It's the Berries

Motif Series

Heart of America Carnival Glass Association

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by Robert Grissom

The dictionary defines berry as any small, juicy, fleshy fruit with seeds. These pages discuss carnival glass patterns that use berries as part of the design motif. Not included here are Fenton's Butterfly and Berry and Cambridge's Inverted Strawberry, both of which will be covered at a later time.

Next to grapes, berries were probably the most frequently used design motif in carnival. The berries, along with the accompanying foliage, provided an excellent opportunity for the glass designer to offer a rich variety of forms while appealing to people still emerging from an agrarian society.



and Wild Blackberry.
Curiously, the Strawberry epergne is the only pattern
Dugan made with these berries.
And then, the pattern is only on the inside of the bowl. At the right is a 9½-inch Wild
Blackberry plate in amethyst.
It's difficult enough to find the bowls, but the plate is extremely rare. This one was recently discovered in England.

Strawberry epergne (above)

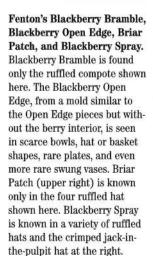




Northwood's Blackberry and Rays and Raspberry. The Blackberry and Rays compote is the only shape appearing in the pattern. Raspberry is found on both milk and water pitchers as well as tumblers, gravy boats, and compotes (which are sometimes referred to as Blackberry).















Millersburg's Strawberry
Wreath (above) and
Blackberry Wreath. These,
along with the Millersburg
Grape Wreath, all have the
same wreath design circling
the center. Only the center
esign changes; the Strawberry Wreath displaying only
a dot. The Blackberry Wreath
has central design of a berry
laying on top of a group of
leaves.





Northwood's Wild Strawberry (above) and Strawberry. The most distinguishing feature of these almost identical patterns is the small blossom that appears toward the outside edge on the Wild Strawberry design. Wild Strawberry

found in large and small owls and handgrip plates. Strawberry comes in 9-inch bowls and plates, some with stippling such as on the plate at right—the only one known in blue.





Fenton's Strawberry Scroll and Blueberry. In each case, only water pitchers and tumblers are known in the pattern.





Fenton's Blackberry Block and Dragon and Strawberry. Blackberry Block is known only in pitchers and tumblers; Dragon and Strawberry only in spatula-footed and collar-base bowls. The known plates are missing the dragon.

Glass courtesy of Burns Auction Service, Ruth and John Phillips, Mickey Reichel Auction Co. Carl and Ferne Schroeder, Seeck Auctions, Karen Skinner, and Floyd and Cecil Whitley. Photographs © David Doty Design and production by David Doty

