

IMPERIAL GLASS COMPANY
BY
PAUL THURSTON

In 1902, Edward Muhleman, former president of National Glass Company, organized Imperial Glass Company at Bellaire, Ohio, starting production in 1903. About 1910 this company made an enormous amount of carnival glass.

Some German glassmakers were employed by Imperial from 1910 to 1920 these were excellent artist, who made Imperial Art Glass and stretched glass, sometime known as onion skin. These pieces had the trademark IMPE known as Imperial Iron Cross.
RIAL

When World War I started the Iron Cross was discontinued, since there was enmity of anything German.

In 1962, Imperial started the reproduction of carnival glass, with a goblet and tumbler in the Imperial Grape pattern.

The old Imperial carnival glass items had a star rosette in the base.

Following is a list of the colors and the years produced of Imperial carnival

Marigold or Rubigold	1965-1972
Peacock or Smoke	1965-1972
Helios Green	1967-1970
Sunset Ruby or Red	1968-1973
Azure Blue	1969-1970
Aurora Jewels or Cobalt Blue	1970-1972
Amber	1973-1975
White	1974-1976
Pink	1978-1981
Horizon Blue	1979-1980
Meadow Green	1980-1981
Purple	1981
Sunburst Yellow	1982

The Imperial Glass Company ran into financial difficulty in the early 1980's. The company closed its doors for the final time on April 11, 1985.

The new owner of the building and property, Maroon Enterprises of Bellaire, took possession on April 22nd. There was a group called Save Imperial Committee that was working close with Mrs. Maroon to save the plant and re-open it. This was to no avail. Mrs. Maroon purchased 33 molds from Imperial, some were Candlewick.

The Save Imperial Committee purchased 55 molds. The Hay Shed was open with consignments. The consignment shop has been moved to the front of the factory.

The following is where some of the Imperial molds are.

SUMMIT ART GLASS

#1950/800 Owl Jar and Cover (this was made in Amethyst carnival with the ALIG mark left on it).

#150/335 Small Owl Cream and Sugar (this was also made in Amethyst carnival with the IG mark left on).

#1950/155 Rabbit and Cover. Have heard this has been made in several colors with the IG mark still on.

#5051/109 Dolphin Candlesticks
Windmill Bowl

Field Flower Water Set. This was made in Cobalt Blue carnival with the IG mark on it. This color was very close to the Aurora Jewels Imperial made BUT Imperial only made one water set in Aurora Jewels and it is the Robin Water Set.

L.E. SMITH

#1950/240 Windmill Pitcher
#1950/880 3½" Single Candleholder (grape pattern)
1950/40 9½" Daisy Basket
#1950/52 Windmill Nappy
#670 Robin Pitcher and Tumbler
#1950/239/514 Windmill Pitcher and Tumbler
2 moulds--Christmas Plates
#1 Toothpick Holder (Diamond 3-in-one)
Corn Vase (I know this vase was made in Red carnival)
Bowl in the Open Rose pattern
Bowl in the Doily pattern

BOYD CRYSTAL ART GLASS

#903 Lamb Cream
#903 Lamb Sugar
#904 Lamb two handled Jar and Cover
#905 Lamb Jar and Cover

These are some of Imperial's molds that are being made in carnival. COLLECTORS BEWARE and know your colors especially the companies that are not taking the Imperial mold mark off.

The glass these companies are making is beautiful and there is not a thing wrong in buying them, but just make sure you are not paying prices for Imperial glass and not getting Imperial glass. I wish all the companies would take the old mold marks off the molds they buy.

