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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF STEUBEN GLASS | CRYSTAL AND WATER

BY THOMAS P. DIMITROFF

Special to The Leader

EDITOR'S NOTE | *In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Steuben Glass, The Leader is featuring a look at discontinued pieces of Steuben from both eras of the world-renowned art glass business. The Frederick Carder era lasted from 1903-1932, while the Arthur Houghton era began in 1932 and continues to this day. Local historian and Steuben Glass expert Thomas P. Dimitroff provides a look at common themes that tie the two eras together.*

In this striking Carder Steuben piece, nature once again is the prevailing theme. The delightful tropical fish swimming among the vegetation invite the creation of a fantasy world in our minds.

This is all achieved through presenting a decorative design through the acid-etched technique, which involves etching the pattern in two layers of glass using hydrofluoric acid. The contrast of the design against the base glass is achieved by layering or casing two different types of glass—in this case, amethyst and alabaster.

This technique demands great knowledge of the different glasses and their coefficients of expansion and contraction. The use of amethyst to contrast with the alabaster, plus the very forms of the stylized fish, together create a fine art deco design. Yet, as is so often the case, this design, the "Tropic Pattern," is presented on a very classic, balanced, symmetrical, Carder-designed shape.

One of the City of Corning's lanes

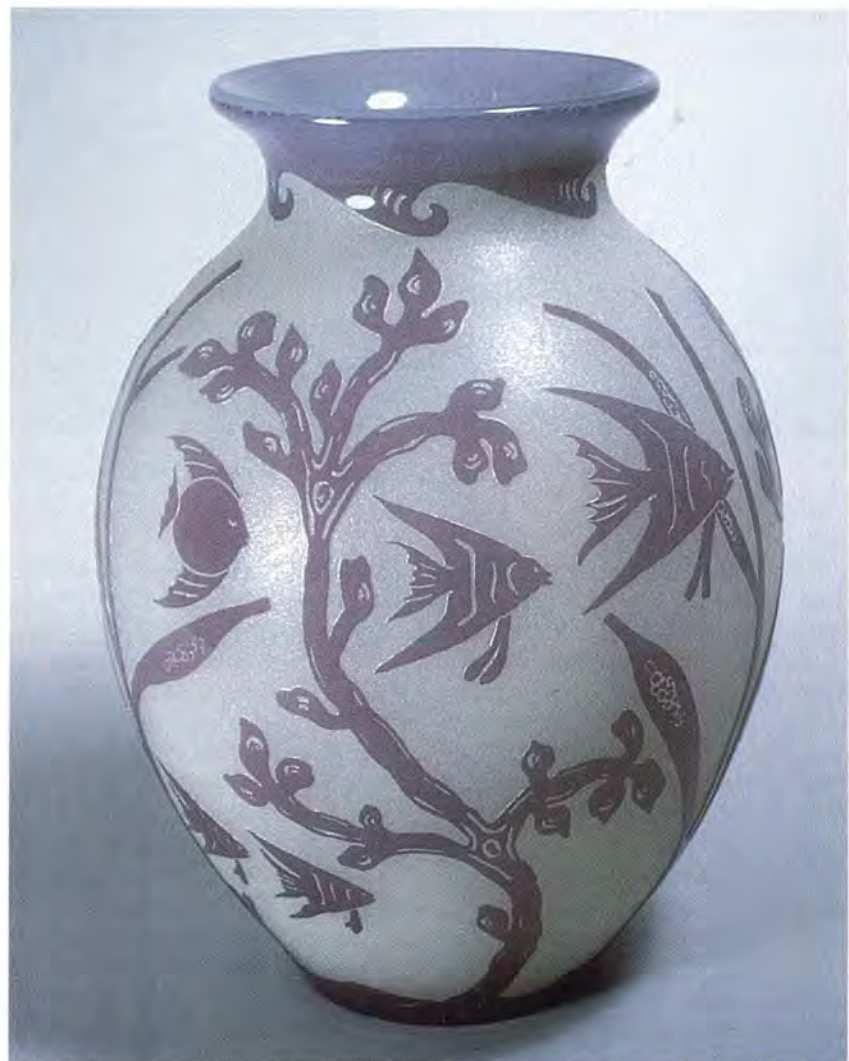


Photo courtesy of The Rockwell Museum of Western Art

'Amethyst Over Alabaster Acid-Etched Vase – Tropic Pattern'
| **Designed by Frederick Carder in the 1920s.**

— previously alleys — is named Amethyst Lane. Amethyst Lane runs westward from Bridge Street between Pulteney and West William streets. Another of Corning's lanes, Alabaster

Lane, runs from Steuben Street to east of Conhocton Street, between Woodview Avenue and the East Market Street Extension.



'Sea Chase' | Designed by Lloyd Atkins in 1969

"Sea Chase," designed by Lloyd Atkins in 1969, captures the grace, beauty and power of the oceans and their inhabitants. This piece also brilliantly takes advantage of many of the physical characteristics of Steuben Glass. It is actually made in two separate sections. The base houses a light that, because of Steuben's purity and its ability to transmit, reflect and refract light, brings brilliance to the graceful and powerful wave and the dolphins so skillfully engraved upon it.

Steuben's innate flowing nature truly adds a sense of movement to the crystal wave. This piece was engraved by Peter Schelling, who joined Steuben as an engraver in 1953. He

was born in Germany and learned his craft there. "Sea Chase" originally was issued in an edition of 10.

Lloyd Atkins, the designer, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Then, in 1948, he joined Steuben as a staff designer. His career with Steuben spanned 50 years, during which time he designed many objects in a variety of forms and styles. In fact, he was one of Steuben's most prolific designers. He also started the now very successful line of hand coolers—small, pressed Steuben animal figurines.