

Culver Glassware

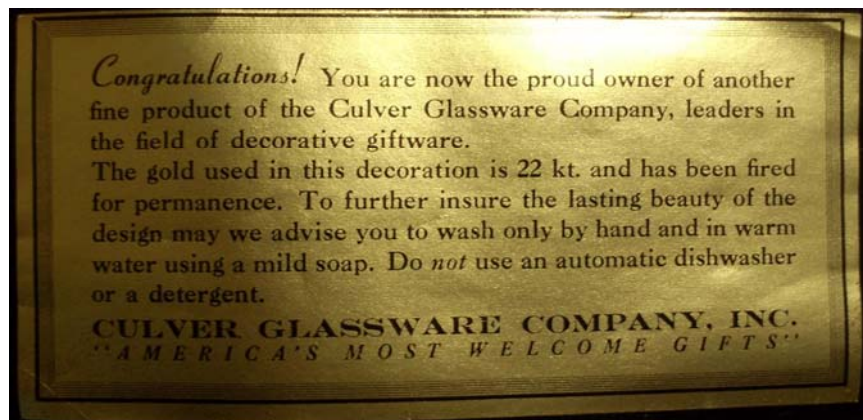
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"Valencia," the most popular pattern ever – 22k Gold (items we have for sale are pictured on the last few pages).

Culver was founded in Brooklyn, New York in 1939 by Irving Rothenberg. In 1980, the company moved to downtown Rahway, New Jersey because Brooklyn gradually became too dangerous within which to operate. Known for lavish designs, many embellished with 22-karat gold, the company gained notoriety and its products became highly collectible. [Mark "Mickey" Rothenberg](#) took over the company in 1987 after his father, Irving, passed away. He ran the company until he sold it in 1996 to Moderne Glass Company, Inc. He then headed another glass company until his death on 9/11 - he was one of the passengers on the hijacked Newark-to-San-Francisco flight that crashed in Pennsylvania.

Sources: Dr. Meredith Rothenberg; Mr. Tom Aschom, Chicago; *CULVER GLASSWARE – DECORATED TUMBLERS, ICE TUBS, AND BARWARE CATALOG REPRINTS FROM THE 1960s & 1980, MONOGRAPH Number 82 In the Glass study series of The WEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM of AMERICAN GLASS, Ltd.*, by Tom Felt (2008).



This vintage glass is getting hard to find in very good or excellent condition (too many people have put it in their dishwashers over the years, unfortunately). Not all pieces are “signed” with the Culver. I’ve observed that pieces from the 1950s and/or ‘60s seem more likely to be signed, whereas more recent pieces were marked mostly with the paper labels, if not marked with more modern copyright signatures.

My mother actually started me collecting this glassware when she gave me a set of six, Moroccan-looking rocks glasses with swanky gold embellishment that she received as a wedding gift which had been taking up space in her kitchen cupboard for ages. I eventually broke a couple of them on the stone-tile floor in our kitchen and, feeling guilty, I set about the task of trying to replace them. But there were no maker’s marks or other type of information on the glasses identifying them as having been produced by any particular company, so I had no idea what I was looking for at the time. Gradually, but surely over the years, I was able to find more than just those rocks glasses in what we eventually discovered is Culver’s “Valencia” pattern.

The “Valencia” pattern (which, I’ve learned, was the most popular design Culver ever sold) is typically missing the green diamonds in the gold at the crease of the pattern-roll. Here are just a few of the “Valencia” and other pieces and sets in our collection.



10" tall wine decanter & glasses in caddy (1970s - '80s).



Extremely rare, wide-bodied wine glasses suitable for aerating red wine (dates unknown).



10-inch "Hostess Plate" (1970s - '80s).



Rare "Martini Rack Set" (1950s/1960s).



Shot glasses (in '50s - early '70s caddy).



Ultra-rare cheese dome 6" x 6" (1970s).



Rare 8" tall Pitcher (signed, date unknown) and "Stem Wine Caddy" set (1970s - 1980s).



Very rare 11" tall "Decanter Wine Set" (1970s - 1980s).



"Jumbo Barrette" (6 hiballs, 6 rocks, 4 shot glasses, ice bucket, tongs in caddy; '1970s - 1980s).

Though it appears that the Culver Company produced its glassware in dozens of patterns for decades, some of its oldest patterns can be extremely hard to find now, especially on the bowls, decanters and in brass-caddy sets. And it's getting steadily more expensive to collect! From our antiquing adventures so far, it appears as if one is just as likely to find this stuff in remote, country antique malls as in big cities, like Chicago. The best place to find this glass is on line through Etsy, Ruby Lane, craigslist and other such sites, though you'll probably end up spending more than it's worth if you go through eBay (we poor eBay sellers have to really jack up the price on it because eBay nickels and dimes us to death with capricious and confusing "service" fees). The caddies are usually corroded to some extent, and it is a rare find indeed to come across one in like-new condition.

It seems most likely today that one will run across the "Valencia" pattern, the "Prado" pattern (green and blue gold squares), "Prado Green," the "Roly Poly" pattern (swirly-paisley gold), the "Antigua" pattern (low-set, simple, crackled-gold band with a single row of oval cut-outs), the "Pisa" pattern (crackled gold with three rows of oval cut-outs), the red/gold "Paisley" pattern, "Mushrooms," "Owls," cats, wildlife, cities and other places, famous people, tourist sites, Egyptian themes, anniversaries, unknown leaf patterns, holiday designs, sports motifs and others. The "Seville" pattern (like the "Valencia" pattern, but with aqua-blue diamonds instead of green) seems to be rare. The two oldest of three different "Mardi Gras" patterns which depict festively-costumed jesters in 22k gold the entire height of the glass with colorful glass-jewel studs, are extremely rare pieces of Culver glass for collectors to find in any condition as they seem to be growing extinct now. But we have been very fortunate to have been able to acquire several of the older "Mardi Gras" hiball and old-fashioned glasses in excellent condition. We got four of the more recent, non-studded hiballs from a seller in, of all places, New Orleans, Louisiana!



The extremely rare, older jewel-studded "Mardi Gras" pattern.

I have been able to conclude that there were three "Mardi Gras" patterns manufactured by the company over the years. The first was made with a flat-gold pattern with raised, glass jewel-studs. An intermediate, second pattern incorporated the glass studs with a raised-gold pattern – it is the rarest of the three. The third pattern produced by 1980 had the raised gold and painted jewels, rather than the glass studs.

Though not very popular, Culver produced glass cookware, like the casserole dishes and large serving platters. The company used only a few patterns on the cookware. The pattern that we collect, “Valencia,” was very rarely used to decorate the cookware. But Culver did regularly produce its cookware in the similar “Seville” pattern. Consequently, we have been motivated to collect Culver cookware pieces in the “Seville” pattern.



Elusively rare Lucite (vinyl) ice bucket in the “Valencia” pattern ('50s/'60s - '80s).



Incredibly rare coffee mugs (date unknown).



Very rare “Valencia”-patterned casserole dish (1970s).



Beyond-rare silver “Valencia”-patterned “Hiball” glasses in silver-chromed caddy (date unknown).



Silver “Valencia”-patterned “Executive Barrette” in silver-chromed caddy with silver tongs.



Compare the silver to the usual gold “Valencia” pattern. The silver has grey diamonds, not green.

I urge sellers/dealers/owners of any “Mardi Gras”-patterned pieces not pictured on any of these pages to contact me if they have any for sale (**see what pieces I have for sale or to trade with other collectors below on the last few pages**)! Also, anyone who has any old sales catalogs for Culver glassware that they would be interested in selling to me – especially from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s – please let me know if I can purchase them from you or trade you something for them.



The “Fairway” golf-themed pattern in the 1970s/'80s box.

A note to sellers/dealers/others shipping this glassware cross-country and/or abroad: Just my opinion (based on prior experience), but do not trust “Brown” (a/k/a United Parcel Service – “UPS”) as far as you can throw them to safely and competently deliver Culver glassware (or *any* glass) – they’ll smash it to bits! Also, ***you cannot wrap these things in newspaper and expect them to survive shipping!*** We have received dozens of

shipments of this glassware from all over the country, and we have always had broken pieces arrive when newspaper was used to wrap them. You must use large bubble wrap and lots of Styrofoam. You must use a box clearly marked “FRAGILE” that is large enough that no pieces touch each other or the box’s interior. Nothing should be able to move in the box – everything should be held firmly by the packing material. The United States Postal Service and most private companies drop packages up to four feet during the shipping process, so keep *that* in mind when packing! After all, once it’s broken, it’s gone forever and can never be replaced.



We received these wrapped in *tissue paper* - what a tragedy!

And on that note, worst packing tape ever? Without a doubt, that thin, flimsy, bunching, unwieldy nightmare tape sold by U-Haul. Being useless in every conceivable meaning of the word, any other packing tape is better to use than the waste of money their tape is.

Questions about Culver?

Anyone who has visited this page before knows that this is a drastically abbreviated version of what I had posted here in the past, before the Culver Glassware Collector’s Manual that I worked on for so long finally became a reality available for purchase through Lulu.com. It really turned out beautifully; a handy 8½“ x 11” size with 104 pages perfect-bound in a sleek, glossy cover. All of the information I have gathered about Culver Glassware is now available in my collector’s manual – photos of all the pieces in our extensive collection, over 630 full-color photos of Culver glassware patterns, including those of 132 patterns I have been able to identify by original pattern name (most with known years of production). The manual also includes common hardware sold with Culver glassware and barware sets, tips for the care and maintenance of this glass, dozens of verified Culver patterns with unknown pattern names featuring animals, glass jewel-studs, holiday themes, maritime themes, people & places, plants, fruits & vegetables and miscellaneous others. The manual also has information about Culver glassware shapes/pieces and types of Culver beverage glasses. Vintage Culver advertizing and sales-catalog print images are found throughout.

Please note that I am no longer fielding emails and phone calls with questions about Culver Glassware patterns. If you want to know what I know about this glass, buy my manual (that's why I published it).

Culver

Glassware



Collector's Manual (1st Edition)
Jeff Murrell

Click the above Cover Image for more Information or to Purchase it!

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/jeff-murrell/culver-glassware-collectors-manual-1st-edition/paperback/product-20946748.html> (OR JUST CLICK THIS LINK)

I HAVE THE FOLLOWING PIECES AVAILABLE FOR SALE.
Shipping/handling normally costs extra (“OBO” = “Or Best Offer”).



Very rare Hiball-Coasters Set Caddy (1970s - '80s). **I'm only selling the carry-caddy and the four glass coasters**, but any four Culver "Hiball" glasses go in this set. There's no corrosion on the caddy. No cracks or flea bites on the coasters, except one does have a tiny chip (I can email you pictures, if you're interested). \$39.99/OBO gets you the caddy & coasters.



Cute "Cannella"-patterned ice bucket (5¾" top diameter x 4¾" height x 4¼" bottom diameter). I don't know how rare these are, but I've never seen a Culver ice bucket this small before. \$25/OBO.



Ultra-rare "Antigua"-patterned salt & pepper cruet set in caddy ('50s/'60s). Salt shaker, pepper shaker, mini vinegar carafe and mini oil carafe. The caddy is somewhat corroded, as are the shakers' tops. But no chips, cracks or flea bites to the glass – the gold is in excellent condition! \$29.99/OBO for the set.



4" x 8½" salad bowl (\$49.99/OBO), 2" x 1¼" dip bowl (\$24.99), or get both for only \$64.99/OBO! "Valencia" pattern - in excellent condition (1970s - '80s).

Make me a reasonable offer on any of these items (click the link at the very top of this .pdf to enter my attorney web site for my contact information)!



Walnut cheeseboard (date unknown). Mousetrap is decorative only, not functional.



"Ming" Old Fashioned (1950s - 1960s).



"Seafare" Old Fashioned (1950s/1960s).

Want to call eBay customer support? Here's the number they're trying to hide from everyone:

TEL: (866) 540-3229

But I have much better luck calling PayPal in Omaha at (402) 935-2050 to get transferred to eBay customer-support agents.

If you call PayPal to get to eBay, just ignore their auto-system runaround when it asks you to enter the last four digits of your Social Security or telephone number. Say "AGENT" repeatedly to get a live person for help!

If you want to speak with American eBay service people and not have to struggle trying to understand the Filipino eBay staff members to whom eBay is giving away precious American jobs in this barely recovering economy, then you have to ask to be directed to their "Trust & Safety" staff in Salt Lake City. And, even though their primary call center has been outsourced to the Philippines, just try getting a hold of eBay customer support after midnight (good luck with that)!

But don't play the eBay game, waiting days for an auction to end (subject to eBay's arbitrarily-enforced rules and regulations), only to have the seller renege on the sale - call or email *me* at jeffmurrell@lawyer.com to instantly add to your collection!