

Hobstar Preview: April 2015



10" bowl cut in the **Phesant** pattern by Straus.

Several articles in this Hobstar focus on counterfeit or reproduction cut glass of the Brilliant Era. Recently encountered fakes demonstrate quite good cutting quality, and some even blacklight with the greenish glow that indicates manganese clarifier compounds.

“Buyer Beware – Better Fakes” by Hal Gelfius, Chair of the ACGA Ethics and Authenticity Committee describes a new class of fake cut glass introduced to our market during the last six to ten years. These “new” fakes tend to fluoresce with a lighter green color when compared with authentic pieces from the early Brilliant Period. Other factors must be considered when attempting to detect these reproduction pieces. First, use a blacklight in a dark room to determine the degree of fluorescence. Next, carefully check for over-runs across miter intersections. Diamond wheels are used to quickly cut the reproduction pieces. Fakes will often have tiny shallow grooves in the sides of miters, visible under a magnifying glass when illuminated by oblique lighting. Many of these pieces are acid polished, and have errors in the cutting.

The article goes on to explain several additional evaluation criteria that should be employed during evaluation of high-value pieces.

“Counterfeit? Caveat Emptor! Would this piece make it past the ACGA Ethics and Authenticity Committee?” by Fred Coveler describes and pictures an interesting flared rim 14” cut glass vase sold

recently in an online auction. Supposedly it was a signed Hawkes Panel pattern piece. The shape is a vase profile never before seen on a Brilliant Era piece, and there were several layout and cutting issues evident from online photographs of the piece. The selling price of only \$575 indicates that the marketplace did not believe the vase to be an authentic piece from the Brilliant Era.

The Pattern Quiz answer this month includes an interesting discussion of the Hawkes **Veddo** or **Yeddo** pattern. (The first letter of the name is blurred in the only original factory document available.) There were two different designs called “Yeddo” cut by Hawkes. The older version was cut circa 1890.



Handled spade nappy cut in the Hawkes **Yeddo** (an old name for Tokyo) pattern circa 1890.

“Why Historic Catalogs Are Valuable” by LindaJo Hare observes that one can use factory catalog reprints to learn important details regarding glass cut by a specific firm. The new ACGA catalog for 2015 is a compendium of four Dorflinger catalogs, presenting lots of fresh “new” information on one of the predominant firms of the Brilliant Era.

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