TIFFANY LIGHTING CHRONOLOGY

1894
TGDco shows the first lamps with blown-glass shades in his New York City showroom.

1897–99
Exhibitions at Siegfied Bing’s Paris shop, L’Art Nouveau, include blown-glass and electric lamps. Tiffany introduces his leaded-glass lamps at an 1899 exhibition of his works organized by Bing at Grafton Galleries, London.

1898
TGDco advertises Tiffany “Favrile” glass lamps; produces Tiffany Favrile Glass–Lamps sales pamphlet. Tiffany artist Clara Driscoll designs the Butterfly leaded-glass lamp and works on an idea for Dragonfly lamp design.

1899
TGDco produces Lamps and Fixtures sales pamphlet showing Nautilus and Dragonfly lamp designs.

OBJECT GUIDE

Although Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) was an international success before his first lamp, it is the lamps more than anything else that has extended the breadth and depth of his popularity across America and through time, from the 1890s to this day. With his lamps and lighting fixtures and, it must be admitted his commercial acumen, Tiffany created a signature style of lighting that captured the American and European audience and now fascinates and charms people all over the world. Not only was he among the first to integrate the new invention of electric light into the architecture of the home, but he created objects of great beauty that continue to illuminate our lives.

Unless otherwise noted, all of the objects in this gallery were designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany or one of his artists and made under the name of Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company (1892–1900) or Tiffany Studios (1902–32).

1) Lamp design, c. 1902–32
For R.P. Martin, Akron, Ohio
No. 5658
Watercolor, graphite on paper
(72-005)

2) Library lamp, c. 1900
No. 146, Cobweb design shade, mosaic floral base [oil lamp conversion]
Leaded glass, mosaic, bronze
(62-020)

3) Lamp platform
Back row, left to right:

1) Library lamp, c. 1903
Shade No. 1495, 20 in. Dragonfly & Water design, amber, cone shape
Standard No. 360, Conventional design, cushion base
Leaded glass, bronze
Designer: Clara Driscoll, 1881–1945
Marks on shade: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK / 1495–36
Marks on base: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK / 360 (66-005)

8) Reading lamp, c. 1920s
Blown glass with replica silk shade
Marks on base: L.C. Tiffany – Favrile (67-038)

9) Window, c. 1916
Daffodil
Leaded glass
(65-028)

10) Lampshade sample panels, left to right:

Chestnut, after 1900
Leaded glass
(64-033)

October Night, after 1900
Leaded glass
Marks: OCT. NIGHTSHADE.
(64-020)

11) Lamp screen, c. 1920:
No. 926, Winged Figure design
Leaded glass, bronze
Design attributed to Alphonse Marie Mucha, Czech, 1860–1939
(2004-013)

12) Lamp screen, c. 1920
Moth design
Leaded glass
(2001-060)

13) Lamp screen, c. 1904:
No. 924, Butterfly design
Leaded glass
(70-029)

14) Decorative lamp, after 1900
Pond Lily design, ball shape
Leaded glass
(1999-113)

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LAMPSHADE SAMPLE PANELS

Sample patterns were important tools for glass selectors in the production of Tiffany lampshades. One was made for each lampshade model and stamped with that shade's model number and name. Tiffany's opalescent glass was noted for its extraordinary range of color, texture, and translucence. The choice of glass for the shades, each constructed with hundreds of individual pieces, was crucial in achieving naturalistic effects and overall aesthetic harmony.

Lampshade sample panel, after 1900. October Night design, leaded glass (64-020).
Reading lamp, c. 1899–1905
Shade No. 1453, 16 in. Tulip design, dome shape
Standard No. 181, Greek design, large [oil lamp conversion]
Leaded glass, bronze
Marks on shade: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK
Marks on base: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK/1453/ [conjoined TGDco] (68-001)

Library lamp, c. 1901
No. 342, Wistaria design lamp and shade, large
Leaded glass, bronze
Designer: Clara Driscoll, 1881–1945
Marks on shade: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK
Marks on base: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK / [conjoined TGDco] (70-020)

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Lampshade sample panel, after 1900. October Night design, leaded glass (64-020).
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