

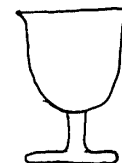
VIEW FROM THE SALT BOX - #9

At the National Convention in May we were asked the question, "Are there any carnival glass salts?". We said "Yes", but were less than happy with the few we could name offhand. This led us to do some cursory research on the subject so we could know more next time. It turns out that the "Yes" answer is correct, and that the reason we know about so few is because few were made.

The Carnival Glass collectors define their dishes as "colored pressed glass with iridescence fired on, as made in America between 1900 and 1925"¹. They recognize that similar glass was made in Europe, but refer to this as "Imported Iridized Glass". The purists evidently accept only the pre-1925 glass, although some is still made for other collectors.

Carnival glass was made to imitate the expensive art glass of Frederick Carder (Steuben) and Tiffany. It was popular from about 1900 until 1925, and was sold in china and glass shops and department stores. When the popularity waned, the makers sold it by the barrel to carnivals for midway prizes - hence its current name. Four companies made 90% of it - Northwood, Millersburg, Imperial and Fenton. The first two were out of business by 1923. Imperial folded a few years ago, and Fenton is still operating.

In the carnival glass book we read there were only 2 open salts shown in the many illustrations. Both were the Fenton dish pictured, one in vaseline carnival and the second in blue carnival. We have a salt like this in a marigold carnival color on clear glass. There are a number of other iridized colored glass salts in our collection or in H&J, however, which are legitimate carnival type but are probably considered "repros" by the more selective collectors. These are:



H&J	Iridesc.	Glass	
<u>Shape</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Description</u>
605	Marigold	Clear	Grape Leaf (L.E. Smith version)
607	Dark	Cobalt	LOTUS pattern, Summit Art Glass (1980's)
607	Dark	Red	LOTUS pattern, Summit Art Glass (1980's)
780	Blue	Clear	Wetzel Holly salt (1970's)
941	Dark	Cobalt	St. Clair Swan Boat (post 1945)
896	Dark	Red	ENGLISH HOBNAIL L.E. Smith (1980's)
928	Light	Green	Swan by L.E. Smith (post 1945)
2113-6	Marigold	Clear	Westmoreland euchre salts (may be pre-1925)

In the above table, the "dark" or "light" color terms are used when the glass is not clear, since the color of the piece is due to the basic color of the glass.

In addition to the dishes listed, there are several iridized art glass salts made by Terry Crider, but these are blown, and carnival glass is pressed by definition. There may also be some made by Boyd that are not known to us.

We hope that you have been fortunate enough to find a carnival glass salt, either from the recognized period or from a more contemporary era. If you know a carnival glass collector, it would be interesting to ask him about them. But be prepared to spend time admiring a collection when you do - most carnival glass people are as proud of their acquisitions as we open salt collectors are.

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June 1991

¹ "Carnival Glass in Color" by Marion T. Hartung