

HHF-LRA.145



Antique and Vintage Glassware Educational Resources

There are some wonderful exhibits, libraries, and museums for glassware. Here are a few of the resources available. Some of these locations have tours and demonstrations that show glass production, while others have exhibits showing glassware through the years.

• Fenton Art Glass

700 Elizabeth St.
 Williamstown, WV 26187
 Phone: 304-375-6122
 Fax: 304-375-7833
<http://www.fentonartglass.com/>

• Fenton Glass Museum

420 Caroline Ave.
 Williamstown, WV 26187
 Phone: 304-375-7772 or 800-319-7793

Fenton Art Glass is the leading handmade glass company in the United States. Fenton produces items for the gift and collectibles industry and has been family-owned and operated since 1905. In addition to the on-site factory, which is one of the very few remaining glass factories, a small but well-arranged museum of Fenton glass is available.

The Fenton Glass Museum is located at the Fenton Art Glass Company in Williamstown, W.Va. This museum holds over 2000 pieces, with some of the pieces dating back to 1880. There is also a theatre in which they show a 22 minute film on glass manufacturing. The historical development of the company is well documented and most of the items on display have come from the factory.

The museum is located 10 miles north of Parkersburg, W.Va., and is just across the Ohio River from Marietta, Ohio. It is easily reached from Interstate Highway 77 by using the Williamstown exit (#185) or by W.Va. State Routes 2 and 14 and U.S. Route 50. (A second Fenton Glass outlet is located at the Flatwoods Outlet Center, located just off Interstate Highway 79, Exit 64, at Flatwoods, midway between Charleston and Clarksburg, W.Va.) The gift shop and museum are open year-round except for New Years Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Seasonal Hours: (Write or call for any changes in information or hours.)

January through March: Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday, 12:15 to 5 p.m.

April through December: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday, 12:15 to 5 p.m.

Annual Two-Week Tent Sale: Held in late June to early July

Annual February Gift Shop Sale: Held for ten days beginning the weekend preceding President's Day

• **Blenko Glass Company**

9 Bill Blenko Dr.
Milton, WV 25541
Phone: 304-743-9081
FAX: 304-743-0547
1-877-4BLENKO (1-877-425-3656)
<http://www.blenkoglass.com/index.html>

Blenko handcrafted glass has been an increasingly popular collectible since the 1960's. Some knowledgeable glass collectors consider it to be one of the 'must have' collectibles.

• **Corning Museum of Glass**

One Museum Way
Corning, N Y 14830-2253
800-732-6845
<http://www.cmog.org/>

Since 1950, this museum has grown into a large-scale exhibition, teaching, and research facility. The Corning Museum of Glass is home to the world's largest collection of glass, containing more than 45,000 objects representing 3,500 years of glass history. The museum and library actively acquire materials, curate special exhibitions, and conduct extensive research. More than 300,000 visitors from around the globe visit the facility each year.

• **Huntington Museum of Art**

2033 McCoy Rd.
Huntington, WV 25701
304-529-2701
<http://www.hmoa.org>

This museum has an outstanding permanent display of nearly 1,000 glass objects of the 19th and 20th centuries, primarily from the Ohio Valley. An extensive collection of West Virginia glass features the production of Hobbs, Brockunier & Co., Central, Riverview, Jefferson, Fenton, Northwood, Dunbar, Fostoria, New Martinsville, Huntington Tumbler, Blenko, Rainbow, and Pilgrim. Also on display are important examples of American and European 19th and 20th century art glass and contemporary studio glass.

Location: It is accessible from Interstate Highway 64, by taking Exit 8 and following the signs. From downtown Huntington, follow Eighth Street to Ritter Park and continue up Eighth Street, following the signs. It is open year-round. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays. Tours are available for groups of ten or more by contacting the tour coordinator two weeks prior to visit. There is a small admission fee, except on Wednesdays.

• **Fostoria Glass Museum**

511 Tomlinson Ave.
Moundsville, WV 26041
304-845-9188
<http://www.fostoriaglass.org/>

The Fostoria Glass Company began production in 1887 and continued until 1986. The

museum is operated by the Fostoria Glass Society and is devoted to the study and preservation of Fostoria Glass. The museum is located at the corner of 6th Street and Tomlinson Street, Moundsville, W.Va. It specializes in the glass made in Moundsville at the Fostoria Glass Co. It is open year-round on Thursday through Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Admission is by donation. Admission for Fostoria Glass Society members is free.

• **The Museums of Oglebay Institute**

1330 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-7272
<http://www.oionline.com/museums/>

The Oglebay Institute Glass Museum is a treasure house of sparkle and glitter. The museum offers glass blowing and decorating demonstrations, as well as the display of an extensive collection of antique to modern glass. It features over 3000 examples of Wheeling Glass made from 1829 to 1939 and includes displays on cut lead crystal, Victorian art glass, Peachblow pattern, Depression glass, Northwood's carnival glass, and many other examples that showcase Ohio Valley glass history. The Sweeney Punch Bowl is a special feature. It's the largest piece of Victorian cut lead crystal ever made, weighing 225 pounds and measuring five feet tall.

The Northwood Gallery features crystal, carnival, colored, and opalescent glassware made by the Ohio Valley glass manufacturer, H. Northwood & Company.

Location: The exhibits are located in Oglebay Park, two miles north of Interstate Highway 70 on Route 88. The museum and shop are open year-round but times vary. Glass blowing demonstrations are held April through December. The park is also home to the West Virginia Glass and Crafts Festival in late July and early August. Call ahead for any changes in museum hours and event information. There is a charge for tours.

• **West Virginia Museum of American Glass**

230 Main Ave.
Weston, WV 26452.
304-269-5006
<http://wvmag.bglances.com/>

Excellent examples of W.Va., Ohio, and Pa. glass are displayed along with interactive exhibits for children.

Location: The Museum is located on the corner of Main Avenue and Second Street in downtown Weston, W.Va.. It is open to the public year-round 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. It has an extensive collection of 20th century glass and a collection of Riverside Glass plus a great deal of information on various glass houses.

Linda Adler, M.A.
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