



Cambridge Glass Factory, Cambridge OH 1901

## Cambridge Glass Co.

1901 - 1958

Cambridge Glass Co. was one of the major American elegant glass makers which dominated the home glassware market during the first half of the 20th Century. Offering blown, mold blown, pressed and molded glassware in a large range of colors at everyday prices, Cambridge Glass was instrumental in bringing elegant glass, once available only to the wealthy, to an affordable level for the masses.



Black amethyst shouldered vase with uranium glass flower frog.

Founded in 1901 as an independent company by the National Glass Co., which was a coalition of glassmakers joining forces to survive economic crises and foreign competition in the late 1800s. By the 1920s the economy was roaring and Cambridge Glass was a major supplier of art deco glass. After the stock market crash of 1929 and through WWII, Cambridge Glass provided elegant Depression glass made with manganese in place of lead which was then reserved for the war effort. After the war, modernism ideals shaped the fashions and Cambridge elegant glass began to decline in popularity. Imports from all over the world competed with American made glass and by 1958 the company was closed.

As one of the most prolific glass makers of the first half of the 20th century, Cambridge offered dining and decor glassware in Art Nouveau, the short-lived Arts and Crafts, Art Deco, Depression and Modernism periods. Their forms, colors and decor reflect the popular style of the specific periods.



'Calla lily' candlestick set #P499 circa 1949

Cambridge glass is widely collected today. A multitude of shapes, colors and styles can be found. Some can be identified by a 'C' enclosed in a triangle embossed in the glass, but most had only a paper label, usually removed by the owner.