

Morgantown Continental Line

The Morgantown Continental line is considered by most collectors to be the best there is in Morgantown. While Morgantown never used that term, most collectors use it, so it has become one of those terms added on after the fact. It includes baskets, several types of vases and Italian footed pieces. It is indeed a treat to acquire one of these wonderful pieces.

Baskets. A Morgantown basket is very easy to distinguish. At the point where the handle was affixed to the basket, it was finished with a “mint leaf” prunt.



If it doesn't have that, back away; it most likely isn't Morgantown.

I have ranked the baskets by degree of difficulty in finding. This is from my experience although you may disagree. The baskets I see most often are the 10" Clayton,



which some refer to this as having a canoe shaped rim, and the 9" Trindle, which has a similar base but the rim is

crimped.



The next in difficulty is the Patrick



This basket comes in the sizes; namely 6", 8" and 10".

When Jerry Gallagher in his book, *A handbook of Old Morgantown Glass*, listed sizes he referred to the width of the rim, and not the height of the basket. Because the baskets were hand made, the dimensions will vary. Next are the 10" Irene and



the 5" Jennie.



By Dick Ladd

In the case of the Jennie the measurement is from handle to handle. Finally, we have the queen of the Morgantown baskets, the Ashley.



This is the only footed basket and is really a fantastic find.

All of these baskets came in a wide variety of colors, which to me is the fun part of collecting Morgantown. They also made a few variations such as an applied crystal rim.

Italian Footed Pieces.

The purists will be on me a little for calling these Italian footed pieces. Technically it isn't a foot, it's a base. Any Italian footed piece is hard to find. They made them with four feet although it's surprising to me they didn't make them with three feet. They would have set more evenly on a table with three feet instead of four so some of your Italian pieces might rock back and forth a little. Who cares?

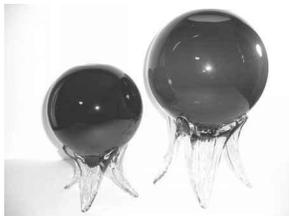
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The Naples is 12" tall. It has the same body as the Electra vase which I have shown later. Next are the 6" Neapolitan and the 8" Ziegfeld witch's balls. I put them in the same picture to show the big difference a 2" measurement makes.



Do you know why we have witch's balls? They are used to get rid of witch's in your house. The witch is attracted by the sparking glass and goes inside the ball. Once inside she gets confused and can't find her way out. If you have a witch ball you might check to see if you have a witch inside.

Finally, I have shown the 6" Jupiter.



There are other Italian footed pieces I haven't shown but that's because I don't own one. It gives me something to keep looking for.

Vases.

I mentioned the 10" Electra vase above.



Note it has the same body as the Naples, but has a foot and a pair of twisted reed handles. I did see an Electra with one handle and a lip on the other side which made it a pitcher. I have only seen one but its surprising they didn't make

more.



Last, but certainly not least, Morgantown made an 11" El Greco, a 12" Romana and a 14" Toreador. Jerry Gallagher said in his book "To date, none of the three has been seen, and 'colors' are unknown.". I have put the red 11" El Greco and the 14" amethyst Toreador in the same picture. I wonder if I will ever find the 12" Romana.

I would be glad to hear your comments. You can reach me through the NDGA or at rplindy@sbcglobal.net.

Happy hunting.

“Do you know why we have witch's balls? “