

Glass of the Month Article: DEPRESSION GLASS

Depression Era Glass — 1927-1939

Brief History:

With advances in manufacturing technology during the Industrial Revolution, American glass making came into its own during the Depression Era. Factories that were build before the Depression began were in a good position to deliver an inexpensive useful product to the American household.

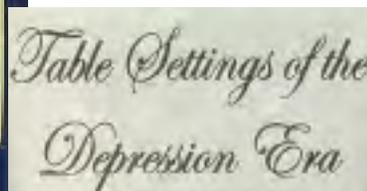
Defined as machine made glassware produced from 1927 to 1939, Depression Era glass was the first mass produced glassware, made totally by machine in the U.S. Automation enabled glass manufactures to produce huge quantities in a variety of colors and patterns.

The glassware produced was low quality, often flawed, with variations in color, bubbles, straw marks, and slightly irregular shapes. Never intended to be perfect, the use of color and patterns etched molds in making the glassware allowed many of the flaws to be less noticeable. At least 19 companies made some Depression Era Glass. The seven major Depression Era glass-producing companies were Federal, Hazel-Atlas, Hocking, Indiana, Jeanette, MacBeth-Evans, and U.S. Glass, credited with making 92 patterns during that time, each in a variety of colors.

Even with these flaws, the glass appealed to many Americans who until this time had been unable to afford glassware for everyday use. During a time of economic troubles, this beautiful glass was a bright spot in many homes, as well as a source of employment for its workers. Table settings were stylish, produced in many patterns and colors, and affordable. Available for purchase at Woolworth's and other local retailers, it was also given as premiums in oatmeal and laundry detergent, theaters, and gas stations. Some sets came included with the purchase of a kitchen cabinet or refrigerator.

This year's PSDGC display at our 35th Annual Collectable Glass Show and Sale featured over 25 patterns of Depression Era Glass, and below is a list of most of them. A tribute to the enduring appeal of this durable glass, we encourage all of you who collect and use Depression Era glassware to keep on collecting, and to those of you new to Depression Era glassware to learn more.

Florentine Hazel Atlas Glass Company 1932-1935	Windsor Jeannette Glass Company 1936-1946	Avocado Indiana Glass Company 1923-1933
American Sweetheart MacBeth-Evans Glass Company 1930-1936	American Fostoria Glass Company 1915-1986	Cloverleaf Hazel Atlas Glass Company 1930-1936
Block Optic Hocking Glass Company 1929-1933	Cherry Blossom Jeannette Glass Company 1936-1946	Cube Jeannette Glass Company 1929-1933
Princess Hocking Glass Company 1931-1935	Madrid Federal Glass Company 1932-1939	Oyster & Pearl Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation 1938-1940
Bubble Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation 1934-1965	Cameo Hocking Glass Company 1930-1934	Waterford Hocking Glass Company 1938-1944
Liberty Works Egg Harbor 1927-1932	Iris Jeannette Glass Company 1928-1932	Patrician Federal Glass Company 1933-1937
Petalware MacBeth-Evans Glass Company 1930-1940	Dogwood MacBeth-Evans Glass Company 1929-1932	Holiday Jeannette Glass Company 1947-1949



- Submitted by PSDGC
Vice President Lorna Hart

