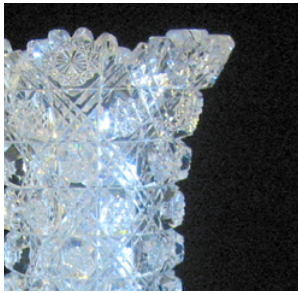


NEW BEDFORD ART GLASS & SILVER

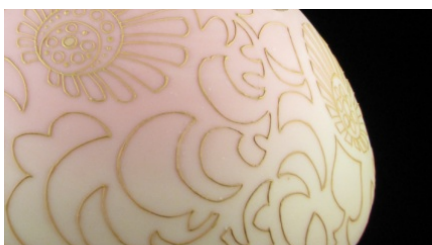
The Mount Washington Glass Company was founded in South Boston in 1837 and moved to New Bedford in 1870 under the leadership of Frederick S. Shirley. Ten years later, Shirley recruited the famed English silversmith Thomas J. Pairpoint to lead the Pairpoint Manufacturing Company. In 1894, the companies merged, and in 1900 the new business was named the Pairpoint Corporation, which thrived until the late 1930s. It reopened as the Gundersen-Pairpoint Glass Company in 1952 and closed permanently in 1957. Shirley, Mount Washington's superintendent from 1872 until 1891, patented 27 designs during his tenure, taking advantage of the early age of advertising to promote his products.

Frederick S. Shirley received a patent in September 1879 for what is considered to be the first art glass in America. Originally called "Sicilian Ware," **lava glass** was created by adding a small amount of volcanic slag (supposedly from Sicily's Mt. Etna) to the glass batch to produce a rich black (or, on rare occasions, pink) background. Irregular pieces of bright pink, blue, yellow, and green glass were rolled into the surface of the black glass, and forms were shaped using the traditional glassblowing process. The glass was not very popular at the time of its manufacture, although today collectors consider it to be one of the most desirable Mount Washington art glasses.



Mount Washington produced **cut glass** by hand, grinding decorative lines into the surface of the glass using spinning stone wheels. A style developed in the 1880s but dating back to antiquity, the entire surface of each piece is covered with sparkling cut facets, giving the glass a diamond-like sparkle. The Mount Washington Glass Company ran an extensive cutting shop, and three independent shops were started in New Bedford by former employees of the company.

Amberina or "rose amber" glass is known for its distinctive color scheme – rich red at the top fading to yellow-amber at the base. It was made by adding a small amount of soluble gold to the formula for amber glass. Reheating portions of the glass during the blowing process caused the gold to "strike" a rich ruby color. The pattern was patented by Joseph Locke of the New England Glass Company in 1883, but the Mount Washington Glass Company and its successors produced it from 1883 until the mid-20th century.



An opaque glass patented by Frederick S. Shirley in 1885, **Burmese glass** is made by mixing uranium oxide and gold into the batch to produce the deep coral pink that shades to translucent yellow. Shirley gave Burmese glass to both President Grover Cleveland and Queen Victoria in 1886; according to myth, the glass got its name from Queen Victoria, who, upon seeing it, exclaimed that it reminded her of a Burmese sunset.

In 1886 Frederick Shirley patented a glass-making process that was similar to Burmese, but replaced the uranium in the batch with a small amount of cobalt or copper oxide. The resulting **Peach Blow glass** shades from dusty-rose at the top to a fading bluish white at the base. The forms and shapes followed those created in Burmese. Pieces were similarly decorated with enamel or painted embellishments, including designs meant to mimic embroidery and inscriptions in verse. Peach Blow was not especially popular and production lasted for only two years, making it one of the rarest Mount Washington glass lines.



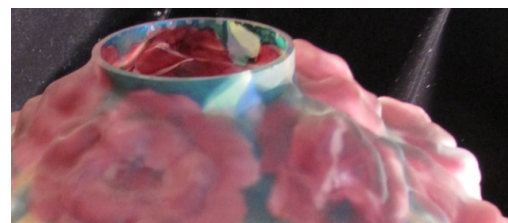
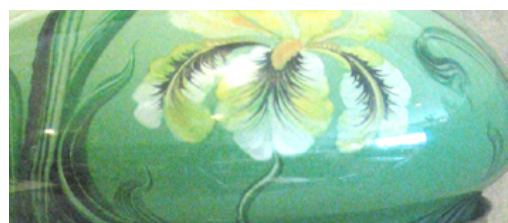
The **Crown Milano glass** line at the Mount Washington Glass Company featured opaque pastel backgrounds with fine enamel and gold details. Frederick Shirley and decorating shop superintendent Albert Steffin received a joint patent for decorating white opal glassware in July 1886. In 1893, the company patented the signature "CM" mark printed on the underside of Crown Milano wares. **Colonial ware** is almost identical to Crown Milano glass, but it has a shiny surface. Colonial ware can feature scenes of people in colonial dress or more typical Crown Milano patterns. ©2015 Nora Katz. All rights reserved.

Perhaps the most sought-after glass line at Mount Washington was **Royal Flemish** glass, created by Albert Steffin in 1888 and patented in 1894. The base for the glass is clear and transparent, with acid etching producing matte surfaces. Colored enamels were fired to the inside of the glass to create the illusion of stained glass. Each piece was hand-decorated with gold relief and featured popular motifs, including coins and peacocks.



Following the trend of naming glass lines after exotic places, **Verona glass** is an extremely rare line from the 1890s, a clear glass with exterior decoration in silhouette shapes.

Featuring objects with both glass and metal elements, the Pairpoint Corporation's **Fine Arts line** perfectly encapsulates the history of the two businesses that merged to form it: the Mount Washington Glass Company and the Pairpoint Manufacturing Company. Fine Arts pieces are engraved glass bowls or compotes on elaborate silverplate bases.



The Pairpoint Corporation table lamps on display in this gallery exemplify two important types of glass production: **obverse glass** and **puffy glass**. Obverse glass is hand-painted on the inside, creating a soft effect. These were produced from 1907 to 1929, and many Pairpoint designers – including Frank Guba – would have painted the lamps themselves. About half of these painted lamp shades were made from puffy glass, produced in molds coated in beeswax to prevent mold lines from appearing in the final product. Before painting, puffy glass was treated with acid to give the exterior a frosted effect. All painted glass shades were kiln fired multiple times to make the paint hard and permanent.

Vaseline glass is a milky yellow glass, so named in the 1920s because of its resemblance to petroleum jelly. The term can also describe glass of various cuts that ranges in color from transparent yellow to bright green. It gets its color from the small amount of uranium in the glass, which causes it to glow electric green under UV light. Production of this once-common glass fell drastically in the 1940s when the Cold War caused restrictions on uranium availability for companies in the United States.



Silver products had been widely popular in the United States for over a century when the Pairpoint Manufacturing Company was founded. Vessels were made from lumps of silver that were hammered into sheets, shaped, and then engraved. Smaller elements were cast and soldered, a painstaking process that required great skill. The first silver mine in the American west was discovered in Nevada in 1859, which, partnered with the development of new silver production technologies, increased the availability of silver goods. The economic boom of the post-Civil War era increased the demand for silver, and what had previously been a business dominated by individual craftsmen became a major American industry.