How Do You Know It’s Val-Saint-Lambert?

A Briefing by Gerry LaCroix
to ACGA Convention Attendees
Portland, Oregon
16 July 2007
Briefing Outline

• Val Catalogs, Signatures and Paper Labels
• Val Items Most Likely to be Mistaken for American Made
• Four Major Discriminators
• Other Clues
• Summary
Val’s Catalogs and Price Guides

Patterns and Shapes:
1904-Table Sets
1905-Stemware
1906-Table Sets
1908-Vases, Bowls, etc.
1926-Fantasy Crystal

• Accompanying Price Guides
  Sizes
  English vs. Metric
  Then-Year Prices
  Wholesale vs. Retail
Signatures
Paper Labels
13 Val Items Most Likely to be Mistaken for American Made

- Bergen’s “Glenwood” or Hoare’s “Acme”
- Bergen’s “Crescent” a.k.a. “Dauntless”
- Clark’s “Iris” or Alford’s “Thistle”
- Dorflinger’s “Duchess”
- Higgins & Seiter’s “Everett”
- Libbey’s “83”
- Libbey’s “Harvard”
- Sandwich’s “Panel & Stars”
- Sandwich’s “Octagon Diamond”
- Cape Cod’s “Strawberry Diamond and Fan”
- Averbeck’s “Florida” or Empire’s “Albert”
- Fry’s “Elsie”
- Unknown with Dorflinger Label
Bergen’s “Glenwood” or Hoare’s “Acme”

“Saarbrücken” or “Belfort”

Hoare’s “Acme”
Bergen’s “Crescent” a.k.a. “Dauntless”

Design:
1897/13386

“Crescent” Ad

Patented by James D. Bergen
Patent #27457
3 August 1897
Clark’s “Iris” or Alford’s “Thistle”

**Design:** 3613/17

**Description:**

Very Rare
Unsigned
Bulbous Corset Shape
Scalloped Rim
6 Cut Oval Design
32 pt. Rayed Star Base

Val Line Drawing

Clark’s “Iris”

Alford’s “Thistle”
Dorflinger’s “Duchess”
Higgins & Seiter’s “Everett”

Engraved “24 Sbre 1896”

Unknown Val Design

Higgins & Seiter’s “Everett”
Libbey’s “83”

Val Design:
HF 193

Libbey’s “83”
Shape 292
Libbey’s “Harvard”

Design: 2900/17

Some Unsigned; Some Signed Script
“Val St. Lambert”

Libbey’s “Harvard”

Design: 2917/17
Sandwich's “Panel & Stars”

**Dimensions:**

8.5” high  
3.5” dia.

**Date:** ca. 1900

**Description:**

Rare  
Unsigned  
Matching Teardrop Stopper  
24 pt. Rayed Star Base

Unknown Val Design

Sandwich’s “Panel & Stars”
Sandwich’s “Octagon Diamond”

Val’s “Hob Diamond”

Sandwich’s “Octagon Diamond”
Cape Cod’s “Strawberry Diamond & Fan”

Val’s “Georgette”
Averbeck’s “Florida” or Empire’s “Albert”

**Dimensions:**
- 5.25” high
- 2.5” dia.

**Date:** ca. 1900

**Description:**
- Extremely Rare
- Facet Cut
- Double Knobbed Hollow Stem
- 16 pt. Hobstar and Scalloped/Notched Base

**Unknown Val Design**

**Empire’s “Albert”**

**Averbeck’s “Florida”**
Fry’s “Elsie”

Unknown
Val Design
Unknown Vase with Dorflinger Label

Unknown Val Design

Vase from Rarities with Dorflinger Label
Four Major Discriminators

• Pattern
• Shape
• Color
• Finish
Patterns (1 of 2)

Prince de Galles
Patterns (2 of 2)

Art Deco Style
Fancy Foot Patterns
Carafes/Decanters/Spiritbottles

Pyramid

Triangular Body Wafer Stopper

Double Spout Narrow Waist

Eiffel
Vases

- Square
- Cylindrical
- Bulbous
- Torch
- Barrel
Amber, Chartreuse and the Reds

Amber

Cranberry

Chartreuse

Ruby
The Greens

Olive Green

Dark Green

Light Green

Emerald Green
Amethyst, Purple and the Blues

Amethyst

French Blue

Cobalt Blue

Purple
Color to Color

Cranberry to Yellow
Amethyst to Yellow
Cranberry to Caramel
Color to Color

- French Blue to Yellow
- Orange to Yellow
- Amethyst to Olive Green
- Amber to Yellow
Matte or Satin Finish

Vases

Powder Boxes

Atomizers
Other Clues

• Available Sizes (English vs. Metric)
  – Inches vs. Centimeters
  – Pints vs. Centiliters

• Angle Cuts
  – Some ~90 cuts

• Purchase Origin
  – If bought in Belgium or France, unlikely to be U.S. made

• European vs. American Numbering Styles
  1 vs. 1
  7 vs. 7
Summary

• The Val catalogs and associated price guides are invaluable in answering the question “How do you know it’s Val?”
• The examples presented are those you are most likely to encounter
  • Pattern, shape, color and finish, singly or in combination, can be major discriminators
• The Other Clues may be telling
Val-Saint-Lambert
Crystal Works in 1904
Val’s Product Distribution Network
ca. 1900
New York City Depot
(Opened in 1876)

DEPOT
OF THE
Belgian Glass Company,
No. 66 Reade Street,
NEW YORK.

B. GÜNTHHEL, Agent.
14% of Val’s Production exported to the U.S. during the height of the Brilliant Period

Val’s sales 1888-1889:

- New York--$45,000
- Chicago--$43,400
- Boston--$26,000
- Philadelphia--$15,000
Highlights--1889 Val CEO Visit

• Dorflinger’s pieces are well-priced. I bought several big pieces to be shipped to Val. I’m impressed with the variety of Dorflinger’s colored glass:
  – Rose over yellow or amber or vice versa,
  – Rose over clear,
  – Blue
  – Blue or green over yellow

• The American cutters are of the highest skill level and the products are of remarkable regularity.
• The articles against which we compete here in the U.S. are irreproachable.
• I recommend that Val adopt the rich American style of deep and elaborate cuts.