

What is Carnival glass?

The carnival glass collected by AVCQ members is that produced between the years 1906 and 1930. Production is mainly concentrated in the United States, Europe and Australia and rarely elsewhere. The glass is molded or pressed and always has a pattern: interior, exterior, or often both. What makes it particularly different from other glasses is that its surface is shiny, metallic and iridescent.

Carnival glass gets its iridescent luster by the application of metallic salts during that the glass is still hot from pressing. A final baking of the glass brings out the iridescent properties of the salts, giving the carnival glass the distinct shine for which it is known. This iridescence produces reflections of all colors, much like oil on the surface of a puddle. It was produced in more than 50 different glass colors and it is by the base that we can best identify it without taking into account the iridescent finish.

Few pieces bear a signature, here are some examples:

Northwood with the letter N, often in a small circle.



Imperial with the 8 letters inscribed in the corners of a cross.



Cambridge with its Near Cut brand.



There are obviously many other types of glass which are decorated with a form of iridescence. Examples would be Tiffany, Quezal, Durand and several European companies such as Loetz, Kralik. Even the Imperial and Fenton companies reproduced iridescent glass again from the 1960s and 1970s until their closure, respectively. These productions, easy to identify by informed collectors, were mainly signed **IG** for Imperial and **Fenton** in a circle for Fenton. There is also a fair amount of contemporary iridescent glass that is available at antique stores and flea markets. All these glasses are collected.

To allow you to see the difference, you can consult our Gallery where several thousand photos will allow you to get a more enlightened idea on this subject. If you have a part and you have doubts, you can send us a photo to our internet address and we will help you. We can certainly identify it, if it is part of the type of glass collected by our members.