Fall 1943

The Steuben Collection of ANTIQUE GLASS

Antique Glass

In 1674 George Ravenscroft, an English glassmaker with glasshouses at the Savoy in London and Henley-on-Thames, began experiments which were to revolutionize glassmaking. He was confident that a new and finer glass could be obtained by the substitution of lead for lime. By 1676 his efforts were rewarded and "glass of lead" was perfected, heralding a long and noteworthy history for the English and Irish glass houses.

Steuben, maker of America's famed Steuben crystal, is proud to offer an unusual collection of antique glass produced by the 17th and 18th century artisans working the Ravenscroft formula. It is the largest, finest and most complete one of its kind exhibited in this country—not exempting museums—and is housed in a room especially designed and lighted for it.

Pieces in the Steuben antique assemblage date from 1674 when the Ravenscroft experiments began; and this date is represented in the collection by a footed glass tray or salver—one of the few examples of this experimental period to have survived the ravages of time. They follow through to ornately cut Regency candlesticks, Circa 1820—range in size from a scent flask as small as a lima bean to rare Adam wall sconces nearly

three feet high. A Pretender goblet and Jacobite wine glasses to commemorate the attempt to place the Stuarts on the throne of England stand opposite a lovely pair of early Irish candelabra, and complete sets of drinking glasses, unusual to find, flank one wall.

A famous antique critic, in speaking of this display, says that "never has a better lot of glass of these periods been brought to this country and . . . . . never have I seen before one that made such a deep impression on my memory." He goes on to say that English and Irish glass has not been collected in this country to any extent. Antique dealers from time to time have had maybe half a dozen pieces in their china, furniture and silver collections—some candelabra, a few salt cellars and pepper castors, a dish or a bowl, but these have not been enough to stimulate the interest it should properly be accorded. And, until the Steuben pieces were imported, people had been unable to see in quantity, the actual antique glass which forms one of the loveliest additions as well as the finishing touch to rooms decorated in the periods of this era of English life.

Steuben has been receiving antique glass since 1941 from one of the foremost authorities in England, adding to the display as sets and individual pieces are sold. One particular shipment was involved in a curious mishap which occurred in October, 1941—the attack and sinking by enemy action of the S. S. Antiope in the North Sea where it had just started its journey to America—the Steuben consignment aboard. In December, 1941, such

items as tapersticks, water jugs, decanters, table glass and finger bowls—still intact in their packing case stuffed with tissue paper, newspaper and excelsior—were washed up on the east coast of England near King's Lynn, a small coastal town in Norfolk which, during the 18th century, was the first site of a lead glass works where fine sand was immediately adjacent. This glass was received in March, 1942 and it included specific pieces which were made at Lynn from the Lynn sand and the Ravenscroft formula.

Through the collection, Steuben is helping to develop a better understanding and a more extensive appreciation of old glass. It is hoped that the retrospective display will inspire a new and separate interest in antique objects which have inherent beauty as well as practical purpose. It will certainly help one to choose in the future with greater accuracy the antique glass to be added to existing glass collections, and to select useful objects which represent very real and valuable "securities"—securities which will become more and more priceless as time goes by.

STEUBEN GLASS, INC. 718 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 19

Candelabra

During the eighteenth century great English and Irish houses, despite the importance of the owners, depended solely upon candles for illumination. Chandeliers, wall lights, candelabra and candlesticks provided the means to hold the candles lighting the beautifully appointed rooms. Candelabra were utilized on dining tables, side boards, and mantels, where they could be moved about to suit the circumstances. In the reign of George I glass candelabra appeared and, because of the brilliance reflected by the prismatic spires and diamond like pear drops, soon attained equal importance to silver ones. It is fortunate that a few fine examples have survived until today to complement American drawing rooms and dining rooms of period design.

Shown opposite, one of a pair of two-light candelabra, with urn shaped finials characteristic of Adam design, is a superb example from one of the most charming periods in English decorative history. Supported on heavy square cut bases surmounted by tall triangular shafts it is festooned with brilliant pear drop garlands. Over all it measures 24½″ in height.

From the collection of Sir Edmund Davis, Chilham Castle, Kent; a famous English collector.

England *circa* 1790 — pair $1750.

Others, singly and in pairs — $375. to $2850.

Sweetmeats

One of the most prized possessions of an English glass collector is the 18th century sweetmeat glass. These beautiful specimens of the English and Irish glass makers art are found in a variety of sizes and designs, as indicated by the accompanying illustration. In almost every instance the edges are scalloped or serrated, indicating their use for sweets rather than for beverages. From top to bottom.

A rare example of an early sweetmeat with flat cut bowl resting on a molded Silesian stem and circular domed foot. 6″ high.

England *circa* 1755 $145.

This interesting Irish glass with double ogee bowl, a band of flat cutting and a faceted stem supported by an octagonal cut foot. 5⅞″ high.

Ireland *circa* 1785 $75.

Of unusual rarity is the small specimen opposite, having a double ogee bowl with molded tooth edge and white opaque twist stem mounted on rib molded foot. Illustrated in Thorpe "English Glass" Plate CLIII Lower Center 3½″ high. From the Joseph Bles collection.

England *circa* 1750—1760 $75.

Numerous other examples of all periods $65. to $285.

Finger Bowls

Toward the latter part of the eighteenth century, finger bowls were of great importance to the function of dining. They were used principally to rinse wine glasses, because hostesses of the period did not have a different glass for each wine served. Some typical examples are shown opposite. From top to bottom.

Rarely does one find such a superb set of bowls. It contains ten pieces of exceptional quality, each with a scalloped and pointed edge seldom found. 4⅞″ diameter.

Ireland *circa* 1780 — Set $475.

Seven plain finger bowls with comb-cut bases and a double lip, which held the stem of a wine glass to keep it from rolling round the edge of the bowl. 4½″ diameter.

England *circa* 1810 — Set $125.

It is remarkable to find a set of fourteen pieces intact, but these are exceptionally heavy glass. The design, cut printies, was one employed by the Waterford cutters. 4⅛″ diameter.

Ireland *circa* 1810 — Set $280.

A set of six early bowls of unusually small size having engraved and cut design; from the collection of the Duke of Buckingham. 3⅞″ diameter.

England *circa* 1775 — Set $240.

Other sets in clear and colored glass — $84. to $475.

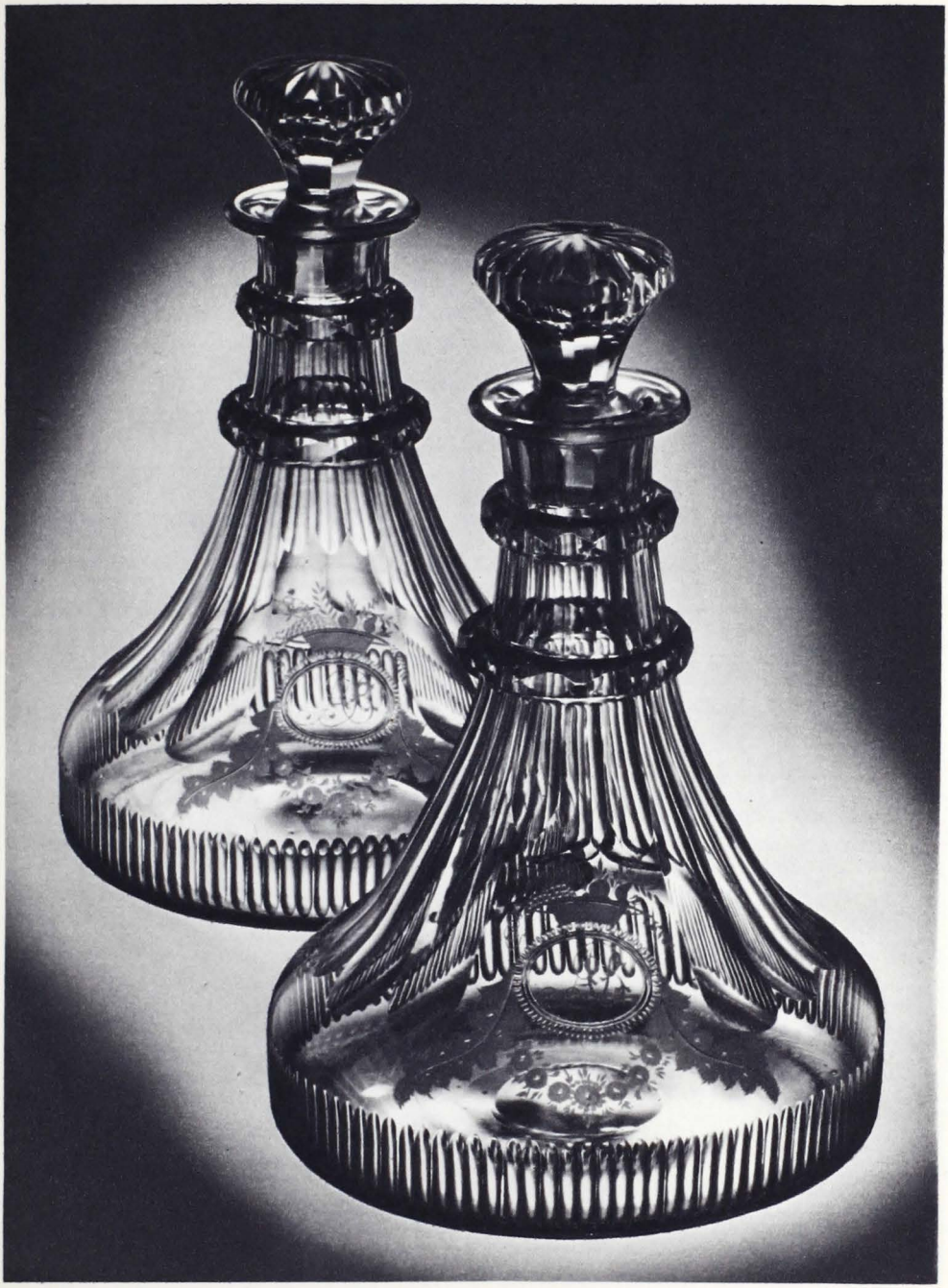
Decanters

Two hundred years ago an Englishman with a taste for wines and liquors, had need for numerous decanters. Before large scale production of bottles, he bought his spirits in kegs, which were kept in the cellar. Decanters were filled as required from the large unwieldy casks.

One of the rarest forms of decanters is the ships decanters with the wide flaring base insuring stability against the motion of a ship. The pair opposite is extremely rare and unusually fine. Both are cut with infinite care and bear the initials A.B., engraved within a medallion. 10″ high. England *circa* 1800 pair $425.

There are many other decanters represented in the collection, dating from 1720 and showing the transition from the early sealed wine bottles to the more familiar designs of the early 19th century.

Single, pairs, and sets of four from $30. to $425.

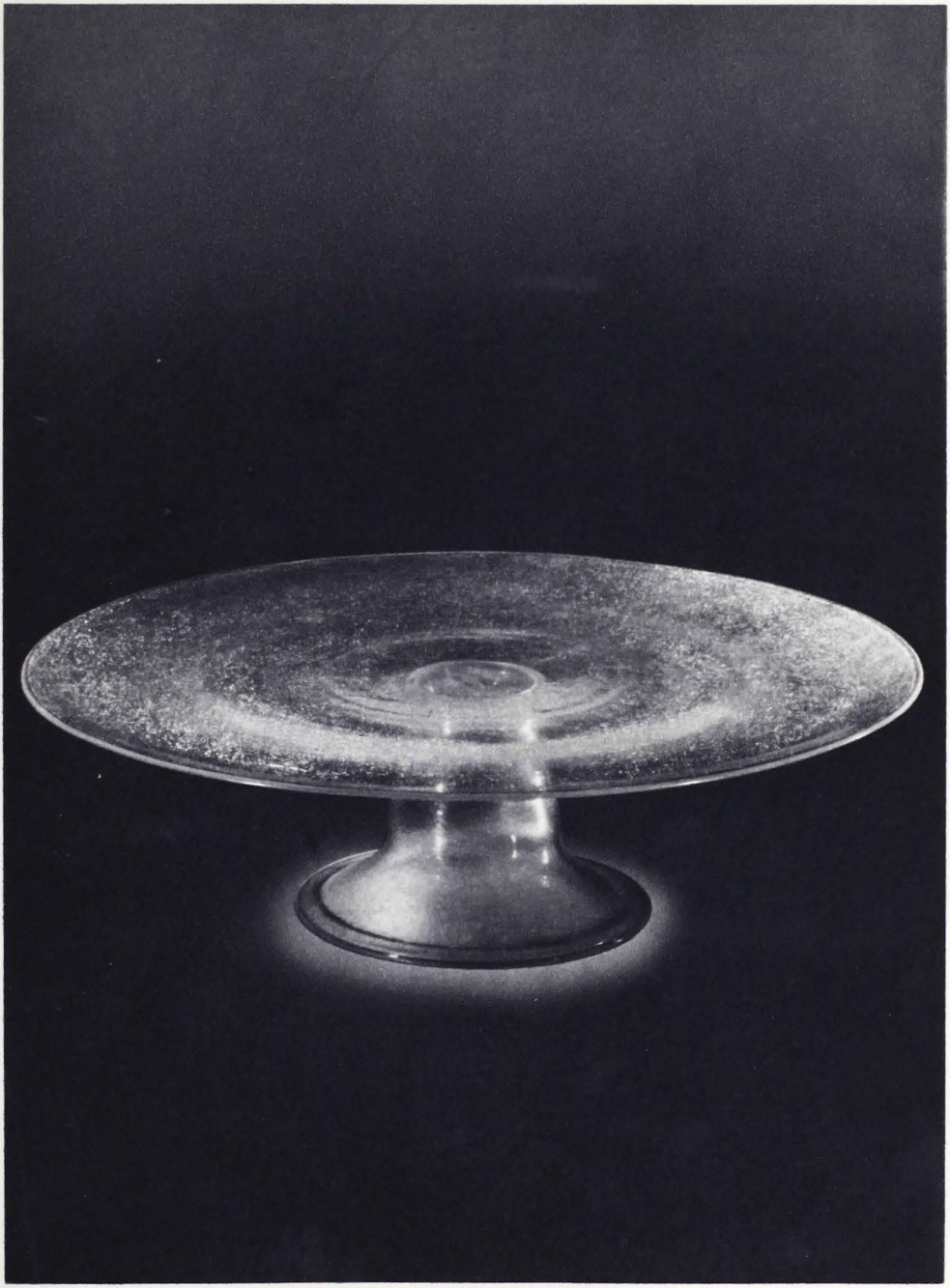


Rare Salver

Collectors will be profoundly interested in the footed salver or tray shown here. It is an excessively rare specimen and one of the earliest pieces of lead glass in this country. It has been attributed to George Ravenscroft, the inventor of lead glass, by two leading authorities in England who state that it was "made during the experimental period, 1674 to 1676, when Ravenscroft was struggling with his new formula." The surface of the salver is marked with crizzling (minute cracks) and becomes cloudy shortly after washing, both characteristic of the first lead glass.

The salver was found near Henley-on-Thames, the site of one of Ravenscroft's glass houses, the other being situated at the Savoy in London. Its discovery was the subject of an illustrated article in English Country Life, October, 1942, written by a former curator of the Victoria & Albert Museum. 13⅜″ diameter—4″ high.

England *circa* 1674 Permanent Steuben Collection



Butter Dishes

Two handled butter dishes have undoubtedly evolved from piggins, or dippers of an earlier period. Early piggins were fashioned from wood, silver and glass and served as dippers for liquids of all kind. The piggin, about as large as a cup, had one flat handle rising vertically two to four inches above the brim of the bowl. Later it was enlarged and a second handle added, and finally the bowl assumed the oval shape found in the butter coolers during the latter part of the eighteenth century.

The pair opposite have all the characteristics of the period. They are decorated with a band of diamond cutting around the center and the beautifully curved handles are bevel cut along the vertical axis. 8″ long, 4½″ wide.

Ireland *circa* 1800	pair $245.
Others, singly and in pairs	$40. to $450.

Tapersticks

Of particular interest are the charming tapersticks presented here. Small, perfectly formed miniature candlesticks, they were used on 17th and 18th century writing desks for melting sealing wax. Early ones have feet and stems strongly reflecting those of drinking glasses of the period. From left to right.

This extremely rare Queen Anne stick exemplifies the best in period tradition. Its baluster stem and terrace molded foot follows closely the form found in wine and cordial glasses. From the Ligerwood Collection 6½″ high.

England *circa* 1710 $225.

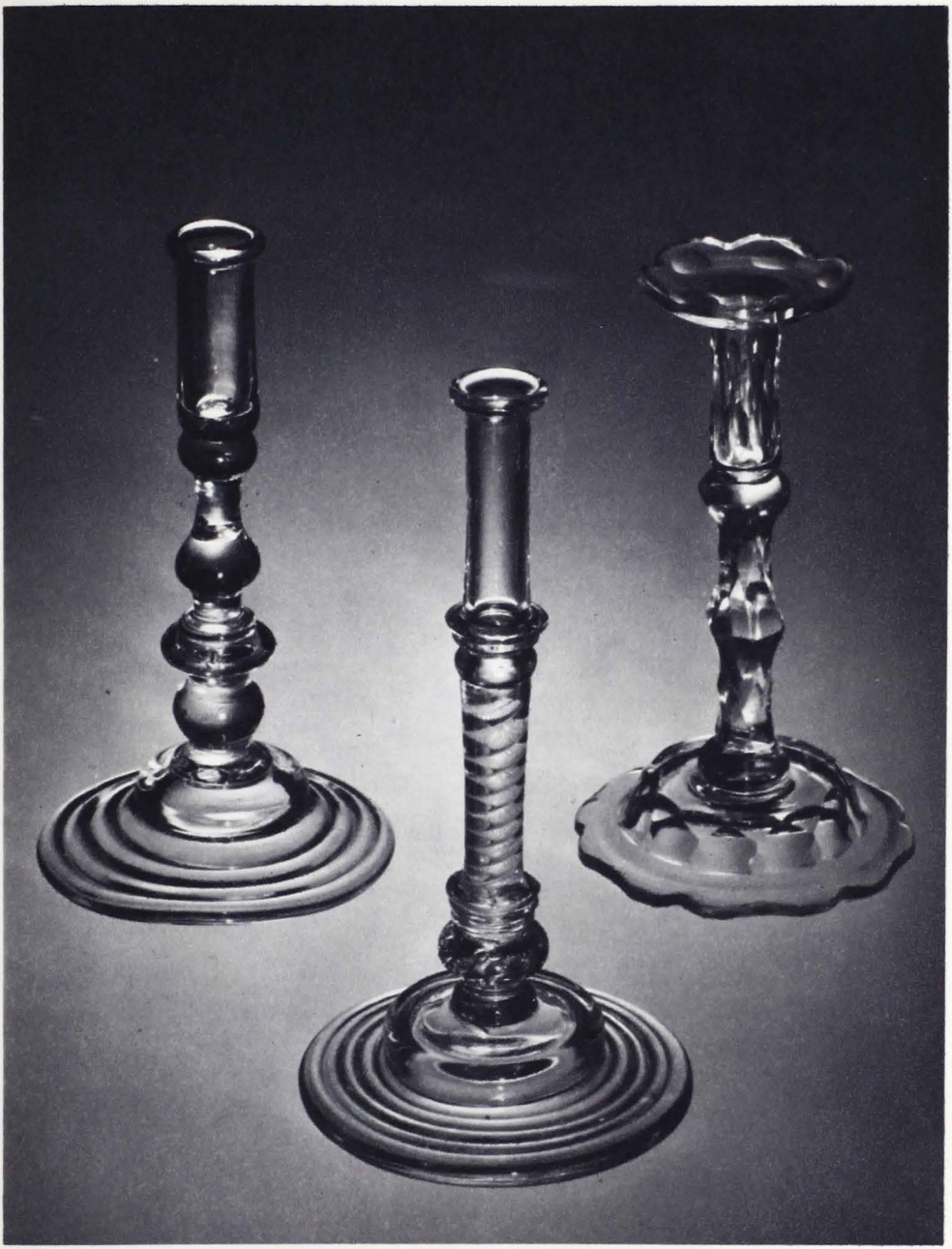
A pair of unique tapersticks is rarely found. The white opaque twist stem prevailed during the George II period but the terrace molded foot is carried over from the preceding period. 7″ high.

England *circa* 1750–60 pair $650.

The Irish taperstick on the right is typical of the traditional excellence of Irish cut glass. 6″ high.

Ireland *circa* 1780 $110.

Others dating from 1690 $95 to $650.



Jugs

The wide variety of shapes and sizes in which Jugs are found make them extremely desirable to collectors. Many are engraved with inscriptions commemorating great battles and historical events. Others bear coats of arms, monograms or simple designs of flowers and fruits. Of particular interest is a pitcher engraved with the head of the Duke of Wellington to honor the memory of Waterloo.

Pictured here is yet another type. Decorated with a band of large diamond cutting and broad perpendicular flutes, it represents an excellent example in Irish cutting. 7½″ high.

Ireland *circa* 1800	$125.
Others	$55. to $210.

Plates

It is fortunate that a few sets of antique glass plates remain, for they were not generally used in the latter part of the 18th century. Those specimens which have come down the years are magnificent examples of the glass cutters art. The majority of plates are of small size with deep centers, probably for the service of ices and sherbets. Only a few are large enough to have served as dessert plates.

At the top is shown one of eleven deep ice plates with serrated turnover-edge, beautifully cut with band of small diamonds and multipointed star cut center. 6¾″ diameter.

England *circa* 1810 — set of 11, $330.

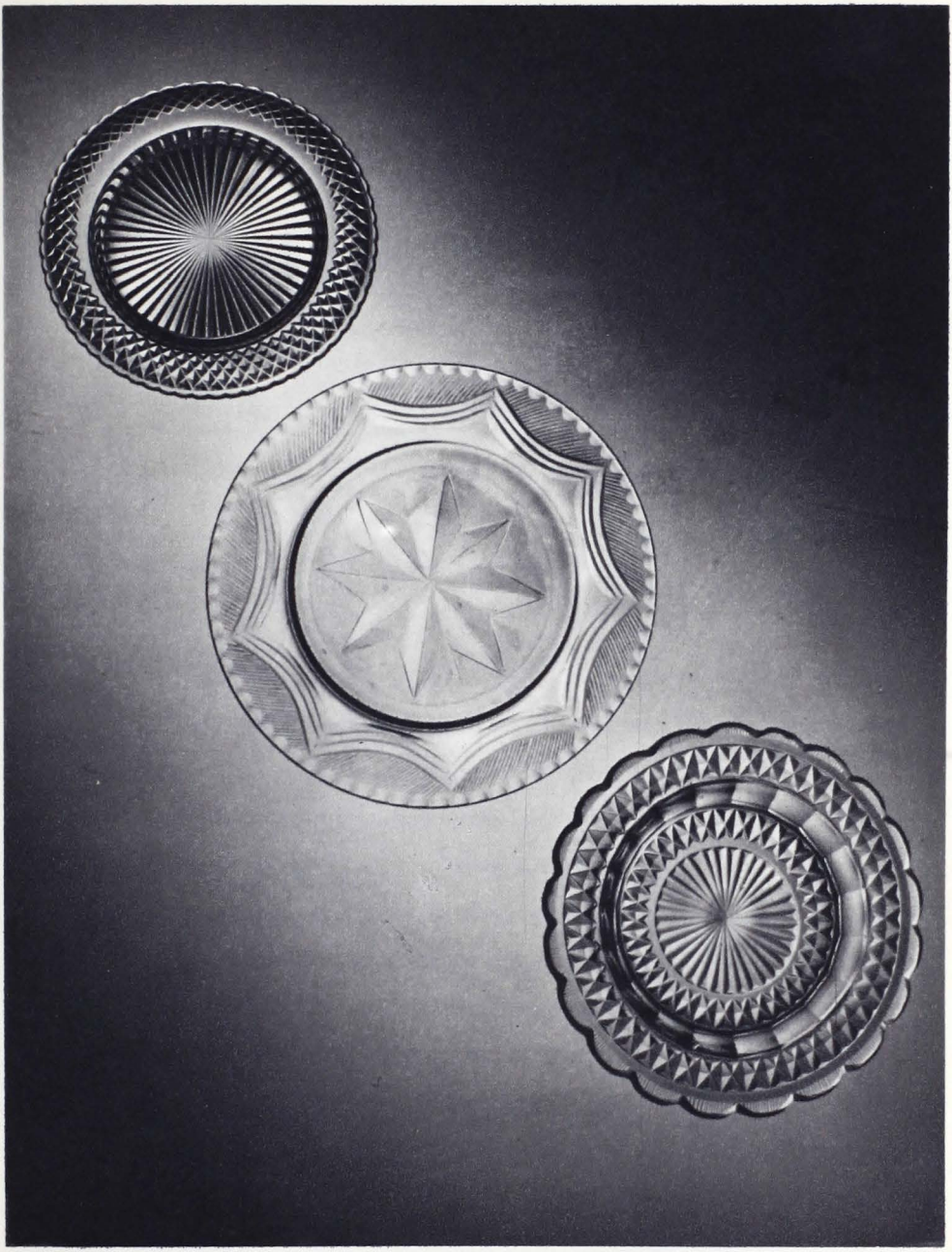
In the center is illustrated one of the few dessert plates in the collection. It is an excellent example of flat cutting. The eight pointed star is unusual. 9¼″ diameter.

Ireland *circa* 1790 — set of 12, $540.

On the bottom is another fine ice plate, one of six. A scalloped edge is enhanced by the double band of elongated diamond cutting and star cut base. 7½″ diameter.

Ireland *circa* 1790 — set of 6, $240.

Other sets — $240. to $540.



Candlesticks

The trend of candlestick design from 1690 to 1820 is clearly marked by examples handed down. Until the middle of the 18th century candlesticks closely followed the form of silver ones. Stems were plain with air beaded knops imitating the more elaborate gadrooning which the silversmiths applied. As the century progressed more elaboarate shapes developed. Star cut pans adorned with garlands of faceted pear drops were prevalent. Early in the 19th century candlesticks were decorated even more with faceted buttons and long icicle pendants.

The magnificent pair shown are from the finest Irish cut glass period. The swirl cut, urn shaped columns are most unusual and rarely found. 11″ high.

Ireland *circa* 1780 — pair $495.

Other pairs — $145. to $650.

Tea Caddies

The tax on tea, which provoked the Boston Tea Party in New England, had its effect as well on Englishmen in London. Tea was very expensive and consequently was carefully guarded in locked cabinets made especially for the purpose. These cabinets became known as tea caddies, and were used both at home and on travels. Boxes were of magnificent quality, finely lacquered, inlaid wood or veneered in tortoise shell with mother of pearl inlay. They were fitted with two or more tea bottles and a mixing bowl of variously decorated glass.

A remarkable example is the fitted tea caddy shown here. The satinwood case of superb color, inlaid with scroll border, has a silver loop handle and is lined with blue velvet. It is fitted with three cut glass tea containers, having silver lids engraved with a crest. 11″ long, 6″ high, 5½″ deep.

England *circa* 1795–1800	$485.
Other bottles and caddies	$125. to $485.

Paperweights

Most of the fine paperweights were made in France during the middle 19th century—some fine specimens bearing the dates from 1845 to 1849. The date appears among the canes and can readily be distinguished. The best weights are the product of the glass houses at Baccarat, St. Louis and Clichy. The outstanding feature of these fine weights is manifest in brilliantly colored canes and the clarity of the enveloping crystal.

Baccarat with animal canes, set in rare red close caned background, dated B 1848. $525.

Clichy with multi-colored canes on deep opaque blue background. *circa* 1848 $165.

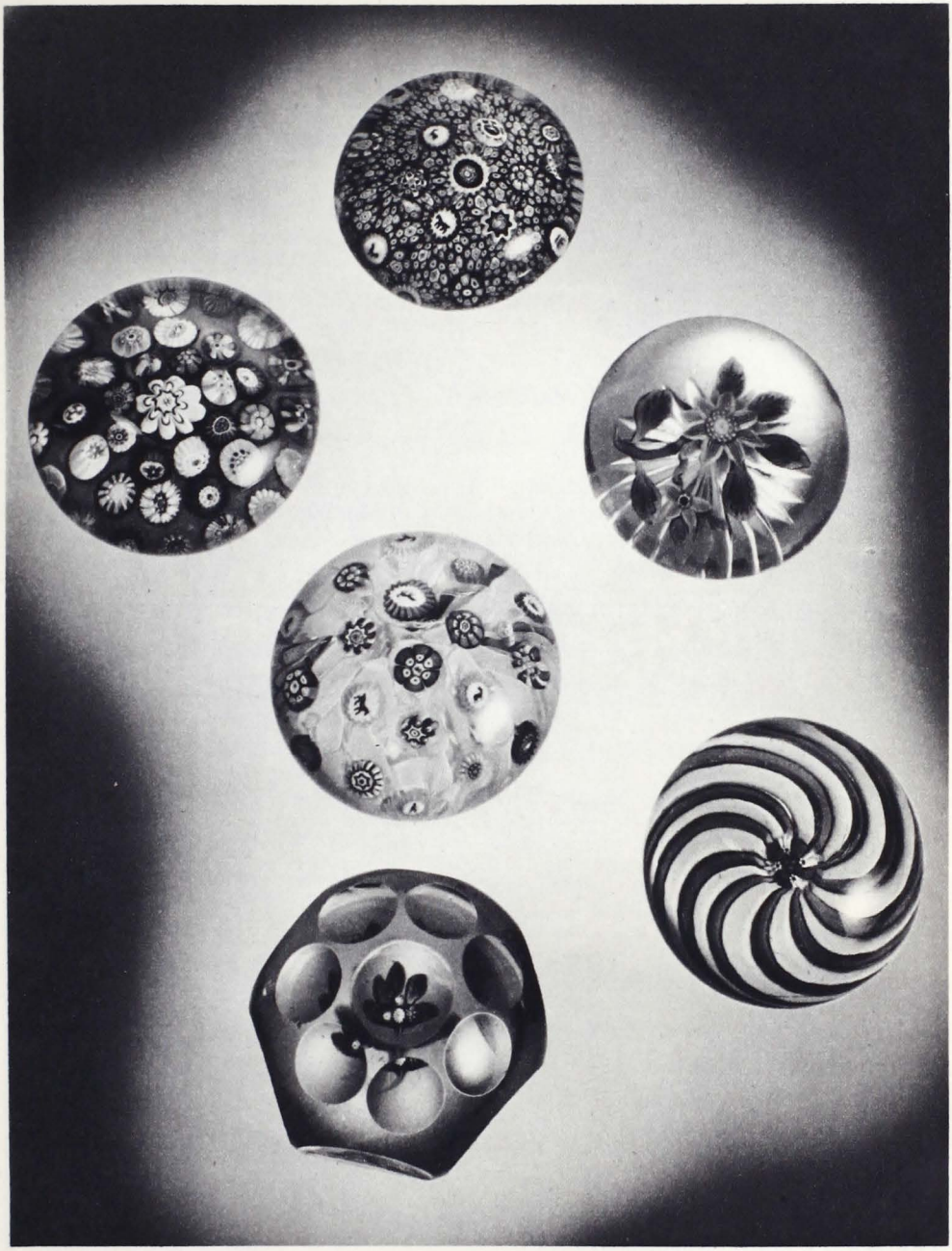
Baccarat—pink flowers—bright green leaves in clear crystal casing, star cut base. *circa* 1848. $125.

Fine Baccarat specimen with brilliant animal canes set in white latticino background dated B 1848. $265.

Interesting white and green swirl—mauve and white center cane. Clichy *circa* 1848. $125.

Hexagonal paperweight, top cut in circular facets enclosing small bouquet of bright flowers and green leaves, base of amber glass. Baccarat *circa* 1848. $95.

Other paperweights $85 to $850.



Covered Urns

Early in the 18th century covered urns came into vogue. These early pieces had molded ribs and were the forerunners of later varieties of flat cutting. A diversity of design enhances their value as decorative and useful objects, in addition to being collectors items of importance.

Pairs of covered urns are becoming increasingly difficult to find and the ones opposite are exceptional. They are decorated with fine cutting of flat diamonds, typical of the period, and are supported on square feet. The domed covers are surmounted by flame cut finials of unusual interest. 10″ high.

Ireland *circa* 1790	pair $475.
Others, singly and in pairs	$85 to $575.

Table Glass

In 1750 entertaining was a lavish formality. Visiting aristocrats traveled with large retinues of courtiers and servants, calling for enormous services of silver, china and glass. A few of the pieces from these vast sets of glass have survived and are now highly prized by collector and hostess alike. Examples dating from 1730 and including goblets, wines and cordials form an imposing section of the Steuben Antique collection.

To the left is one of a set of six exceptionally large goblets cut with broad finger fluting, standing on a heavy square base.

England *circa* 1800 — set of 6, $245.

On the right is one of a set of seven exceptionally rare goblets having the unusual bucket bowl. Its foot and stem, both square cut, are of particular interest as this form was difficult to make and is rarely found.

Ireland *circa* 1795 — set of 7, $285.

Other sets — $42. to $420.

Collectors Glasses

For those who have longed to collect antique glass, single specimen glasses afford a splended opportunity to begin. The nucleus of a fine collection of English and Irish glass can be formed by acquiring a few pieces representing a century of glass making. Once started, there are infinite possibilities for expansion according to the dictates and asperations of the individual.

The four glasses reproduced here have all the requisites for a superb beginning. From left to right: A baluster stem goblet with ridged and ball knopped stem and circular domed foot, typical of the baluster stem of the period. From the Davidson Collection. 7¾" high.

England *circa* 1700 **$135.**

Rare wine glass with double ogee bowl and molded Silesian stem, introduced into England in 1714 by the House of Hanover.

England *circa* 1720 **$95.**

Unusual wine glass with lipped bowl and a mercury corkscrew air twist stem, used during the middle of the century.

England *circa* 1745 **$75.**

Very rare cordial with filigree opaque white twist stem. Bowl decorated in brilliant enamel by Beilby, the best known enameller of the day.

England *circa* 1765 **$275.**

Other single specimens of all periods **$35 to $675.**

Bristol Glass

One of the very rarest types of early English glass is the opaque white glass of Bristol. There is very little extant today. Bristol, a seaport in southwest England, has been an important glass center since the beginning of the 18th century. About 1760 one Bristol glass maker experimented with a formula containing oxide of tin, making glass which looked like fine porcelain. The glass so fashioned was then decorated with colorful designs, resulting in porcelain-like objects of unusual beauty. However, the process was expensive and its products could not compete with the potteries, so was abandoned after a short time.

It is remarkable to find a perfect pair of candlesticks like the one illustrated. Each stick has a wrythen stem (tightly twisted flutes) and is decorated in enamel of brilliant color with flowers and butterflies. The enameling was applied by Michael Edkin, the foremost artist of the Bristol glasshouses of the period. 9⅜″ high.

England *circa* 1765 pair $775.

Other examples of Bristol opaque white glass in the Steuben Collection: A single candlestick from the Leslie Collection—$375, and a pepper castor with silver top—$210.

Bowls

Diverse and varied designs have given old English and Irish bowls considerable importance in the collectors catalog. No two are alike. They are circular and boat shaped, large and small, cut and molded. Edges are vandyked and scalloped or turned over, bases square or oval. All are equally beautiful as decoration of themselves or containers for fruit and flowers.

This boat-shaped bowl is a fine specimen, cut with the leaf and star band of the period. It stands on a plain molded stem and diamond shaped molded foot. 13¼″ long, 8″ high.

Ireland *circa* 1785	$375.
Other bowls	$55 to $650.

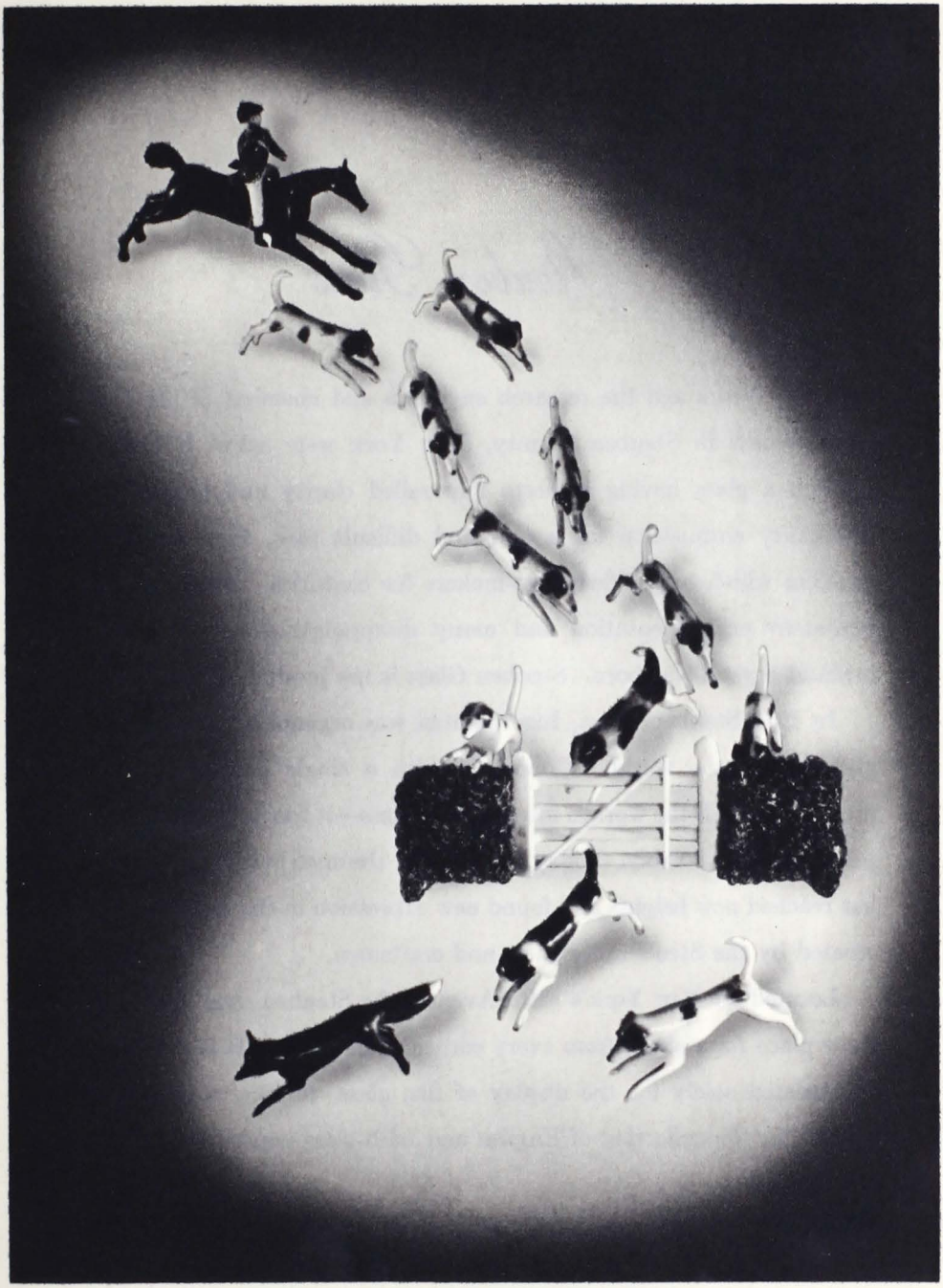
Oddities

Glass blowers, like other humans, had their frivolous moments, and in their spare time turned their skill to amuse themselves. As a result many intriguing objects have been passed along from generation to generation. Such items as boots, fencing foils, coaching horns, trick drinking glasses and even a smoker's pipe of unusual size. Sometimes a sentimental note appeared in minute scent flasks marked with two sets of initials, a heart and the date. Most of the whimsical offerings were done in colored glass.

The unusual hunt set portrayed here is one such. Each figure is remarkably life like and executed in its natural color. The huntsman, mounted on a chestnut horse, wears the traditional pink coat and white breeches. A red fox is being pursued by spotted hounds in full cry, over a white gate flanked by a green hedge. It is an extremely rare example of Bristol glass.

England *circa* 1800 — set $475.

Other oddities — $18 to $475.



Steuben Glass

Twenty years ago the research engineers and chemists of the Corning Glass Works in Steuben County, New York were asked if they could develop a glass having hitherto unparalled clarity and beauty. With customary enthusiasm for a new and difficult task, they attacked the problem which had defied glass-makers for centuries. Years later, after persistent experimentation and many disappointments, a water clear, brilliant crystal was born. Steuben Glass is the product of that diligence.

In 1933 Steuben Glass, Incorporated was organized to bring the new glass before the world. Conceived with a single purpose—to design, produce and sell the world's most perfect glass—it has held to the exacting principles unshakeably. Today, in America, the ancient art of glass blowing has reached new heights and found new expression in the wondrous crystal created by the Steuben designers and craftsmen.

Located on New York's Fifth Avenue, the Steuben shop has become a show place for visitors from every corner of the globe. It is designed and constructed solely for the display of fine glass, forming a unique background for the collection of English and Irish glass housed in the Antique Room.

STEUBEN GLASS, INC. 718 Fifth Avenue New York 19, New York

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