

Indiana Glass Tea Room

by Dick Ladd

When I was a child in grade school growing up in DeKalb IL., I always went home for lunch. Occasionally, my mother would not be home so I would get lunch money and go to Jimmies Tea Room for lunch. That was a treat for me, because it was on the campus of what is now Northern Illinois University and I was eating with all the college kids.

Since I now live in Indiana, I like to collect glass made in Indiana. My favorite pattern, by far, is green Tea Room made by the Indiana glass company of Dunkirk, IN. Maybe the reason I like Tea Room started with Jimmies or maybe it's the wonderful art deco look, or maybe it's some other combination of factors. Who knows?

Collecting Tea Room does have some difficulties. Because of all the points on the pieces they sometimes got damaged when being removed from the mould. They also were easily subject to damage. If you find a piece actually used in a tea room it will probably look like it went through a battle, or maybe some grade school kid was a little rough on it. However, with a little diligence you can find pieces that are in good condition. All it takes is time, and sometimes money. I live 50 miles from where it was made and I keep thinking I will walk into an auction someday loaded with Tea Room and buy it all dirt cheap. That hasn't happened yet.

The nice thing about it, in addition to the great look, is there is a fairly wide product line so there are a lot of pieces to collect. Some of you know me as sugarshaker on chataboutdg.com, so I will start with the creamers and sugars. When I read the description of them in the DG books I am thoroughly confused. However, it's simple. There are four styles of creamers and sugars.



From left to right (photo 1) are the 4" (no lid, no tray), 4" on a tray, 4 1/2" (to the top of the sugar finial) and the rectangular on a rectangular tray. I had to use a pink rectangular since I am still looking for the green rectangular tray. A rectangle has four sides but the Tea Room rectangular had six. Go figure.

There is one style pitcher. It is gigantic at 10" tall and weighing in at almost 4 pounds.



Tea Room is one of the few patterns to have a lamp



and an ice bucket.



There are several different vases to collect.



From left to right are the 9 1/2" ruffled, 6 1/2" ruffled, 11" ruffled and the 11 inch straight edge tipping the scales at 5 1/2 pounds. I have to tell you the actual measurements of the pieces can vary as much as an inch from the measurements listed in

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your DG books. I have used the DG book measurements.

There are also a number of different tumblers, five in all.



From left to right are the 8, 11 and 12 ounce footed tumblers. The next picture shows a sherbet, cup and saucer, shakers, and candle sticks.



Tea Room has a nice footed goblet.



One has the straight rim and the other is ruffled. The ruffled rim goblet is the piece you will hear referred to as a glace.

As I like to do, I have saved the best for last. Tea Room

has a 4" (to the top of the finial) covered mustard and a 5" covered marmalade.



As amazing as it might seem, HMW II has the best pictures of the Tea Room line. However, page 186 has one of the few mistakes she made as she called the marmalade a covered sugar. The sugars all have a handle and the mustard and marmalade do not have handles. Both apparently come with a notched and plain lid. Now look at the lids. The mustard lid is notched and the marmalade lid is plain. The finial is similar on both lids but the finial and the covered sugar is different. The mustard lid is round and the marmalade and sugar lids are octagonal.

I haven't shown all the pieces, but then I don't own all the pieces. My search continues.

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

Happy hunting.

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