



## STRETCH GLASS REVIEW

### Stretch Glass Plates

Stretch Out Discussion Call on October 8, 2020



The speakers for our discussions are Kitty and Russell Umbraco and Dave Shetlar. They are all noted experts on stretch glass having done extensive research and cataloging of stretch glass in addition to publishing books on stretch glass. They are life members of The Stretch Glass Society and Dave is a past Co-President. Current SGS President, Cal Hackeman, also contributes to our discussions. SGS Director, Bob Henkel, moderates the calls which are organized by SGS Director Mary Elda Arrington. SGS Secretary, Stephanie Bennett, selects and presents the photos of the stretch glass to be discussed. Members and guests of The Stretch Glass Society participate in the discussion.

We will be pleased to identify stretch glass for you if you send photos and dimensions of your stretch glass to us at [info@stretchglassociety.org](mailto:info@stretchglassociety.org). There is no charge for ID. You may also be interested in reading The SGS Quarterly featuring the most up-to-date information on recent discoveries of previously unreported stretch glass, informative in-depth articles about stretch glass and news of upcoming auctions and sales featuring stretch glass. This publication is provided to all members 4 times each year. Please consider supporting The Stretch Glass Society by becoming a member. Join us at [stretchglassociety.org](http://stretchglassociety.org) and tap into our extensive network of experts, photos and research. These Stretch Glass Reviews of the discussions are available several weeks after the call and are also posted on our website.

The Stretch Glass Society is pleased to share the insights and knowledge of our experts and hope you find the following summary educational and encouraging as you enjoy, collect, buy and sell stretch glass.

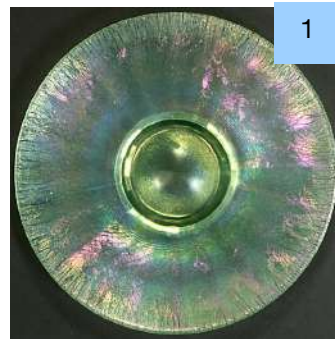


### Stretch Glass Plates

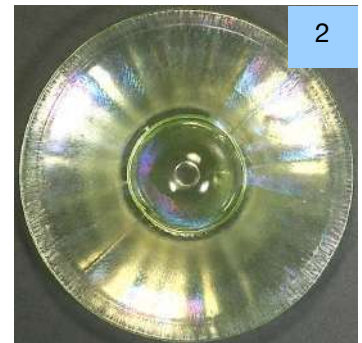
The glass companies referenced in this article are: Diamond Glass-Ware Co., Indiana, Pennsylvania; Fenton Art Glass Co., Williamstown, West Virginia; Imperial Glass Co., Bellaire, Ohio; Lancaster Glass Co., Lancaster, Ohio; H. Northwood & Co., Wheeling, West Virginia; United States Glass Col, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

### Rays, Ribs and Rings

These 6 ½” plates (#1, #2) have what we call optic rays. They were produced by both Northwood and Fenton. There was a question on ‘Hooked on Carnival’ recently about how to distinguish between the plates. There is a difference in diameter. You can actually see the difference in the size of the base diameter in these photos.



Fenton

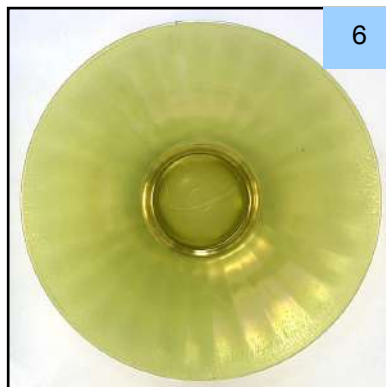
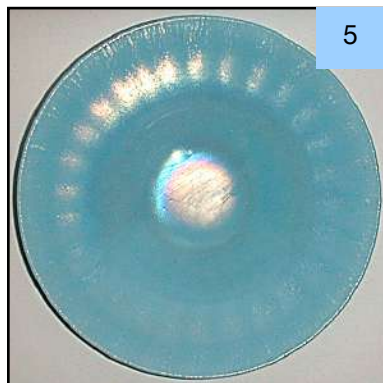
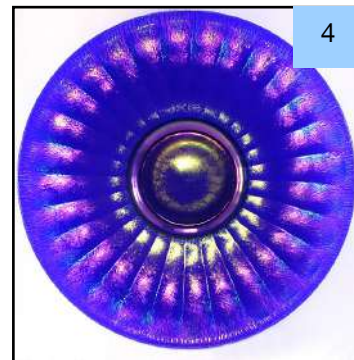
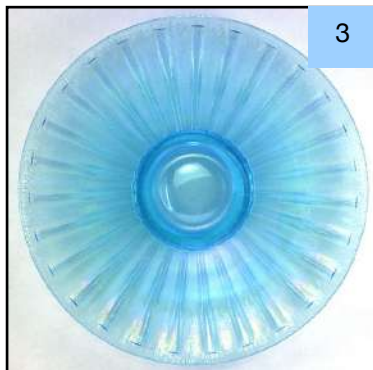


Northwood

The Northwood plate is a little bit larger than the Fenton one, but if you find one of these on the shelf at a flea market or shop, you are not going to be able to tell if it is the larger or the smaller one. The more obvious difference is the Northwood plates always have a small circle, we will call it the “bubble circle” in the center. It is usually distinctive, but it may be a little bit faint. Apparently, this was a place for gas to escape when the plunger came down. Northwood used this process, but Fenton did not. The Northwood plate will have the bubble circle and the Fenton plate will have no circle in it.

There is another 6 1/2" plate that is not shown here that was made by U.S. Glass. The difference between it and these plates is that it has a much larger interior. If you flip it over, you will see the other difference. The U.S. Glass plate will have a ground base. Both the Northwood and Fenton plates have bases which have an area onto which the snap can hold.

**Fenton** made a larger version of the plates which have rays. There are two types of these rays. They made a plate with raise ribs or rays on the underside (#3). This plate is generally available. Fenton also made a larger version of the plate which was featured on page 2, (the one with the plain center). In this plate, the optic panels or rays are on the top side of the plate. Here it is pictured in Fenton's Royal Blue (#4); often referred to as Cobalt Blue by collectors. While this plate in this color is quite rare, similar plates in Celeste blue or Topaz are more easily found. This plate is also known to exist in Wistaria, which is also difficult to find.



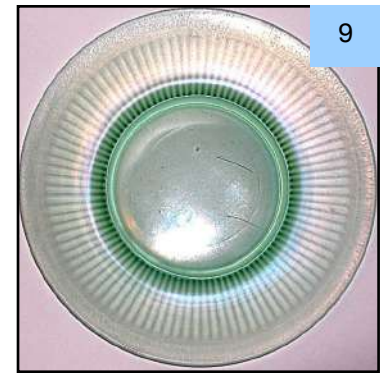
**Northwood** made almost identical plates to the larger Fenton plates. (#5, #6). The Northwood plates are going to have the "Bubble circle" on the inside of the center. When it comes to the plates which have the external ribs, they are only slightly raised. In order to distinguish between the

Northwood and Fenton ribbed plates, you actually have to hold the plate up with the ribs facing you. If the mold line is on the right of the rib, it is Imperial. If the mold line is on the left of the rib, it is Northwood. How are you going to remember this? By using association, you can always remember which company made which plate. Northwood contains an "R" and the mold line is on the Right of the rib. By default, the plate with the mold line on the left of the rib has to be Fenton. If this fails you, then you can look it up on our website and then make your determination. The Color of the plate may also be of assistance. If the plate is Russet or Jade Blue, both shown here, then the plates were made by Northwood because only Northwood made these colors in stretch glass.

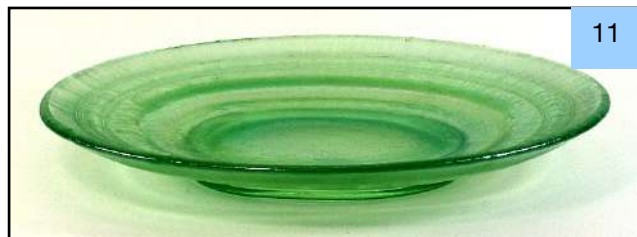
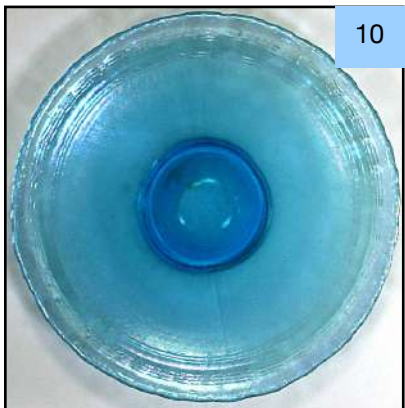


You can find similar **Imperial** plates in three sizes. This is the sherbet plate (#7). There is a sherbet that has the matching rays that fits nicely on this plate. There is an 8" plate that is not shown here. The 12" plate in Green Ice (#8) is large and quite impressive.

**Diamond** produced plates with narrow rays. Actually these are ribbed on the outside. This is Adam's Rib (#9). As far as Dave Shetlar knows, these are only known in blue and green. These are about 8" in diameter. Dave keeps wondering if there is a milk glass plate that was produced. It is known that Diamond produced some other Adam's Rib pieces in milk glass with plain marigold iridescence.



Diamond also produced plates with concentric rings (#10, #11). You can see the very fine rings in the little blue plate. This comes in a 6" plate and an 8" plate. The 8" plate is very heavy. We know these are Diamond because there is actually a very rare handled cup that has the same rings on it. We have never found these plates in any of the Diamond catalogues, but we know they were made by Diamond.

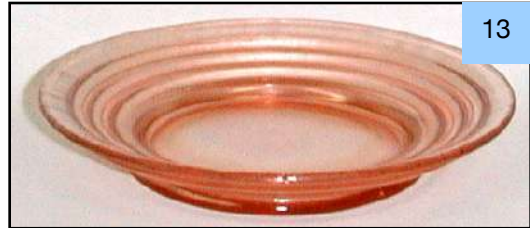


**Fenton** made plates with patterns on the inside of them. This one is melon rib (#12). Remember that Fenton tortured that melon rib bowl into almost every shape they could possibly think of. They did flatten it down into this plate. Obviously, the ‘problem’ with this plate is that these ribs are on the inside. They are very easy to chip. You have to put nice soft donuts or something like that on the plate!

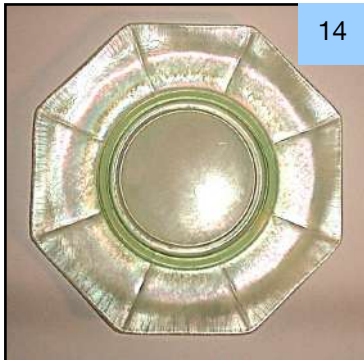


12

Figure #13 is a saucer or underplate for a flower pot.



13



14

Figure #14 is an extremely large Fenton plate with rays. This one is about 12" in diameter. There is a little ring on the inside of it. Whenever we see a ring in the bottom of the plate, not under the plate, but on the top side of the plate on the inside, that suggest that something sits on it. Indeed, there is a bowl - an octagonal bowl that does fit on this plate.

### Wide Panels - Imperial and U.S. Glass

“Wide Panels” is the name that collectors use for these plates. There were only two companies, Imperial and U.S. Glass, that made what we call “Wide Panels” in stretch glass.



15



16



17

These **Imperial** sets of 8" salad plates have fairly large diameter bases. The wide panels are fairly short. It is hard to see the stretch marks on the ruby amberina plate (#15), but it definitely has a stretch effect, as does the Blue Ice (smoke) one (#16). The shiny multicolored purple color plate (#17) does not have any stretch on it whatsoever. This is purple glaze on light purple glass. You can see the purple colors that predominate in the refraction. That is one of their characteristics.

Russell Umbraco remarked that the smoke one (#16 on page 5) is the epitome of collecting out in the West. It really shows the stretch beyond anything else. Some of these are sometimes washed out, but the one shown here is not. Russell and Kitty were wondering at one point how many different colors this Wide Panels size and shape plate could be found in. At one point they had just about a dozen different colors. It took them a long time to find all the various colors, about five years to find the one color they needed to complete all the known colors at that time. Dave has a ruby amberina plate that is almost completely yellow and another one that is almost completely red. There is a tremendous amount of variation, especially with the amount of dope which can be applied to these striking colors.

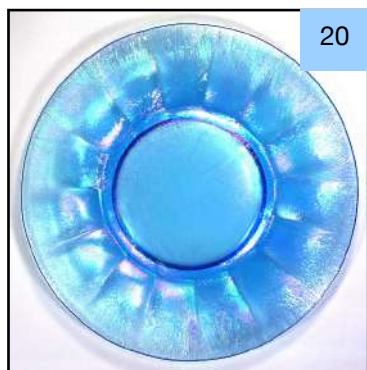
Imperial also made another line that has a completely separate number. It looks like Wide Panels, but notice that the inside of these plates (#18, #19) is quite small and the panels are very elongated, more teardrop shaped. These and the previous plates are two different lines, even though collectors generally also call these Wide Panels.



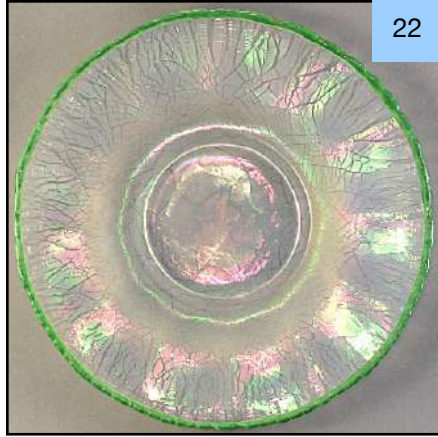
Eight inch plates in the Wide Panels line are very obtainable, but the 12" matching plates are very difficult to find. There is also a 10" plate. Dave found a very rare one that is actually a 6" diameter plate. They all had the small circle on the inside and the larger teardrop panels.



**U.S. Glass** also made wide panel plates.



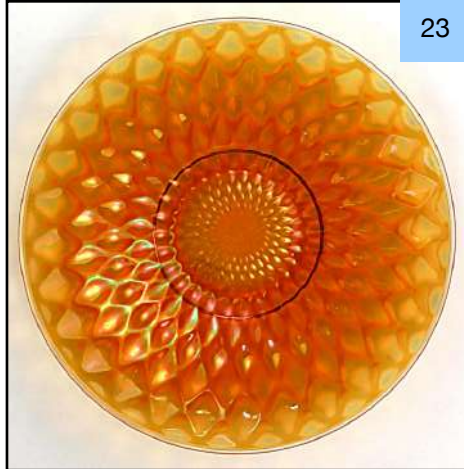
These are obviously not Imperial Plates. As far as we know, Imperial did not make a Celeste Blue (#20) color of stretch glass. Imperial did make green, but Dave has not seen many Imperial stretch glass pieces in green. The green Imperial pieces would be a different color of green than this plate. This one looks more like a Florentine Green (#21). Just the color would alert Dave to immediately know that these are not Imperial.



Notice that this crystal plate (#22) looks very much like the Imperial one that was in their Iris Ice color on page 6 (#19), but this one has a green enamel band on the outside. Dave has never found that kind of a decoration on any of the Imperial wide panel plates. When these US Glass plates are flipped over, they all have a ground base. That is the other big difference when comparing them to similar Imperial Plates. If you find a wide panel plate, flip it over and if it has a ground base, it is most likely made by U.S. Glass. However, there is one exception. Imperial made a plate to go with their mayonnaise bowl that is less than 6" in diameter and that plate has a ground base,

similar to these larger plates by US Glass. Any Wide Panels plate that is 8" or bigger and has a ground base, is a U.S. Glass plate.

### Diamond Optic, Laurel Leaf, Acid Etched - Fenton



Whenever Fenton uses the **diamond optic pattern** on the inside of any item, they identified it as #1502 and then described the piece. In their catalogues, this Grecian Gold cup plate (#23) would be a #1502 cup plate (saucer) and the Persian Pearl octagonal salad plate (#24) would be a #1502 octagonal salad plate.

Another pattern that we see in Fenton is **Laurel Leaf** (#25), which is a very simple pattern that does not interfere with the stretch affect. There are several different sizes of these plates. An 8" diameter plate can be either hexagonal or round. This is the most common size, and there are smaller plates as well as a large platter. The large platter actually held a salad bowl in the same Laurel Leaf pattern.



Russell indicated that there is another manufacturer with virtually the identical Laurel Leaf, but the leaves are different. You have to put the two together to tell the difference. The pieces in this "other" Laurel Leaf pattern are also iridized, but are not stretch glass.

### Acid Etched



Fenton sometimes decorated their plates using the acid etching process. Glass etching with acid is a process by which a resist is applied to the piece of glass before it is dipped into hydrofluoric acid. Once in the acid, the colored surface that is not covered with resist is etched away, lightening or changing the color. The surface underneath the resist remains iridized and untouched. Pictured here are two of the more frequently found etched designs which Fenton used on stretch glass. Etched stretch glass plates are hard to find.

Some of the Fenton plates which Dave originally thought were acid etched, seem to have been sand blasted, rather than etched. Sand blasting has a much rougher texture to it than what would be found from the acid etching. Initially we were not aware of Fenton using the sand blasting technique, however a few years ago a fan vase was found which had what we call the KKK acid etching on it. When this fan vase was placed in the light, the design was obviously very rough in texture and it was determined to have been sand blasted. As a result of this discovery, we now know there are some Fenton pieces that do have etching on them and then others which were sand blasted.



## Swirl Optic, Wheel Cut, Floral & Optic - Imperial

The swirl optic pattern by Imperial is one of their rarer lines. There is a small and a larger plate known in this pattern. Most of the ones that we see are 8" and 8 1/2" in diameter, but there is a 6 1/2" one that has a little ring on the inside. It is actually a plate to go under the mayonnaise. The 8 1/2" one pictured is just a salad plate (#26).

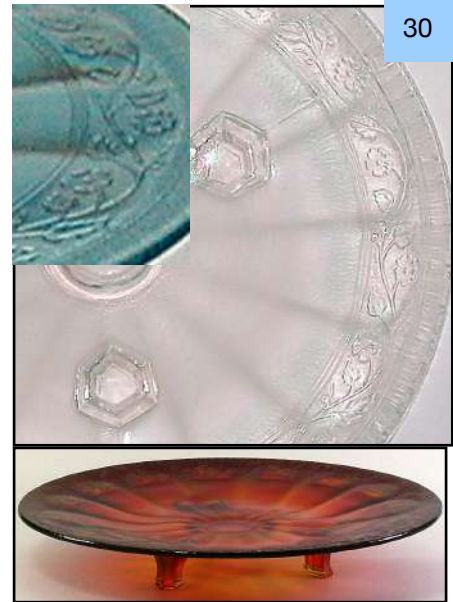


Figure #27 is from a cheese and cracker set. You can actually see the ring (retainer ring) on the inside that would hold the cheese dish. This one has a very typical Imperial elegant wheel cutting. There are a number of different wheel cuttings and we have not been able to identify all of them despite Dave and Gary Senkar spending quite a bit of time trying to figure out all the patterns. For some reason, most of the patterns that are documented in the Imperial catalogues are not the same patterns that were used on stretch glass.

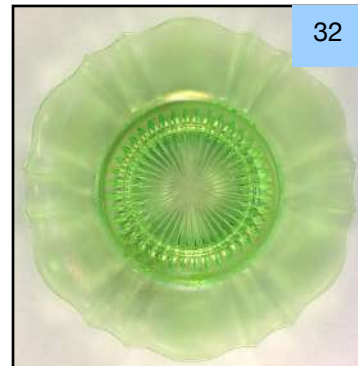
Figure #28 is also a cheese plate. Dave identifies this one as chrysanthemum, because it looks like a chrysanthemum flower. Dave calls this next wheel cut plate by the name of butterfly and daisy (#29). He believes these would have had just a pattern number when they were made by the Imperial company.



All of you that collect either stretch or carnival glass are very familiar with what we call Floral & Optic. This pattern is molded into the glass in the mold. It has three feet and has a narrow floral band on the inside (#30). The most common colors that we see in stretch glass are Green Ice, Iris Ice and Ruby Ice. You can also find this in marigold. Virtually all the marigold ones that Dave has seen do not have stretch marks on them. If you find ones with stretch in marigold, that would be a very nice find.



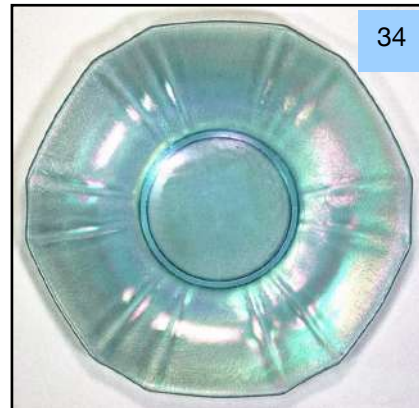
### #310 Line, Rays & Points, Reticulated - U.S. Glass



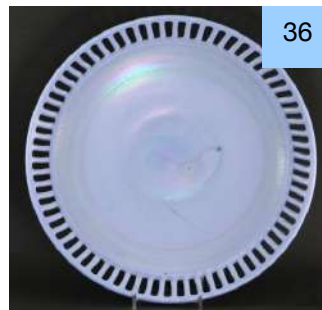
The #310 line in U.S. Glass, with it's very simple pattern, is quite elegant. This pink salad plate (#31) is about 8 1/2" in diameter. Notice that these all have this star impressed on the underside in the base.

Notice the 10" green plate (#32). There is a ring on the inside of this one. This is actually a cheese and cracker plate. There would be a small cheese dish with a round foot in the middle of the cracker plate. There is a #310, that looks like a cheese dish, but it has a scalloped foot. That is actually a mayonnaise.

U.S. Glass also made what we term the Rays & Points pattern in stretch glass. This has the pair of rays that go out to the edge (#33, #34). Wherever the rays hit the edge, there is a little point. You can see that it gives the edge a little bit of a scalloped look to it. If you look on the base of these, they have a ground base. Just because the stretch glass item is made by U.S. Glass, that does not mean it will always have a ground foot.



These reticulated plates are also made by U.S. Glass.



The coral one (#35) is opaque orange to yellow-orange slag. The pearl blue plate (#36) is an opaque light blue slag color. Figure #37 is actually black. It is almost impossible to see any light through this. However, there is a very dark purple one that would look very similar to this if the two plates were side-by-side. If you hold the purple one up to the light, you can see the purple color. If you hold this black one up to a very strong light, you may see a dark cobalt blue color or just black glass. If you see a purple or black plate, like the ones pictured, buy it as fast as you can. Both of these colors are very difficult to find. The most common colors in which you will find these plates are topaz, crystal and light blue. There are some other very interesting colors in which this pattern was produced.

There are two sizes of these reticulated plates. These are the larger 12" ones. In a recent auction, there was one they listed that was smaller. That was made from the smaller 10" mold. It has a fewer number of reticulations. These were also stuck-up pieces. They all have ground bases.

**In-Line Painted Decoration**  
**Fenton, U.S. Glass, Lancaster, U.S. Glass**

This in-line decorated Fenton plate (#38) actually has a blue glass, not painted, crest on it. An entire luncheon set of these - cups, cup plates, sherbets, sherbet plates and salad plates - were made. A console bowl and candleholders are also known. Apparently, these were not made in large quantities because they are very difficult to find today.

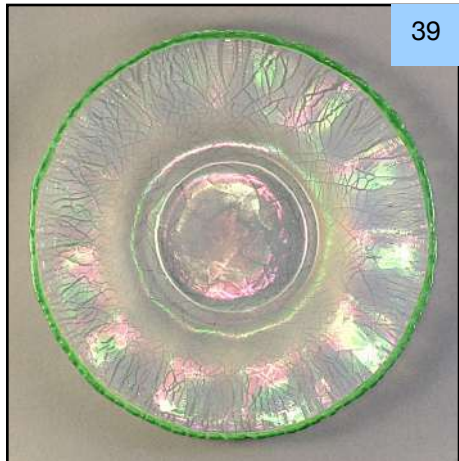


Figure #39 is a plate indicated as U.S. Glass Green Crest. This has a ground base. It looks like it has wide panels, so this has got to be U.S. Glass. This is not really a crest. Remember a crest is glass of a different color applied to the edge. This is actually green enamel on the edge. You can find these plates from U.S. Glass with green enamel, black enamel and a really dark blue enamel banding on the edges.



In addition to the previously discussed companies, there is another company that made this sort of rayed plate. Lancaster made this 6" plate which has a flower on it (#40). Watkins Glen, N.Y. is written on the inside of it. This was probably a favor, souvenir or prize from a fair. Lancaster is not known to have made the larger 8" salad plates.



You can just barely make out that this is a plate with panels on it, because this one has an overall enameled design on the back of it (#41). It is a reddish color with a blue floral design underneath the enamel. It also has a ground base, making U.S. Glass the producer. This particular pattern is called Pamona and can be found with the same stencil design with a yellow background and blue floral.

## Unusual Painted Decoration - Northwood #631

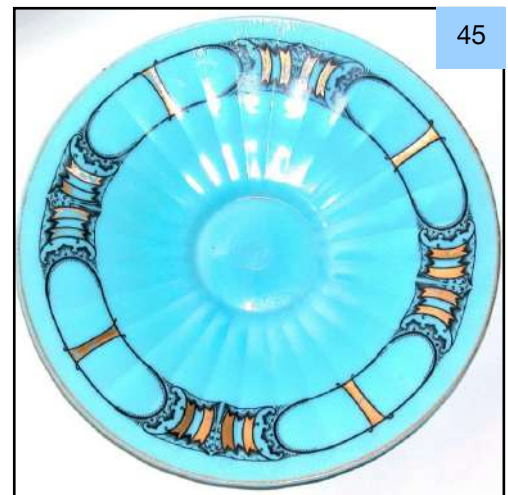
These Northwood plates have a reticulated design painted on them (#42, #43).



The floral decoration on this rayed plate (#44) has been seen on several pieces. Dave knows of a bowl, plate, and a set of candle holders that had that decoration. That suggests that it may have been a factory decoration, rather than a decoration by a hobbyist decorator.



The jade blue large plate (#45) is probably a 11-12" plate. It has a gold and black decoration on it. Dave has actually seen two of these plates with that same exact decoration on it, so he feels that it was probably also a factory decoration.



## Late Period Fenton

Fenton made a lot of what we call Late Period stretch glass. They did make a number of plates.

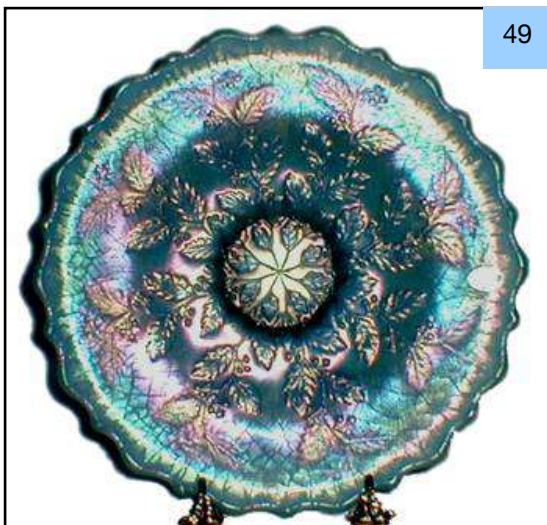
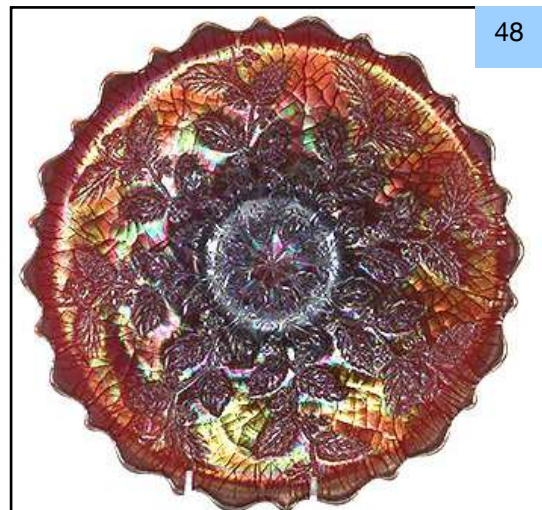
One of these plates was a special anniversary one (#46). This plate has a very fancy gold leaf application design.



Figure #47 also has a gold leaf decoration on it.

This particular one with the stretch glass (#48) was a special Frank Fenton birthday celebration item for him.

This is also a Holly plate (#49) with an opaque blue-green color with the stretch effect on it.



**Next Discussion call:**

November 12, 2020 will be our next discussion call, focusing on Imperial Stretch Glass. Our in-house resident Imperial expert will be Gary Senkar along with other experts who will be sharing their insights into Imperial stretch glass.

