

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be **SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2020** at the North Patrol Police Headquarters located at 11000 Prairie View Rd, KCMO. We will be returning to our regular schedule in March, meeting on the second Saturday of the month and hopefully will be enjoying more spring like weather. See you there.

For the record, our weather for the February meeting was very nice for February and it was easy to see how this impacted our meeting as many more of our members joined us for this meeting than we usually get on what is most often the coldest day of the year for our meeting. Most often we just have a few of the hardcore make every meeting people come for the February meeting because the weather is so bad. So, thank you everyone who joined us for our program on Early Fenton Vanity Sets, we hope that you enjoyed the meeting. The picture above as well as the pictures on page four and five will show off some of the beautiful perfume sets that Fenton produced in the 1920's and 30's as well as some wonderful show and tell glass. While this was my program it was improved greatly by Tom Limbeck who brought some of his wonderful vanity items to

enhance what I could provide. Janet Wilke also helped with a Blue #1502 cologne bottle. Tom brought almost every Daisy and Button vanity set in his collection to add to the program as well as several #55 ½ colognes to be included in the program. It is much easier to show everyone that the #55 and #55 ½ cologne have the same bottle with different stoppers when there are examples of both colognes to compare. As many know the only difference in the bottles is that the #55 ½ cologne has the flower form stopper instead of the pagoda shape stopper that is on the #55. Just as it was easier to see the difference in the #53 and #54 colognes when looking at the Grecian Gold colognes, side by side, the inside of the #54 is smooth while #53 has a diamond pattern on the inside of the bottle, which will also be found on the inside of the #53's puff boxes. Other than the one difference they appear to be the same bottle. Fenton introduced many different and very elegant vanity sets in the 1920's and 1930's. Producing the sets first in iridescent, transparent and last in the 1930's in opaque treatments. These colognes or perfumes if you prefer are very collectable now and some, depending on the glass treatment, condition, color, or style demand high prices for the collector today. Individual pieces can be difficult to find, whole sets (even those sets that are considered more common) can be very difficult to find and sets without some kind of damage even harder. But for those who keep hunting the rewards are great and the satisfaction of finding the elusive piece of Fenton even greater. For those who would like to see this display in person it will make another appearance at the Gala this year as a small table display. Not all the bottles will be included in the display but most of them will be there. Are you planning on coming? I would love some feedback.



Finds from the Road

Patience is a Virtue

by Anne Blackmore

Max loves all kinds of glass from very high-end antique glass to the more contemporary and popular. A particular favorite of his is Steuben glass. He had many exquisite pieces before we were married, and we've acquired a strong handful more since. But there is one Steuben item he has been hunting for over 20 years. He saw one example in the Steuben Museum at Corning, New York, and it is shown in the book, *The Glass of Frederick Carder* by Paul V. Gardner, in the catalog pages section.

It is a pitcher in what is known as the "skeleton mould". It is a large, exceptionally heavy piece, weighing in at just over five pounds. Max purchased

the matching vase many years ago for a significant price; and he was glad to do so. But the hunt for the pitcher has continued since then.

On our recent trip to Florida to shop an antiques market, there was one booth selling high-end glass. Due to the large size of the booth, we split up and went opposite directions. Max turned around, spoke my name, and was holding THE pitcher. I quickly made my way to him. The folks in this booth know their stuff, and I was rather dreading how much the price was going to be. He showed me and it was *nowhere* near what I expected. We checked it over, and it was in excellent condition. He asked what the "best price" might be and the very gracious sellers came down approximately one-third. Max thought a little, and finally said he had to have it.

We couldn't get over how big and heavy this pitcher was! It was difficult to fathom being the glassblower trying to work with a five-plus pound piece of glass at the end of a six-foot pontil rod. Imagine the strength that would take!

The day following our adventures at that large, wonderful antiques market, we set off for home. After a couple of hours in the car, there was a small antique mall just off the highway. Max suggested we stop and shop, mainly to stretch our legs. This was not a shop where we'd ever found much, but the stretch sounded great.

We got to the last aisle without finding anything, and Max walked into a booth with really high-priced items. Then he gasped and reached down to knee level on the open shelves of the booth. My eyes followed his hands, and I gasped too. I couldn't believe it, he couldn't believe it, and you won't either.... There was another skeleton mould Steuben pitcher. Max looked at me with a tear in his eye, cradling this gorgeous vessel. For 20-odd years, he'd searched for this pitcher, and now he had found two within 24 hours. And again, the condition of this one was perfect! While we had thought the price of the first one was good; this one was a mere fraction of the first, at \$27.50.

Happy hunting, dear friends - remember patience is the key when seeking rare pieces!

Thank you, Anne,

We had some very nice glass for show and tell as well as some very nice examples of early Fenton vanity items to enjoy at the meeting. As can be seen in the following pictures. While the #54 tray was missing for the 16-17-54 bathroom set the Blue Opalescent Spiral Optic set is very nice. We can only wonder why Fenton choose to advertise it as Victoria Blue when they first produced the set as can be seen in the reprint of the ad they placed in the Crockery and Glass Journal that appears in the Fenton Art Glass Book, 1907 to 1939 by M. and K. Whitmyer.



Early Fenton Vanity Sets and Pieces



These are just three of the wonderful Cape Cod Crystal or Daisy and Button Vanity Sets that Tom Limbeck displayed for our enjoyment.



What wonderful glass for show and tell? Did you spot the two Blenko pieces in all the Fenton show and tell pieces? The last picture on the bottom right on page five shows an Amberina water carafe made by Blenko and the etched glass vase in the upper right corner is also a recent product of Blenko. We also heard, at the meeting, that Kelsey Murphy may be doing some work at Blenko. Nice pieces, very nice. We did have some very nice Fenton pieces, many that are never seen outside of books for our show and tell. The large Ruby Plymouth vase was one, the Amberina water set was another as was the Twin Ivy basket, in fact we have never seen this basket in a book before however if you look closely at the pictures, in the background of picture # 4 and the front of picture # 1, there is another basket we have never seen, a French Opalescent hobnail big cookies basket. Gorgeous! Have you seen one before? We really love it when members do a program on their collections and learn a lot from these programs, a lot more than by looking at books, but to see some of the pieces in show and tell is really exciting because these pieces may never come up in a program (we really wish that our member who brought in that wonderful hobnail basket would do a program on his French Opalescent glass).

The master of the auction, Bernie Johnston reported that the auction is full and wanted to thank everyone who has placed glass in the auction not only for providing glass for the auction but also for being so quick to give him the list and pictures of the glass for the auction. This has been an unusual year for him as most times Bernie is waiting for the list and the pictures to come so that the work of putting the auction together can be completed. We believe that the last two years have been good for Bernie and he has not had to wait for people to send in their list or pictures before the May 1st deadline has passed. There has in fact been at least one person who was surprised and very unhappy that the auction had filled up so fast this year as they were planning on putting some glass in the auction after Christmas but found out that they were too late. While this is not a good thing for people who thought they could wait till March or April to put in their glass (May 1st is the cutoff date for submissions) it is good for the club that our members are being so prompt in getting their information to Bernie. So, thank you. With that in mind if you think that you might want to put glass in the 2021 Gala auction please have your list and pictures ready as soon as you can after the 2020 Gala so that you can be the first to get your glass in the auction. While we do have a 25 piece limit per contributor (a few pieces more or less are no problem) there are exceptions made and we will accept more from an individual if they make the request early to Bernie and they follow through with getting their information in as quickly as possible.



now a word from our President, Jason Herman

Greetings, as I was thinking about what to write, I thought about one of my favorite pieces in my collection. It is a Rolex dealer display sign. I didn't even know that it existed before our Gala 2 years ago. I just happened to have a conversation with Chris Benson who had worked in Fenton's Special orders department. In our conversation she mentioned that Fenton made Rolex dealer signs, and that they had to keep meticulous account of all of the pieces they made, and each one had to be accounted for. Then I asked her to describe what it looked like. After that, I was on a mission. I just happened to find one sooner than I expected. It just so happened to have the Fenton museum number on it, but no Fenton logo. The museum number shows it was from 1987. I have come to find out that Rolex collectors collect these signs, and that most Fenton collectors didn't even know it existed. It is about 8 and a half inches across and 3 inches wide, and weighs a little under 2 pounds.

Our program for March will be given by Bernie Johnson who has put together a video history of the past 20 Galas and will be presenting that video at our meeting. He says that we will see many people who we love and are no longer with us, but they are all a part of our club's history so please come and join us for this wonderful trip down memory lane. We think that there might be some glass in there somewhere.

Until March 14th take care and keep hunting Fenton. Remember if we see it first it will go to our home and not yours. Dan Madura has promised to bring goodies for the meeting which will be wonderful as always when he does anything so be sure to plan on coming and stay safe, happy, and always on the move. (It makes it more difficult for the tax collector to find you if you are on the move)

Jackie Oglesby Secretary

Don't forget, it's time to renew your membership, please send a check to Janet Wilke for \$5 for an individual membership and \$7.50 for a family membership to FFOGKC, Janet Wilke Treasurer, PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071. Thank you.

