

## MORE ON CONTEMPORARY WATER PITCHERS

by John Muehlbauer

Several years back I was most impressed with several "Top X (old) Water Pitcher" articles. I thought it would be fun to try and put together such a listing for the contemporary pitchers. I've used my own ranking system which emphasizes the word desirability. Desirability is a relative word which for me draws upon scarcity, cost, manufacturing workmanship, attractiveness and age as yardsticks. About the only qualification I'll make is that the listing is purely my own personal opinion. I'm sure your's might be different. Whatever, I'll bet lots of you will be surprised that there's so many "new" water pitchers in existence, and I'm probably missing a couple at that.

### Top Contemporary Carnival Water Pitchers

1. Amethyst MAPLE LEAF - a real toughie to find; made by Fenton in 1974 for L.G.Wright Glass Co.; reportedly only 50 were made.
2. Lime green TIARA - a geometric pattern made by Indiana Glass in 1973 for the Tiara Co.; I haven't heard of a different pattern name so for now we'll use the merchandising company's name.
3. Green (Helios) HEAVY GRAPE (or IMPERIAL GRAPE) - by Imperial in 1967; very scarce pitcher as is almost any of the reissued glass in this color.
4. Ice blue TIGER LILY - by Imperial in 1969; placed this one highly primarily because of attractiveness and publicity; seems like everybody wants one.
5. Sapphire blue INVERTED STRAWBERRY - made in 1972 by Guernsey Glass operated by Harold Bennett; probably fewer made than #3 or #4 but relegated to this position because of the silvery finish of the iridescence; signed "NEAR CUT".
6. Green Opalescent HIGH HOB - by Westmoreland in 1975; reportedly only 55 of these made, 20 of which do not have good iridescence; first opalescent carnival pitcher, new or old, that I've heard of
7. Amethyst CHECKERBOARD - by Westmoreland; not many of these around.
- 8,9. Smoky, marigold FOUR-70-FOUR - by Imperial in 1965; some confusion here; Imperial called the color "peacock" instead of smoky; these appear to be the toughest to find of the four sets offered in these colors by Imperial in 1965.
10. Amethyst GOD & HOME - Westmoreland Glass Co., in 1975; questionable if this pitcher deserves this high a ranking at this time since it's currently being retailed; I only put it here due to its high retail price, the rarity

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of the old pitcher and the quality of the workmanship of the repros; the old set was made only in cobalt; the contemporary set is amethyst and is usually signed with a W-Circle.

11. Red HOACGA GOOD LUCK - by Indiana in 1974 as a souvenir for the Heart of America Carnival Glass Association; again, not old but bound to be very collectable due to its limited (500) pressing and being dated.
12. Cobalt (Aurora Jewels) EMBOSSED ROBIN - by Imperial in 1970; good looking pattern and color.
- 13,14. Amber, clear HOBSTAR - by Smith in 1972; it's getting tougher now! I put these ahead of the Imperial pitchers that follow only because I've seen only one of each and I personally like the amber pitcher very much; it's more of a lemon yellow the pitchers are the smaller two pint size; also made in purple and green base glass colors but there still seems to be lots of these two colors available.
- 15,16. Smoky, marigold LUSTRE ROSE - by Imperial in 1965; again the smoky is sometimes referred to as (peacock)blue.
- 17,18. Smoky, marigold WINDMILL - ditto.
- 19,20. Smoky, marigold HEAVY GRAPE (IMPERIAL GRAPE) - ditto.
21. Red FIELDFLOWER - by Imperial in 1968; some would say this deserves a higher ranking but an awful lot of the pitchers tend to be silvery.
22. White EMBOSSED ROBIN - by Imperial 1974 and 1975; even though these are still available I feel that in years to come they are going to move up in everybody's estimate.
23. Suede-marigold WINDMILL - by Imperial 1974; unique but not too "carnivally."
24. Amber HEAVY GRAPE (IMPERIAL GRAPE) - by Imperial in 1973; aside from Imperial's Christmas plate series, the finest example of beautiful iridizing on the "new" market in my opinion; surprisingly still available here and there; these pitchers look "dark" or amethyst until held up to the light; can be fabulous.
- 25,26. Green, amethyst HOBSTAR - by Smith Glass Co., in 1972; see #11 and #12; still available; two pint size.
- 27,28. Amethyst, marigold STORK AND RUSHES - new this year by Westmoreland; will probably move up in ranking because of the fine old pattern; some of the amethyst pitchers I've seen tend to be silvery.

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29. Ice blue CHECKERBOARD - by Westmoreland; just out months ago and real pretty too; I'll bet that 10 years from now we'll all be wishing we'd have bought more of them when we had the chance; got to be a comer.
- 30,31. Purple, red amberina OCTAGON VARIENT - by Indiana Glass.
- 32,33,34. Amber-marigold ARTIC ICE, SWIRL, HONEYCOMB - by Jeanette Glass Co.; haven't seen these myself but the names somehow seem "late" or depression era carnivally; will have to reserve judgement.
35. Purple HIGH HOB - by Westmoreland; again, brand new; two pint size; currently available.
- 36,37,38. Blue, amber, lime-green EMBOSSSED GRAPE - by Indiana Glass; these I've seen; no comment.

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- IMPERIAL GLASS CORP. -

We received a letter from Lucile Kennedy recently who is manager of Marketing Services for Imperial. She said that they will discontinue white carnival glass at the end of this year. In 1976 the only carnival they will make will be the pitcher and tumbler in Rubigold carnival with the sueded panels and the carnival Christmas Plate.

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I have formed a glass company and I make my own molds. Every piece I make is marked with my R.W. so as to one day be of a collectible value. My collectibles are at a low volume due to the newness of my small business. Since I am starting off in times of a recession, maybe my glass should be called "Recession Ware." I feel and know the mold makers skills are plainly visible in pressed glass though I feel he is the forgotten man in glass making.

My main objective in starting this line of glass is to be low in volume but high in collectable value. I would like to make the items people will enjoy owning