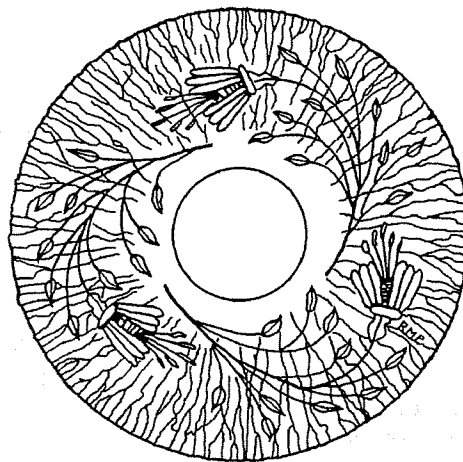


FOUNDED • APRIL 21, 1974  
DENVER • PENNA

## Stretch Glass Society Newsletter

January, 1999



### (Co-) Presidents' Message

#### Dear Members:

It seems that it was just yesterday when Jan sent us our "traditional" reminder that the President's letter was due! It's been a very busy fall and holiday season, but we got some time to visit with friends and relatives. Hope you had a good holiday season - and Happy New Year!

Speaking of friends, we participated in the first annual Imperial Glass Club's (NIGCS) fall auction and met many new glass enthusiasts. We were amazed at the great range of glassware made by Imperial even though early iridized glass was rare in the auction. Yes, there was a lot of Candlewick, with some pieces bringing hefty prices (at least, in our prejudiced eyes, which are oriented toward iridized glass!); but, it was great seeing examples of all the other glass which we had only seen photos of in Measell's Imperial Glass Encyclopedia series.

John Madeley and Dave have been asked to give talks at the NIGCS Convention in June. This is one of the reasons that you will find in this issue the first in a series of line drawings illustrating the known Imperial Art Glass Line (= Imperial Jewels). John and Dave would like to have a display at the Imperial Convention of as many of the Line as possible. This may be a lofty goal since we have never seen some of the pieces, especially the smaller ones.

To kick off this quest to assemble examples of each form (68 listed pieces plus two to three others that are known), and to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> "Silver" Anniversary of the SGS, we are asking that everyone bring their "Pearl Silver" pieces to our convention in April/May. You are encouraged to bring all your "jewels," but we would especially like to have the Pearl Silver for the club display. If you're not sure if you have a Pearl Silver piece, they're easy to identify. First, the base glass will be a rich amethyst (dark purple) and the iridescence will have a distinct gun metal silver to golden sheen. If the iridescence is predominately blue, green, red, pink or similar colors, the piece is more likely to be "Pearl Amethyst".

Jim Steinbach and Frank Fenton had considerable discussions throughout the fall about creating our convention piece and a decision was finally made. We'll let Jim have the honors of making the announcement of the selection, but if it's any indication of the quality anticipated....we're debating on how many we'll be able to afford to order!! Jim will also have some news about this year's Whimsey Auction plans....stay tuned. We all thank Jim for being one of those members who is "standing and delivering" for the society. He has spent considerable time, last year and this, tending to the negotiations necessary to get convention pieces and the countless letters and mailers involved with orders and distribution. THANKS JIM!

We also want to thank other members who are helping with the convention. Millie Coty has taken charge of the Member-to-Member Sale and will be helping sellers set up. Berry Wiggins and Jim Measell will be on hand to answer questions and sign books (as will John and Dave). Bill Crowl will be displaying his collection of RED STRETCH and will have LOTS of glass for sale and Dr. Measell has also agreed to be our banquet speaker. Augusta Keith, despite her back injury early last fall, is our Convention Banker and will be looking for your mail-in payments for the Showboat Reunion Dessert and the banquet. Stephanie Leonard is updating the society's historical records and pictures for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Paul Miller, the society's first Newsletter editor (remaining active in the group along with other Charter Members - Berry Wiggins, Bill Crowl and Joanne Rodgers) has helped with the search for former officers and members.

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Many valuable contributions have been made by these and former members of this organization and this is our opportunity to recognize them for their efforts and to say thank you. Several changes have been made in the sequence of events for the convention this year, so be sure to look for Renée's Update elsewhere in this issue.

As far as our recent "stretch escapades", we seem to have less time for visiting some of our favorite malls and shops than we used to, so we spend increasing amounts of time on the Internet and we have great fun looking for and bidding on stretch glass there. Since Bill Crowl didn't have his fall sale in Chicagoland this year, we've had to "travel down another highway"! LOL! (Internet shorthand for "Laughing Out Loud"). And, there's been ample material to bid on. Unfortunately, fellow collectors have also noticed the better pieces. Like our duking it out with Mary Morales over a FANTASTIC Fenton, "laurel leaf" salad bowl and plates set in Celeste Blue! Mary ended up with the high final bid, but alas, it was not high enough in the eyes of the seller (who, obviously, was seeking "carnival dollars" and NOT "stretch dollars")!

The only real drawback has been the disappointing slowness of eBay, the major online auction site. They just can't seem to handle the periods of great demand, especially when Furbies and Beany Babies were being auctioned during the Christmas rush! Hopefully, that will settle down now.

We continue to offer our traditional advice for our members when bidding on the Internet. In spite of whether you like the way eBay is run, it IS an auction and the highest bidder above the reserve, gets the item. The only difference is that there is a deadline as to when bidding will stop. All too often, everyone (including ourselves!) waits until the last minute to place bids and then gets upset with "snipers". If you haven't heard of snipers yet, they are last minute bidders who want an item at any cost and often place an outrageously large bid (like \$300 to \$400 on a \$100 item) in the last 30 seconds. We keep expecting to see two of these snipers battle it out and get burned! What a hoot that would be!

In any case, it's still an auction and there will always be people who have more money or greater desire than you do! Don't get angry, just be patient. We're always amazed, and pleased, when that "rare" piece (defined as: one we don't have) shows up at a reasonable price. To illustrate the point, we found a Northwood spiral optic bowl recently in a smaller Ohio mall at a good price! We had given up on finding such a bowl, since we know of its rarity and because most were known to have been found on the West Coast. You never know where a nice piece of stretch glass will show up - so keep looking!

We've also found another benefit of the Internet auctions. We posted several pieces in November and a couple didn't sell. However, we made some contacts with other stretch glass collectors and we eventually worked out trades that both parties liked! This is great, especially since many of you are not able to get to our conventions, but you do have access to the Internet.

That brings up another important topic - a Web Site. Though we have had great intentions, we simply have not been able to carve out enough time to get our web site up and running. Therefore, if any of you have the time or inclination (or even a precocious daughter/son or grandchild) to work on a web site, we want to talk to you! We're not looking for something really fancy, but a simple site that describes what stretch glass is, how to join the society and lists pieces for sale or trade. For those that know html and linking sites, you could even post pictures, your personal web pages, etc. Anyone interested?

Speaking of "anyone interested," we are still at a major crossroads with our society. We have too many things to do and not enough members volunteering to step forward to help. Most of your current officers feel that they have been elected for "lifetime" appointments! We would all like to do something else, even within the Stretch Glass Society. Perhaps our founders made a mistake by not imposing term limits to the offices. We personally believe that several of our capable members are afraid to step forward because they are, likewise, fearsome that they will be elected "for life." We will be proposing to the Board that we consider an amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws regarding term limits.

When we "volunteered" to take over the presidency from Joanne Rogers, we only expected one or two terms. We like being Co-Presidents, but we would also like to do other things - newsletter editor, web site, convention chairs, etc. Thus, this will be our last year serving as the Co-Presidents of the SGS. We hope to be able to work in some other capacity either in different offices or as volunteers, but the success of this will depend on the willingness of the membership to take a turn at serving as officers or volunteering more actively. We know that several of the other officers and Board members have the same opinion, but we will not presume to speak for them here. They, too, will speak up when they feel the need. Now, we vaguely remember mentioning this last year, and we got one volunteer for a Board nomination, but this was the

only response. Our society will not be able to continue without participation of its members. Notice, we didn't use the word "grow," we used "continue" for an important reason! Ask yourself, if the hand full of dedicated officers disappeared tomorrow, what would happen to the society? Enough said for now, but please consider stepping forward to help your society. If you have comments, please write a "letter to the editor" or contact any of us.

One final note of encouragement....we learned in November that Darlene Johnson, 28 year old SGS member from Phillipsburg, Kansas, was diagnosed with cancer of the spine. Initially, they feared drastic measures would be required to eradicate the disease. She was immediately admitted to the hospital and the first, of what was thought to be two surgeries, was performed. Her physicians discovered that it appears to be a very slow-progressing form and sent samples to the Mayo Clinic for analysis. The last word we had (before "going to press") was that they were waiting to hear the results from the Mayo pathologists before proceeding, but the second surgery was deemed unnecessary, at least, for the time being. We think that our prayers helped, Darlene! We will all continue to pray for her quick and total recovery!

Renée and Dave Shetlar

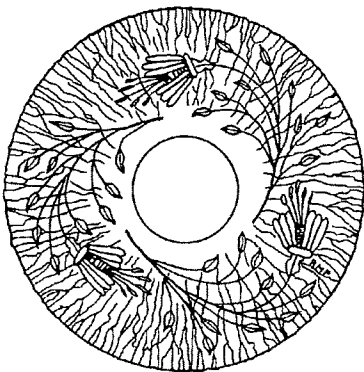
**Stretch Glass Society Officers**

<b><u>Co-Presidents:</u></b>	Dave & Renée Shetlar 35 VanDeman Avenue Delaware, OH 43015	<b><u>Secretary/Editor:</u></b>	Janet R. Reichling 1085 Taunton Court Schaumburg, IL 60193
<b><u>Vice-President:</u></b>	John Madeley 595 North 12 <sup>th</sup> Street St. Charles, IL 60174	<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	Cal Hackeman 8865 Olde Mill Run Road Manassas, VA 20110-6132

**Board of Directors**

Stephanie Leonard ('00MA), Joanne Rodgers ('99OH), Arna Simpson ('00MD), Jim Steinbach ('00OH), and Phil Waln ('99CA)

DUES: Eighteen Dollars (\$18.00) annually for each family – payable to the Treasurer by April 1<sup>st</sup>



**April 29, 30 and May 1, 1999**

***THURSDAY - Members Only***

● **FRIDAY - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.** ● **SATURDAY - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

***The Lafayette Hotel, 101 Front Street,  
Marietta, Ohio***

**RESERVATIONS - OHIO: 1-800-331-9337 – US: 1-800-331-9336**

**SPECIAL GROUP RATE @\$63.00/NIGHT**

## 1999 CONVENTION UPDATE

Renée Shetlar

### SEEKING REUNION ATTENDEES

We are hoping that everyone is making plans to attend this year's convention; it is shaping up to be a really special one. With this being the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the society, we have extended special invitations to as many former members and officers as we could find. A few of the Charter members who remain active by attending the conventions are Bill Crowl, Paul Miller, Joanne Rodgers, Russell and Kitty Umbraco and Berry Wiggins. Let's see if we can get some of the other Charter members here for this special reunion! If you know any of the following or others who might like coming to our reunion, let us know how to reach them. Charter members still on our roster, but have not been to any recent convention are: Dr. William and Jacqueline Davis, Mary Henry and Martin Stozus. Other Charter members and former officers who we have lost contact with are: James Farr, SGS's first President in 1974, Kenneth and Alma Magenau, both former officers, Fred and Barbara Lynn, former President, Bob Ragin, former Vice-President, Mary Ryan, former Secretary, and John Miller, former Treasurer. If you know any of these people, please do what you can to encourage their attendance! THANKS!

Also, if you live near someone (former or current member) who may not have transportation or has difficulty with driving, let's see if we can't get some kind of car pooling or alternative transportation figured out for them.

### ROOM RESERVATIONS REMINDER

Don't forget, when making your room reservations, mention that you are with the Stretch Glass Society. This will be your only way of getting the special group rate of \$63. The more rooms that we can fill, the greater the discount we will be given on our sale/display rooms. We think you all know that many of the hotels are more hesitant to allow discounts at all, so we may be approaching the time when we will no longer be able to provide this event for free. So, we are asking for as much participation as possible.

### SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please note! **Members Only Day, Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** is the Member-to-Member Sale and, in honor of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are planning a special evening program aboard the Showboat Becky Thatcher with dessert. Tickets are required for this special event with payment in advance. An Audit Committee will be appointed by the Co-Presidents from the general membership present to review the Treasurer's books for approval at the Board meeting.

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held from 7am to 9am on **Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>** in the dining room (breakfast is Dutch) and the annual table-to-table glass identification session will take place Friday afternoon. The General Business Meeting and election of two Board members will take place from 7pm to ?pm in the sale/display room with the 1999 Whimsy Auction immediately following the meeting. The room will officially close to non-members at 7pm.

The banquet will again be on **Saturday night, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, but will be in a different room which should allow for less frantic packing of glass in the display/sales room. Dr. James Measell will provide our program for the evening and we are working on putting together a drawing for a wonderful stretch glass door prize! Tickets for the banquet are required with payment in advance.

### SPECIAL MAILING

Be on the lookout -- you will soon be getting a **special mailing** that will have your:

- SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
- REGISTRATION FORM
- PAYMENT FORM FOR THE SHOWBOAT REUNION DESSERT
- MENU SELECTION AND PAYMENT FORM FOR THE BANQUET
- TWO PRE-ADDRESSED RETURN ENVELOPES

Please follow the instructions on each of the sheets in the mailing and return those needing to be returned by their respective deadlines using the two return envelopes provided. The Registration Form is to be returned to Renée Shetlar and the two payment forms (with payment) are to be returned to Augusta Keith, our Convention Banker. The tickets for these two events will be included in your packet at the Convention Table (in the Lobby outside of the display/sales room).

### **ROOM HOSTS NEEDED**

We are still looking for volunteers to serve as Room Hosts during our public hours. We would like there to be, at least, two persons (husband-wife teams are nice) to fill 10, two hour blocks on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> (8am to 7pm) and Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> (8am to 4pm). If you would be interested in greeting people as they come in, providing information on the SGS, and offering answers to any questions they may have, PLEASE indicate so and what time block you could be available by writing it on the back of your Registration Form or by calling/e-mailing Renée at (740) 369-1645 or [bugdoc@midohio.net](mailto:bugdoc@midohio.net).

**We need your feedback!**

**Jim Steinbach**

## **The 1999 SGS Convention Whimsey Auction**

In the recent past, The Stretch Glass Society has conducted auctions of whimses at its annual conventions. These whimses have been produced in conjunction with the making of the Society's convention pieces, using the same mold. These whimses have run the full gamut, from "This piece would have been nice, but ..." to, some uniquely wonderful hand decorated 1<sup>st</sup> quality pieces. We have seen the bids on these pieces go from around \$50 to over \$200. These pieces are truly unique and I'm sure the previous buyers will treasure them for many years.

I am trying to determine if our membership would be interested in a colored photo catalog of these whimses. This would allow members who will not attending this years convention the opportunity to submit absentee bids for the auction. We are hoping to be able to produce the catalog for between \$5 and \$7, with this cost being paid by the interested members. The catalog is envisioned to be similar to the color photo page in our newsletter with additional written descriptions of the pieces and the terms of the auction. Each piece will have a minimum-starting bid.

Our ability to produce this catalog will be contingent upon:

- There being enough interest by our membership to warrant the effort to produce the catalog.
- The Fenton Art Glass Co. being able to produce an acceptable quantity of quality pieces (we have already requested an order for 10 pieces).
- The Fenton Art Glass Co. being able to produce the pieces early enough for us to produce the catalog and solicit the absentee bids.

If you don't believe you will be able to attend the 1999 Convention and you may want to participate in the whimsey auction through absentee bids, please let me know. Your expression of interest at this time in the publishing of a catalog does not obligate you to purchase any future catalogs or to place absentee bids. We are only looking for your feedback to determine whether to pursue this venture.

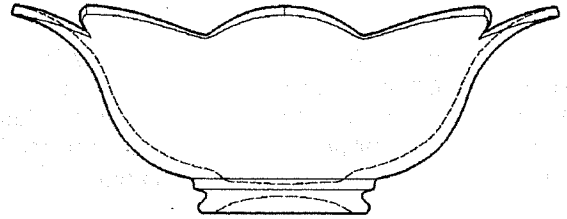
**Finally, I want to thank you for your support and participation in the Society. You can contact me by telephone at 1(740) 965-2643 or by Email at [JYMPAM@AOL.COM](mailto:JYMPAM@AOL.COM) or you can send me a note at:**

**The Stretch Glass Society  
C/o Jim Steinbach  
12952 Centerburg Rd.  
Sunbury, Ohio 43074**

# STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY New Stretch Glass Piece Fenton Flared Tulip Bowl In Violet Stretch Glass

The Stretch Glass Society has commissioned the Fenton Art Glass Company to produce a Limited Edition Piece for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1999 Convention and Show. This year's piece will be a **Flared Tulip Bowl in Violet**, a color currently in Fenton's color line. As in previous years, each piece will be marked on the bottom, identifying the piece as a Stretch Glass Society commissioned piece.



We have placed a preliminary order for 200 pieces, which should assure each SGS Member/Family at least one of these pieces. This preliminary quantity may be adjusted based on the orders received. Members may also order up to 9 additional pieces, which will be distributed after all members/families have received their first piece order and then based on availability and in the order in which your request was received. If after all orders are filled, there are any pieces remaining, these pieces will be sold to members/families on a first-come-first-serve basis at a higher price.

The commissioning of this piece has been approved by the officers of the Stretch Glass Society for the purpose of raising funds for the operation of the Society. The price for this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary piece is only **\$45.00!** The Society will make approximately \$10.00 profit on each piece.

(Cut along line and return this form with your check)



### ORDER FORM



**POST MARK DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 13, 1999**

1999 Stretch Glass Society – Fenton Flared Tulip Bowl

\_\_\_\_\_ Please accept my order for **ONE** piece at **\$45.00**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would also like to request \_\_\_\_\_ additional piece(s) at **\$45.00 each** (Limit of 9).

I understand that these pieces will be distributed based on availability and in the order in which requests are received.

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here** if you plan to pick-up your piece(s) at the 1999 Convention and Show

**Make checks payable to:**  
**The Stretch Glass Society**

**Mail Order Form and Payment to:**  
**The Stretch Glass Society**  
**C/O Jim Steinbach**  
**12952 Centerburg Rd.**  
**Sunbury, Ohio 43074**

## From the Editor's Desk

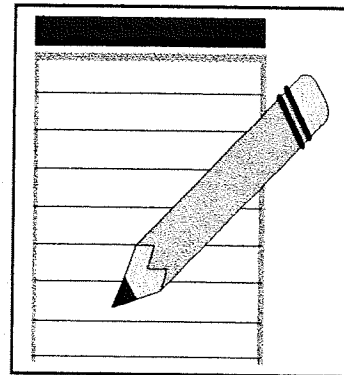
Jan Reichling

Welcome back and Welcome aboard!

**Renewal:** Rosalyn S. Heying  
243 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.  
Waite Park, MN 56387-1034  
320-252-3851

**New Members:** Dave & Reva Drabing  
1608 E. 2945 North Road  
Mt. Auburn, IL 62547  
217-676-8181

Nancy Lou Costello  
48 D. Piney Branch Way  
W. Melbourne, FL 32904  
407-728-7730



The Stretch Glass Society received "Volume 1 Issue 1" of the Vaseline Glass Collector's Inc. Newsletter. It is a new organization for Vaseline glass collectors with a published mission statement, "To Educate and Unify Vaseline Glass Collectors Everywhere". I have written this group mentioning "stretch" Vaseline glass, our SGS Newsletter, the book reference list, and the newly published "American Iridescent Stretch Glass" book. For those interested, yearly membership dues are \$20.00 for a single membership. It is published every other month. Dues can be sent to: Vaseline Glass Collectors, Inc. C/O Madolyn Courter, Acting Treasurer, P.O. Box 125, Russellville, MO 65074. Include your name, address, city, state, zip, e-mail and collecting preferences.

You can E-mail them at [vgci@hotmail.com](mailto:vgci@hotmail.com) or visit their Web page at: <http://www.icnet.net/users/davepeterson>. We wish them much success!!

## **FOR SALE:**

By: Gary Young (rmsc1@aol.com), 4965 Crofton Drive, Rockford, IL 61114 -- (815-637-2770)

Blue Footed Flared Flattened Top Vase	\$35.00
Blue Candle Vase	\$25.00
Blue Opaque Bowl – 8 ½" X 3 ½" X 1 ¾"	\$35.00
Blue Opaque Candlestick, 6 ¾" Tall, 4" Base, 6 Sided	\$45.00
Topaz Handled Lemon Tray With Painted Decoration	\$25.00
Florentine Green Flared Melon Ribbed Bowl	\$55.00

### Wanted by Gary Young:

Topaz Concave Diamond Tumble-Up -- Glass Only  
Russet 1 LB Candy Jar – Base Only  
Topaz Cheese Dish – Top Only

ANY CORRECTIONS, DELETIONS, ADDITIONS REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CAN BE SENT TO YOUR SECRETARY-EDITOR: Jan Reichling, 1085 Taunton Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193 - 847-895-0182 or [Jrstretch@aol.com](mailto:Jrstretch@aol.com)



**National Imperial Glass Collectors' Society, Inc.**

**Headquarters**

**P. O. Box - 534 / Bellaire, Ohio / 43906**



*A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and study of Imperial glassware.*

PRESS RELEASE -- 1998

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

CONTACT: Cliff McCaslin / 8422 N Park Ct / Kansas City, MO / 64155 / 816.436.7719

## ALL-IMPERIAL FALL AUCTION A SUCCESS

Bellaire, Ohio -- The National Imperial Glass Collectors' Society wishes to announce the successful completion of their "First Annual All-Imperial Fall Auction." With support from members of the Bellaire Glass Museum and Society volunteers, the NIGCS blazed a new fund-raising trail in their continued quest for a National Imperial Glass Museum.

"We weren't sure what to expect when we decided on this venture into the unknown," said NIGCS President, Kathy Doub. "Other glass clubs have successfully used the non-Convention auctions to help support their museums, so we felt it was time for the Imperial club to try it. For our first attempt, overall, the auction went well. It wouldn't have worked without all the help from our members, the people of the Bellaire Museum and the people who consigned and donated glass and, of course, the people bidding. Thank you all."

Paul Hrics, auction coordinator, added: "We owe a debt of gratitude to all the people who supported this event, especially Mark Valloric our auctioneer who donated several hours of time and effort to bring this to fruition. Mark donated numerous hours prior to the auction rounding-up about half of our consignments plus the time working with our volunteers getting the auction ready and then the majority of the evening presiding over the auction. That's the kind of effort that makes things work for us and we really appreciate it."

Over 400 lots were auctioned-off grossing nearly \$15,000 with the Society retaining approximately 20% before expenses. A sampling of items sold were: Candlewick 400/273 Basket - \$275, Candlewick #3800 Goblet in Ruby - \$130.00, #582 "Fancy Colonial" 2-Handled Bowl in Rose Marie - \$70, #51756JA Ming Vase in Jade - \$135, #771 "Balloons" Vase in Iridized Smoke - \$55, "Star of David" Bowl in Iridized Purple - \$70, and an experimental 7-1/2" Crimped Blown Vase - \$160. One of the unique, non-glassware items sold was an American Flint Glass Workers Union medal.

"Our total dollar figures were not great, but it was a start, and several people walked away with some very nice pieces of Imperial at bargain prices," said Cliff McCaslin, Publicity Secretary. "The next time we hope to have a 'catalogued auction' possibly allowing mail-in bids. In order for that to transpire we will need many more volunteers. This is a learning process and, as we gain experience, we will elevate the sophistication of the auction procedures."

For more information on the National Imperial Glass Collectors Society please write to:  
NIGCS / PO Box - 534 / Bellaire, OH / 43906 or visit our WEB Page: [www.imperialglass.org](http://www.imperialglass.org)





## IMPERIAL

**Left:** Pearl Green Vase  
6" High

**Right:** #30 Pearl Amethyst Rose Bowl  
6 ¼" High

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** #17 Pearl Green Vase  
5" High

**Right:** #84 Pearl Green Vase  
7" High

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** #34 Pearl White Berry Bowl  
5 ¾" diameter

**Center:** #18 Pearl Ruby Vase  
5 ½" High

**Right:** #46 Pearl Green Fruit Bowl  
6 ½" Square

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** #2 Pearl Green Bouquet Vase  
5" High

**Right:** #2 Pearl White Bouquet Vase  
5" High

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** #57 Pearl Ruby Shallow Nappy  
10 ½" Diameter

**Center:** #58 Pearl Amethyst Sandwich Plate  
12" Diameter

**Right:** #76 Pearl Green Flower bowl  
10" Diameter

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** #65 Pearl Amethyst Flower Bowl  
6" Diameter

**Center Back:** Pearl Amethyst Plate  
6 ¾" Diameter

**Center Front:** Pearl Green Bowl  
3 ½" Diameter

**Right:** #21 Pearl Green Hair Receiver  
2 ¾" High

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** Pearl Amethyst Sugar

**Center:** #42 Pearl Amethyst Flower Bowl  
7 ½" Diameter

**Right:** Pearl Amethyst Creamer

## IMPERIAL

**Left:** #45 Pearl Amethyst Flower Bowl  
8" Diameter

**Center Back:** #41 Pearl Green Card  
Receiver - 9" Diameter

**Center Front:** #36 Pearl Ruby Nappy  
6 ½" Diameter

**Right:** Pearl Amethyst Bowl  
6" Diameter

"Imperial Art Glass" is, without a doubt; the most elegant of the stretch glass lines, not only because of its base colors or shapes, but also because of the richness of its stretch effect. This line was introduced in 1916 by Imperial and represents the highest standard by which all stretch glass is compared. Unfortunately, Imperial's Art Glass was commonly called "Jewels" by later collectors and the name has continued to be attached to a lot of stretch glass, whether made by Imperial or another manufacturer.

Practically all the Art Glass was made from rather simple vase and bowl molds and all the pieces were "stuck up" for shaping and iridizing. Stuck up pieces are heat attached to a metal ring and they must be removed by breaking this attachment. This means that the bases of all the pieces had to be ground smooth. Many other pieces of stretch glass made by Imperial were placed into other lines and these pieces will have a normal foot or marie that was placed into a snap for handling.

Most of the Art Glass pieces have the IMPERIAL name within across mark. The mark may be ground off the bottom if the base was heavily ground and occasionally, the mark will be inside bowls. Some pieces do not have this mark, but their sizes, shapes and iridescence are distinctive of the Art Glass line. On the other hand, many Imperial pieces can have the cross mark, but are not necessarily part of the Art Glass line. These pieces usually have normal maries bases or other colors.

Imperial's catalog 103G lists the Art Glass line's colors. In this listing, five colors are defined: Pearl Amethyst, Pearl White, Pearl Silver, Pearl Ruby, and Pearl Green. Pearl White is a frosty white iridescence applied to crystal glass. Pearl Ruby is a heavy yellow-orange iridescence applied to crystal glass; we would call this a deep marigold today. Unfortunately, the name "ruby" has confused many into thinking that's this was a red glass. Pearly Amethyst is a multicolored iridescence applied to a medium purple glass. Pearl Silver is a shiny, silvery iridescence (often with golden overtones) applied to a dark purple glass. Pearl Green is a predominately green-gray iridescence applied to a light green (or ginger ale-colored) glass. These are the only colors "officially" listed in the catalogs.

Other colors have been found, but no Imperial names have been located. Marked and unmarked pieces that use milk glass with what appears as the Pearl Ruby iridescence have been found. There have also been some milk glass pieces with the Blue Ice iridescence applied. Blue Ice is the term used by Imperial in association with their Satin Iridescent Colors (their later line of iridescent ware that we call stretch today), Blue Ice is commonly called "smoke" today. Very rare pieces with what appear to be Pearl Ruby and Pearl Green iridescence has also been seen. To confuse things ever more, the #26 and # 28 vases appear to be the same vase that is commonly marked "NUART" on the base and these are commonly found with iridescence on emerald green glass. No name has been found to describe this effect.

Upon illustrating the Imperial Art Glass line, numbers from 1 to 88 are used in catalog pages, but several items are missing. At present, only 68 pieces have numbers associated with them, Identification of a piece usually requires careful measurement of the outside width of the base. This can be plus or minus 1/16 inch of the size listed in the drawings, probably due to the differences in the amount of glass ground off during the finishing process. The heights and final shapes of the pieces can also vary considerably.

Vases 1, 2, and 3 have a 2 3/8 inch base and are the smallest vases. Vases 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 23 have 2 3/4 inch bases. Notice that 8 is not listed though a rather common "bulb" vase shape is rather common in this size. This has been included in the illustrations. The #9 "sweet pea" and #11 "violet vase" (what we would call a Jack-in-the pulpit shape today), and #12 "nasturtium vase" are very difficult to obtain. The next series used a vase mold with a basal rim and an optic, 10-rib plunger. This includes numbers 15, 16, 17, 18,19, 20, and 21. There is no item 22 identified. Numbers 26 and 28 are tall vases with 10 optic rays, but the base was attached to a rod that produced a normal pontil. Item 27 has not been identified. The next size vase has a base of 3 1/8 inch and includes items 29, 30,and 31. The first series of bowls have a base of 2 1/2 inch and includes items 25, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 (no 37), 38, and 39. The next series of bowls have a 3 1/6-inch base and includes items 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 46.

{NOTE: Items 1 through 40 are illustrated in this newsletter, items 41 through 88 will be included in the next newsletter.}

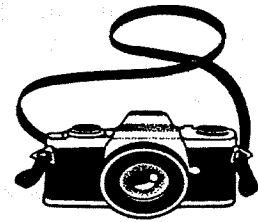
There is a gap in the listings with no items associated with number 47 through 53. The next series of bowls then have 3 7/8 inch bases and include items 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, and 59. Number 60 is a wide based bowl which I have not been able to measure, but it is listed as 8 inches wide and looks like the base should be about 6 1/2 inch wide. Items 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 68 (no 67) are small items with bases of 2 1/2 inch. Most of these small items are very difficult to obtain and are very desirable. The next series includes a variety of vases with 3 5/8 inch bases, item 70, (no 71), 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78. The last series of vases have 3 1/2 inch bases and can vary considerably in their height. There is no item 85 and 86 identified. Items 87 and 88 are 4 inch and 6 1/2 inch wide flower bowls. Since I haven't handled these bowls, their base measurements are not known.

## **THE IMPERIAL FOCUS!!!**

**John Madeley**

**F**eaturing: Imperial's Art Glass Line

**"Jewels" they are!!!!**



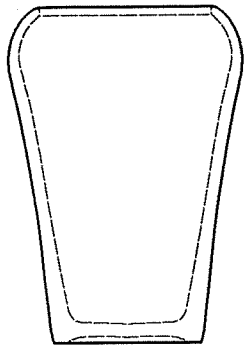
The colors represented on the color page are Pearl Green, Pearl Amethyst, Pearl White, and Pearl Ruby. Pearl Silver has not been photographed. Some of the shapes pictured can be found on the pages of line drawings in this issue and some will be available in the April issue as stated in the above article. There are several collectors in the Stretch Glass Society who have focused their "hunting" collecting Imperial Art Glass pieces, and I am sure they can attest to what a stunning display this line makes. If one considers the colors and number of shapes and sizes, you can get an idea of the number of pieces you could add to your collection. Because of its desirability, expect to pay higher prices than other stretch glass in the Imperial Line or even other manufacturers of stretch glass. Of course, we all know that the Red, Cobalt Blue, Black, etc. demand "upper end prices", as well as certain shapes and styles.

We have received a few suggestions for "Future Features" and we would greatly appreciate hearing your suggestions.....Write or Email John Madeley (stretchgls@aol.com )or myself, Jan Reichling (jrstrech@aol.com)

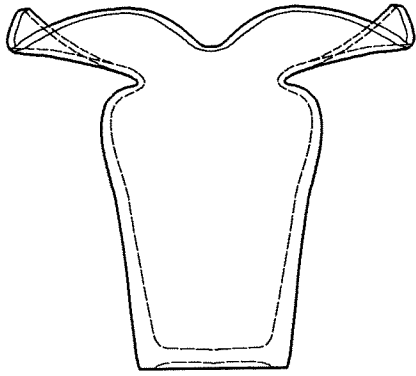
*Unusual Shapes and Colors -- One Piece or a Collection  
Stretch Glass Bought and Sold*

*William Crowl, 1500 Avery Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101  
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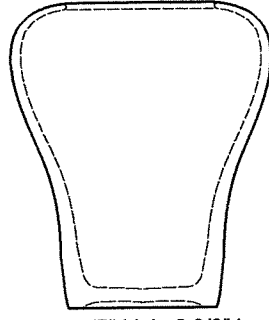




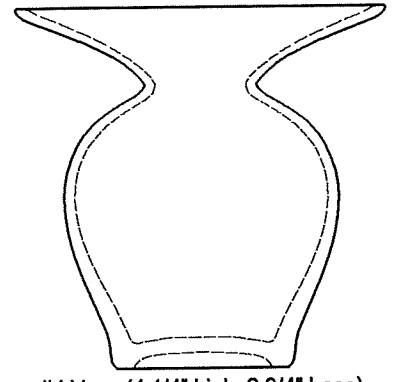
#1 Vase (4 1/4" high, 2 3/8" base)



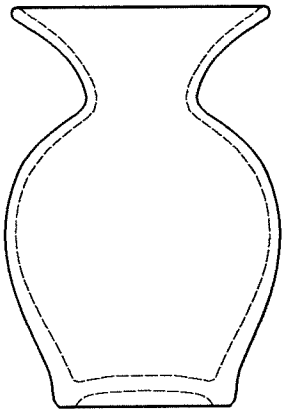
#2 Bouquet (5" high, 2 3/8" base)



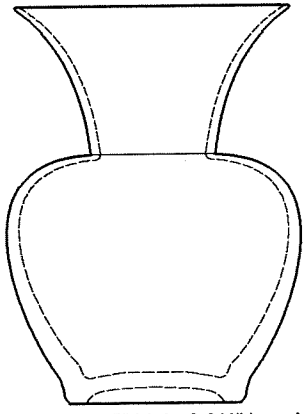
#3 Vase (5" high, 2 3/8" base)



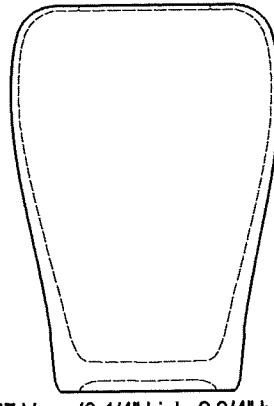
#4 Vase (4 1/4" high, 2 3/4" base)



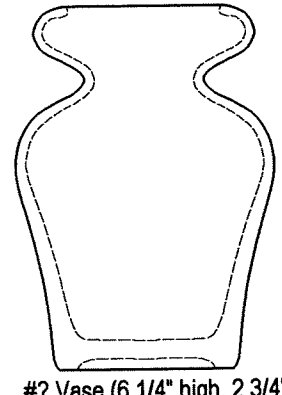
#5 Vase (5" high, 2 3/4" base)



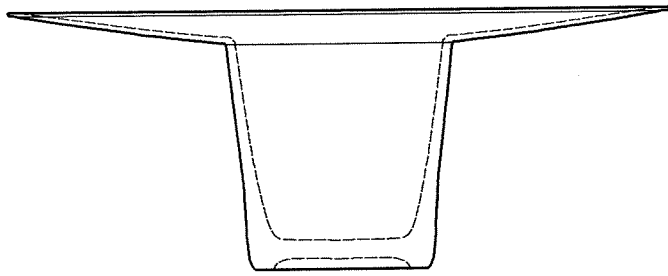
#6 Vase (5" high, 2 3/4" base)



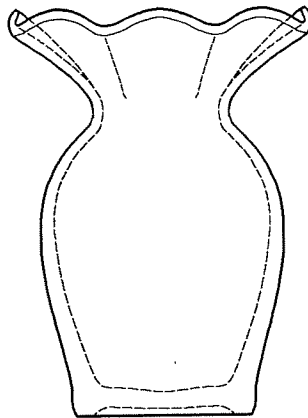
#7 Vase (6 1/4" high, 2 3/4" base)



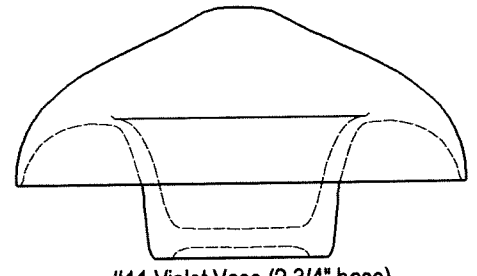
#? Vase (6 1/4" high, 2 3/4" base)



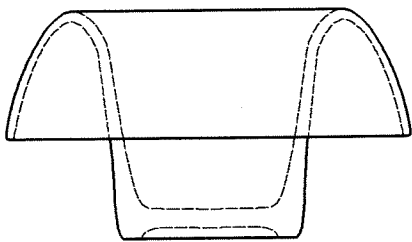
#9 Sweet Pea (8" diameter, 2 3/4" base)



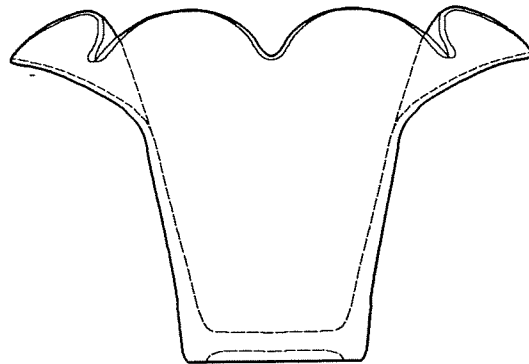
#10 Sweet Pea (crimp top, 2 3/4" base)



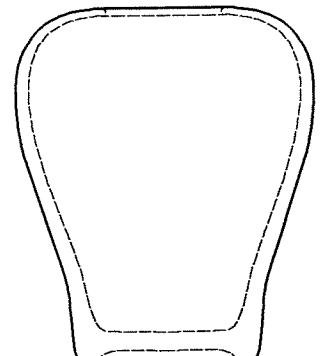
#11 Violet Vase (2 3/4" base)



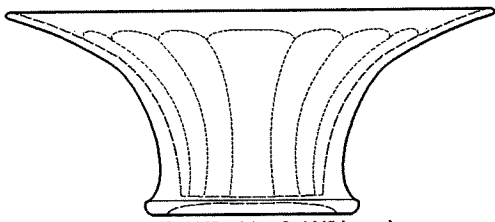
#12 Nasturtium Vase (4" high, 2 3/4" base)



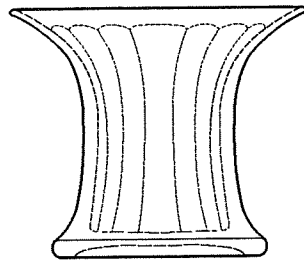
#13 Vase (5 3/4" high, 2 3/4" base)



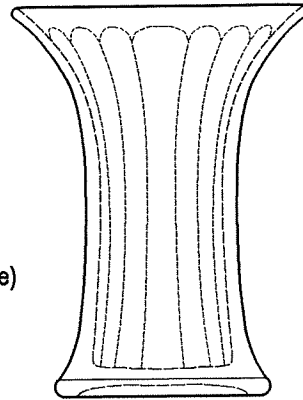
#14 Vase (5 3/4" high, 2 3/4" base)



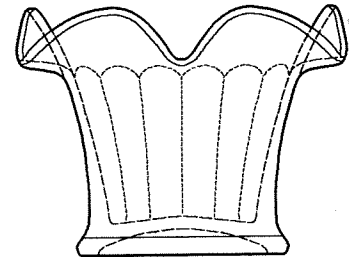
#15 Vase (6 1/4" wide, 3 1/4" base)



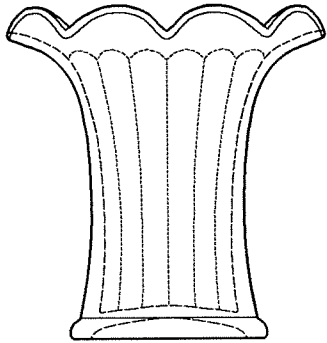
#16 Vase (2 1/2 - 5" tall, 3 1/4" base)



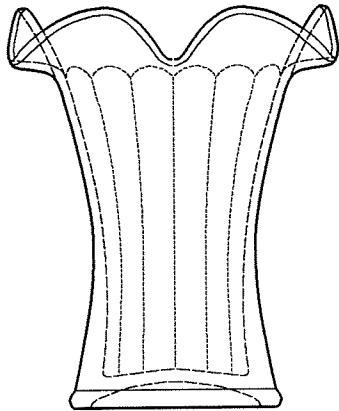
#17 Vase



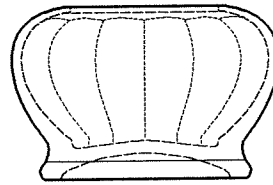
#18 Vase (6 crimps, 3 1/4" base)



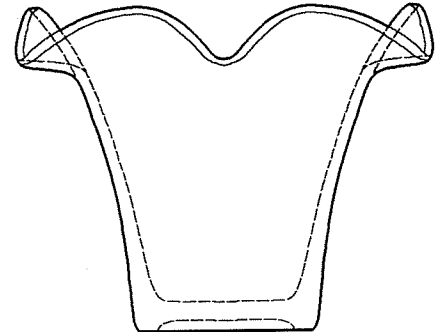
#19 Vase (8 crimps, 3 1/4" base)



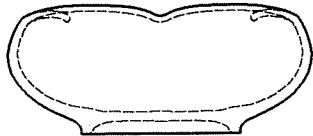
#20 Vase (6 crimps, 3 1/4" base)



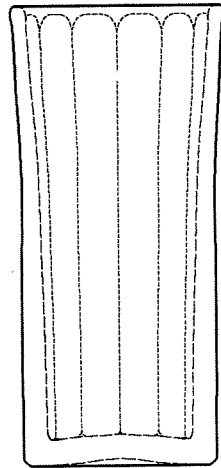
#21 Vase (cupped, 3 1/4" base)



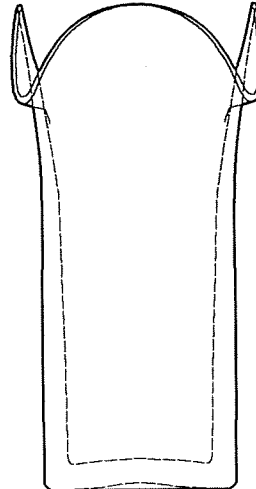
#23 Vase (6 crimp, 2 3/4" base)



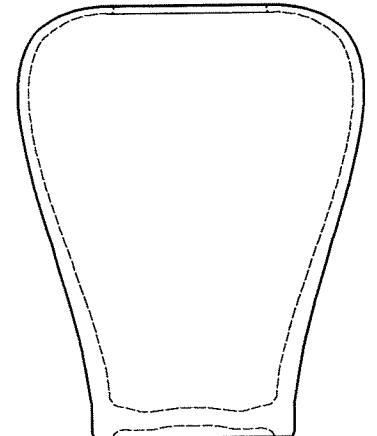
#25 Bon Bon (4 crimp, 2 1/2" base)



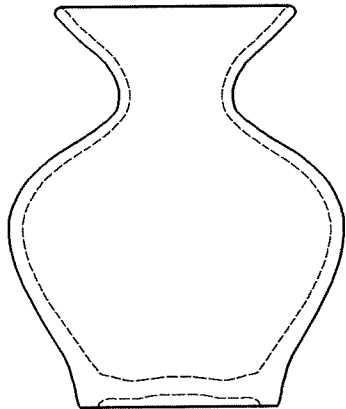
#26 Vase (10 rays, 2 3/4" base)



#28 Vase (4 crimp, 2 3/4" base)



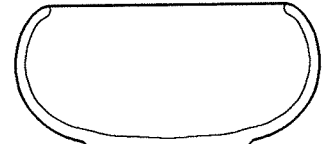
#29 Vase (6 1/2" high, 3 1/8" base)



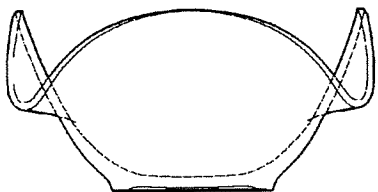
#30 Rose Bowl (6 1/4" high, 3 1/8" base)



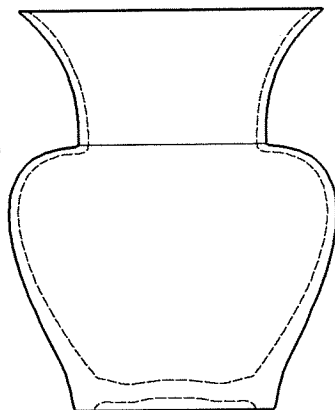
#32 Berry (6 1/4" wide, 2 1/2" base)



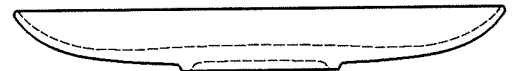
#33 Lily (4 1/2" wide, 2 1/2" base)



#34 Berry (5 3/4" wide, 2 1/2" base)



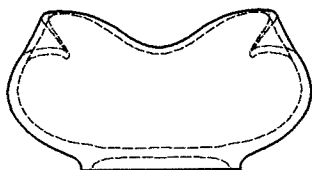
#31 Rose Bowl (6 1/4" high, 3 1/8" base)



#35 Card Receiver (7 3/4" wide, 2 1/2" base)



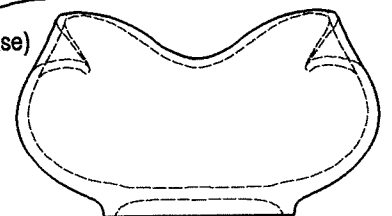
#36 Nappy (6 1/2" wide, 2 1/2" base)



#38 Bon Bon (5" wide, 2 1/2" base)



#39 Bon Bon (5" wide, 2 1/2" base)



#40 Flower (5 1/2" wide, 3 1/16" base)

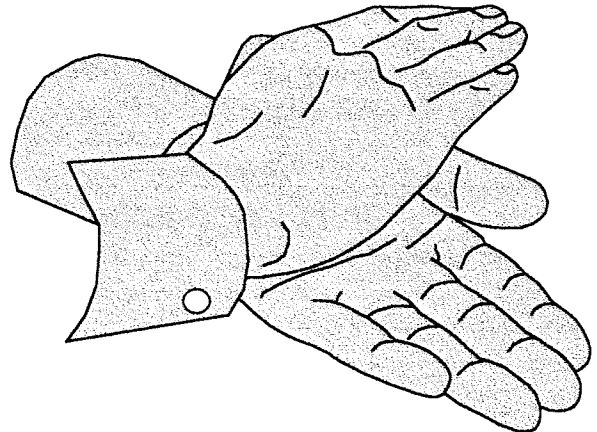
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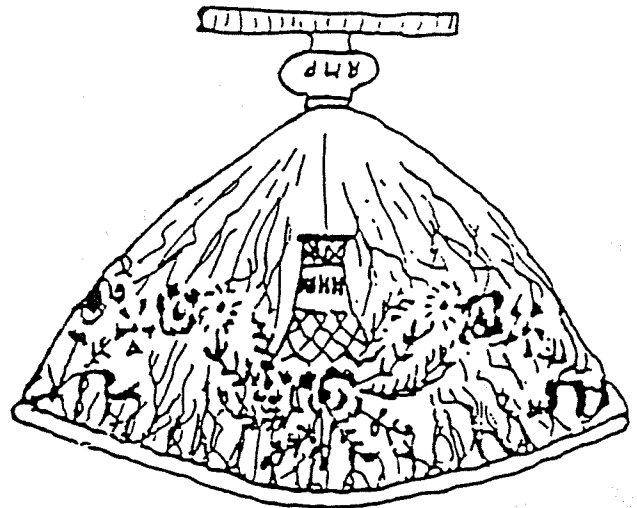
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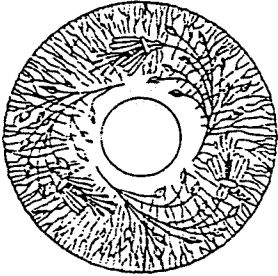
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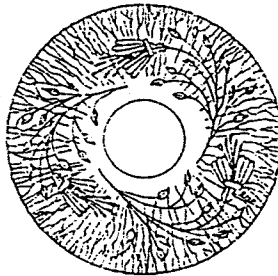
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