

Urn with Lattice Work & Crown finial

Steuben Glass Works

Corning, New York



Height 13 ½ inches

Amber & Celeste Blue urn with prunts and lattice work cover & crown finial

Shape variant of #3109

Private Collection of Alan and Susan Shovers

The Venetians didn't invent glass, but the first known examples of lead crystal were made in Venice in the fifteenth century. Venetian glass has influenced glassmakers, the world over, for centuries. Mr. Carder was profoundly influenced by the Venetians. He incorporated many style cues and techniques into his Steuben glass. All of the elements from centuries of glassmaking were filtered through his creative genius and came out, fresh, modern and ready for the twentieth century.

By the mid teens Steuben was producing a vast array of Venetian styled glass. Appliques like prunts,

contrasting rims, thick bands of threading, leaves, flowers, fruits and ring handles with rigaree were adorning much of the production. These designs were classic and timeless and today are still as popular with collectors as they were almost a century ago. Other design cues like rolled rims, hollow knop and wafer connectors and complex hollow stems were also adapted from the Venetian style.

Mr. Carder also utilized many internal decorations that originated in Venice. The use of millefiori flowers on Aurene were perhaps the first of these. Steuben would later produce millefiori designs patterned

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after ancient roman glass. Mica flecks were incorporated into many designs which led to two techniques that were pure Carder. The Cintra paperweight perfumes and other forms utilizing a paperweight ball connector are today among the most sought after glasses that are still attainable. The other reinterpretation of mica decoration is found in Steuben's Silverina glass, which combined internal air traps with the mica flecks.

There are probably over one thousand Carder designs that have Venetian influences at their root. This was an extremely important design era for Steuben. From this wonderful period came this fabulous covered urn. It incorporates many of the Venetian influences including applied prunts and rims. There are two Venetian elements that make this piece so unique. The lattice woven lid was a very difficult albeit simple looking technique. Owing to its difficulty, very few of these lattice pieces were made at Steuben and even less by other glassmakers. The difficulty was in getting the whole thing to work. The glass rods had to be soft enough to bend, but not so soft that they would sag or twist into some grotesque form. As each layer was added and attached to the previous layer, it became more difficult to hold the entire mass together. Each time a connection was made, the two glasses had to be at roughly the same temperature or

fissures and heat checks could form. Each piece, that was successfully completed, is a tribute to the skills of the gaffer. The fanciful finial created with applied leaves of glass is the perfect confection to top this Venetian styled urn.

Finding a lattice woven example to collect should be considered an important achievement as well as a valuable addition to any Carder Steuben collection. Collecting shapes from Steuben's Venetian period is rewarding, owing to Mr. Carder's creative designs as well as the lower cost and ready availability of many of these pieces.

*Neil Kohut ,
Carder Steuben collector and art glass dealer*



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