

Dave Peterson, SG

October 2010

## Vase of Uranium Glass with Islamic Flower Pattern, Mold-blown, Gilded & Enamelled, Maker Unknown, Giant Mountains, Bohemia or Silesia, about 1900?

Abb. 2010-4/331  
Vase with Islamic / Persian flower pattern  
uranium glass, gilded, enamelled, mold-blown, 3-part mold  
height 5" (12,7 cm)  
collection Peterson  
maker unknown, Giant Mountains, Bohemia or Silesia,  
before or about 1900?



Dave Peterson, Hello Siegmars,

I purchased this little vase at our vaseline glass convention last weekend. It stands about 5" tall. The piece is **mold-blown, 3-part mold**. The top rim (down to the neck) and the underside (from foot to mold line) have **remnants of gilding**. The **enamel is very heavy** on this piece. I cannot tell if there was a slight impression on the piece that was used as a guide to paint on the enamel. The **inside is perfectly smooth**. There is **no pontil mark**. The glass is **heavy**, but **no lead** content (dull / no bell tone). The **enamel is raised very high** in comparison to other pieces I have seen. It glows nicely under a **blacklight**. I don't know if this was done at the factory, or if it was jobbed out to the cottage industry to have the enamel added. Any help would be appreciated.

I realize that this is not pressed glass, but thought you might have a direction I could go to look for more information, or someone you might know who has some expertise in enameled bohemian pieces. Feel free to forward this on to anyone.

Thanks for looking!  
Regards, Dave Peterson

SG: Hello Dave,

with this picture alone and your information "mold-blown" & "3-part mold" I think that a **little arised relief of the pattern is mold-blown and not only painted with enamel**. Such a glass would have slight or heavy "ghost" patterns in the inner surface and it would not be totally "smooth". When the glass walls are thicker the "ghost" patterns would be smoother.

The pattern is very near to a "**Islamic**" pattern which was popular in the late 19th century foremost in **France** and in **Bohemia / Silesia**. The pattern and the enamel of your vase is so crude that this little vase will not come from famous producers as Harrach, Josephinenhütte or Heckert & and **certainly not from France**. It was probably produced in one of the **numerous nameless glasshuts in the Riesengebirge** (Giant Mountains) between **Bohemia & Silesia before 1900**. The glow of uranium oxide was probably not intended but comes from a low quality of the metal mix. Probably the **enamel was painted by one of the numerous house workers** in this region & not in the glass hut itself.

**Enamel** on glass would have been generally **very flat** but there was also used a **very thick version** of enamel.

Regards, Siegmars

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Dave Peterson, Hello Siegmars,

I cannot dispute anything you said, except the part about the low quality of the metal mix. I don't think the **uranium oxide** was due to a low quality in the metal mix, as this piece has a **heavy content**. It would not have been a trace element in the metal mix.

Here is a **UV photo**. I have no doubt that the **uranium was used on purpose** to achieve this color. It looks slightly off from other uranium glass under normal light, due to the remnants of an **overall thin gilding** that has all but worn off. It tints the glass very slightly in the areas that are not enameled.

When I ran my fingers slowly over the inside, I did not notice any difference. When I ran my fingers quickly on the inner surface, I was able to **notice some differentiation**.

Others have also said that the pattern of the enamel has a slight **Islamic / Persian** look to it, and I agree totally.

Thanks for the info. It is always appreciated.  
Regards, Dave

SG: Hello Dave,

I think that your photo with UV-light **proves that the vase was intentionally made with uranium oxide**. It is a **very curious thing**, because the **overall gilding and enamel hides the uranium glass** - nobody would then have used a black light to discover it,

regards, Siegmars

Peterson: Siegmars,

a friend just sent me this listing on Ruby Lane: [www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839/Stunning-Enameled-Amber-Coloured-Glass](http://www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839/Stunning-Enameled-Amber-Coloured-Glass)

Some of the enamel colors are slightly different, but they are all in the same location on this piece. With the enamel baked on so well, could this have been done at the factory, or are you still thinking one of the house workers in the area?

I also found it interesting that the **seller was from France**, identified it as **1870 Bohemian**, and put a price tag of **\$ 1.200 USD** on it. I paid **\$ 175 USD** for mine.

Dave Peterson

SG: Hello Dave,

this is very stunning, foremost the price & the **colour** of the glass! **It could well have been that homeworkers painted the enamel & that they baked it in a small home muffle furnace - but it would also be possible that the raw enameled vases were baked in the furnaces of the glass huts where the vases were made ...**

regards, Siegmars

Peterson: Siegmars,

I just heard back from the seller. The piece **is uranium glass**. I saw a hint of green on the top rim, so I asked them to put a **blacklight** on their vase and it glowed. **If uranium is increased from 2 % up to 10 % total batch weight, the outcome is an amber color for the glass.**

Dave Peterson

[www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839](http://www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839) ...  
**Stunning Enameled Amber Coloured Glass Footed Vase Bronze Mount 1870**

Glass : Antique : French Enameled Glass  
Footed Amber coloured glass vase with great colors of enamel and bronze mounts made around 1870 in Bohemia. The enamel has been hot worked and hand painting. Perfect condition no damage or repair. The footed bronze mount hide a small chips on the glass base. 5"1/2 high 4"1/8 diameter. Item ID: 1839. \$ 1,200 USD

Abb. 2010-4/333

Footed Amber coloured glass vase with great colors of enamel and bronze mounts made around 1870 in Bohemia  
[www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839](http://www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839)



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Abb. 2010-4/334  
 Footed Amber coloured glass vase ... 1870 in Bohemia  
[www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839](http://www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839)



Abb. 2010-4/335  
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Stunning Enameled Amber Coloured Glass Footed Vase Bronze Mount 1870 from frenchtreasures on Ruby Lane - Mozilla Firefox

http://www.rubylane.com/item/496552-1839/Stunning-Enameled-Amber-Coloured-Glass

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**\$1,200 USD**  
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