

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be Saturday May 12th, 2007 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th, Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M. ..

I am sorry to inform you that Ann and John Fenton were in a car wreck recently. They were not hurt seriously but they did lose their dog who they had been taking to the vet for emergency treatment. We send our condolences for the lost of their beloved pet and hope that their own injuries will heal quickly.

It seems that most of our members that attended the Apr. 14th meeting collect the bigger eggs made by Dave Fetty than the smaller #5140 egg. We had a few but not much in comparison to the eggs made by Dave Fetty and the large eggs that were in Fenton's line. It was great seeing so many different eggs with no 2 alike. There were two Mosaic egg, one with Hanging Hearts, a pulled feather egg, a Vasa Murrhina egg, quite a few hanging hearts in different glass treatments and one with a bird sitting on top. The biggest surprise was that we had 2, count them 2 Peter Rabbit carnival glass pieces for our viewing pleasure, a plate and a bowl. The picture that is in the newsletter did not come out as well as it should have, for which I apologize however you can get a idea of the beauty of this early piece of Fenton. We would like to thank the owner of these wonderful examples of old Fenton carnival glass for bringing them to our program, it was very generous of them to share these pieces with us. There were two Folk Art Bunnies on a nest, one the first one that came out in 1996, designed by Robin Spindler and the second one had been produced for and sold on QVC, also designed by Robin Spindler. We also had several examples of the smaller rabbit figurines that Fenton produces. An excellent program with many great pieces of Fenton.

For our show and tell we had another example of a lamp that was put together using pieces of L. G. Wright glass by a club member. As well as the new Dave Fetty Monet Vase, 4 hand painted eggs that were made by Nortake, a French Opal. Coin Dot perfume, a 8" Crystal Ming #184 vase, 4 Cranberry Whimsey's from the Special Room at Fenton, a black dolphin handled bon bon with silver overlay from the 1930's, and a large blue bon bon with dolphin handles etching, also from the 1930's.

Now for a important announcement, the souvenir glass that we will be selling for the Gala this year will be a Dancing Ladies Fan Vase, 75 will be made Ruby and 75 will be Red Carnival Glass. The price has not been set as yet. I hope that you will be as excited by this as I am. There will also be a very special piece that will be sold at the Gala. So be sure to get your reservations made at the Embassy Suites (816-891-7788) for Sept. 20th, 2Pt, and 22nd. We are going to be having lots of fun as well as learning more about our favorite glass maker.

Our program in May will be a club program on Mandarin Red and Venetian Red glass. Just how are they different anyway? Have you ever seen a piece of Venetian Red glass on Ebay? It is always Mandarin Red. This seems to be the better known version of glass. The confusion over these particular colors is great - at least in my house. According to Margaret & Kenn Whitmyer in their book, Fenton Art Glass, 1907 -1939 both are a deep red colored opaque glass. They were made at different times, the Venetian Red was made between 1924 -1927, and Mandarin Red was made from 1933 -1935. But both were made from the same formula, the difference in the glass was caused by how they were made. In Venetian Red the gatherer cleaned the excess glass off his punty after each piece is made and with Mandarin Red he did not. This meant that when he gathered more molten glass for the new piece he had a small amount of cooler glass on the punty and it caused different shades of red to form when the glass is pressed into the mold. Giving Mandarin Red a marbled appearance. Many of the same pieces were made in both Mandarin Red and Venetian Red. How is this confusing? A few years ago I took a ginger jar to be id in West Vir. I had purchased it as Mandarin Red but there was no marbling in it at all so I thought that it might be Venetian Red instead. To my surprise it was immediately id as Mandarin and a bowl that had quite a bit of marbling was held up and id as Venetian. To further my confusion this same bowl was picked up later and id again - as Mandarin. I was so confused. Checking William Heacock's books, the First and Second Twenty Five Years I could find no reference to Venetian Red at all. It has also been suggested by other collectors that the difference is that Venetian Red is a darker red than Mandarin. For all of you experts out there that are unable to make the meeting please email or write to me what you know about this subject so that we can add to our information in the next newsletter. And please everyone bring your Mandarin Red and Venetian Red glass in for the group program and hopefully someone will be able to knock some sense into my head about this.

The information in the newsletter pertaining to member address changes and other personal information is intentionally left out of the web version.

The weather forecast for this week in Ks. and Mo. is a little wet and dark, there is in fact a light rain falling now as this is being typed. Even with the knowledge that this will bring out the flowers later I find it difficult to enjoy the rain. So much to do - mow the grass, kill those weeds, so on and so on. Guess the only thing to do is go shopping for more Fenton! So everyone take care and bring your Mandarin Red and Venetian Red glass to our next meeting where we can hope to settle which is which. And don't forget to bring your show and tell glass as well. With this weather there should be a lot of time to either shop for new treasures or unpack old treasures to bring to the meeting. See you then.

Jackie
Oglesby
Secretary