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STEUBEN | CARDER GLASS SHARE STRONG HISTORY

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Special to The Leader

Steuben Glass is 100 years old this year.

In 1903, Frederick Carder and Thomas G. Hawkes launched a new company in the old Payne Foundry and Machine Shop buildings on Erie Avenue—now Denison Parkway West. The newly created Steuben Glass Works produced its first glass in late October of 1903.

Soon, under Carder's direction, the company was making glass blanks for Corning's extensive cut glass industry. Additionally, the company made Carder's true love, colored decorative art glass designed by him.

The guiding principles Carder established for the company as its designer, chemist and manager were good design, hand craftsmanship, and the highest standards of quality. Carder's leadership of Steuben lasted from 1903-32.

In 1932, major changes were made at Steuben. Corning Glass Works had purchased the Steuben Glass Works in 1918. By 1932, sales at Steuben were declining. Arthur Houghton, the youngest member of Corning Glass Works board of directors, was given control of Steuben to implement changes he believed would save the company.

These changes involved taking over leadership of Steuben from Carder, who became art director of Corning Glass Works. Houghton limited all work to a wonderfully new colorless lead glass developed by Corning, and brought in a number of new designers. Since 1932, Steuben

has maintained its commitment to producing the finest hand-crafted glassware in Steuben's beautiful colorless glass.

These two distinctly different periods in Steuben's history are strongly linked together by several concepts that have defined Steuben glass from 1903 to the present day. These concepts include a total devotion to excellence in design, excellence in the quality of the glass, the skills of hand craftsmanship, and the demands of the highest standards of perfection in its finished products.

All of this has brought fame and pride to all who live and work in the Corning area.

This year, pieces of glass from each of the two periods in Steuben's history will be presented in The Leader. Special thanks go to Steuben Glass, the Rockwell Museum of Western Art and the Corning Museum of Glass for providing photographs.

Three books about Steuben Glass should also be mentioned, as much information was gleaned from them: "Steuben Glass: An American Tradition in Crystal," by Mary Jean Madigan, "The Glass of Frederick Carder," by Paul V. Gardner, and



**Gold Aurene Twist-Stem Candlestick |
Designed in the 1920s by Frederick Carder**

"Frederick Carder and Steuben Glass: American Classics," by Thomas Dimitroff.

Thomas Dimitroff is co-author of "History of the Corning Painted Post Area" and an avid collector of Steuben glass.

Photo courtesy of The Rockwell Museum of Western Art

**Gold Aurene Twist-Stem
Candlestick | Designed in the
1920s by Frederick Carder**

(photo on previous page)

Frederick Carder designed almost 300 different candlesticks. These could be made in an almost countless number of variations using Carder's 140 colors and types of glass. His skilled gaffers worked the component parts into graceful and delicate forms.

The pictured candlestick was created using Carder's famous Gold Aurene glass. Carder liked the twist-stem technique and used it in his designs for many different goblets, compotes, candlesticks and vases. Candlesticks like this usually came in several different sizes.

Carder was a life-long student of glassmaking and glassmaking techniques. His use of the pulling and twisting technique in glassmaking took many forms in his designs, sometimes involving only a portion of the stem of the object while others involved the entire stem.

Two of the city of Corning's lanes—previously alleys—are named Aurene in honor of this type of Steuben glass. Aurene Lane West runs from Tarantelli Lane to Centerway Square, north of West Market Street. Aurene Lane East runs from Centerway Square to Wall Street, between East Market Street and Tioga Avenue.

**Rope-Twist Candlestick |
Designed in 1939 by
George Thompson**

Creating hand-crafted glass candlesticks demands the utmost skill of the hand shops that produce them. The pictured pieces are the wonderful Steuben Rope-Twist Candlesticks designed by George Thompson in 1939. They stand 8 inches tall.

Thompson's design calls upon the gaffer to employ a long-used technique involving crimping the hot glass, drawing it out and then twisting it to form the stem.

The candle cups and bases are formed separately and then added to the piece. This design reflects the ability of Steuben crystal to capture the seemingly contrasting qualities of massiveness and delicacy. The candlesticks have a Swedish simplicity, yet

radiate art deco feelings.

The rope-twist candlesticks were so successful that in 1978, Steuben's president Thomas Buechner, chose them to be the first re-issue in the new Steuben Heritage Series.

Thompson joined the Steuben Design Department when it was formed in 1936. He came well-recommended, as he had won the class medal at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Boston Institute of Architects' Prize. He successfully designed many Steuben objects in many forms.

His designs were included in all Steuben exhibitions from 1937 until his retirement in 1974. Thompson's designs are included in the collections of major museums and galleries throughout the world.



Rope-Twist Candlestick | Designed in 1939 by George Thompson