

Blue Royal Lace

by Dick Ladd

My interest in depression glass started one day about 15 years ago when, quite by accident, I went to the 20-30-40s depression glass show at the Holiday Inn in Hillside, IL. I was looking for something other than depression glass and thought I might just find it at the show. I got there around 12:00 and was surprised I had to park out in the boondocks. When I first entered the room I was shocked to see such a dazzling array of glassware. I knew right away that this was something that would be of interest to me. After the show I bought a book about depression glass and spent a few months going through it to decide what I would like to collect. I settled on blue Royal Lace. I told a few people about that and they said I was never going to find any and I should settle in on something else. That was the challenge I needed.

Back then there was no internet so I spent a lot of time searching antique malls around the country. I stumbled across *The Daze* but more often than not whatever I was looking for had been sold by the time I made an inquiry to the dealer. As time went on I got better at finding things, and spent a lot of time accumulating a collection of an eight piece place setting.

My main quest was for the 96 ounce pitcher with an ice lip. One day I was in an antique mall about 250 miles from home and they had a lot of items that were going to be auctioned the next week. Sitting at the end of the row was the pitcher I had been looking for. I asked the mall owner if that was in the auction, thinking I was going to have to travel 250 miles (one way) the next week to go to the auction. He said no, he had just purchased the item and it wasn't part of the auction and it was for sale. Immediately I thought about how I will really do a good job of negotiating a price on this one and hopefully I would end up taking it home. As I asked him the price my knees were shaking and my hands were trembling. He quoted me a figure which was right at book price. I looked him square in the eye and the great negotiator said, I'll take it. To this day, that is still my favorite piece of Royal Lace.



I picked up a few pieces in other colors as time went on, and I also finished my collection in blue. I guess that's good and bad news. I have the collection, but the hunt is over.

There is one interesting aspect of Royal Lace I would like to bounce off the readers. As you are probably aware, Royal Lace has five different pitchers. I have owned or seen all five in crystal, green and pink. However, I have only seen three in blue; namely the 48 ounce straight sided, the 64 ounce without an ice lip and the 96 ounce with an ice lip (measurements from Gene Florence's book). I have asked a lot of people about the other two in blue. I have had a number of people tell me they exist and they are pretty sure they have seen them. Usually when I press them, they back off and say they're not exactly sure which one they have seen. Personally, I have never seen either one, anywhere, at any price. I have talked at length with many people about this and particularly with one dealer who does lots of shows and has lots of great glass. He has told me he has about 15 advanced blue Royal Lace collectors who buy from him, and none of them have ever seen either of these two pitchers. I am of the opinion they don't exist. Does anyone have one or both of these in blue? Could you provide a picture? If they do exist they certainly fit the category of being rare.

Happy hunting.

Dick Ladd