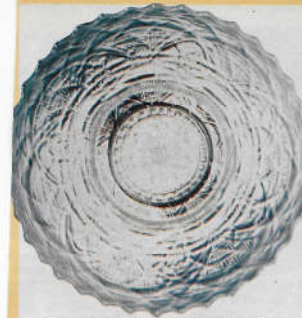


WOMAN'S DAY
DICTIONARY OF*Carnival Glass*By DOROTHY H. JENKINS
Photographs by BILL BEECHER

PERSIAN GARDEN fruit dish in white with pastel iridescence, rarer than vivid colors.



PERSIAN MEDALLIONS on outside of footed compote, and Peacock Tail inside the bowl.



PEACOCK AND GRAPE plate combines two popular motifs, also has berries on outside.



FANSY SPRAY creamer displays its flowers against stippling; tree-bark handle.



HOLLY SPRIG bonbon dish or two-handled happy has realistic leaf design on inside.



PEACOCK AND URN fruit dish includes a bee near bird's beak, and various flowers.



NORTHWOOD'S GRAPE tumbler, also called Grape with Thumbprint; @ mark on base.



IMPERIAL'S GRAPE punch cup has pattern only on exterior, and a vinelike handle.



SKI STAR saucelike dish; marigold within and milk white outside blend in a peach color.



VINTAGE rose bowl in unusual colors, reminiscent of another art glass, Amberina.

Carnival Glass is as popular today among collectors as it was forty-five to fifty years ago when Americans were first acquiring it. The shimmering, ever-changing iridescence that overlays the basic color of each piece is fascinating. Carnival Glass cannot be classified yet as antique, for its heyday extended from 1900 to the 1920's, give or take a few years, but seldom has any article attracted collectors so quickly. Its overnight success is reflected in the latest of several names given it, Cinderella Glass. The most widely used name, Carnival, came about because pieces were given as prizes at fairs and carnivals; stores obtained it by the barrel to give as premiums. Poor Man's Tiffany was another name, for Carnival Glass with its iridescence was made as an inexpensive substitute for glowing Tiffany and Aurene Glass. Taffeta Glass is another name, but not all pieces display a sheen reminiscent of that fabric.

The patterns, the colors and the pieces themselves make this ornamental glass a joy to find and display. A great deal was produced in marigold hues; there was an impressive amount in cobalt blue, purple, amethyst, rich green, even an occasional piece of red and, surprisingly, white and pastels. More than five hundred patterns have been identified and named. Flowers and fruits, birds and animals inspired patterns, and some cut-glass motifs were used, although most Carnival Glass was produced by the technique of pressing.



GRAPE AND GOTHIC ARCH tumbler, made in several colors.



DOUBLE STAR tumbler shows motifs often used on cut glass.



NORTHWOOD'S HAND-PAINTED tumbler with gold luster.



TIGER LILY tumbler, like others shown, was part of a water set.



STORK AND RUSHES tumbler; also in purple.



VINTAGE cordial glass has grape motif outside and is plain inside.



ORANGE TREE wineglass is a Fenton pattern used in other pieces.

Tumblers, Goblets, Cups and Pitchers

To own a small set of Carnival Glass was the goal of many housewives. One of the most popular was a water set consisting of six tumblers and a tall pitcher. This was the best or "company" glassware, brought out on special occasions and admired the rest of the time. A punch bowl with matching cups or a decanter with goblets or wineglasses around it were other sets. Mugs, cordial glasses, cups and saucers were fully as distinctive, and milk pitchers, which were slightly smaller than water pitchers, were also made in some patterns. Most of these pieces may be found, depending on the pattern, in rich greens and purples as well as marigold shades. Carnival Glass pieces such as these were not for everyday use, for strong soaps could reduce their iridescence. However, a great many still glow and gleam with all the colors of the rainbow. Tempting as it may be to display small pieces in a window, exposure to strong sunlight for more than a few days at a time can be damaging.



SINGING BIRDS mug is a Northwood pattern.



POINSETTIA milk pitcher; Imperial Glass Company.



DOUBLE STAR tall water pitcher matches the tumbler shown above. BOUQUET AND LATTICE design on cup and saucer is a 1920's pattern.

WREATH OF ROSES punch cup from a set.



NORTHWOOD'S GRAPE punch cup shows pattern only on outside and has no mark.



POND LILY double-handled bonbon dish; this was a favorite shape with Fenton.



PERSIAN MEDALLIONS footed compote shows pattern on both sides.



NORTHWOOD'S RASPBERRY compote; basketweave on underside.



IMPERIAL'S PANSY inside of candy dish, quilted diamonds with beading outside.



LITTLE FLOWERS star-shaped candy dish; pattern was also used for other pieces.



CRACKLE covered candy jar is similar to the Tree of Life pattern in pressed glass.



NORTHWOOD'S BUTTERFLY bonbon dish was made in several colors. R on base.



BUTTERFLY AND BERRY amber dish with claw-and-ball feet is an old Fenton pattern.

Compotes and Candy Dishes

Compotes on a standard or foot, and nappies, which were flat round dishes about 6" across, were made in great variety. A nappy with one handle was used most often as a candy dish but a small triangular one was an olive dish; when a nappy had two handles it was called a bonbon dish. A few were divided into sections.



DAISY AND PLUME compote has clear glass base and stem under the iridescent bowl.



BIRDS AND CHERRIES bonbon dish shows the attractive pattern on the inside only.



PANTHER candy or nut bowl has a second pattern, Butterfly and Berry, on outside.



PANELED RAYS compote alternates plain and stippled rays inside the flaring bowl.



ROSE SHOW fruit dish offers a handsome pattern in iridescent and opalescent white.



DRAGON AND LOTUS fruit dish; this exotic pattern is easy to recognize on any piece.



EMBROIDERED 'MUMS' fruit dish with its intricate design is one of the rare pastels.



SCROLL EMBOSSED fruit dish by Imperial Glass Company has hob-star on underside.



SKI STAR fruit dish with stippled motifs has a milk-white edging on the outside.



CARNIVAL THISTLE fruit dish has a pattern which is common on bowls of various sizes.



NORTHWOOD'S PEACOCK fruit dish shows a pair of these birds; underside ribbed.



GOOD LUCK fruit dish differs greatly from the pressed-glass pattern of same name.



STIPPLED FLOWER fruit dish has only one ornament plus milk-white edging outside.



PONY fruit dish with profile in high relief and simple Greek key border is well done.

Fruit Dishes

Fruit dishes or bowls were perhaps the most common form in Carnival Glass. These wide, fairly shallow dishes were flared, fluted or edged decoratively and were usually flat at the base, although an occasional one was footed or made to fit in a silver-plated stand. Fruit dishes were not only produced in more patterns than any other piece, but many also display two patterns; one was on the upper surface, the other on the underside. Certain patterns and colors are representative of the three leading manufacturers of Carnival Glass, each of whom offered an interpretation of the popular rose, grape and peacock motifs. A unique shade of blue certainly came from the Fenton Art Glass Company in Williamstown, West Virginia. The Imperial Glass Company of Bellaire, Ohio, called its iridescent green glass with applied gold or silver luster "helios." The Northwood Glass Company in Wheeling, West Virginia, became noted for its vivid purple and for its distinguished patterns. Many, but by no means all, of Northwood's pieces were marked with an "N" underlined, with "N" inside one or two circles, or with just a circle. Trademarks such as these were not generally used.

WOMAN'S DAY



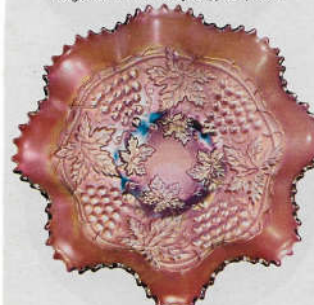
NORTHWOOD'S GRAPE LEAVES fruit dish; (N) mark in center, Wild Rose underneath.



NORTHWOOD'S ROSETTE fruit dish is simple but less common than other patterns.



SUNFLOWER footed fruit dish displays a large bloom with many stippled petals.



NORTHWOOD'S GRAPE fruit dish in reddish tint; cable around grapes and foliage. (N).



CARNIVAL HOLLY fruit dish is decorated with a pattern adaptable to various pieces.



FINE CUT HEART fruit dish is "Near Cut," meaning that its motifs resemble cut glass.



OPEN ROSE fruit bowl has different designs of roses on the inside and outside.



DIAMOND LACE fruit bowl is of fine quality, perhaps because it imitates cut glass.



STAR OF DAVID AND BOWS footed fruit dish has grapes on exterior, (N) on base.



WATER LILY fruit dish is a graceful design, one of three patterns showing this flower.



NORTHWOOD'S WILD ROSE fruit bowl adds shells and an openwork edging of hearts.



NORTHWOOD'S THREE FRUITS dish may have leaves instead of fruit in center.

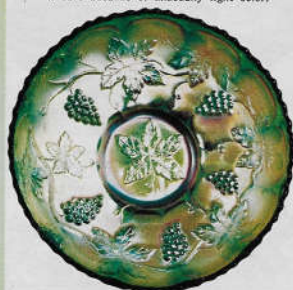
AUGUST, 1965



GRAPE AND CABLE berry bowl is a small one with sawtooth edging and three feet.



OPEN ROSE saucedish, part of a berry set, is rare because of unusually light color.



VINTAGE berry bowl is another stunning grape pattern; many pieces and colors.



PINE CONE saucedish is well named, but comparatively few pieces are found now.



NORTHWOOD'S STRAWBERRY saucedish with (N) on base has plain background.



OPEN ROSE berry bowl, unlike fruit dish, is footed, wide and deep with sloping sides.



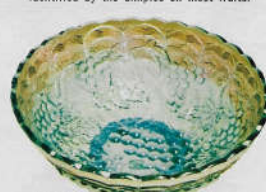
LUSTER ROSE bowl for oranges is heavy, footed and shown in an appropriate color.



INVERTED STRAWBERRY berry bowl with an intaglio pattern is marked "Near Cut."



FENTON'S HEAVY GRAPE berry bowl can be identified by the dimples on most fruits.



IMPERIAL'S GRAPE saucedish matches bowl at left; also made in purple, marigold.



IMPERIAL'S GRAPE berry bowl is outstanding for pattern detail and its "helios" color.



LITTLE FLOWERS saucedish is deeper, smaller and rounder than the candy dishes.



GARDEN PATH berry bowl has lacy, stylized pattern inside, stippled Soda Gold outside.

Berry Bowls and Berry Dishes

Many a berry bowl, from which a fruit dessert was served at the table, must have been used at times as a fruit dish. The two are enough alike at first glance to be confusing. The puzzle is solved if a small matching saucedish is found. Berry bowls always were part of a set that included six dishes for individual portions. Some women probably were lucky enough to obtain a dozen small berry dishes, but the set can be considered complete with six saucedishes and a large bowl. The large berry bowl was somewhat deeper than a fruit dish and its sides sloped up instead of flaring outward. Berry sets, like fruit dishes, ran the gamut of Carnival Glass patterns. Of the dozen or more based on grapes, four handsome ones are shown on this page. A pattern almost always is more readily identified on the large pieces and, in fact, its effect may be somewhat different on the small pieces such as saucedishes.



SINGING BIRDS open sugar bowl, part of a four-piece set; another style has cover.



SINGING BIRDS creamer has (N) stamped on the base, as does the sugar bowl at left.



SHELL AND JEWEL sugar bowl is identical with a pressed-glass pattern.



STRUTTING PEACOCK creamer with lid shows bird against stippled background.



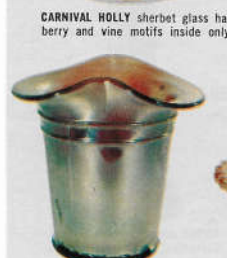
LILY-SHAPE sundae glass depends on form and color for appeal.



PEACOCK AND URN sundae glass might also be used for candy.



PASTEL SWAN salt dish was made in other pastel tints too, all with iridescence. Rare.



CARNIVAL HOLLY sherbet glass has berry and vine motifs inside only.



OPEN ROSE butter dish with cover has roses on rim of lower part, star on base.



SUNK DAISY sugar bowl, small and open, has panels of flowers and cut-glass motifs.

Serving Dishes

The most important serving dishes were a matching sugar and creamer, both often with lids, and a four-piece table set. The latter included a covered butter dish and spoonholder or spooner (not available separately) in addition to sugar and creamer. Less common were toothpick holders and salt dishes. Top hats were primarily ornaments, but a few were just the right height to hold wooden matches. Hats were made in great quantity and in many shapes. Carnival Glass also was a natural choice for dishes in which to serve the ice cream sundae, introduced in the early nineteenth century.

TOP HAT, 4" high, is a simple example of a popular piece that was chiefly ornamental.



NORTHWOOD'S DIAMOND POINT vase; (N) on base.



SWIRLED HOBNAIL rose bowl has hobnails in high relief, swirls between in low relief.



NORTHWOOD'S BASKET is an unusual shape, blends rare butterscotch and aqua tints.

Vases and Baskets

Some of the finest workmanship and coloring was lavished on the multitude of vases and baskets that are cherished from the Carnival Glass period. Except for rose bowls made in the early days and slender bud vases, probably from the 1920's, vases and baskets were decorative in themselves and probably seldom held flowers. Even the flower holders that dressed up the interior of many automobiles were sometimes made of Carnival Glass.



BIG basketweave basket measures only 3" without handle.



THIN RIB vase; pearly overlay effect is notable for coloring.



FINE CUT AND ROSES footed rose bowl; Northwood (N) on inside.



BLACKBERRY SPRAY dish, hat-shaped, ruffled edge.



ROCOCO bud vase on domed foot has a raised pattern.



RUSTIC vase, 16" high, made by Fenton.



THREE DIAMONDS vase, simple design.



SWIRL vase held food and was corked.



FINE RIB vase, one of a pair, is unusual.



RIPPLE vase from Imperial Glass Company is a distinctive pattern.



NORTHWOOD'S TREE TRUNK vase may be two-toned or solid color.



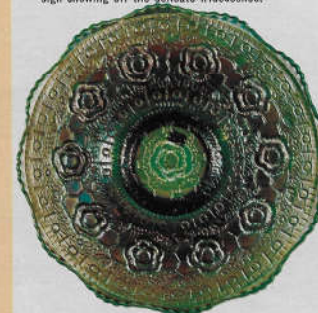
GRAPEVINE LATTICE plate has raised design showing off the delicate iridescence.



ACANTHUS plate shows its pattern on top surface; produced in two or more colors.



FISH SCALE AND BEADS plate displays first motif on top, the second on underside.



CAPTIVE ROSE plate is given an oriental effect by the pattern and the coloring.



LILY-SHAPE lamp shade screws into fixture; marked on rim: The Lightolier Company.



ROUNDUP plate is named for the pseudo-branding-iron marks around the center.

Plates and Accessories

Many striking plates of Carnival Glass have been found, although these pieces were produced far less extensively than were fruit dishes. Actually there was Carnival Glass for every room. The indispensable hatpin holder, the dresser set with cologne bottle, the powder jar and pin tray lent color to bedrooms. Penny banks, lamps and lamp shades, paperweights and ash trays, cruets, jelly jars, cuspidors, or hatpins are just a few of the unusual pieces that add zest to the search for Carnival Glass.



INVERTED STRAWBERRY powder jar is naturalistic Near-Cut pattern.



NORTHWOOD'S GRAPE powder jar in this firm's typical purple has (N) on bottom.



NORTHWOOD'S GRAPE (left) and **ORANGE TREE** hatpin holders, useful not long ago.



WINDMILL dresser tray has unusual shape and color, which set off quaint pattern.



MEANDERING VINE candleholder (left) and **DIAMOND AND SUNBURST** decanter stopper.