



Color, Color, Color! By John Muehlbauer

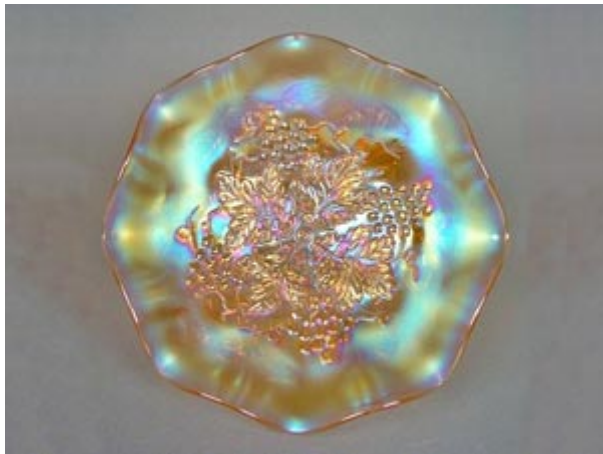
For many years I have tried my best to buy pieces of carnival glass with the highest color, no matter if they were rare or scarce pieces, or something a bit more available. I've upgraded whenever I could afford to. The "color" in the title of this article, and this showcase of some of the glass that will be sold at the HOACGA convention in April, is of course **iridescence** color. While base-glass color is certainly important in determining scarcity and therefore value, it's iridescence that gives a piece of carnival glass its 'bang.' Those of you who have attended any of the talks I've given will recognize that as my mantra. The San Diego County club got it 'spot on' in my mind when they took "Iridescence is the Essence" as their club motto.

So in the theme of this first of six 'articles' about the glass that Jan and I will be sharing with you next April, is iridescence color -- or just plain **color!** I'd like to think each and every piece being sold has great color, but some have 'better than great' color to me -- and hopefully to you as well. In this article, I will share some of my personal favorites and where possible, some additional details about the pieces. You may click on any of the pictures below to see a larger version in a new window.



Let's start out with what to my mind is the most beautiful example of the carnival glass maker's art I have ever seen -- a truly spectacular amethyst Heavy Iris tankard water pitcher. As with several of my favorite pieces in the collection being sold, this came from Burney Talley of New Mexico. I was most fortunate to have been able to buy the collection of my long-time friend "Father Gabriel," Burney to me, when he decided to retire. Burney and his late sister, Norene Duran, collected for many years and owned some truly spectacular pieces. This is one of their best. It has color top to bottom and all around the entire circumference. The rainbow of brilliant colors rivals anything I've seen from the gifted hands of Tiffany's craftsmen. In articles I've previously written or talks I've given, when I use the term "Tiffany Iridescence," this is the prototype.

Another 'popper' also came from Burney, and prior to that from sis, Norene -- an amethyst Garden Path Variant chop plate, loaded all over with rich electric blue iridescence, made even more lovely by shadings of 'Tiffany-Aurene yellow-gold.' Another Dugan treasure with "Tiffany Iridescence." Thanks sis!



Switching gears a bit, another favorite of mine is a truly gorgeous pastel-marigold Northwood Grape Leaves bowl. In another article, I will share my passion of yellow iridescence with you, but this bowl always jumped out at me as having simply incredible color, despite the fact that it's not a particularly scarce pattern.

Another Northwood stunner is an electric blue Embroidered Mums that I bought from Omer Sweeney back in 1980. This gorgeous bowl is like one of my own kids, and when I had an auction back in 1992, I just couldn't part with it. The over-all electric blue 'coloration' (a Bill Carroll word) is as good as any I've seen. While I'm here with E. Mums, let me share a wonderful ice blue example that has so much frostiness to it, the ruffle 'crimps' appear to be opalescent. Another 'kid' of mine from Steve Morrow, circa 1975. I hope the new caretaker(s) cherish these two paternal twins as much as I have.





How 'bout a few examples of Imperial's finest? The purple Poppy Show vase that will be sold is as good as any I've seen. It's impossible to get a good photograph showing all the color on this beauty because it's 360 degrees around! Top to bottom it has electric blues, electric greens (yes!) and electric purples. Dare I say, "It's electric!"?

Another Imperial stunner, to my way of thinking, is this Heavy Grape chop plate. "Taffeta" comes to mind when trying to describe it's color. On purple base glass it is loaded with heavy pinks, greens, yellows and purples. It is absolutely gorgeous. I was told by the seller that this 'chopper' came from the storybook collection of Don Moore. Again, not the most expensive piece in the world, but certainly one of the most spectacular. I'm so old that when I started collecting, this pattern was known as "Fenton's Heavy Grape." Oops!



A final example of Imperial's finest will be a Pansy bowl. Yes, a Pansy bowl! Raise your hand if you own one. Wow! I see lots of hands! And I know lots of yours are gorgeous, but if you're looking for a fantastic piece of CG, without having to use the Lexus as collateral on a loan, give this a gander. Again, the result of multiple upgrades.

We will be selling a pair of "electric" Orange Tree hatpin holders -- one electric blue and the other electric, dare I say, "emerald?", green. They are just two of the seven hatpin holders that will be sold in the auction. Another emerald green hatpin holder (G&C) will be sold, but I'll leave that for a future "Emerald Green" dissertation.



I purchased a fantastic pumpkin Acorn Burrs water set at last year's "fan appreciation" auction held by the Wroda Auction Company in Ohio. Why, is obvious. When you get a chance to buy a 7 piece set where all seven pieces are perfectly matched and gorgeous, you take it!

I've always liked Corn Vases. The purple example selling is the best I've seen in my 37 years of collecting. Like others that I've let 'get away,' I'm sure I'll miss having and holding this beauty. If you like Corn Vases, this one should be your collection. There are none better.





I'm including in this article an outstanding example of marigold-on-Moonstone, a ruffled Holly bowl. This is the darkest marigold example of this rare color it's been my opportunity to ever see, let alone buy. John Britt told me about it, at the 1985 HOACGA. He didn't have it at the convention in April, but by July it was mine. I could not believe my eyes when I opened the box! It is so dark, you would have to describe it as having red iridescence.

I have quite a few 'Big Dugan' pieces (yet another article.) The six-ruffled Ski Star is one of my very favorites. Sorry about the ugly plate-holder bar in the photo, but the picture shows the true iridescence of this bowl. Another Tiffany copy-cat!



A favorite color of mine is pastel marigold (another article!) We are selling both Peacocks bowls and plates in pumpkin marigold and pastel marigold. The Peacocks bowl I've selected for this article has my favorite shading of pastel marigold, loaded with lots of rich yellow hues. I hope the new caretaker of this fantastic piece of carnival glass loves it as much as I have.



I can't leave this article without sharing with you the electric blue Peacocks ruffled bowl I've owned since 1993. Again, it has that Tiffany combination of jump-out-at-you electric blue and yellow-gold. Another one of my favorites. Take good care of it, please.