

New Martinsville / Viking Art Glass – 1901 to 1990

The New Martinsville Glass Manufacturing Co., operating between 1901 and 1940 in West Virginia, USA, was the predecessor of Viking Art Glass. In the early years the elegant New Martinsville glass company produced items for the boudoir such as perfume bottles, vanity jars, dresser sets, etc. They also made a line of lamps, smoking and liquor sets. New Martinsville Glass Co. began making distinctive colored and decorative glassware in 1923.

Around 1940, the company redirected to concentrate on modernization and hand-made quality glassware which the company called "Swedish Type". This was in response to the era's fascination with Swedish Modern décor. The factory was renamed *Viking Glass Co.* to reflect the modern attitude in the early 1940's. In 1986 the company's name was changed to *Dalzell-Viking*.

Viking made a variety of colorful art glass items and competed with the likes of Blenko, Pilgrim, Kanawha and Bischoff. Rainbow Art Glass, another popular glass maker of the mid-century, was a subsidiary of Viking. It is interesting that Viking did not copy its competition's styles as readily as the others did, and Viking products are usually easily recognizable.



The Epic Patio Light #7019 by Viking Art Glass in ruby crackle glass.

The popular "Epic" line began production in the early 1960s and featured modern shapes and designs including giant floor vases with the hand-pulled tips that are highly sought after today.

Although Viking produced very little crackle glass overall, the Viking crackle fairy light (image to right) was a real gem and scarcely seen today.

Viking Glass Co./Dalzell-Viking closed its doors in the 1990's.

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