

A Few Comments about Pressed Glass Items in PK 2004-1

Dear Siegmar,

I have greatly enjoyed this very large issue of PK 2004-1. The color photographs are excellent and the articles are very interesting.

I have a few comments that you may wish to take notice of.

(1) The pattern of the "Sablee" stemmed goblet - photo **Abb. 2004-1/057 u. /058, page 33** - was copied in the early 1980s by the American company Fenton Art Glass, Williamstown, West Virginia. The Fenton company made it upside-down in the form of a bell!!! For a full description, you will find it in the Milk Glass Book, #284, on page 127.

Abb. 2004-1/057
Fußbecher mit neugotischem Dekor, Sablée
farbloses Pressglas, H xxx cm, D xxx cm
Sammlung Vogt
s. Musterbuch Launay & Hautin, um 1840, Planche 54,
Fußbecher Nr. 1880 S.L. (2) (Abb. 2001-05/390)
u. Planche 64,
Fußbecher Nr. 2084 S.L. (2) (Abb. 2001-05/380)
St. Louis, um 1840



This impressive bell is upside down, so to speak, the reason for which will become clear subsequently. Viewed upright, the design in high relief around the sides consists of five Gothic triple-arches and alternating ribbed pillars resembling the interior of a medieval cathedral. The ground area is heavily stippled, and a band of fine diamond cuts surrounds the upper surface. An unusually heavy piece, it has a clear glass ball clapper which produces a pleasant if somewhat muted tinkle.

The identity of this bell first came to light when the eminent glass historian Kyle Husfloen disclosed the strange circumstances of its creation (see Collector's Guide to American Pressed Glass, p. 50). Briefly, the fascinating story is this. From 1950 to 1980, the Red-Cliff Company, based in Chicago, produced an extensive line of reproduction china and ironstone ware. To complement their table pieces, they commissioned Fenton to make a series of five different glass goblets which

were reproductions of old flint pattern glass, though Fenton clearly marked the goblets "Red-Cliff." When Red-Cliff went out of business, Fenton acquired the goblet moulds and a few years later used them to make a line of unmarked bells. The one pictured here, according to Mr. Husfloen, is "a close copy of an early French lacy glass goblet, circa 1840, which was called „Sable Arch“. Sable in French means „sanded“ and refers to the sanded or stippled background design typical of lacy glass." As is evident, Fenton altered the goblet mould, converting the stem to serve as the handle, and then further embellished it by slightly flaring and fluting the plain lip of the goblet.

Made by Fenton, early 1980s. Known to us only in white. H 5 3/4" [14,6 cm]; D 4 1/8" [10,5 cm]. More than hard to find today, if not scarce.

Abb. 2004-2/067
Tischglocke „Sable Arch“ Bell
opak-weißes Pressglas, H 14,6 cm, D 10,5 cm
aus Chiarenza 1998, S. 127, Nr. 284
Fenton Art Glass Co., Williamstown, West Virginia, USA,
nach 1980



(2) The little open salt that you show as photo **Abb. 2004-1/264**, page 163, was made by Portieux. You can find it shown in the 1933 Portieux catalogue as "Lorraine" - item #633, on page 38.

Abb. 2004-1/264
Schale
opak-hellblaues Pressglas, H xxx cm, D xxx cm
Sammlung Dusek
Chiarenza: MB Portieux 1933, Planche 38, Salières simples moulées, Nr. 633, "Lorraine", Abb. 2002-2-3/015



Abb. 2002-2-3/015 (Auszug)
MB Portieux 1933, Planche 38, Salières simples moulées, Nr. 633, "Lorraine"



(3) The small cup plate that you show as photo **Abb. 2004-1/283**, page 169, was made by the Westmoreland Company for many years. I do not know whether this company created the original design or copied it from an earlier one by a different company. It is very humorous because when the two faces of the newly married people are seen right side up, they are smiling. But when the cup plate is turned around, the faces turn into old married people and they are scowling at each other.

Abb. 2004-1/283
eBay Deutschland, Art.Nr. 3367293051, € 6,40
"alter Relief Pressglas Teller zur Hochzeit!, sehr alter lustiger Teller zur Hochzeit, relativ massiv, sehr schön gepresst, feingekörnter Hintergrund, Standing gerillt, Maße von Ecke zu Ecke 20 cm"
Chiarenza: Westmoreland Glass Company, Grapeville, Pennsylvania
s.a. PK 2004-2, Spillman, The Plate „The Wedding Day and Three Weeks After“ in PK 2004-1



Many thanks for so much helpful information. Pressglas-Korrespondenz is certainly the most important publication to assist all glass collectors who are interested in pressed glass throughout the world.

Best regards,

Frank Chiarenza

Siehe auch:

PK 2004-2 Spillman, The Plate „The Wedding Day and Three Weeks After“ in PK 2004-1