

The Wonderful World of Pastel Swans, Part 1

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By Bette Chapman

If you wish to specialize in collecting Carnival glass, you might consider Pastel Swans, which can be interesting, relatively inexpensive and readily found. They are thought by most collectors to be master salt cellars. Salt cellars or containers were filled with salt and placed on the dinner table, sometimes with a tiny spoon for serving the salt. Of course, many Carnival glass pieces were used for more than one purpose and I suspect this was true of the Pastel Swan.

Northwood, Dugan and Fenton produced them in the early 1900s. Imperial produced some Swans in the 1960s and the 1970s. For our purpose, we are concerned with the Swans made before 1927. None of the old Swans have manufacturer's signatures on them. The Northwood and Dugan Swans are so similar it is difficult to tell one from the other. John Britt, a man who was very knowledgeable about all aspects of Carnival glass collecting, once told me a very easy way to distinguish the Fenton Swans from the Northwood/Dugan Swans. He said, "Turn the Swans around so that tail feathers are facing you. The ones with small pin feathers were made by Fenton. The ones with the large pin feathers were made by Northwood/Dugan."



Fenton-Rear View



Fenton-Side View

[Look for Part 2 of this article in your fall issue!](#)

Carnival Glass Article

The Wonderful World of Pastel Swans, Part 2

By Bette Chapman

If you recall in Part 1 of this article John Britt said to turn the Swans around so that the tail feathers are facing you. The ones with small pin feathers were made by Fenton. The ones with the large pin feathers were made by Northwood/Dugan. See the two photos below.



Fenton - Rear View



Northwood/Dugan-Rear View



Fenton - Side View



Northwood/Dugan-Side View

The two Swans pictured above are both ice green, but different. The feathers on the wings are slightly different also. Fenton Swans can be found in ice green, ice blue or celeste blue, amber, pink and perhaps a couple other colors. The Swans pictured below are examples of Fenton Swans in the scarce amber color and pink.



Fenton (Amber)



Fenton (Pink)

[Look for Part 3 of this article in your winter issue!](#)

Carnival Glass Article

The Wonderful World of Pastel Swans, Part 3

By Bette Chapman

Northwood/Dugan Swans can be found in ice green, purple, pink, ice blue or celeste blue, Vaseline, peach opalescent and a very rare Vaseline opalescent. Opalescence is a slightly milky appearance that is along the edge. Vaseline glows under a black light. Pictured below are examples of Vaseline opalescent and purple Swans.



Northwood/Dugan(Vaseline Opalescent)



Northwood/Dugan(Purple)

Once in a while, a glass worker would take a piece of Carnival glass from the mold and while it was hot, shape it a little differently than usual. This is called a whimsy. An example of a Swan Whimsy is pictured below. As you can see, the Swan's bill rests on his neck. Whimsies are quite desirable, because there are very few made.



Northwood/Dugan Whimsy (Ice Green)

I would like to mention that Swans were made with no iridescence also. Some of the Carnival glass Swans have very little iridescence. Iridescence is the multicolor sheen that appears on Carnival glass. Look very closely at any Swan that you add to your collection to make sure that there is at least some iridescence. I'm going to close with a question. Can you guess who made the celeste blue Swan below?



Fenton or Northwood/Dugan?

Check Part 1 & Part 2 of this article for the difference. Send in your answer to the editor and get your name listed for the correct answer.