

Notes on Collecting Wigwam Pattern by Co-Operative Flint and L. E. Smith

by Jim Medeiros

A little research goes a long way! I thought I knew all about this pattern but I learned a few things writing this small piece. Wigwam is a beautiful and very Art Deco pattern that has only four pieces and comes in a variety of colors. It's not too hard to find and is not expensive to purchase. It was originally designed and produced in the early 1930's by Co-Operative Flint. About 1935, when Co-Operative Flint was experiencing financial difficulty, they sold the molds to L. E. Smith who produced the line until the mid-forties. There is an attribution in Weatherman's Book 2 that states L. E. Smith was producing the pattern in 1930 but that has been disproven.



As with many companies, molds were sometimes used to make several shapes. The bowl was one mold and it was used to make three pieces; the round bowl, the fan shaped bowl and the flattened console bowl. The candlesticks were the other mold. The decoration consists of various molded geometric shapes on fan-folded panels.



Colors produced, and that I have found, are cobalt blue, black, crystal, green, pink and red. The books also state that there is milk white but I have not seen it. Different colors are assigned to either Flint or Smith but I find there is no difference and the pieces regarding size and quality are identical.



The glass is quite thick and, for glass with as many sharp angles and ridges as this pattern has, you would think that most pieces found would be damaged but, I find the opposite to be true. It's nice that these pieces are actually quite sturdy and durable. Also, if I find a nice piece with one or two small flakes and the price is reasonable I don't pass it by.

The round bowl measures 9 3/8" wide across the top, 4 1/2" wide across the bottom and 4 1/2" tall. The fan shaped bowl measures 6" deep, 10 1/4" wide across the top, 5 1/4" tall and 4 1/2" wide across the bottom. The flattened console bowl measures just over 11 1/8" wide, 2 3/4" tall and 4 1/2" wide across the bottom. The candlesticks are 2 3/4" tall and measure 3 3/4" across the bottom. I've seen prices as low as \$12 and as high as \$75. I believe \$30 to \$60 for any bowl or a pair of candlesticks is reasonable.

All pieces are unmarked and there are no reproductions. Although not common, I have found them to be not too difficult to find in New England and the mid-Atlantic region. However, I have not found any pieces yet in Florida.



Many thanks to Joe Mackiewicz for the nice photographs.