

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

The AUGUST meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City has been cancelled. At this time, the police department where we hold our meetings will not allow us to have our meeting due to Covid-19.



Now a word from our President, Jason Herman

It is with heavy hearts that our Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City board has voted to cancel the 2020 Gala originally planned for Sept. 24-26. This was a very tough decision for us, and it was not something we did without a lot of discussion and debating. We are all so disappointed that we cannot hold this year's event, but we know that for the safety of our members and guests this is the correct decision. Refunds of all prepaid registration fees, meals, and hospitality donations will be issued in early Aug. The hotel will cancel all rooms reserved under the Gala group rate; you do not need to contact the hotel. If you booked your room without using the Gala group rate, you will need to cancel your room with the hotel. We are still accepting orders for the pumpkins made by John Fenton through Aug. 1. All pumpkins will be mailed out in Aug. We will truly miss seeing you all in September and hope you will be able to join us next year.

Jason Herman

Thank you, Jason

This is a sad day for us, we have not missed attending the Gala in the last twenty years and will miss seeing all our friends and all the wonderful glass that is always there at the Gala either for viewing or for sale. Like many of you we will be wondering just what to do with ourselves come September. But sadly it must be said that if we are still unable to even meet as a small local club in the police department that is quite close to the Embassy Suites it is difficult to see how we could safely plan and conduct the Gala with many more people attending. We want to thank everyone who has already sent in their registrations and who have made plans to come to Kansas City, and we want to thank anyone who has taken the time to complete and send in a list of glass for the big display. We know it took time and work and we hope to make it up to everyone by having a wonderful Gala next year when we hope Covid -19 will be just a nasty memory, or at least one that is very much under control. Bernie Johnston, our auction master will have already contacted people who have assigned glass to the

auction to let them know that they can hold their glass until next year or put their glass in another auction.

We have been planning the big display for some time and we thought that this year's big display would be a great trip down memory lane for all of us, a visit to each and every one of the wonderful big displays that we have had in the last twenty years. Dan has already done work on getting the glass together and our members have sent him lists of glass that would have gone into the big display. But that was for this year and is not to be, so what will we do next year? That has not been decided or even discussed yet but hopefully we can still celebrate 20 years of Gala glass next year. While we have been debating the dangers and difficulties of having the Gala this year and slowly realizing that it just could not happen while Covid-19 infections were increasing instead of decreasing I have been thinking about possible displays we could have in the future. What can I say, it was hot and humid and like many of you I am in the high-risk category, so I am spending a lot of time at home wondering what to do. One day I found myself walking around the house looking at my glass. One of the reasons was of course to see what could be used on the big display this year as well as thinking about possible future displays. On a side note one of the benefits of this examination of my glass was that a perfume bottle that I spent two days looking for five months ago was found, it was displayed on a shelf where it was very easy to see – a glass fairy must have moved it around so that it could not be seen when I was looking for it, as it was so easy to see when I wasn't looking for it.

The other thing that the examination did was getting me thinking about three possible future displays. All the suggestions will be presented to the Gala committee when next we met. The first is for a display of Fenton decanters and cruets. Fenton has produced a large variety of decanters and cruets and they should make a wonderful display don't you think? The next suggestion that I would like to make is for a display Ginger Jars, Rose Jars and Covered Candy dishes. Both suggestions come from self-interest as I collect decanters (mostly from the 1930's) and would love to see more on display to see just how many more that needed to be hunted down. And I would love to get pictures of same. Ginger jars are also one of my favorite things to collect. Over the years there are many jars that were left sitting on the shelf because for whatever reason they did not appeal to my collector's instinct but still there are at least 45 (or more) of these beautiful jars located in my home. It would be wonderful to see all the ones that I have along with many of the ginger jars that did not appeal to me or I have never seen put together in one spot. The one fear is that after seeing some

of the Ginger Jars that I left sitting on the shelf of some wonderful antique store that I will have to admit that I made another mistake and then go on a hunt for those jars. The third and last suggestion for a big display for a future Gala comes from Tom Limbeck and is my very favorite. Fenton glass that glows under a black light.

So, thinking about how wonderful that display would be and since I was trapped in the house with nothing much to do I hunted down my black light to see how many pieces that I had that could go into this display. Can you just see maybe two hundred pieces of Fenton glowing under black lights? So many different types of Fenton, from Burmese, Chinese Yellow, Topaz, Green Ming, Florentine Green, Custard, and Blue Opalescent to name some. What you say Blue Opalescent does not glow? That is what I thought. My Blue Opalescent rib optic #220 water set was sitting next to a Topaz water set and when it lite up my first thoughts was it is just a reflection from the Topaz set. When things were moved around and the set was placed next to a #222 Blue Opalescent rib optic water set made around the same time the as the #220 the #220 still glowed under a black light and as the #222 did not my next thought was to ask Anne Blackmore about this. Both of the water sets were made around the same time, in the 1930's so it was surprising that both did not react to the black light in the same way. Both the #220 pitcher and #222 tumbler that came with the pitcher glowed and neither the #222 water set or it's matching tumbler glowed. My question to Anne Blackmore was if it was possible a pot of Blue Opalescent was contaminated by something or if there was another reason for the glow. Her reply follows.

Regarding the blue Fenton that has some glow under a black light, it is something people are just noticing in the last few years. Some blues have a glow. We have noticed that the late 20s-30s Fenton blues tend to have a glow. I cannot explain it, except to say that they do. We have noticed it in several of our pieces.

Thank you, again, Anne.

After reading Anne's reply I checked out a few other pieces and my Blue Opalescent Swirl Ginger jar does indeed glow. So, I still do not know why but at least I know that I am not alone. Does anyone else have an explanation for this?

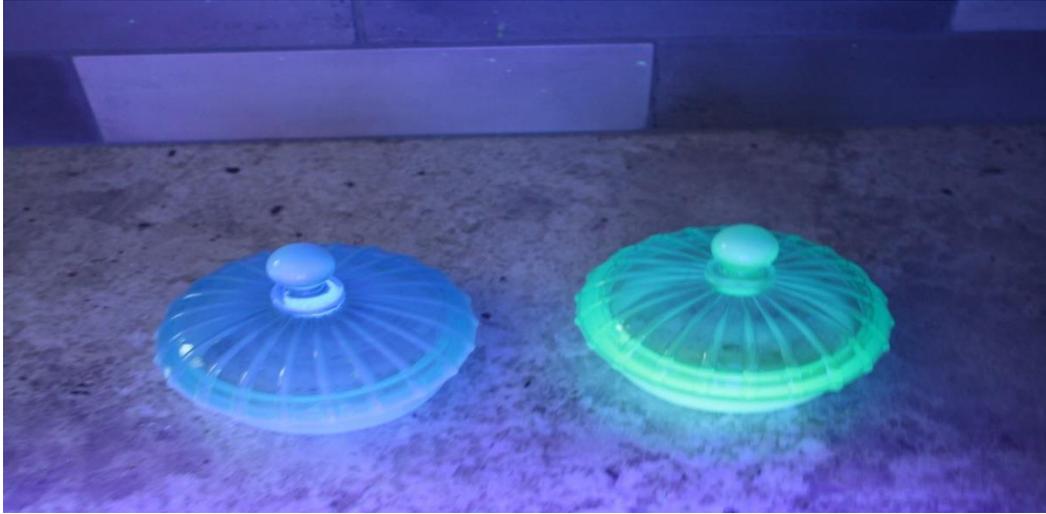
Checking glass under the black light also showed that a Fenton Jade Green refrigerated box that was purchased from a dealer that I knew and trusted also glowed. When he offered it for sale, via email he referred to page 148 of Carrie and Gerald Donitz book on Fenton Glass Made for Other

Companies. I liked it so yes, I brought it sight unseen, instead of doing what Anne and Max Blackmore has told us many time do – I did not read the information in the book about the refrigerated box, just looked at the picture. Hocking made a box that was the same size and shape as Fenton’s with the same lid only Hocking’s Jade Green glowed and Fenton’s does not. So, not Fenton but the lid will work for Fenton’s box if I ever find one – for sure a black light will have to be used to check the next box. Research can be boring and sometimes frustrating, but it can save us from making mistakes.



#222 Blue Opalescent water set and #220 Blue Opalescent pitcher with #222 tumbler





Two Blue Opalescent Rib Optic lids for the #220 water set from the 1930's. One glows under a black light and one does not.



Finds from the Road

When One Good Find Turns Into Two By Anne Blackmore

We love going to West Virginia, plain and simple. We have lots of friends there, it's beautiful to drive through with its mountains and valleys, and it's glass country.

Max and I bought a very special piece of glass through eBay, and rather than have it shipped, decided to meet the seller to pick it up. We all decided to meet in Morgantown, W.Va. This meant we could stay in Marietta, Ohio, where we visit many times every year. We made plans to visit with friends, and to take care of some other business while we were in the area.

The drive between Marietta and Morgantown can be fraught with unexpected delays, so we left a little over an hour ahead of what was necessary. Happily, there were no delays that day, and we took time to stop at an antique shop we'd seen many times but never had time for previously. It did not look like much from the outside, but never let *that* fool you! Once inside, there were two floors, and it was laid out well. There was gorgeous glass right near the front door, so we figured it was going to be a good stop.

We found a couple of nice things on the first floor, and several pieces that inspired intense conversation. But, once we got to their blissfully cool basement, the game changed! It was a series of small rooms and in the room straight ahead from the foot of the stairs we found a true treasure. As I was examining a Fenton 1990s painted vase for a signature, Max inhaled so deeply, the barometric pressure of the room dropped. He reached up, and pulled out a deep ruby thumbprint optic Fenton pitcher with an ice lip... then we realized there were four matching tumblers. Oh my! Neither of us had ever seen this shaped pitcher or tumblers in this color.

A read through *Fenton Glass Made for Other Companies 1907-1980*, by Carrie and Gerald Domitz, provided us the information we needed. This ruby set, the #1352 thumbprint optic ice lip pitcher and the matching #1352 ice tea tumblers were made during World War II for Tuska Merchandise, an importing company. Fenton also produced the same pieces for Tuska in Royal Blue. During the war, many importers could not obtain product from Europe, so turned to manufacturers in the United States. Fenton was relied on by several of these companies including A&A Importing and Koscherak Brothers.

Because of the set's scarcity, it carries a fairly high value in the Domitz book. We have confirmed the scarcity with several collectors of old Fenton. One collector had seen the pitcher one time in Ruby and one time in Royal Blue, and none of the others had seen any part of this set.

Thankfully, the seller did not recognize the set as anything special, and had priced it very modestly. Certainly, nowhere near the values indicated in the book. It will look beautiful amongst Max's other prized drink sets.

We left the shop with just enough time to meet our ebay seller, and pick up our large, delicate glass piece. It was perfect! But that will have to be a story for another day.

Happy hunting, dear friends! Stay safe.

Thank you, Anne.

Hopefully, things will be improving by September and we can have a meeting, if not take care and please plan on attending next year's Gala. Okay, plan on attending next year's Gala no matter if we can have a meeting next month or not. We have got to have something fun to look forward to. Take care, wear a mask when out and about, we want everyone to be safe. Keep hunting for that wonderful piece of Fenton that we all know is out there. We want to be able to brag to all our friends how we were able to find this piece while locked into our homes and it was hard hunt. Hope to see you in September or October.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

