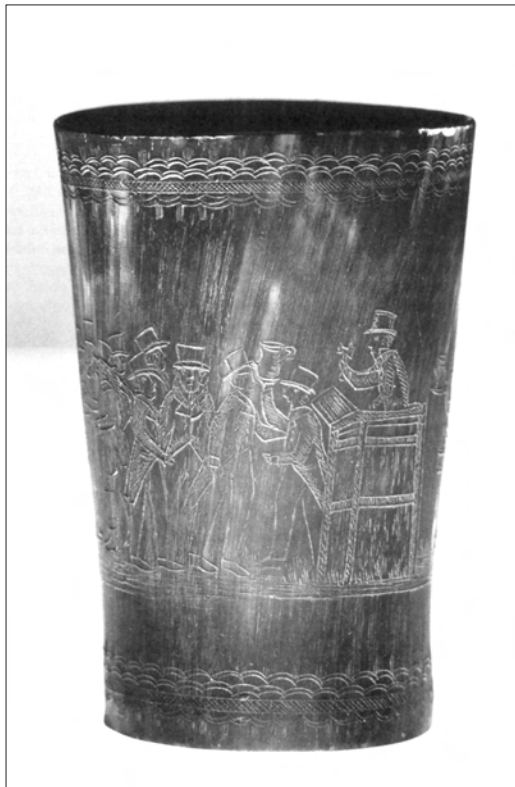


# THE GLASS CLUB BULLETIN

of The National American Glass Club

NUMBER 201

SPRING/SUMMER 2005



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## Not Bakewell *circa* 1835, but Sandwich *circa* 1880

by  
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A pitcher recently acquired by The Corning Museum of Glass should remind us that not all that looks like Pittsburgh is Pittsburgh (Figure 1).

The surprising date and attribution of these “Fryer” pattern pieces became apparent in 1998 with the rediscovery and reprinting of a circa 1880 trade catalog of the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company.<sup>1</sup> Previously it was tempting to attribute such pieces to the Pittsburgh area, or to one of many American or Brit-



Figure 1  
Quart pitcher cut in the Fryer pattern. Boston & Sandwich Glass Company, about 1880. H. 19.1 cm. The Corning Museum of Glass (2005.4.10). Photo by the author.

ish factories of the 1820s and 1830s that extensively used strawberry diamond and prismatic cutting.<sup>2</sup>

The 1880 catalog shows the variety of heavily cut pieces made in Sandwich from the mid-1870s. According to Nelson, these were made in an attempt to reposition the company at the high end of the mar-

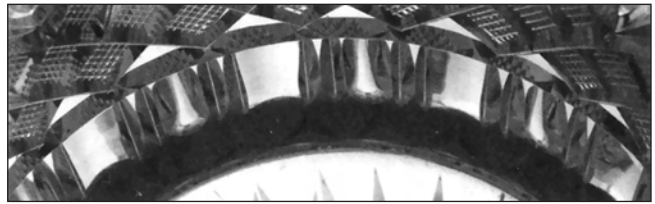


Figure 2  
Detail of lower rim of pitcher. Photo by the author.

ket. The major cost in producing cheap pressed glass was the fuel for melting the glass batch. With ready access to their region’s coal reserves, Midwestern companies had a major advantage and dominated this market. Eastern factories attempted to compete with labor intensive cut wares such as those in the 1880 catalog.<sup>3</sup>

Most patterns in the 1880 catalog exhibit contemporary cut designs. However, the designer of the Fryer pattern chose elements typical of the earlier period. Even elaborate details—such as the alternating band of flute and pillar cuts around its base (Figure 2)—were produced by Bakewell in the 1820s.<sup>4</sup>

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### Notes:

1. The catalog was acquired by the Sandwich Glass Museum after descending in the family of Sandwich glass collector and historian Albert Shaw. It was reprinted with an introduction by Kirk Nelson in *The Acorn*, v. 8, 1998, published by the Sandwich Historical Society.

2. A Fryer pattern creamer in the Henry Ford Museum was published as “probably Pittsburgh” in James S. Wamsley’s *American Ingenuity: Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village*, 1985.

3. Kirk Nelson, “The Boston & Sandwich Glass Company Catalog c. 1880—An Introduction,” in *The Acorn* [note 1].

4. A decanter in the Graff family service in the Atwater Kent Museum in Philadelphia has a similar alternating band of cutting. See Arlene Palmer, *Artistry and Innovation in Pittsburgh Glass, 1808–1882*. Frick Art and Historical Center, Pittsburgh, 2005, p. 167.