

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be JUNE 12TH, 2021 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

We are deeply sorry to report that Carol Soendker passed away in a car accident May 17th. Carol had only been a member for a few years but whenever she came to our meeting you could tell how much she loved glass. We will miss seeing her smiling face. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. And now a word from our president, Dan Madura
Hello everyone!

It seems that the light at the end of the tunnel is here! It is such an uplifting feeling to meet with folks that you have not seen in 14 months without wearing a mask. Things are slowly getting back to normal here in Kansas City. So, the big question is will our Gala be totally back to normal this fall? It is looking good. I will be having conversations with the hotel this week to get an update on what current COVID procedures are and where they expect to be by the fall. I am looking forward to going on the hunt again for Fenton glass. I miss looking for glass in the most unexpected places. I was in a gift shop in a very small town that specialized in mainly newer items, but also had some antiques here and there. Up on a shelf of an antique china cabinet, there was an artificial floral arrangement.





It had been there for awhile because the flowers were a little dusty. Peeking out of those flowers were some milk glass ruffles. Could it be? Yes, a diamond lace three horn epergne. The shopkeeper said, "That old thing? I'll give you a deal, 'holder' and all." As you can see in the picture, the flowers are gone! Ask me at the gala and I'll tell you what I paid.

We had our second Gala committee meeting two weeks ago. This meeting is where we finalize details for the big display and what glass will be raffled, silent auctioned or given away as door prizes. This is also our first chance to look at glass that will be offered at the whimsy auction following Saturday night's dinner. We have some great pieces this year. We also review the club glass that will be offered for sale in club glass sales. We have some fine pieces that we did not get to offer last year because of the pandemic and some new pieces for this year. Glass sales will be out of room 221, next to the hospitality suite. Glass sales previously was down with registration and had limited hours. This year, glass sales will be open with the rest of the rooms on the second floor. We will also display the raffle and silent auction glass in the window. You can buy tickets or place bids in the room as well as registration. Registration forms went out in the mail this week as well as our special glass offering for this year. Registration forms can also be printed on our web site or Facebook page.

The hotel is filling up quickly. If you plan on selling glass and wish to be on the second floor, well, it is sold out! If you would still like to still sell glass out of your room, I can arrange for you to be on the third floor. If I get anyone wanting to do this, I can have signage on the second floor directing guests to more fantastic glass on the third floor. If you plan to book a room, I would do it very soon. Here is the information to book your room:

Online:

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/es/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&tyhocn=MKCPDES&groupCode=CESFEN&arrival=20210922&departure=20210926&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Copy and paste this link into your browser. This newsletter is done as a .pdf file. Links in this format usually don't "click" right.

Call Direct:

(816) 891-7788 Ask for the Fenton Finders Gala rate.

If you are going to sell glass and want the THIRD floor, you MUST contact me so I can get you in the correct room.

Call/Text: (816) 560-3738

Email: dmadura26@gmail.com

Dan Madura President

Thank you, Dan. And now another special treat from Anne Blackmore.



Finds from the Road

Feelin' Like Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile

By Anne Blackmore

A few weeks ago, Max and I stopped at a small, but very nice antique mall near the Indiana/Illinois state line and at the very first booth inside the front door, down low, a small Nile Green Sheaf of Wheat toothpick holder caught our eye. We both beelined for it, and the seller's tag read, "St. Clair toothpick." Sadly, many of the Greentown novelties have been reproduced, not only in bright, garish colors, by companies like St. Clair and Summit, but in some very close to known Greentown colors such as Chocolate and Nile Green. Pretty much any time one finds a Nile Green novelty or toothpick, it is a good idea to check the Greentown Reproductions book to verify it is truly an old, genuine Greentown piece.

We both love glass produced by the Indiana Tumbler & Goblet Co. a.k.a. "Greentown Glass," especially those colors developed by Jacob Rosenthal. Rosenthal arrived at the Greentown, Ind. glass factory in 1901 and soon after perfected his formula for Chocolate Glass and initiated its commercial production. Another highly collectible color Rosenthal developed while at Greentown was Nile Green, originally named *Lettuce*. It is an opaque, spring green, produced from early 1902 until the factory burned down in June 1903. We like this one too, but wow, is it hard to find. Typically, the price will reflect its scarcity and desirability.

We recognized the color on this Sheaf of Wheat toothpick as Greentown's Nile Green, and we were both sure neither St. Clair nor Summit ever made the Sheaf of Wheat in Nile Green. But, being responsible shoppers, we took a few minutes to go out to the car and verify our find with the Greentown Reproductions book.

Quite happily, we soon realized we had a real treasure in our hands. The book stated it was very rare to find this toothpick with its sickle handle intact, and ours *has* its handle! How much of a treasure? The current Greentown Glass price guide shows a value for the Nile Green Sheaf of Wheat toothpick at \$1,100. Not a bad find for a mere \$20. It did not take long for this little darling to find its way into our Greentown cabinet once we got home.

Thank you, Anne.



Show and Tell

A rare etched four ring Grecian Gold water set produce in the 1920's



Other wonderful

pieces of glass for show and tell including the hard-to-find Flame Crest Cake plate



Some more

wonderful examples of Slag Glass that our members brought in for the program



Above are some pictures from John and Ann Fenton's wonderful Springfield Fenton Bash. As can be see there were lots of glass and lots of people buying glass. We all lined up so that George and Nancy Fenton would sign a piece of glass for us. Wasn't it wonderful seeing them again? John Fenton gave glass making demonstations in the parking lot while Melvin and Normal Lampton spent some time bargaining for some hard to find Crystal Crest only made in the first half of 1942.

As mentioned in our last newsletter our wonderful auction guru, Bernie Johnson is retiring this year. Bernie not only organized our auction for many years he created our website, helped in glass sales, helped set up the big display, was able to talk to our whole group without a microphone and we were still able to hear him and so much more. Bernie did so much to make our Gala's a wonderful and fun event that we needed to take the time in the newsletter to thank him and his wife Susan (we know that she helped him every step of the way) for all the work he has done for the club. Connie Duncan who is taking over the auction next year has really big shoes to fill, and we thank her for doing that.

Connie is already getting lists of glass for the 2022 Gala, for which we thank everyone. Since we missed a year, we think that the rules need to be posted again for everyone's benefit. Members glass only, we do not accept glass from none members. First come, first serve, the list of glass and pictures will hold your place in the auction, a verbal commitment is not enough. However the glass is described on your list is what will appear on the auction list, we cannot correct it for you. Your

name and contact information must be included. We will accept only 25 pieces of glass from each consigner unless they have received permission from the Gala committee to put more than 25 pieces in. After May 1st, 2022 (for the 2022 auction) if we do not have enough glass members may consign more pieces. This will be posted in the newsletter and again, first come first served. We will be accepting full consignments (250 pieces of glass) in the future, but the Gala committee will need to be contacted before any other glass is accepted for the auction.

Fenton 5-piece footed Epergne by Tom Limback



An epergne is defined as a decorative or ornamental centerpiece normally displayed as the focal point of attention in a room possibly embellished with fruit, nuts, or flowers.

Epergnes have been around for quite a while. Epergnes began appearing in the 17th century in France. Those early epergnes were silver plated tiered decorated objects displayed in the middle of the dining table holding fruit or a display of flowers. Over the next 200 years the epergne made its way to England and across the Atlantic to America.

Here in America in the early 20th century several of the depression era glass companies offered some type of epergne. Companies such as Cambridge, Heisey, Imperial, Fostoria and Westmoreland offered epergnes as single lily crystal epergnes or single lily milk glass epergnes.

Fenton took the basic single lily epergne and became creative with it. Fenton's epergnes come in multiple sizes, from the small 3" bowl with a single lily to the large 13" bowl with 4 lilies. Not only did Fenton produce epergnes in multiple sizes but also in multiple colors and treatments. One of Fenton's earliest epergne was the 6" vintage(grape) single lily epergne in multiple carnival colors around 1910. During the MCM period, there were the crested opalescent diamond lace 3 lily epergnes in the 1950's, the milk glass and the silver crest 3 and 4 lily epergnes and the elegant LG Wright tall epergne in 1950's and 1960's. Later in the 1970's and 1980's there were the heat sensitive glass epergnes in Burmese. This then was followed by the multi-color iridescent stretch epergnes in the 1990's and 2000's.

For the June program, the focus will be on the elusive and highly sought after 5-piece footed hobnail epergne. These epergnes are few and far between. The colors photo shows five of these epergnes. The colors shown are the rose pastel, green pastel, blue pastel(the lighter blue) and the milk glass. Also shown is a dark blue which I have as yet not determined what blue this is.

Just received this email note from John Walk: *'The two blue pieces, are both blue pastel. The darker is what Fenton wanted, but kept on ending up with the lighter. That's why they discontinued the color after 6 months, in 54.'*

In John Walk's Fenton book, *Fenton Compendium 1940-1970*, page 114 on the pastel hobnail listing indicates a turquoise 5-piece footed epergne. In John Walk's book, *Fenton Art Glass, Patterns 1939 - 1980*, page 222 listing of turquoise hobnail does not list the 5-piece epergne whereas the other colors, green pastel, rose pastel, blue pastel and milk glass list the 5-piece epergne. Is there an elusive 5-piece turquoise epergne? I have never seen one nor have I seen the elusive turquoise flower block so I would be interested in knowing if the turquoise flower block actually exists! If it does and I can get my hands on one, it would be easy to assemble the 5-piece footed turquoise epergne.

The 5-piece hobnail epergnes, no matter what color, were marketed for one year only, 1954 - 1955. We can only speculate why. Maybe with the epergne pieces not being secured together, the epergnes were somewhat difficult to handle. Since the 5-piece epergnes were marketed for only one year in 1954-1955, evidently then that is the only year the elusive flower blocks was produced...the reason for the flower blocks scarcity today.

These 5-piece footed epergnes are really nothing more than a marriage of the 5 inch 3901 footed comport, three of the 3801 miniature epergne lilies and the very elusive flower block(see the disassembled picture of the epergne). If the flower block is available, the rest of the epergne is easily assembled. The 3901 hobnail footed comports are readily available as are the 3 3801 hobnail epergne lilies. Except for the rose pastel epergne and the milk glass epergne, the other 3 epergne colors were assembled once I found the flower blocks. I actually found 3 of the flower blocks, the 2 blue ones and the one green, together in an antique mall and priced very reasonably. To the dealer they were just flower blocks. To a Fenton collector they were like hitting a Fenton jackpot!

Tom Limback

Thank you, Tom. We are looking forward to your program.

We hope everyone had a great Memorial Day and at this time we want to remember all who gave all to serve and protect this country as well as thank all who continue to serve and protect us. Thank you. Until June 12th take care and remember to bring some glass for show and tell. Don't forget to bring your

cameras as there are always some great pieces of glass at our meeting when Tom Limback visits us. See you soon.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary