the Ginger Jars that can be found but it is easy to see with just these few how with just a change in the color treatment Fenton was able to make many out of one. When Fenton started decorating glass again in the 1970's that only increased their ability to use the same mould and glass treatment to make a completely different piece of glass. This, of course, increase the number of people who would buy a Jar because they liked one decoration but maybe not another. The picture on page five, upper right shows the San Toy Ginger Jar with original Jade base and lid, this base was produced in the

1920's and 30's with the split foot on it and they are very hard to find. Most of the newer bases have three solid feet on them or have a fancy decorated molded design on it. The lids on the Ginger Jars are also different on the older and newer jars, the older lids are plain, and some are sized just a little bit bigger so sometimes a newer lid will not fit on the old jars. Some of the newer lids have a design in the mould that will match some of the newer bases as can be seen in the last two pictures on page five. So, if you can find these older bases and lids to include with your older Ginger Jars you are extremely fortunate. The Jade and Crystal bases and lids are even harder to find than the Black. Would I refuse to buy a wonderful older Ginger Jar that has a newer base and lid, no, but I would be willing to pay more for the original base and lid.

Jackie Oglesby

We are so happy that there will be a meeting in March with a program on Opalescent Hobnail. One of the more well-known as well as beautiful examples of Fenton's glass. Fenton did not create the hobnail pattern, it was designed and produced by many earlier glassmakers such as Hobbs, but they did perfect it and they made and sold a lot of glass because of the beauty of their Opalescent Hobnail. Because Fenton produced so much of this glass many people do believe that Fenton was the original creator of hobnail glass. One of their first items made in hobnail was for L. G. Wright, Mr. Wright brought in some old moulds and requested that Fenton make reproductions of antique hobnail barber bottles for him. They made only enough for L. G. Wright but when a Wrisley buyer looking for something different and new to sell Wrisley's perfume in saw one of the bottles they began to work with Fenton on creating something for their perfume. With some alternations to the original bottle, a shorter neck, a wider opening, and a wooden stopper the #289 Wrisley perfume bottle was created and it help to save Fenton during some bad economic times in the 1930's. From that humble beginning Fenton began producing hobnail, including their well-known milk glass and the more spectacular Topaz, Lime, Cranberry, French, Green, and Blue Opalescent Hobnail to name a few. So please join us on March 13th at the Sterling Full Gospel Church and be sure to bring in your glass for show and tell. Until then stay well and safe and be sure to look for that hard to find piece of Fenton.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

