

MUEHLBAUER: THE COLLECTION



Red Is For Christmas! By John Muehlbauer

Yes, I know. The auction isn't until April and that's eight months *before* Christmas - *Christmas 2007, that is!* But hopefully most of you will be reading this before the Christmas of 2006 and I thought Santa's suit (and nose!) color might just make those visions of sugar plum fairies warm your cockles just a bit more. What the heck are cockles?

I count 14 pieces of this hard-to-find color being sold in April. Without checking on it, I can tell you that again, I have to thank my good friend Fr. Gabriel Talley, "Burney" to me, for over half of them. If I remember correctly, Burney had a total of 31 red pieces! Obviously, for reasons of 'space,' I couldn't keep them all - space on our walls and space in our checkbook!

I don't consider myself a 'red collector' because as most of you know, good red, with good iridescence, is very hard to come by. Oft times it's silvery, or how shall I say? - "metallic looking." But with 31 examples to choose from to add to the ones I already owned from years of collecting, I naturally selected those with the best combination of cherry-red base glass, iridescence, and most important of all, an over-all 'cherry-red' appearance *from across the room*. You are the beneficiaries, or hopefully will be, come April!



And where to begin? With a red Holly, of course! What else? I've been most fortunate to be able to upgrade on this item, although I must admit, it was a close call. In fact, I'm not sure if Burney's is the one I kept. Whatever - this is a good one! It has a great cherry-red base glass and very pretty iridescence - greens, blues and golds, although the picture really is overwhelmed by the 'cherry-ness' of the bowl.

Really a show-stopper is the gorgeous red 'set' known by some as "Chesterfield," others by "Colonial," or just plain "Flute." I've never seen these pieces before. The 'lemonade pitcher' and the two tumblers match perfectly in their cherry-red appearance and stretchy iridescence. These three pieces will be sold separately, as I have a feeling that there are some advanced tumbler collectors out there who are dying to add one of these beauties to their collection. Good luck on that!



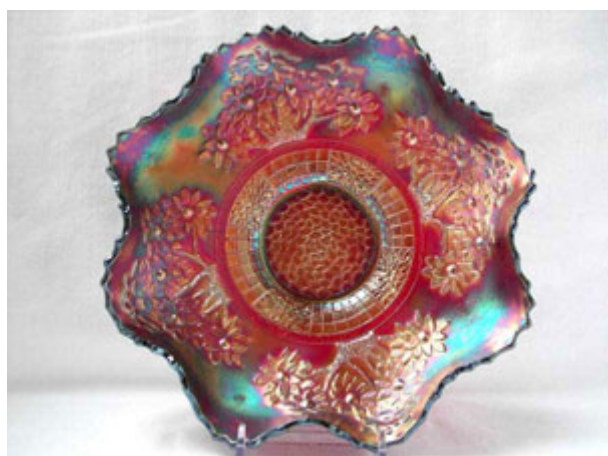
Along with the aforementioned set, my favorite single red piece has to be a truly outstanding Chrysanthemum (and Windmills) ruffled bowl. When using the term "cherry red," this particular bowl is the definitive example. Wow! Unfortunately, as with just about all the photos of the red pieces being sold, this bowl is very hard to photograph to show the killer iridescence it has. Take my word for it, this will 'call to you' as soon as you walk into the auction room!

Let me pause here a moment to expand just a bit more about the difficulties in obtaining great photographs of exceptional red pieces of carnival glass. As I've said, most red pieces of CG tend towards the silvery or metallic side. Not only is good iridescence hard to obtain, but I'm told that the base glass color itself is the absolute hardest color to manufacture. There was a rumor when I started collecting that gold was a key ingredient in the manufacture of red glass. I tended not to believe this because of the costs involved using gold in the mass manufacture of a commodity that was going to be retailed for pennies. Although no one can doubt that gold has appreciated in value since 1910, adding a third variable, the ability (or in my case inability) to take really great photographs, and the variables result in an almost impossible task. So the photographs are the best we could do - please come and judge for yourselves the beauty of these 14 pieces. I've been proud to own them. I suspect YOU will be as well.



I have kept the two Fenton Vintage bowls being sold through several upgrades. One is an 8-ruffled bowl and the other a "3n1" edged example. Both are outstanding. They would make great "one-for-you; one-for-me" Christmas presents for you and your significant other. Ah, the crackling fire, the smell of cinnamon in your hot apple cider, and the surprise shown by your partner when he or she opens their very-own red Vintage. And here you were thinking, "Why did he/she buy himself/herself a great present like that? What do I get?"

Again, the results of several upgrades through the years, are the little ball-footed cherry-red Panther and Waterlily sauces. These are really little killers and this time I think we did a rather good job in showing you just that in the photograph. They are even prettier 'in person!'



I must tell you about the outstanding red Orange Tree ruffled bowl I brought back from Australia in late June of 2006. I consider it my birthday gift from new friends Down Under. I was sharing 'tea' with some folks in the Adelaide area and after the obligatory strains of "Happy Birthday to youuu-hooo" had died down, they informed of a red Orange Tree coming up for auction there in Adelaide, the very next day. As lots of you skeptical old-timers would have been, I was certain in my heart that it was going to be either silvery, or cracked, or chipped, or a combination thereof. Much to my delight, "E" was the correct answer - "None of the above!" In buying it, I may have stepped lightly on a set of toes or two (hope not), but gosh darn it! - I was returning it 'home!' You be the judge. I think it's outstanding.

One of the most 'clear-across-the-room' red pieces being sold is a truly outstanding 8-ruffled Coin Dot bowl. I have seen some outstanding examples of these bowls, but none better than this one. In case you are wondering about this one, it really does look like the picture, as do all the others in this article.





I know there are probably more red Dragon & Lotus bowls out there than any other red Fenton piece, but if you are looking for a beaut', check this one out! Like some other of you old-timers (be nice!) out there, I've had chances to upgrade on this pattern, shape and color several times -- and I have! Even if you have one of these, you'll want to check this one out to perhaps do the same. Simon sez, "Upgrade!" You'll love the combination of cherry-redness and beautiful iridescence. Guaranteed!

An often over-looked red piece of Fenton carnival glass is this little G&C ruffled bowl. Why? Two reasons; 1) they are usually not cherry, more often brick-red, and 2) they often have silvery iridescence. Then too, it's a smaller sized piece and therefore not as 'showy.' I'm not sure you would call this example "cherry red," but the base-glass surely is! I'm sure you'll agree that it's either the best one you've seen, or close to it. Put it in your shopping cart April 28th!



In the spirit of the season, let me close with an image-evoking holiday piece. A hard-to-find red piece is certainly a good Stag & Holly. Jingle bells, jingle bells! The one being sold at the 2007 HOACGA convention is as good as any I've seen, and better than most! It has virtually no amberina and has blue and green highlights in the iridescence. Again, we apologize for not being able to show it's full beauty in the photo of this rare and desirable piece.

Merry Christmas, or Happy Holidays!