

FENTON GLASS

In 1905, John and Frank Fenton of Ohio opened the Fenton Glass Company. Initially they focused on painting "blank" glassware.

But eventually, they moved to West Virginia, which had the materials need for glass production, and began producing their own glassware--with great success.

DATING FENTON GLASS

Pre-1970's

Most pieces were marked with a "Fenton" label adhered to the bottom. Usually gone.

1970's

A molded "Fenton" with no number indicates the item was made in the 1970's.

1980's-2000's

A tiny number "8" underneath the "Fenton" indicates it's made in the 1980's, while "9" indicates 1990's, "0" 2000-11.

HOW TO ID SECONDS

Look for a flame that looks like an "S," an uppercase block "F," a star, or star outline. Each indicates the item is a second.



Fenton entered the glass manufacturing market powerfully in 1908 with its introduction of what later became known as "carnival" glass.

Using Tiffany and Steuben iridescent glass as inspiration, Fenton ultimately produced over 130 patterns of what some have called "poor man's Tiffany."

During their 100+ years of business, they produced numerous types of glass, including carnival and Bohemian, as well as glass in a myriad of beautiful colors.

Using gold, manganese, and cobalt, fresh new colors arrived on the market, making Fenton a "truly American product...collected worldwide" (fentonartglass.com).

Fenton added the highly successful hobnail milk glass to their line in the 1950's and collectors fell in love with it. According to their 1961 catalog, hobnail milk glass owed its popularity to the "graciousness and warmth of its timeless beauty."

To create any given piece, master craftsman would blow molten glass into hand-carved molds. Pieces were then removed after cooling and reheated to allow the artisans to create Fenton's signature flirty edges,

Fenton's handmade planters, vases, and epergnes are styled for imaginative floral arrangements--but even without flowers, their beauty is very much alive. 1963 Catalog