

The Atterbury "Frog on Rocks" Covered Dish

By David Schepps

Atterbury & Company, Pittsburgh, Pa. 1859-1903

The White House Works, a new glass company, was established at Pittsburgh, Pa. in 1859 by Hale, Atterbury & Co. By 1865-67, the firm name was Atterbury & Company, owned by the brothers, James S. and Thomas B. Atterbury. In 1891, the firm became the Atterbury Glass Company with the sons of James and Thomas managing.

From the beginning, the firm was noted for tableware, lamps, kerosene globes, colored bar bottles and glass. Atterbury ceased operations about 1903.

Many patents issued to Atterbury for their designs and products, especially in covered animal dishes, were outstanding. Most Atterbury animal dish covers are smooth on the underside surface that touches the base.

Much of the firm's glass was in opaque colors (including white milk glass). The

"Frog on Rocks" covered dish's base is 4 1/2 inches in diameter, 2 inches in depth and 5 3/4 inches high overall. Four styles (illustrated) known: opaque white (Style 1), opaque white with a spoon notch (Style 2), opaque white with the frog partially in green-cased glass (Style 3) and opaque white with a painted green frog (Style 4). All are extremely rare.

According to Anne Madaraz, chief curator of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, their records show the frog is circa 1888, and their frog is opaque white with a partially green body, with provenance to the Atterbury family. Their frog is one of seven known to still exist. IT has a small noticeable chip on the front of the dish on the rim where the white glass blends with the green. A crack, which is not as noticeable, extends from the chip and curves upward through the white glass, all the way up to the base of the frog's body. It

also lacks the applied eyes.

As of June, 2007, seven Atterbury frog dishes have been located. The damaged partial green body dish is still at the Historical Society and two white dishes are in collections in New England. The other four known to exist are in a glass frog collection in Florida. There is one example of each of the four styles of Atterbury frog covered dish.

Cambridge Glass Company, Cambridge, Ohio, 1901-1958

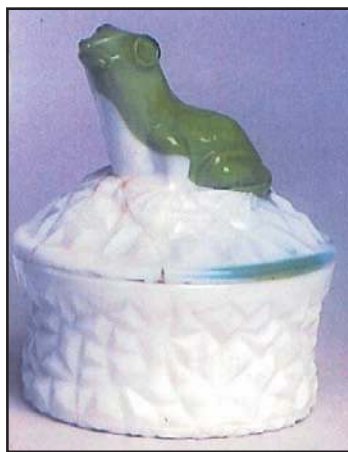
In 1901, a group of investors that owned the National Glass Company located in Pennsylvania selected Arthur Bennett to build a new glass factory to help generate employment in Cambridge, Ohio. When the investors ran into trouble with National Glass in 1907, it also dragged Cambridge Glass towards bankruptcy. Bennett stepped in and purchased the Cambridge Glass



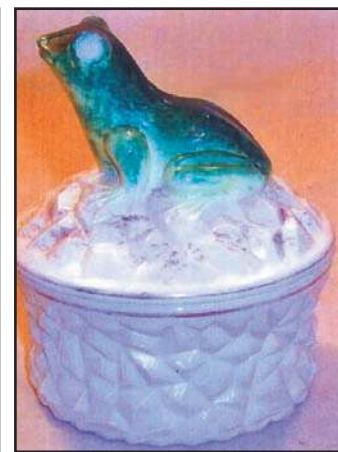
Style 1



Style 2



Style 3



Style 4

The four Atterbury "Frog on Rocks" covered dishes, one of each of the four styles.



Above: One of each of the three types of vases.

Left: Atterbury glass from the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Company and provided the needed financing.

Cambridge Glass Company prospered under his leadership and developed a reputation for the quality of its glass and colors. Tableware and stemware were the mainstay of the company, but giftware and novelty items were also produced.

In the mid-1920s through the early 1930s, a vase was made by Cambridge in three styles (Frog #1352, 8 1/2 inches tall and 4 1/2 inches wide). A frog vase with a handle and a smooth exterior surface was made in emerald green glass (also frosted) with a clear glass handle. A frog with a detailed back and no handle is known in black milk glass and chartreuse green. The third version is from the same detailed mould and has a matching color handle (not clear) as well as the sides of the frog's mouth are cut a little deeper than the vase without the handle. This handle-detailed

vase is known in pink with a pink handle (also in a frosted version) and chartreuse green with a matching handle.

In the 1930s through the mid-1950s, Cambridge also made a small 1 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inch tall and 1 1/2 inch wide figural frog in several colors.

The 1930s were good years with strong sales for Cambridge. Looking to retire, Bennett sold the control of the company to his son-in-law, Wilbur L. Orme. The 1940s were also good sales years for Cambridge, but the 1950s, with heavy reliance on their etched tableware, caused Cambridge to struggle against foreign imports. The factory closed for a short time in 1954, but reopened. During the next few years, the company changed ownership several times before closing its doors a final time in 1958. In 1960 the Imperial Glass Company bought the assets of Cambridge Glass, which included many of its molds. In 1981,

the vacant factory was refurbished and opened as an antique mall and museum and a small glass-making facility. It still serves those purposes today.

About the author: Judge David Schepps has been collecting glass frogs for over 38 years and has amassed what many call the largest frog collection in the world, over 5,400 pieces. He carries six college and graduate level degrees with glass articles appearing in *The Toothpick Bulletin*, a publication of the National Toothpick Holders Collectors Society, *All About Glass*, the publication for the West Virginia Museum of American Glass, *The Opaque News* publication for the National Milk Glass Collectors Society and *The Antique Bottle & Glass Collectors Magazine*. Judge Schepps can be reached at: 19195 Mystic Pointe Dr., Apt. 2206 - Tower 100, Aventura, Fla. 33180 or by phone, (305) 937-7437.



A group of Cambridge small frogs.



Illustrated above are seven Cambridge frog vases.



Three detailed frog vases with handles.



Two smooth frog vases with clear handles.



Above: Two handled frog vases attributed to Loetz Glass, Czechoslovakia (1836-1914), circa 1890-1910.

Left: Two detailed frog vases without handles.

Center: Two detailed frog vases, one with a handle, one without.

Right: An English frog vase without a handle, circa 1880-1910. Manufacturer unknown.

