

MOSSY COMMENTS - #8

Carnival Glass was popular in the early part of this century as a low-cost imitation of expensive art glass being made by Tiffany, Steuben and others. Because it developed after shakers had taken over the dinner table, there were not many open salts made with this decoration. It is produced by spraying a coating on the object just after it comes out of the mold and is still hot. It got its name because it was given away at carnivals as a prize, as well as being used as a premium in cereal boxes and the like. In our judgement the glass is pretty, but no match for what it imitates. The figures at the right show a comparison between genuine Tiffany and the iridized Grape Leaf salt produced by L.E. Smith. We think this latter one is the "cranberry" version pictured in Smith 33-5-3.

One of the earliest carnival salts was the swan boat by Joe St. Clair. It has the iridized coating on a cobalt glass base, although there is so much coating that the result looks more gold than blue. L. E Smith produced a dark blue swan with a much lighter coating. A man named Levay got some light blue swans from Smith and iridized them, marking them with his name and a number. The one shown is inscribed Levay 78/2000 and the year 1976. He must have made 2000 of them, but we don't know how many he sold.

In recent years Bittersweet bought the St. Clair mold for the swan boat and had it made by Fenton in iridized amberina. The pictures show the Fenton "F" mark found in the bottom of the bowl and the Bittersweet B and sprig which is on the bottom.

In recent years both Summit and Boyd have been iridizing some of their salts to make another color for collectors to buy. The LOTUS salt in iridized vaseline by Summit is an example, and there are many more shapes and colors with this treatment. Summit salts are seldom marked; Boyd salts always are.

The last salt shown is an iridized MOON AND STARS pattern recently created by the Island Mold Co. It is marked Weishar on the bottom, the name of the man who designed it. It was given away as a premium for buying books from the Glass Press of Marietta, OH and offered in the Glass Collector magazine. So Carnival Glass has now come full circle – a giveaway in early days and a giveaway now. It adds a nice bit of color to the collection in any event.

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| <i>Tiffany</i> | <i>L.E. Smith</i> |
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| <i>Joe St. Clair</i> | |
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| <i>L.E. Smith</i> | <i>L.E. Smith/Levay</i> |
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| <i>Bittersweet Glass</i> | |
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| <i>Bittersweet Mark</i> | <i>Fenton Mark</i> |
|  |  |
| <i>Summit LOTUS</i> | <i>Weishar</i> |