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## Elegance & Linn's Mums

*by Dean and Diane Fry*

*Pattern Series*

### **Heart of America Carnival Glass Association**

**March 2002**

The history of this distinctive pattern began unfolding in 1969, when Dr. Beckner, of Los Angeles, CA, and member of the Southern California Carnival Glass Club, purchased the first ice blue 8½-inch plate from the ICGA Convention auction during the summer of that year.

His sister, Roberta Strachen, also of Los Angeles and long-time collector herself, vividly recalls the excitement over the plate when it appeared for sale. She said the doctor was determined to have the plate and paid \$1700 for the privilege...a significant sum at that time.

When the doctor passed away, the plate was inherited by Lyda Chin, his office nurse, who had cared for him during his long illness. In preparation for a move to Oregon, Lyda brought the plate to a club meeting for all of us to see. At that time, in February of 1988, Dean made an offer to purchase. She declined the offer.

Lyda became ill following the move and with Jim and Marie Capps coming to San Diego to present a program for the June meeting of that club, Lyda asked them to deliver the plate to us for the previously offered price, which they did.

**Ice blue plate.** This is the plate purchased from Lyda Chin by Dean and Diane Fry in 1988.



Needless to say, we remain quite pleased to have this radium-finish plate in our collection.

On September 28, 1992, a call came from Connecticut with exciting information about a second pastel blue plate which had been purchased the day before at a local flea market. We were told that this plate had the same radium-type colorful iridescence as the one pictured here. At the time of the phone call, the owner planned to retain ownership.

A Burns' consignment auction in Indianapolis on March 18, 1993 sold an ice blue Elegance plate for \$3500. Report was that it went to a couple in New England. Whether it is the same plate as described in the September 1992 phone call, we cannot say.

**Ice blue bowl.** This bowl has a subtle ruffle and a pastel blue iridescence with soft matte finish.



Page 58, Book 8, of the Marion Hartung series which was published in 1968, illustrates and describes the lovely pastel blue eight-ruffle bowl which she borrowed from a William Robert Essin of Washington, D.C. This bowl carries a soft matte or satin finish. Richard Cinclair of Texas purchased this same bowl from Mr. Essin in 1990.

It later was sold to an Oklahoma collector who, in turn, sold the piece to collectors living in Bloomington, CA. At this writing, those same collectors are still in possession of the piece and no other ice blue bowls are known to exist.

**Marigold ice cream shaped bowl.** The marigold bowl at right is virtually flat, with just the edge turned up.



During the ACGA convention held in Lexington, KY in July of 1992, an Indiana couple came into our room with the first known marigold ice cream shaped Elegance bowl with a satin finish. It is virtually flat, with only the edge turned up slightly. They had purchased it about a year earlier they said, during a farm sale just south of Indianapolis. Long-time collectors, they quickly realized they had not seen anything like it before. At the present time the same couple are in possession of the bowl. No other marigold bowls are known.

A gentleman from Tennessee put the first known marigold plate into the HOACGA 2001 convention auction. In-house as well as mail bidders responded favorably to the rare beauty: The final bid was \$6500 for the pleasure of ownership!

Reports of a second marigold Elegance plate surfaced in late September of 2001. We have it on great authority that the new owners in Florida are delighted with their latest rare addition to an already fine collection. In providing the photo shown at the left, their pride in ownership was emphasized with an appropriate statement to the effect that "This beauty has class it hasn't even used yet!"

An octagon foot upon which these pieces rest measures 3½ inches in width and is slightly domed. The rise is barely one-half inch, with the entire underside filled with raised ribs radiating from the center.



**Marigold plates.** Above is the second known marigold plate, now in a Florida collection. At the right is the first known. It sold for \$6500 at the HOACGA 2001 auction. Below is the exterior of that plate with the marigold underlay showing through. Photographed from the front, these plates have a strong multicolor iridescence.



A dominant feature of the face pattern is the detailed and stippled open blossom in the center, quite similar to those of the Northwood Petals pattern and Lotus Land bonbons. Stylized flowers and leaf fronds circling the outer edge, culminating in tiny inverted scallops along the rim is a feature found on some crystal and etched pieces such as Fostoria. The row of beading in the central pattern is yet another mark of crystal examples.

Perhaps this exquisite pattern, with its unusual color textures were being developed for the competitor's market during the early 1920s when red and pastels were leading sellers for Fenton and Northwood Co's.

### Linn's Mums (aka: Dancing Daisies)

Linn Lewis, an avid collector from the state of Washington, phoned one evening in the early '90s to discuss a bowl he had found. His description and excitement at finding a new pattern was emphasized by his decision to name the piece after himself, calling it Linn's Mums.

At the time the Tom Burns auction brochure for the Clearwater, Florida, convention of 2000 was being formulated, Tom had no knowledge of circumstances surrounding Linn's discovery of the bowl. Since it was, at that time, a virtually unknown piece, Tom named it Dancing Daisies. A man in the audience knew of the other bowl and, having talked with Linn Lewis, pointed out the existing name.

**Linn's Mums 8¼-inch ruffled bowl in amethyst.** The chrysanthemums appearing in the design are the same as seen in the Northwood 6-inch advertising pieces known as Garden Mums. The non-iridized exterior (below) is Ruffles and Rings, also found on Rosette and Wishbone.

