

Finding Pieces of the Puzzle



The very rare Opalescent glass pattern shown is called **Swastika**. This pattern dates back to the early Greeks and to our Native Indians who used it with their religious beliefs. There has always been a question about how early this pattern was made in Opalescent glass and who the original maker was. By looking at the pieces shown here, there are several clues.

The Tankard shape in the middle was made by the Dugan Glass Company. It was blown from a mould called "Diamonds & Clubs". The earliest advertisement for this Tankard seems to be 1907. And so it's always been assumed that this is the earliest date known for the Swastika pattern and that Dugan is the original maker.

Now look at the Ball shaped water pitcher with the Star Crimped top on the left. This shape was used by Dugan as early as 1903 when Dugan was just a part of the National firm. This shape was recently discovered and shared with me by Frank & Melissa Keathley. This Ball shape with the Star Crimp was originally used by Northwood as early as 1894 with their "Daisy & Fern" pattern. When Harry Northwood turned control of the National over to Dugan in 1904, many of Northwood's moulds were transferred to the Dugan plant.

Now look at the Syrup on the right. All of these early Syrups have metal tops as this one does. Inside many of these metal tops there is a stamped Patent date by the company who made it. I've seen many of these dates as early as 1893 and as late as 1898. I have no way of knowing if the metal top to the Syrup shown has a patent date stamped inside. If it does, it would clearly put the Swastika pattern in the late 19th century. And it would mean that Northwood would be the original maker and not Dugan.

During the Hitler uprising in the 1920s and 1930s, people who owned any Swastika patterned pieces threw them away, and so any other shapes that the Swastika pattern could have been made in, may be lost forever. So what a rare find indeed when this Ball shaped pitcher turned up. All we can do now is hope that another Syrup turns up that has a patent date from the 19th century stamped inside the metal top. As if so, we'll know for sure that Northwood was the original maker of the Swastika pattern. If anyone reading this article has a Syrup in this pattern, please check inside the metal top for a patent date and contact me using the **Contact** form. Thanks

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