

The Shamrock cookie jar.

Perhaps the legrechauns had something to do with creating the captivating Irish Belleek china which has charmed collectors for 130 year. The discovery of a special fine white clay in northwestern Ireland in the 1850s started this industry which still thrives today, producing a translucent china that glows from within. Belleek is Irish, and the shamrock is Irish, so it is only natural that almsot from the first the factory produced its shamrock ware. Many of the molds still in use today were first made between 1860-1890. The decorations are handpaitned and a pearlized glaze give it the unique feature. The only way you can tell how old a piece of Belleek you have is by the trademark stamped on the bottom of the jar. the romantic Irish wolfhound, harp, and castle, over the word Belleek. The simpler the mark, the older the china, and the more valuable and collectible. The black marks came first, then green marks after World War II, and now the marks are in gold. Belleek can be purchased in fine department and import stores.

Even the new peices are made in small quantities, thus assurign their colelctibility and increasing value.

The handle is made to resemble a stem.

I was too impatient to wait until I could find - or afford - an antique Belleek jar, so I bought a new one, that is made from the same molds that were made 100 years ago. You can only tell the age by the gold mark on the bottom of the jar. Someday, when I give this to my grandchildren or great-grandchildren, it may have increased in value too.

### Torquay pottery

You can't collect everything; where would you put it? That is why I seldom buy a pottery cookie jar for my collection. But I made an exception for the motto ware jar by Torquay. Most people cannot resist the charm of Torquay, and I can't either.

The discovery of a unique red clay in the very southwest tip of England in the Victorian era spawned a burgeoning business in terra cotta pottery, revered by the Victorians, and even grand enough to make terra cotta pieces as special gifts for Queen Victoria.

Alas, by 1900, the bottom had dropped out of the red clay market. To survive, the little family owned factories in the area sought another pottery best seller. They found it in the painted and glazed Motto ware, they made out of their red clay, appealing to

the tourist trade and advertising industries all over the world

who ordered their pieces for promotion.

Torquay is decorated in several patterns also, which go well with the country decorating now in vogue. The Black cockerel, the blue Kingfisher, the Scandy pattern (similar to Norwegian rosemaling and Scandy is possibly short for Scandinavian., and the cottage patterns. The mottos can be humorous, moralistic, or anything, but for sure they appeal to all of us.

Originally considered a "cheap" product which one could pick up for pennies, now prices have escalated all over Britain and the United States, Local clubs have banded to study Torquay and there is an international Torquay Society headquartered in England that holds annual meetings.

### Pink Open Lace Pattern

What plebian articles are we throwing away now that our grandchildren will collect 50 years from now?

The depression's glass, the giveaways with soaps and cereal during the 1930s and 1940s, are now eagerly collected, there are

depression glass clubs, and depression glass shows held regularly throughout the country.

Scorned when it was issued, because it was only a cheap relative of the more beautiful art glass, now we can appreciate the patterns and colors in their own right. No longer cheap, but at least it is still more affordable than the Victorian Art Glass and alter.

\*The pink open lace pattern can still be found at shows and flea markets for affordable prices, and it is practical besides. It is

the only cookie jar originally advertised by the manufacturer that could also be ordered for use as a fish bowl, only available in the crystal, however, not the pink

### Carnival Glass

I was a snob as a little girl during the 1920s and 1930s. We thought that carnival glass, sometimes given away as gifts in carnival booths, was cheap and tacky, almost as tacky as depression glass. Now I love it.

Carnival glass was manufactured throughout the world during 189-01920s, the biggest manufacturers were in the United States.

There were thousands of patterns manufactured and made in the most common colors of marigold, green and purple. Smaller amounts were made in all of the other colors of the rainbow, including black.

According to an antique book I have that catalogs carnival patterns, cookie jars were not made in very many patterns.

The outstanding feature of carnival glass is its iridescence, and the original manufacturers patented many secret processes, which were promptly stolen and adapted by other manufacturers.

The most common way to produce the iridescence was by doing such and so. Heavy and exquisite, I love both of mine and feel lucky to have them.

### Grape Carnival Glass

Some carnival glass is still being produced today. or at least in current times. The Fenton Glass company of ?? has been in business from 19 to the present. Indeed, three books have just

come out that are great for collectors, cataloging all of the glass that Fenton has made.

I have a big pitcher in the same pattern, and a goblet that originally came with a candle in it as a Christmas gift.

## The Love Story Jar

Some current collectibles can be just as charming as the old antiques. I was excited to find this cookie jar, with its gold color glass and its gold colored leaves and tendrils surrounding the glass and the gold rim, lid and bail. The only mark on the bottom is a taped on piece of paper on which is printed Love Story.

An added treat is that a music box is hidden under the domed lid and when the lid is removed, you hear the tinkling strains of Love Story. The word Japan is molded in the bottom of the glass. Was it created to cash in on the romance of the Love Story movie starring Ali McGraw and

tHE Doulton Procelain Jar.

Surely one of my appealing jars, this was made in England

aorund the 1900s and has the Doulton mark on the bottom of the

jar.