

Shape Series
**Heart of America
Carnival Glass
Association**

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1 Fruit Basket
(Millersburg). Since the color range is limited to amethyst, with only four or five examples known, this footed bonbon must take top billing for rarity in this category. The basketweave background for the variety of fruit (pineapple, grapes, pear, apple and cherries) in the center creates an intricate and interesting design.

Top ten bonbons

by Diane Fry

A 1925 Butler Bros. catalog showing assortments of Fenton glass refers to this shape as square bonbons and the open end or card tray shape as fancy bonbons. The Two Fruits divided bonbon is called a “double-handled compartment nut or candy dish.”

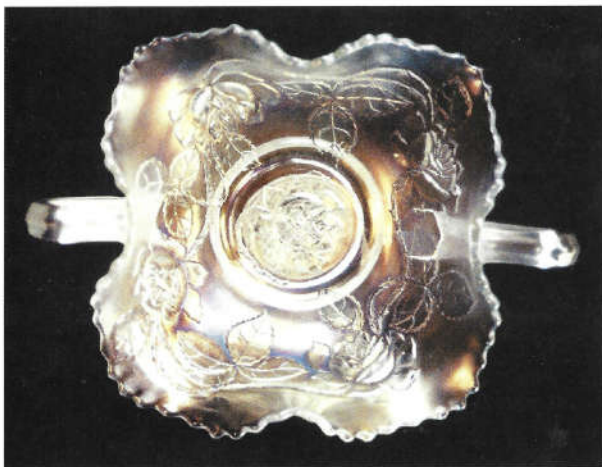
Surely we shall all agree that Fenton dominated the bonbon field with 19 or so contributions, Northwood made 9 — 4 of them significant entries, Millersburg 4, Dugan offered 3, and Fostoria 2.

To qualify and establish appropriate status to this distinct and graceful shape known to collectors as true bonbons is not a simple task. We have some 30 patterns, 14 of which appear only on the two-handled collar-base bonbon. Then we are left with the footed variety, some of which are equally rare and desireable. I don't believe there is a bonbon collector who would refuse either type!

All of the listed top ten have patterns found only on bonbons. In fact, that is a dominant part of the criteria used in establishing the rankings. Rarity, in the true sense, stems from scarcity of pattern or shape, or in some cases, a particular color; by virtue of limited quantity available.



2 Rose Bouquet (Fenton). This bonbon has been found only in white. Sharon Mordini named this pattern in the late 1980s when she and Tom found the first example. Note the full blown rose in the center with the "bouquet" around the outer edge. This is the shape of the few examples found since that first one. The exterior is smooth and has a collar base. It is believed that there are fewer than six of these known.



3 Fuchsia (Fenton). The first known cobalt blue example had been on loan to the Fenton Museum and sold at auction in 1993, bringing \$1,500. A second cobalt blue was sold during the 2001 HOACGA convention auction for \$650.00. The only known marigold bonbon in this pattern sold at auction for \$475 in 1993 — with damage. This footed bonbon was named by the late John Britt.



4 Lotus Land (Northwood). The first amethyst example was discovered in Rhode Island and sold to a California collector in 1985. The second one appeared at auction from a collection out of Florida in 1987. A recent tally of these indicates that there are no more than six known in amethyst, all in the four-sided shape. The only known marigold, card-tray shaped, was at one time in the Don Moore collection.



5 Basket of Roses (Northwood). The first of these was found and named by Tom Sprain of California in the mid-1970s. The estimate is that there are about a dozen of the purple/amethyst examples. Marigold is known and a blue one has been reported. These can be either stippled or unstippled. The known examples are of the four-sided variety. The design is very pronounced and the exterior has the basketweave pattern.



6 Tracery (Millersburg). Limited to amethyst and green in oval or square shape, there is not much price differential so long as the iridescence is great and there is no damage. A rule-of-thumb: The green examples seem to have better iridescence. The pattern is quite unusual; a combined floral/stitching, such as a quilting effect. Desirability of these exceeds demand.



7 Daisy (Fenton). These are seldom seen, perhaps one per year surfacing at auction. While not one of the more expensive bonbons, it is nonetheless quite distinctive in design. Almost all known have been blue, although many years ago a marigold was reported. A color-based bonbon, the exterior is smooth.



8 Night Stars
(Millersburg). There are fewer of these known in marigold than in olive green or amethyst. Much deeper than most bonbons, this is the only pattern found in this shape that displays stars for a central theme.



9 Roses and Fruits
(Millersburg). Marigold is found from time to time, along with green and amethyst in this stemmed and footed bonbon. Two blue examples are known. The exterior of the bowl carries the wide panel design while a stippled acanthus leaf seems to attach the base of each handle.



10 Butterfly
(Northwood). Available in the standard colors of marigold, blue, green, and purple, with one known in true smoke having a smooth exterior. Interest heightens when the marigold, amethyst, cobalt blue, green, and ice blue examples surface with the threaded exterior! The resultant prices can be spectacular. Shown at the right is one of the few ice blue examples.

