

A Brief Survey of Selected Glass Companies, Colors Used, Reamers Made, Part Three & Four

By

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Parts One and Two in this series appeared in the June and December 1997 issues of the Quarterly Review. This study lists some of the reamers, which are illustrated in Mary Walker's Reamers (200 Years) and credited to a specific glass company. The Walker letter/number system is used, i.e. N-115 is an illustration of a two-piece set by the L. E. Smith Glass Co.

IMPERIAL

Although this glass company does not figure prominently in the manufacturing of reamers during the depression glass era, it introduced in 1981 the new reproduction reamer generation with the LE-22 made for Edna Barnes using an old Imperial Glass Company mold. The LE-22 is illustrated in Walker's The Second Book More Reamers (200 Years), page 127. For a valuable account of the Barnes reamer production, see the articles by Betty Frank's in the March 1984 issue of the Quarterly review, and the reprint with update in the Mid America Reamer Collector's (MARC) newsletter, The Juicy Journal for November 1997.

The Imperial Glass Company, organized in 1901, first produced glass in its Bellaire, Ohio plant in 1904. Utilitarian products such as tumblers, jars, and pressed inexpensive tableware items were manufactured. The company's popularity was mainly for its special effects including "Iridescent Glass" in 1919-1921, which we now call carnival glass. Its "Imperial Jewels" line started in 1916 is known today as stretch glass. "Free Hand Ware" made in 1923-1928 today is collected as art glass. Skilled artisans designed these pieces, which were made without molds.

The "Nu-Cut" line, which was imitation cut glass in crystal, came out in the 1920's also. The kitchenware in this line, especially luncheon sets, was popular during the depression. Hand-pressed glass made by the company underwent new management in 1931, and in 1940 Imperial acquired Central Glass Works of Wheeling, Virginia. In 1958, the company got possession of the Cambridge Glass and A. H. Heisey companies. In 1973, Imperial was sold to Lenox, Inc.

Colors: Mid-1920's – pink (first called Rose Marie and later just Rose), green, amber

1926 – blue

1927 – blue-green

1929 – ivory, orchid, green embellished with floral decals were added to colored glass pieces edged with gold or decorations

1930's – reissues of crystal and Vaseline (called golden green which was short lived)

1931 – ruby, topaz, Ritz blue and black. "Sea Foam" was brought out along with other semi-transparent pieces in blue, Moss green and Burnt almond edged with an opal effect.

Reamers: LE-22 – reproductions from a mold in a variety of colors for Edna Barnes

Indiana Glass

Started in Dunkirk, Indiana in the late 1800's, what became the Indiana Glass Company was first called Ohio Flint Glass Company, manufacturers of pressed tumblers and tableware. That company was later sold to the National Glass Company combine. Management stabilized in 1907 under the Indiana Glass Company name. Hand-pressed lines of serviceable crystal were made for "tea rooms and soda fountains" and were continued into the 1920's. Later, it became a subsidiary of the Lancaster Colony Corporation, but continued manufacturing glass products under its own name. When the Federal Glass Company closed in 1979, many of its molds were purchased by Indiana Glass. Acquisitions of other companies' molds, together with name changes, merg-

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ers and company closings, create numerous difficulties in assigning a specific manufacturer of a particular item in many cases. We can assume that the Easley's molds were used by Indiana Glass or its allied companies.

Colors: 1925 –green, amber
 1926 – rose
 1930– topaz
 1933 – opaque ivory
 1950's – blue-green

Reamers: N-108 – clear Easley's embossed and unembossed
 N-113 - clear Easley's embossed
 N-214 – two sizes clear (with a dam facing the spout); the embossed clear, green and WMG are Hazel Atlas; unembossed clear and WMG are Anchor Hocking
 N-229 – clear Easley's, various embossings (note the dam shape)
 N-265 – amber, clear, green, pink unembossed (high seated cone); (low seated cone in clear unembossed, and a small green unembossed are Hocking)
 N-274 – clear, green unembossed
 N-332 – clear, green, pink unembossed
 N-356 – amber, clear, green, pink



N-356 Reamer in crystal

Jeannette

The Jeannette Glass Company, established in Jeannette, PA at the turn of the century as a bottle plant, in the 1920's was manufacturing tableware almost exclusively. One of the earliest glass companies to use automatic machines, by 1924 it was almost completely automated, and by 1927 it had ceased all hand operations. In 1961 the company bought and moved into the old

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McKee factory in Jeannette.

Colors: 1920 - continued at least through 1974

1925 - "something like apple green but different", topaz (a warm, rich amber)

1926 - amber and green kitchenware

1927 - pink (Wild Rose), green (production was automatically made)

1932 - jadite (opaque jade green)

1936 - Delfite (opaque blue)

1937 and 1938 - Ultramarine

1947 to 1949 - reissue of pink

1958 - opaque pink (shell)

Like many glass companies, Jeannette made occasional "color trials", so isolated pieces, including reamers, may show up in uncommon colors. Pieces embossed with a J in a triangle are found on the earliest products. Measuring cups with reamer tops were introduced around 1930. Some appeared in colors, usually pink and green, as well as clear.

Reamers:

- N-136A - 2 cup sets in jadite, dark jadite; bottom only in delfite. Bottoms are sunflower design. Tops do not fit very well; oblong drain holes may vary in size.
- N-136B - McKee product was pitcher only
- N-136C - 2 cup sets in green, pink. Honeycomb utility buckets, some with bale, originally advertised in 1930.
- N-221 - clear, green, pink (two shades). (A similar clear, made by Anchor-Hocking, had one mold with malformed 16 seed dams not as tall as Jeannette's, and with a stubbier cone.
- N-250 - clear, green, pink
- N-308 - jadite, dark jadite, delfite (also spelled delphite in some sources) (Note: sharp, pointed cone; ribs swirl to the left.)



N-308 Reamer in Delphite

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N-308 Reamer in Jadite

N-310 - clear, pink, ultramarine (made as part of the “Jennyware” pattern)

N-311 - clear with high and low cones (the low cone has a deeper saucer)

N-339 - clear, custard opaque, green opaque (three shades), jadite dark, green transparent, ultramarine

Jenkins

D. C. Jenkins became president of the Kokomo Glass Manufacturing Company of Kokomo, IN in 1901. The company was soon named after him. It ceased when the company failed shortly after his death in 1932. Jenkins started a second plant in Arcadia, IN in 1913, and molds became common property. Tumblers and occasional pieces were made of generally heavier glass, suitable for hotels and soda fountains. Kitchenware and pressed dinner sets were made in crystal during the 1920's.

Colors: 1929 - green only was made by the company. Somewhat later, crystal glass was given a golden iridescent wash to yield a carnival-like effect called “doped ware”.

Reamers: N-157 - 2 piece sets in clear, green (the bottoms are “quilted”)
 N-180 - (See Walker's More Reamers, p. 21. Also Weatherman Colored Glassware of the Depression Era 2, pp. 209, 214, 215). The tops to the water jugs are reversible, one side being a reamer, the other a knob and lid.
 N-212 - clear with varying sizes, and tab ridges. This mold has been reproduced in a wide range of colors by Mosser for Edna Barnes. Only the clear was ever made by Jenkins as far as is known.
 N-233 - clear, unembossed (Clear embossed Manny's in various molds were made by the Canton Glass Company. (See June 1997 Quarterly Review, page 10.)
 N-253 - clear, unembossed (The clear, clambroth, green, WMG were made by U.S. Glass.)

The first part of this article first appeared in the March 1998 issue of The National Reamer Quarterly Review. The second part first appeared in the June 1998 issue of The National Reamer Quarterly Review. For more information on reamers, visit www.reamers.org