



THE CHARLES HOSMER  
MORSE MUSEUM  
*of American Art*

**Carnival Glass Exhibit Opens at the Morse Museum**

WINTER PARK, Fla. (October 15, 2004) – With the opening this month of *Carnival Glass from the Morse Collection*, visitors to the Morse Museum have yet another point of reference for appreciating the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany represented throughout its galleries.

From 1908 to about 1918, mass-produced, pressed-glass objects with brilliantly colored iridescent surfaces – now known as Carnival Glass – were wildly popular throughout the world. The United States was the first country to produce this rainbow-hued art glass in commercial quantities.

In its heyday, it was called a variety of names, including "Poor Man's Tiffany." Much later, when sales declined, it acquired its present name because it was given away at carnivals and fairs.

On Wednesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m., James S. Measell, associate historian at Fenton Glass in Williamstown, West Virginia, will talk about his company's production of Carnival Glass in the Jeannette G. and Hugh F. McKean Pavilion, 161 W. Canton Ave. (right behind the museum.) Fenton, founded in 1905, is the lone surviving manufacturer of American Carnival Glass. The lecture is free with museum admission. *Carnival Glass from the Morse Collection* will be on exhibit through September 25, 2005.

Today, Carnival Glass is enjoying renewed celebrity among collectors. Pieces that once sold for pennies can now go for hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars.

From the beginning, Carnival Glass was the glass industry's answer to the expensive hand-blown iridescent glass being produced by Tiffany Studios and a number of European firms. Carnival Glass, purchased at five and dimes or in catalogs, offered a broad public an affordable if somewhat theatrical version of iridized art glass.

The Morse Museum's collection of Carnival Glass includes the American objects largely produced before 1925 – which collectors now consider "Classic Carnival."

Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, free for children under 12, and free to all visitors after 4 p.m. Friday. For more information, call (407) 645-5311.

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