



It's a Secret! It's a Birthday Surprise!!!

To celebrate Frank M. Fenton's 85th birthday (December 1, 2000), Fenton Art Glass has created a very special numbered, limited edition piece of glass . . . but we're keeping all of this a secret from Frank . . . so please don't tell! You can order this piece now, but don't spill the secret!!



5487 RC
\$85.00 US

(stand and *Glass Collector's Digest* issue included)

Our Red Carnival glass Holly 9½" plate captures the traditions of history and craftsmanship that have made Fenton known worldwide. The base of the plate carries the Fenton oval logo and reads as follows: **Frank M. Fenton, 85th Birthday, December 1, 2000.**

Frank is well-known to many glass collectors, and they can testify to his great affection for Carnival glass. The Holly pattern was first produced about 1909, shortly after the Fenton plant in Williamstown, West Virginia, was established. Examples of the Holly pattern are displayed in the Fenton Museum, which was started by Frank more than 25 years ago.

For today's collectors of Carnival glass, nothing can surpass Fenton's Red Carnival. Made with selenium and sprayed with special metallic salts to impart a rich iridescence, Fenton's Red Carnival glass is a jewel!

Here's how to order: Use the blank below and *place your order through an authorized Fenton dealer*. If you need to locate a Fenton dealer in your area, just call 1-800-249-4527 or 1-800-933-6766 or visit the Fenton website: www.fentonartglass.com

ORDER YOUR PLATE NOW! Orders placed through authorized Fenton Dealers by October 25, 2000, will be put in a drawing for individually numbered plates #1- #84 (those selected will be notified by mail, and #85 will be given to Frank on his birthday!).

Packed with your plate, you will receive the December/January issue of *Glass Collector's Digest*, which will contain a biographical article about Frank M. Fenton written by Fenton's Associate Historian, Dr. James Measell.

Yes, I can keep a secret! The Fenton dealer noted below has my order for the Frank M. Fenton birthday plate. Enter me in the drawing for pieces numbered 1 through 84.

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

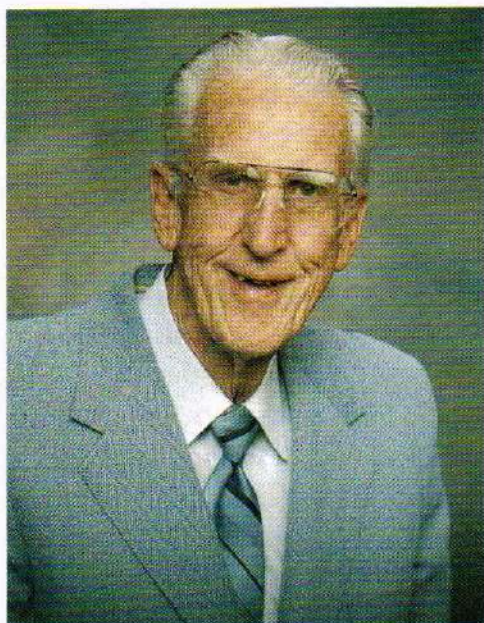
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fenton dealer name/acct. no. _____

(to be filled in by dealer)

Dealer, send to: Order Department, Fenton Art Glass, 700 Elizabeth St., Williamstown, WV 26187
(orders must be received at Fenton by 11/5/00 to be eligible for the lottery drawing for #1 - #84)

**Help Celebrate Frank M. Fenton's
85th Birthday
with a "birthday card shower"!!**



On December 1, 2000, Frank M. Fenton will celebrate his 85th birthday. Frank began working at the Fenton Art Glass Company in the mid-1930s. After the death of their father, Frank L. Fenton, in 1948, Frank became company President and his brother Bill became Vice-President. For several decades, Frank was deeply involved in every area of Fenton glass. He was ultimately responsible for all aspects of glass production from color chemistry and product design to work scheduling and labor negotiations! Frank served as Chairman of the Board from 1978-1986 and then retired to the position of Historian.

For many years, Frank has been a great friend to glass collectors. He has given numerous talks and informative seminars at club conventions, and he has helped many clubs with convention souvenirs made by Fenton Art Glass. Dozens of books on American glass mention Frank in their "acknowledgements" sections, and he has been very generous in sharing his time and expertise with many aspiring authors and glass researchers.

You can help us celebrate Frank's birthday. We'd like to surprise him with a "birthday card shower" on the big day, Friday, December 1, 2000.

Please *do not* put Frank's name on the outside of the envelope!
Send your card addressed as follows:

James Measell, Associate Historian
Fenton Art Glass Company
700 Elizabeth Street
Williamstown, WV 26187

Fenton employees will decorate the office area with the birthday cards you send. Imagine Frank's surprise when he comes to the factory on December 1, 2000!

Happy Birthday!



F E N T O N

Handcrafted American Glass Artistry



Frank M. Fenton (1915-2005)

Frank M. Fenton, Historian, past President and past Chairman of the Board of the Fenton Art Glass Company, passed away on August 9, 2005, following a series of lingering health issues. Frank, the fifth of eight children born to Lillian and Frank L. Fenton, was born December 1, 1915, and was a lifelong resident of Williamstown, West Virginia.

Frank Fenton graduated from Marietta College in 1936. Frank was hired full-time at Fenton Art Glass in June, 1936. One of his early tasks was to patch the factory roof with tar. Years later, when asked if he started at the bottom of the company and worked his way up, Frank liked to reply, "No, I started at the top and worked my way down," before recalling the holes in the roof.

Along with his brother Bill, Frank assumed leadership positions at Fenton when their father and an uncle died in 1948. Under their stewardship for almost 40 years, the organization grew from a modest business to a company known worldwide for its innovative products. Most recently filling the role of Fenton Art Glass Historian, Frank was last seen publicly at a May appearance with West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin in celebration of the company's 100th anniversary.

Frank often made presentations to Fenton collector clubs, and his love for family and Fenton glass were always evident, as was his sense of humor. A friend to several generations of glass collectors, Frank is recalled fondly by many Fenton glass collectors who remember the pleasant times they spent with him. Glass researcher Bill Heacock liked to say that Frank "casts a long shadow." Heacock's jest is literally and figuratively true, for Frank was both very tall and quite well-known among glass collectors!

Fenton collectors often ask about Frank's favorite pieces of Fenton glass. "Oh, I have about 50 favorites, a different one for each week," he often replied, "But I've been known to change my mind and add some new ones!" Truth be told, Frank enjoyed some of Fenton's earliest (1908-1910) Carnival glass just as much as he liked pieces made in 1999 or 2005!

He was active in various community organizations, including Artsbridge, the First United Methodist Church in Williamstown, Marietta Rotary, and the Williamstown Community Association. Frank Fenton served 36 years on the Marietta College Board of Trustees. Frank, along with Bill Fenton, established the Fenton Foundation to support local community needs. Frank most recently donated \$25,000 to the town of Williamstown, along with five acres of land, to create a park.

Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth, in 1980 and his brother Wilmer "Bill" in December 2002. He is survived by his sons Frank, Tom, Mike, and George as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Granddaughter Lynn Fenton Erb comments on Frank's service work: "By his example, 'Papa' taught me the importance of church as a foundation for life and family. He also taught me the importance of giving time, talent and financial support to organizations and to people in need. When he takes hold of a project—whether it's a new ambulance for the community or a church building—he doesn't let go until it's finished!"

Frank M. Fenton left a wonderful legacy to the Fenton family, the Fenton Art Glass Company, the Fenton Museum and glass collectors everywhere. He will be greatly missed.



F E N T O N

Handcrafted American Glass Artistry

February 5, 2008

Dear Fenton Dealer,

I'm writing this letter to let you know that "Fenton Art Glass is still in business." Last August we did announce that we expected to close at the end of 2007, but an overwhelming response from our collectors and dealers gave us the financial opportunity and the time to restructure our business. We are not out of the woods yet, but we believe that Fenton Art Glass can survive.

We have made many improvements since August including countless manufacturing, sales and marketing changes. We have also expanded our new Fenton International division. One thing that is absolutely certain about our ability to revive the company is our need for your support. Fenton products have "stood the test of time"...good times and not so good. Our 120 employees need you to continue buying Fenton Art Glass products as we introduce collections in 2008 and also consider products from our new Fenton International division as well. Here are a couple of very important facts about Fenton Art Glass as we move forward:

- Fenton Art Glass is still made in America. There have been rumors that we have moved our operations overseas and that is not true. Yes, we have expanded the range of products we offer but there is a full line of Fenton USA made glassware for purchase. All Fenton USA products will be reviewed and purchased over the internet and through a local representative. We will not mail printed catalogs for these collections and the selling periods will be short. For our latest Fenton USA collection please visit: www.fentonartglass.com/jan2008.asp. We will be taking orders on the current collection through February 20th so act fast! The purpose for this procedural change is to allow us to know what is on order before production starts so we can more efficiently match the production with the sales to reduce costs and avoid overruns.
- Fenton Art Glass is still a family owned and operated business. We are now in our 103rd year. We will be adding the letters "USA" to the Fenton logo in our moulds to confirm the Fenton USA items are made in America.
- Fenton International, our new import division, features handmade products from around the world. I have included color sales sheets for your review. Many of these products will begin to ship in May. There is something special about each collection and I'm sure you'll agree the designs are unique and different from others in the market. Fenton International will carry the same strict quality and craftsmanship standards that Fenton is known for.

I encourage you to visit the January Collection website as soon as you can and replenish your Fenton Art Glass inventory. In addition, please enjoy the new products from our Fenton International division and contact your local representative or our Customer Service directly if you have questions or orders.

Best Regards,

George W. Fenton
George W. Fenton, President