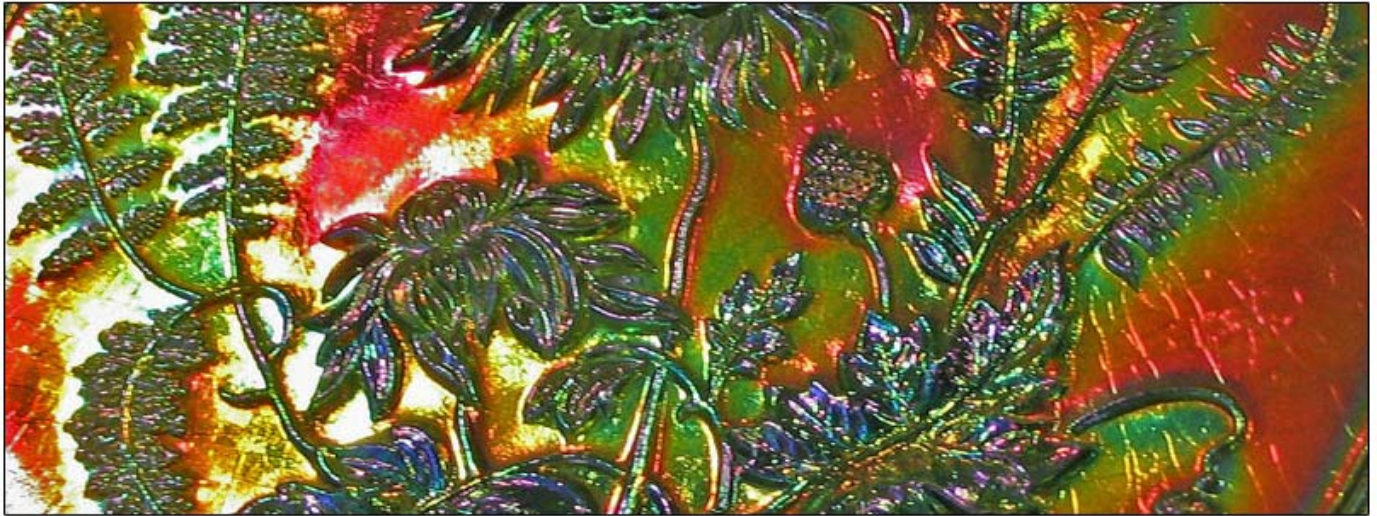


MUEHLBAUER: THE COLLECTION



Rare and Unusual *by John Muehlbauer*

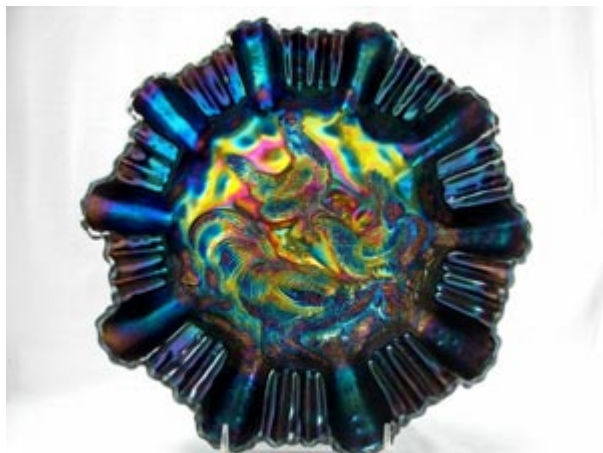
Come April 28th, you will have the opportunity to buy at auction many rare and unusual pieces of beautiful carnival glass. I have been a serious CG collector since 1970. While I don't have many of those 'early 70's' pieces left, because I have always upgraded to improve the quality of my collection, I do have some pieces from the 70s and 80s that I simply couldn't part with. Now, it's time for Jan and I to share all our glass.

It's hard to know where to begin. Let's start with an outstanding rarity, a Sapphire Oriental Poppy tankard pitcher. I know of at least one other. It sold with 6 ice blue tumblers in a west coast auction several years ago. There is a significant difference between sapphire and ice blue base-glass in our hobby. When I was most fortunate to be able to buy this great rarity, there was an ice blue tumbler with it (which will also be sold.) I've always displayed the two together, but quite frankly sitting side-by-side the tumbler simply doesn't have the richness that the sapphire tankard has. And believe me, the tumbler is beautiful.



Anyone who knows carnival, knows how rare and desirable sapphire pieces are. Almost all are attributed to Northwood, but they are so rare that in my 37 years of collecting I still have a couple toes left to count the number of times I've seen "true" sapphire pieces. Here's your chance to own one of the most beautiful and rare pieces of carnival glass in all of 'carnivaldom.'

Maybe not as rare, but equally as beautiful is the “3n1” edged Farmyard bowl. This is the tops! It has what I call “Tiffany Iridescence,” simply loaded with electric blues, electric purples and Tiffany-Aurene rich yellow-golds.



As a majority of you know, most, if not all, Farmyards can be traced back to New Zealand as being their original point of sale. This bowl is no exception. My son was working in Christchurch a few years back and I visited him during the Christmas season. I had just completed several newsletter articles on Farmyards. In doing research for the articles, I had traced down several leads to ‘the sources’ - Kiwi collectors and dealers. By the time I hopped on the plane back to the good old U.S. of A., I had packed 3 of those rascals in my carry-ons! Talk about a nervous passenger! Anyway, this one was the most expensive and the prettiest, and still is!

A ‘showcase’ piece is this gorgeous Garden Path Variant chop plate. It’s the only one I’ve seen with ‘wall-to-wall’ electric blue iridescence, coupled with my favorite ‘Tiffany-Aurene’ yellow-golds. I think you’ll agree it really is “showy.” This fantastic piece also came from the Talley collection and before that, from Norene Duran. It has had center stage on my wall ever since I bought it. I suspect it also will have a place of prominence on the wall of it’s new owner.



What makes the next plate a rarity is it’s color. It’s a ‘true’ emerald green Peacocks plate. I use the word “true” because once you see it, there can be no doubt in your mind that it’s emerald green. There are different opinions as to what is emerald green carnival glass and what is not. This one fits the Hartung definition, and I’m paraphrasing here, “If you have to ask if it’s emerald green or not, IT IS NOT!” I’ve seen only two others and this is the one with the most blue iridescence, to my recollection. It came from England and I consider it one of the most beautiful and desirable pieces in the collection. Hold you bidding card up high so the auctioneer can see you!

As you will note, we are selling four (yes, four!) “Elephant Foot” funeral vases -- the first time this has happened in the same auction. As you know, these fabulous pieces are all rare, with the marigold examples being ‘beyond rare.’ These vases, along with a ‘more-rare’ full-size marigold Tree Trunk funeral vase are profiled in the article entitled “Big Vases” which appeared in a previous newsletter and can be found on the website www.woodsland.com/johnm.



Actually, in case of a blowout of one of the above noted Elephant’s Feet, a “spare tire, “ or should I say “spare foot” will also be sold. This is a really neat non-iridized custard Ele’s foot. Needless to say these are also very, very rare. Unfortunately, this ‘spare’ has a major chip on the top rim, but if you lose a toe-nail on one of the above.....



Whilst in New Zealand I followed up a tip from a carnival collector there that led me to the next piece, a marigold Fantail chop plate. These are fashioned from the Butterfly and Berry/Fantail master berry bowls. This one has fantastic dark marigold coloring and iridescence. I know of very few of these chop plates and only two perfect ones, as this one is. Hold up your hand if you own one. You can own this one, come April!

Certainly one of the most important pieces in the auction is an out-of-this-world green Chrysanthemum chop plate. It has the most outstanding iridescence imaginable. It's impossible to describe (and photograph properly) but let me try. It has brilliant mauves, purples, and reddish-rust colors, offset by yellows and greens. Whenever you turn this chop plate, you would swear it's a different piece than the one you were holding seconds ago and wherever you stand in the room it's in, it reaches out and says, "Look at how beautiful I am." I suspect it was iridized on Mars! Wow, wow, wow!



The 'siblings' of the fabulous green 'chopper' are also being offered, and they are equally rare - Chrysanthemum chop plates in purple, smoke and marigold. Here's a chance, probably your only one, to pick up a matched set!

One the Northwood side of the ledger, we are offering one of the most rare Rose Show plates -- a marigold-on-custard example. In my 37 years of collecting I've been most fortunate to own two of these treasures and seen less than a half-dozen others. It is a beautiful even dark marigold example and would grace any collection.



Also Northwood, an iridized custard Peacocks ruffled bowl will be sold. Many things make this rare. First is the fact that it's iridized, or "pearlized" custard. I'm aware of less than a dozen "Pearlized" examples in any Northwood pattern. Secondly, it has a 'smooth' outer edge, as opposed to the normal 'saw-tooth' edge on Peacocks bowls. And lastly, you can still see traces of the applied gold decorative trim on the outer edge. This is a real rarity and may be the only chance you get to own one. If you are a Peacocks collector.....

Quite a few years ago, I was at Norene Duran's beautiful ranch home high up in the New Mexico mountains. Norene's collection was spectacular. Besides her fabulous Imperial pieces, she loved anything with 'high color.' We got along greatly! I expressed interest in two very unusual Constellation compotes - one lavender and one with a marigold stem and a white 'bowl.' Year's later I was able to purchase these two rarities from Norene. The marigold and white example is obviously a true whimsy and is the one mentioned on page 52 in Carl Burns' excellent book on Dugan & Diamond carnival glass. As Carl notes, the lavender example is one of only "a few examples..." Here's your chance to be able to tell your friends, "And these are featured in Carl Burns' book." *Jim, take my bid!*





A 'set' of three ruffled Northwood master Peacock and Urn bowls is being sold, again a 'first' at the same auction. I guess you can't call them "ruffled master ice cream bowls," because then they wouldn't be ice cream bowl shaped, now would they? These bowls can occasionally be found in marigold, but the pastel marigold example must be considered rare. I have heard of 5 or 6 of these and all seem to be stippled (the other two colors are not) and all have the lovely yellow iridescence so close to my heart.

The final color in the triad is a gorgeous purple example. When I bought this bowl at a Woody auction in 1975, only Harold Cox, "Mr. Northwood Peacock & Urn," owned another purple example. Since then Harold's has changed hands and another example surfaced that now resides in the fabulous collection of good friends Dale Matheny and George Thomas.



Still on the Northwood kick, let me tell you about two true "horehound" pieces. Again, the use of the "true" adverb because I think the horehound moniker is overused to include pieces that are really just slightly different shadings of amethyst. I have seen several other stippled Three Fruits plates in horehound, but none as pretty as this example purchased at the Mullen Auction in 1975. It is brilliant and even and appears to be 'brand-new,' as in "mint coins."

The horehound, PCE Peacocks bowl is the only one I've heard of. It came from a collection in Southern Oregon and I feel most fortunate to have been in the right place at the right time. It also has gorgeous, even, iridescence. True Northwood horehound pieces have a different 'look' to them and I think the photo shows this.



I'll stop here, even though I could continue on with some unusual shapes or colors. Please see the pictures online at www.woodsland.com/johnm, or better yet, come to Kansas City for the 100th Anniversary of Carnival Glass celebration April 25th through the 28th.