

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be APRIL 8TH, 2023 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

The first meeting of the year was on a beautiful day in February, which is a first, we usually have horrible weather in February in Kansas City. So, it was very enjoyable to get out and attend this meeting. Our program was on guest sets and tumble ups provided by Jackie Oglesby. Most of the glass was produced in the 1920's. Two, a Cobalt Blue, satin finish #200 handle guest set, and a #200 Periwinkle Blue handled guest set was made in 2004. The Periwinkle Blue set was sold at the Fenton Gift Shop. We were told that only 35 had been made but could not confirm that number. Fenton made the Cobalt Blue set for HOGCA in Carnival Glass. They sold 60 of the sets to Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City who had them sand blasted so that they were different from the Carnival Glass sets that HOGCA were selling. And some of those have hand painting. Most of the older sets are easy to find but it does take some time to get them together. The Opalescent Rib Optic sets are hard to find in the #200 handle guest sets and easier to find in the #401 and #1502 Tumble Up or night sets in the front row. The Cameo Opalescent guest set or Tumble Up is hard to find but it is easier to find than the Curtain Optic Topaz Iridescent night set. If found that set commands a big price but is well worth it. I really wish that I had those sets. While the above picture does not show it well there is an example of some of the hand painting that can be found on some #401 Tumble Ups, they can also be found with cutting on them. A nice collection that featured many of the beautiful stretch glass #200 handled guest sets.

And now a word from our Vice-President, Connie Duncan.



Wow! We are already three months into this new year. I always thought time moved slow but that is not the case as I get older. Lots of exciting activities happening this year and the Gala planning has started. But I still found time to do some research on a popular term used by many glass collectors.

I did a little investigating into the term "straw marks". It has been said that straw marks is an antique phrase meaning nothing. An old wife's tale was that glass was tested to see if it is hard by laying a piece of straw on it. If it was not hard the straw would leave a mark on the glass. Think about this, if the glass being tested is still at a high temperature the straw would burn right off and not leave a mark. While glass that is hard or cooled down is never going to have a straw mark. These marks have been in the glass since it was made. They appear when handmade glass is cooled. They are not hairline cracks although they can be mistaken to be hairline cracks. Straw marks will not affect the value of the glass, so it is important to know the difference.

Straw marks, shear lines, and shear marks are just surface irregularities on the glass that developed after cooling or as the glass cools.

Remember it does not devalue the glass but shows individuality and speaks of authenticity. No two pieces of glass are alike.

Don't be afraid to purchase a piece of glass because one of these marks are on it. Art glass is handmade and not completely perfect as a machine-made piece might be.

DISPLAY TABLES

The 2023 Gala is down the road a way but will be here before we know it. Have any of you been cleaning and redoing your Fenton displays at home? Now is a good time to think about doing a display table for the Gala! We have had some wonderful tables in years past and always look forward to what might appear on these tables.

We never have a theme for the tables, and we do not judge them. These tables are for educational learning, sharing and enjoyment of Fenton glass. You do not have to be a designer, or anything fancy for a table. We just ask that you sign up to do a table and make a list of all the glass on the table. We have 19 spots available, but I am reserving one so there is now 18.

Come join us at the 2023 Gala.

Happy hunting to all of you!

Connie

Thank you, Connie. However, you will have to make that 17 tables remaining, as I am also reserving a display table and my glass is already cleaned and packed.

And now a word from Anne Blackmore



Finds from the Road

A Real Florida Find

By Anne Blackmore

January is the time when Max and I take a work-cation to Florida. We are gone about two weeks, give or take a couple of days. There are two large antique markets we plan to shop, along with numerous antique shops, vendor markets, and thrift stores in Florida and along the way to and from.

The plan on Saturday was to hit many small antique shops starting with those in a small town about an hour from our hotel. The few open stores specialized in fine furniture, framed art, and each store was severely lacking in glass. Not quite what we had hoped. We found about four more places on down the road we'd never been to, and sadly, glass was not a priority at any of those shops either. We were feeling kind of down by now. Our grand antique shopping plan was sort of falling apart around us.

When we reached the next town of substance, there were two antique malls across the street from one another. The first one we stopped at was a struggle. We found some great items, including Fenton Christmas trees, but when we asked for help at the front desk, we found staff who were "too busy" to open cases. So, we just left.

By now, we were about ready to go back to our hotel and call it a day. Nothing had gone right; we had been to so many shops with zero results. But there was the one store across the road, so we had to drive across to see what we could see. Walking in, the ladies at the front desk welcomed us (a good start). Once again, though, we were finding okay things, but nothing suitable for us.

We had gone through the entire mall and entered the last booth. In a rounded front cabinet up against the front window, I caught a glimpse of red. Ooo! Red glass is sometimes good! I had to bend down to see into the top shelf of this curio, and there she sat - a Fenton Ruby #1619 two-piece reamer and jug. I gasped and Max was right behind me gasping as well. I searched for the price tag and found it. At first look, it appeared to be very close to book value. Rats. Then Max looked at it and said what appeared to be the first of two "1s" in the price was

actually a line in the dollar sign itself. Not surprising really, when the description read, "Red Pitcher". Oh, wow. It was a mint condition Ruby Reamer for an incredibly good price.

While Fenton is widely known for its art glass, in the years of the Great Depression, they took on just about any work they could get. According to *Fenton Glass Made for Other Companies 1907-1980* by Carrie and Gerald Domitz, a large portion of this Depression era glassmaking involved kitchenware such as mixing bowls, blender containers, glass jugs, syrups, and sugar shakers, and two sizes of reamers (the #1210 child's reamer and the #1619 large size reamer). The #1619 like we were lucky enough to find, was produced in several colors including Rose, Green, Jade, Pekin Blue, Chinese Yellow, Ruby, and Black. None of these colors is considered easy to find. Thomas K. Smith, in his book *Early Fenton Rarities 1907-1938*, stresses the ruby reamers are indeed rare.

What's extra interesting, is Max found just the black reamer jug at an antique mall a little south of the Florida line earlier in the week. We had walked past the booth once, and he wanted to verify something near it while I stood in line starting the check-out process. He came back without the item he had gone to verify, but grinning from ear to ear, and holding up the black jug so I could see it while I was in line. My eyes widened as I mouthed, "how much?" He just grinned and joined me in line. Passing me the reamer base, I saw the price tag, "Black jug \$3.95". Max has luck like no one else! What a deal!

Needless to say, we purchased that beautiful ruby reamer. Both the ruby, and the black jug will have homes in our curios. We have several orphaned reamer tops that will be potential matches for the black jug.

Happy hunting, dear friends!

Thank you, Anne. Sometimes we think that we would like to kidnap Max and you and then make you both do some shopping for us. You both find wonderful pieces of Fenton at bargain prices. We know that if we spent as much time studying the books and talking with glass collectors and glass experts as you do that, we would also be able to do that. So, every one of us needs to spend more time doing what you and Max always advise us to do and study those books, talk to other collectors as well as dealers who research and study the glass that they sale as you and Max do. Thank you for sharing your finds with us and giving us great examples of what we could do with a little bit of effort.

The following pages will include some pictures from , guest sets. The second picture is a picture of some of our show and tell glass that includes a rare Ruby Bowl from the 1930's, a rare #711 three-piece Green Overlay beaded melon cologne set with a Charleton decoration from the 1940s. The last picture on the next page features a #1616 Twin Ivy handle basket from 1939 and a Blue Stretch glass tumbler made by Fry that looks very similar to Fentons #220 tumbler.





This lamp is a beautiful marriage that our friend Melvin Lampton put together for Janet Wilke. She found the two pieces and Melvin put them together to create this lamp for her. Below are two examples of hard to find perfumes that Fenton made for Alexander Julian in 1999. The third picture features a Georgian #1611 sherbet and goblet in Green with etching.





Our last picture from the meeting show and tell is a truly gorgeous Ruby Opalescent #847 Fan Vase from the 1930's. How many of these have been found?

CUT GRECIAN GOLD

By Tom Limback



Grecian Gold was not a Fenton treatment that I ever seriously considered collecting. A glass dealer had bought a collection of glass which also include several pieces of Grecian Gold. Since Grecian Gold was not a prime seller for him, he asked me if I would be interested in the Grecian Gold pieces since he knew I collected Fenton. So, I accepted his invitation to have 'first choice' on the Grecian Gold having no intention of buying it. Fast forward 6 years...I now have a fairly decent collection of Grecian Gold, primary the pieces with the cutting on them. It has become one of my more casual collections adding to my collection only when a piece grabs my attention and not seriously searching it out! This program will focus on the etched Grecian Gold pieces.

Grecian Gold is an early, mid nineteen-twentyish, Fenton treatment which does not normally garnish a lot of attention. Grecian Gold normal vacillates between the boundary of stretch glass and carnival glass. The crystal glass is sprayed with a metallic spray which appears as a brilliant gold marigold sheen on crystal. Is Grecian Gold considered a stretch glass or a carnival glass. Mike Carwile in

his *Carnival glass 11th Edition* on page 6 has a good discussion on the subject...section Carnival or Stretch Glass.

While the techniques used for carnival glass and stretch glass are very similar, the results have a very different appearance. ...the main difference that sets stretch glass apart from its carnival glass cousin is the lack of pattern, onion skin look...

Grecian Gold normally has neither a pattern nor onion skin effect. Grecian Gold also may be confused with carnival Marigold glass, the difference being the Grecian Gold base is a non-patterned glass will be crystal and the carnival Marigold treatment being the metallic spray over glass with a pattern glass with the base glass being crystal or another color glass. Also, Grecian Gold was in production 5-10 years after carnival was in Fenton's production line.



One outstanding characteristic seen on Grecian Gold is Grecian Gold may have a professional cut design where the design is cut thru the marigold sheen into the crystal glass. This characteristic does greatly enhance the attractiveness of the cut pieces. There are 3 primary cut designs which I will refer to as: grape and vine, daisies and branch and daisy and laurel leaf.

Probably at the top of the list for cutting items are the water and juice sets. The cutting may be 12-point daisy encircled by the branch cutting as shown on the slender #3700 12" pitcher. The water set also may be found on the same #3700 12" pitcher with the grape and vine cutting where a cluster of grapes are hanging from vine. The slender 215 8" juice pitcher has a yet much more detailed grape and vine cutting. The #3600 jug 7" pitcher(not shown) may also be found with the grape and vine cutting. I have never seen the daisy and branch design cut on the #3600 jug. These 4 pitchers are seen with the applied crystal handle. Just a note...the carnival glass enthusiasts do not consider these as part of carnival glass...but a good place to find the sets are in the carnival auctions list.

Tumblers may accompany these waters sets will also have the corresponding cutting. Tumblers normally accompanying these sets may be the 4 " or 5 " flat tumblers. In addition, the #3600 pitcher may be accompanied by the barrel tumbler again with the grape and vine cutting.



Another water or juice set that may be found in the Grecian Gold treatment are the 3-ring beverage sets. The elusive 3-ring 8 ½" juice set and the 3-ring 9" water set can be found with 5-point daisy and laurel leaf cutting around the upper side of the pitchers. The 3 ring pitchers are also enhanced with a striking cobalt blue handle. The 3-ring 9" water pitcher is accompanied by the 3-ring 5 ¼ inch tumbler whereas the 3-ring 8½" juice set is accompanied by the 3-ring 4 inch straight sided tumbler.



These cuttings are not limited to the water sets but may appear on other items. The night set, the tumble up, the bathroom accessories, salt jars, colognes, vases and candy jars may also have these cut designs. The fan vase and cigarette box shown have a slightly different daisy and leaf cutting on them.



Another popular item, especially one that is collectable, are the Grecian Gold candlesticks. The 749 12", the 649 10" and the 549 8" round base candle sticks do not have a cut design but do have a pattern and can be found with a two-color combination. The two-color combination normally has the Grecian Gold candle stick with either a Persian Pearl or a cobalt blue base....a very striking combination! I have never seen the 749 12" candlestick in a two-color combination. I always thought I had the 8" two-color combination until I recently unpacked them. They were the 10" two-color combination. Now I am on the lookout for the 8" Grecian Gold and cobalt blue two-color combination.

I would be amiss and not giving due notice to the 10" oval cut 349 pair! I think this outstanding pair of the Grecian Gold will stand-up against any of the other Fenton oval cut candlesticks. The oval cut back into the crystal provide a nice contrast against the gold sheen of the candle sticks.

Thank you, Tom, this is going to be a wonderful program. Despite the fact that Grecian Gold is not high on the list of Fenton glass to collect it is a favorite of mine, even though I have not managed to collect a whole lot of it and Tom's collection leaves me feeling quite envious. The pieces that Tom has collected are hard to find and quite beautiful. Grecian Gold does not have the appeal of other stretch glass and as Tom has indicated there has been debate on rather or not it is Carnival Glass instead of Stretch Glass. The fan vase that is pictured on the previous page shows more of the type of finish we expect to see on Stretch glass than any of the other pieces pictured so we can understand the confusion. To see more of this beautiful glass be sure to come to the April 8th meeting and learn more about Fenton's Grecian Gold.

This will be the last newsletter that you receive if you have not renewed your membership, check the date on the label of your newsletter if you receive a paper copy of the newsletter or the date on the roster to confirm that your membership is

up to date. Janet Wilke has received many renewals since the last newsletter so if you have renewed ignore this if you have renewed earlier and we are showing that you have not please contact Janet Wilke and let her update your information. She is really good at keeping me up to date on changes. Her contact information is in the roster sent last month. Thank you for being a member.

Please renew by sending \$5.00 for an individual membership or \$7.50 for a family membership to:

Renewals were due October 1, 2022

Send renewals to:

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071

Thank you.

We hope that you had a wonderful and safe St. Patrick's Day and we plan on wishing everyone a happy Easter at our meeting on April the 8th. For those who cannot come we hope your Easter is full of family and friends. Don't forget to bring glass for show and tell, until then happy Fenton hunting!

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

.