

RED
The King of Carnival



presented by
Richard Cinclair
with
Bob Allaire & Joyce Seale

April 27, 1990
H.O.A.C.G.A.

Special Thanks for Assistance:

John Britt

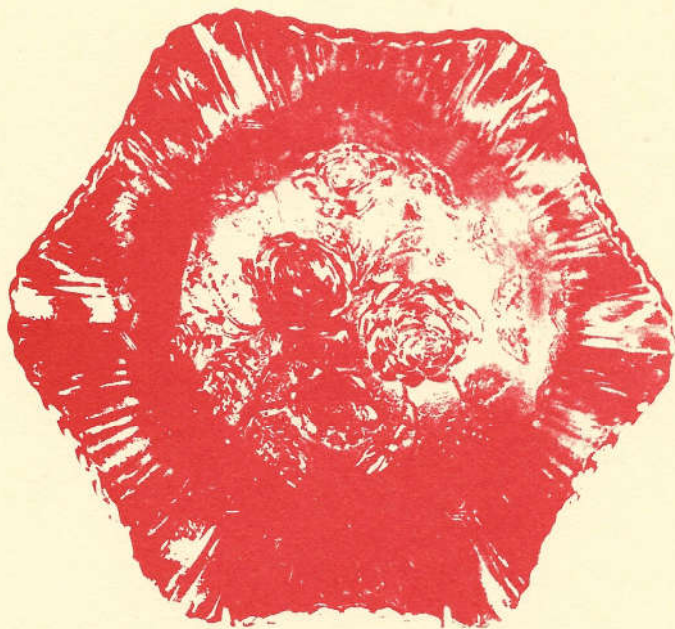
Carol Cinclair

Paul Ehnis

Frank Fenton

Mary Kesterson

Don Moore



RED: The King of Carnival

Whenever the mailman leaves a new Tom Burns or John Woody auction notice in my mailbox, I anxiously go through the sale bill and highlight with a yellow marker the many pieces that I would like to add to our collection. Whenever there are pieces of Red Carnival, I always highlight them.



However, Red may be the hardest color to purchase through an absentee bid because of the variation in color. As I visit with new collectors who often times have never seen a piece of Red, I always go back to the words attributed to Mrs. Hartung. She is supposed to have said that if you have any doubt about a piece being Red, then it isn't Red.

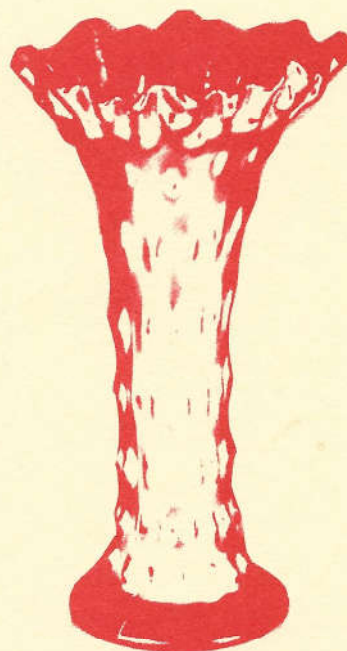
Although the quality of Red varies with almost each piece, collectors also vary in what they think is the "perfect" Red. Many prefer a bright cherry Red while others enjoy a heavier iridization which requires sunlight or artificial light showing through the piece in order to see the redness. Whatever a person's choice is, everyone should have some Red in his or her collection. That is, however, just my opinion.

When Red was first made, according to the early Butler catalogs, it was more expensive than the other Carnival. Red has continued to be more expensive than many of the other fine pieces of Carnival. Price is often based on supply and demand. With Red, there is a smaller supply and certainly a high demand. A Ribbon Tie bowl and a master Waterlilly berry bowl in Red approached the \$10,000 figure last year.

Red was only made by two of the producers of Carnival — Imperial and Fenton with Fenton probably producing in excess of 90% of the Red. Since the making of Red Carnival came later in this glass making era, perhaps as late as 1920, it is therefore understandable why Northwood did not participate; Northwood was out of business by that time.

Although Red Carnival glass is found in numerous patterns and shapes, there are no **KNOWN** water sets, punch sets, (although a base and cup in Red Fashion has been found) nor are there any **KNOWN** pie crust edge bowls in Red. Perhaps a Red Kittens piece will be found in the future or a Red ball footed Stag & Holly. Anything made by Fenton has the potential of being found in Red.

In doing my research on Red, I wrote to several recognized authorities on Carnival Glass and thought collectors might like to read what Mr. Frank Fenton had to say about how the Red glass was made — both the ingredients and the process involved. A copy of Mr. Fenton's letter follows.



16 March 1990

Dr. Richard Cinclair
3605 South Echo Trail
Plano, TX 75023

Dear Dr. Cinclair:

Dear Richard:

Thank you for your letter of 1 March asking for information about the chemical content of Red Carnival. I'm glad to tell you what I know, but since I wasn't here when they first made the color, I can't be absolutely sure that the same materials were in it. Let's say I'm almost certain they are the same ingredients.

Of course, the piece will have the ordinary glass making chemicals of sand, soda ash, and lime. To get the red color, the following chemicals are usually used: selenium, cadmium sulfide, zinc oxide, and probably a little bit of boneash. One key condition for melting Red Carnival glass is to be sure that the glass batch is a reducing batch--that there is not an excess of oxygen. In other words, we have to stay away from putting in niter or other materials that might add oxygen to the batch.

If we were to combine the materials into one material, it would probably be called cadmiumsulfoselenide. That's basically the coloring material. When the glass is first melted and pressed, it comes out an amber color. It has to be reheated for the red color to develop. That's the reason the top or bottom edges of some red pieces have a little touch of amber--those spots haven't gotten hot enough to change to red.

You've asked for an estimate of the years that Red Carnival was made. Of course, I could only know that about Fenton Red, but I don't even really know that for sure about Fenton. My belief is that it would be some time between 1915 and 1925. It could be any time during that period, but we don't have production records that show exactly when we made Ruby Carnival. We know that we were making Ruby glass in the early 20's, and we show it in our catalogs. We also made some red Stretch glass in the early 20's. I believe Red Carnival was more likely made in the period from 1920 to 1925 than in the period 1915 to 1920, but I don't think we can rule out those earlier years.

I hope to be at the Heart of America Convention and am looking forward to your program.

Sincerely,

Frank

Frank M. Fenton

FMF/am

F E N T O N

A Continuing Celebration
in Fine Glass

Known Red Carnival

(pattern, maker, & shape)

Absentee Butterfly & Berry, Fenton, Vase

ACORN, Fenton, 7" Bowl

Autumn Acorns, Fenton, 8" Bowl (one known according to John Britt)

Blackberry, Fenton, Open Edge Basket Interior design

Blackberry Spray, Fenton, Hat Shape

Butterfly & Berry, Fenton, 5" Bowl & Vase

Cherry Chain, Fenton, Bowl (slag)

Cherry Circles, Fenton, Bon Bon

Chrysanthemum, Fenton, 8½ - 9" Bowls Collar Based

Coin Dot, Fenton, 6 - 8" Bowl (ruffled and Ice Cream Shape) & Sherman Hand reports having seen a rose bowl.

Colonial, Imperial, Sugar, Creamer, Candle Sticks

Cut Ovals, Fenton, Candle Sticks

Double Scroll, Imperial, Console Bowls & matching Candle Sticks

Dragon & Lotus, Fenton, Bowls, Collar Based & Spatula Footed

Fashion, Imperial, Punch Bowl Base & Punch Cups

Fenton Flowers, Fenton, often called Orange Tree Rose Bowl

Fine Rib, Fenton, Vase, three sizes

File, Imperial, Punch Bowl Base & Punch Cups

Floral & Optic, Imperial, 9½" Bowls Footed & 10" Plates

Flowering Dill, Fenton, Hat Shape

Known Red Carnival

(continued)

(pattern, maker, & shape)

Grape & Cable, Fenton, 7½ - 8" Bowls Collar Based & Footed

Holly, Fenton, 9" Bowls, Compote, Hat & Plate

Horses Head, Fenton, 7" Bowls Collar Based & Footed

Imperial Jewels, Imperial, Stretch Glass numerous pieces

Leaf Chain, Fenton, 6½" Bowls

Little Flower, Fenton, 9½ - 10" Bowls

Lotus & Grape, Fenton, Bon Bon

Lustre Rose, Imperial, 9 - 12" Bowls Footed (orange bowl size)

Open Edge Basket, Fenton, 2 Row and 3 Row

Orange Tree, Fenton, 9" Bowl, Mug, Rose Bowl (the rose bowl is also called Fenton's Flowers)

Panther, Fenton, 5" Footed Sauce & a persistent rumor of a Master

Peacock & Grape, Fenton, 8" Bowls Collar Based & Spatula Footed

Peacock & Urn, Fenton, 9" Bowl & Compotes

Peacock Lamp, (iridized clear glass with a painted red interior - pretty but not true red)

Peacock Tail, Fenton, 6½" bowl

Persian Medallion, Fenton, Bon Bon, 5" Sauce, 9" Berry Bowl

Plaid, Fenton, Bowl

Plume Panels, Fenton, Vase

Poppy & Fishnet, Imperial, Vase

Primrose & Fishnet, Imperial, Vase

Known Red Carnival

(continued)

(pattern, maker, & shape)

Regal Iris Gone With The Wind Lamp

Ribbon Tie, Fenton, 9" Bowl

Roses & Ruffles Gone With The Wind Lamp

Rustic, Fenton, Vase (small size only)

Sailboats, Fenton, 6" Bowl

Scroll Embossed, Imperial, 8" Bowl

Stag & Holly, Fenton, 8 - 9" Bowl Spatula Footed

Stippled Rays, Fenton, 6" Bowl, 7" Plate

Stippled Rays, Imperial, Creamer & Sugar, Whimsey from the Sugar

Strawberry, Fenton, Bon Bon

Sunken Hollyhock, Gone With The Wind Lamp

Swirled Flute, same as Absentee Butterfly & Berry Vase

Thin Rib, Fenton, Candlesticks

Two Flowers, Fenton, 8" Spatula Bowls Footed & 10 - 10½" Ball Footed Bowls

Vineyard & Fishnet, Imperial, Vase

Vintage, Fenton, 6, 9, & 10" Bowls Collar Based & Three Footed Nut Bowl

Water Lilly, Fenton, 5" Sauce & 10" Master Berry Bowl

Wide Panels, Imperial, Various pieces