

Frank Chiarenza, Shirley Smith, Marc Christoph, SG

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The Production of Pressed Opalin Glass in Glassworks Vallérysthal & Portieux from 1915 to 2005 Would a dream come true for collectors or a nightmare?

Shirley Smith:
Dear Siegmur,

I continue to wade through piles of information in revising my hen on nest documentation. I have a couple of questions which I hope you might answer:

1. Glasmarken Lexikon by Carolus Hartmann: does it show the label often seen on Vallérysthal or Portieux glass that says "Opal Veritable" or "Opaline Veritable"? I would like to know when this label was used and if it was a factory label or a label that was put on the glass by a French exporter or an American importer.
2. Were Vallérysthal or Portieux glass items made in opaque glass (milk glass, slag glass, or green or blue) after 1915 (after World War I)?
3. Is the current factory that makes pieces from old Vallérysthal / Portieux moulds making them in any type of glass other than crystal?

I sincerely appreciate any comments you can offer.
Shirley in Charleston, WV

Frank Chiarenza:
Hello Siegmur

I do not have a copy of Carolus Hartmann's Glasmarken Lexikon, as I know it is very rare and too expensive for me to buy. I believe you must have a copy, however. Will you please check to see if there is a listing for the trademark or label "Opal Veritable"?

I have some milk glass pieces with that label (it is gold with black print, and I think it is rather new ... perhaps not earlier than 1950 or 1960. It may have some connection with Portieux because some of the pieces I know are of Portieux origin (f.i. a hen and a bird egg cup). Because Hartmann's book registers marks only until 1945, I suspect this label may not be included in its listings.

Thank you for your help. Frank

Siegmur Geiselberger:

Hello Shirley,

1. I didn't read or hear anything about this label „Opal Veritable“ until now from You.
2. I believe that V & P made opaque coloured glass till 1939 (WWII) and after WWII.
3. I believe that P now only makes clear and coloured transparent glass which is sold in the old abandoned glasswork of V.

I will forward Your questions to Marc Christoph, I am sure he knows all the answers!

Hello Frank,

I just got a mail from Shirley Smith with a very similar question which I could not answer. I forwarded it to Marc Christoph who certainly will be able to answer it and I will forward it to Mr. Hartmann. I have the book Carolus Hartmann, Glasmarken-Lexikon, from 1997, but I could not find that label. I never read something about it until Your questions.

With best regards, Siegmur Geiselberger

Marc Christoph:

These two labels were found in glass work Portieux. Certainly these labels were attached to all glass items not only to those which would be exported. They could be used about 1970, maybe earlier.

Abb. 2005-2/xxx
Round label, colours Gold / Red
„OPALINE DE LORRAINE VERRERIE DE PORTIEUX FRANCE“
this label was glued to glass items
Collection Christoph



Abb. 2005-2/xxx
Baroque label, colours Gold / Blue
„Fabrication à la main Opaline de Lorraine véritable“
[Handmade, genuine Opalin from Lorraine]
this label was attached to glass items with a little cord, it could not be glued
Collection Christoph



Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 label as swinging ribbon, colours Gold / Black
 „OPALE VÉRITABLE“
 this label was glued to glass items
 lamp with roses, opaque blue press-blown glass, Portieux,
 about 1970
 Collection Christoph



Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 label as swinging ribbon, colours Gold / Black
 „OPALE VÉRITABLE“
 egg cup, opaque blue pressed glass, maker unknown,
 about 1970, maybe Portieux
 Sammlung Chiarenza



Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 label as swinging ribbon, colours Gold / Black
 „VÉRITABLE OPALINE DECOR MAIN EDBER“
 [Genuine Opaline hand decorated EDBER (?)]
 this label was glued to glass items
 footed bowl, opaque white pressed glass, maker unknown,
 about 1970, maybe Portieux
 Collection Christoph



Vallérysthal und Portieux made opaque glass (Milk Glass) also after 1915, for instance look for catalogue Portieux 1933.

Vallérysthal und Portieux made Opalin Glass for many more years. The photos of a publication (look for following pages) show pictures of pressed glass which is known very well, f.i. „coq“, „vase main“, „sucrier ananas“, either in colourless clear glass or in opaque white, blue or rose Opalin Glass. They are not translucent or transparent. The lower part of this publication was clipped away, maybe there was a date. The printed line „Compagnie Française du Cristal“ (CFC) provides an interesting evidence: CFC was a merger of five glass works Vannes-le-Châtel, Bayel-Fains, Vallérysthal-Portieux and was founded 1971. With this document we are able to prove that Vallérysthal & Portieux produced Opalin Glass in old press moulds at least until 1971. Now we understand better why so much items from these moulds in opaque blue or white glass are found at flea markets.

Vallérysthal & Portieux produced Opalin Glass also after 1971, look for „variations cubiques“ (see photo of another publication; maybe about 1980). This Opalin Glass is translucent. One can buy these items also nowadays in the shop in the old glass work of Vallérysthal.

Abb. 2005-1/xxx
 Publication „Cristal de Portieux“, about 1980
 „Variations cubiques Cristal et opaline blanche“



This arises the question why Vallérysthal & Portieux do not produce more pressed glass from old moulds. I asked glass workers in Portieux 2001 to produce for me some items from old moulds in Opalin Glass again. The covered sugar dish „Dromedary“ was elected and pressed as an experiment. It was not successful as one can see on the photos. The head is nearly opaque white with some transparent blue, the body is completely transparent. From this evidence one can assume that Opalin Glass was used maybe since 1840, certainly since 1870, with these press moulds at least until 1971, that is more than 100 years!

This failure does not mean that it is no more possible today to produce Opalin Glass. The recipes especially of opaque Opalin Glass from 1971 are no mystery. The problem is that Opalin glass destroys the glass pots too fast so I was said.

Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 Covered dish „Dromedary“, pressed Opalin Glass
 experimental item, Portieux, about 2001
 Collection Christoph



Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 Reproductions of old pressed items
 Shop in the abandoned glass work Vallérysthal
 Photo Christoph



Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 Reproductions of old pressed items
 Shop in the abandoned glass work Vallérysthal
 Photo Christoph



Today the glass workers of Vallérysthal & Portieux still use the same press moulds which are designed in the old catalogues. Mrs & Mr. Valentin planned to write an article about this theme for Pressglas-Korrespondenz. Therefore I made many photos in glass work Portieux. I was allowed to search for the old moulds in Vallérysthal and Portieux: whether they are complete, whether they can be used again and what moulds are available in the

two glass works. This is a long, difficult and hard job, but also very interesting. As You will have noticed one can find more and more pressed items from Vallérysthal & Portieux in clear and transparent coloured glass at flea markets and at eBay.

Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 Part of old press moulds
 Store in glass work Portieux
 Photo Christoph



Consider for one moment what would happen when Vallérysthal & Portieux would produce all available items from old moulds and bring them to the markets. Would a dream come true for collectors or a nightmare?

Abb. 2005-2/xxx

Publication „Verreries de Portieux 1725“ „Compagnie Française du Cristal“, after 1971

Page 1: opaque blue pressed glass, match holder „Main“ [Hand], catalogue Portieux 1933, Pl. 110, "porte-allumettes" Nr. 1587

page 2: opaque blue and white pressed glass, with 2 exceptions all items in catalogue Portieux 1933

exceptions: 5 Coupe "Blida", cat. Vallérysthal 1907, Pl. 219, Nr. 3508, 10 Sucrier "Ananas", cat. Vallérysthal 1908, Pl. 304, Nr. 3763

Fondée en 1705 par François MAGNIEN, protégé du Duc de Lorraine, la Verrerie de Portieux est aujourd'hui l'une des plus anciennes fabriques de verres à boire et de gobelets existant en France.

Les modèles que nous vous présentons datent tous du XIX^e siècle et ont été réalisés dans leurs moules d'origine avec l'ancienne tradition manuelle.

Ce qui dans notre époque de reproduction mécanique en fait la rareté et la valeur des véritables objets de collection des "Trésors du passé".

Founded in 1705 by François MAGNIEN patronized by the Duke of Lorraine, the PORTIEUX glass works are nowadays one of the oldest French factories producing stemware and handblown.

The items we are presenting you were created during the 19th Century and are today manufactured in their original moulds according to the old "hand made" tradition.

Whereas our Time is based on the mechanical reproduction, this particularity gives to these genuine ranges their own rarity and their own values which make them "Treasures of the Past".

Im Jahre 1705 von dem Herrn François MAGNIEN gegründet, der Schützling des Herzogs von Lothringen war, ist heute die Glashütte von PORTIEUX ein der ältesten französischen Werke für Trinkgläser und Becher.

Die Items von uns vorgestellten Modelle sind alle vom 19. Jahrhundert und sind in ihren ursprünglichen Formen hand gefertigt in der alten Tradition produziert.


Diese Eigentümlichkeit in unserer Zeit von maschinellen Herproduktion gibt diesen echten Sammlungsartikeln ihre Rarität und ihren Wert. Sie können somit als "Schätze der alten Zeit" betrachtet werden.

Fundada en 1705 por Francisco Magnien, el protegido del Duque de Lorraine, la Cristalería de Portieux es hoy en día una de las más antiguas fábricas de vasos y de cubiertos de Francia.


Todos los modelos que les presentamos datan del siglo 19 y han sido realizados en sus moldes de origen según la antigua tradición manual.

Lo que, en nuestra época de reproducción mecánica, les confiere la rareza y el valor de verdaderos objetos de colección de los Tesoros del Pasado.

VERRERIES DE PORTIEUX 1725



Trésors du passé
Treasures from the past
Uralt Schätze
Tesoros del pasado
Tesorini del Passato



COMPAGNIE FRANÇAISE DU CRISTAL

Cachet



			OPALINE			
			Blanc	Bleu	Rose	
1	AUREORE	Vase Opaline 23 cm	AGB-V	398	397	396
2	FLORE	Vase Opaline 22 cm	FLD-V	426	405	404
3	THALIE	Vase Opaline 25 cm	THA-V	324	323	322
4	BAUCIS	Vase Opaline 19 cm	BAU-V	226	205	207
5	TIBULE	Vase Opaline 20 cm	TIB-V	958	959	960
6	NAUSICAA	Vase Opaline 23 cm	NAU-V	414	413	412
7	THALIE	Vase Opaline 18 cm	THA-V	327	328	328
8	THAIS	Vase Opaline 23 cm	THA-V	434	433	432
9	DEJANIRE	Vase Opaline 19 cm	DEJ-V	233	232	234
10	AGRIPPA	Vase Opaline 15 cm	AGR-V	181	182	182
11	ASTREE	Vase Opaline 23 cm	AST-V	390	389	388



				OPALINE		
				Blanc	Bleu	Rose
1	LOUIS XV	Coupe	LOU-C	549	550	551
2	RENAISSANCE	Sucrier	REN-S	484	483	486
3	VIOLE	Bacnet	VIO-B	700	704	698
4	MAIN	Vase	MAS-V	598	595	597
5	BLIDA	Coupe	BLI-C	116	117	117
6	MINUSCULE	Pommes	MIN-F	475	484	455
7	CHANTECLERC	Bacnet	CHA-S	796	790	751
8	SPHERIQUE	Sucrier	SPH-S	454	782	783
9	CHIMERES	Compotier	CHI-C	545	792	753
10	ANANAS	Bacnet	ANA-S	184	716	717
11	CHIMERES	Pommes	CHI-F	403	114	115

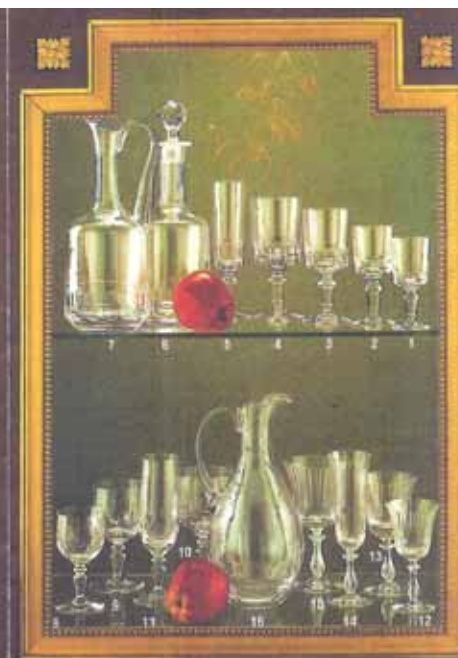
Abb. 2005-2/xxx
 Publication „Verreries de Portieux 1725“ „Compagnie Française du Cristal“, after 1971
 Page 3: opaque white and clear pressed glass
 page 4/17: opaque blue pressed glass, match holder „Main“ [Hand], catalogue Portieux 1933, Pl. 110, "porte-allumettes" Nr. 1587



No	Description	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau	Rosa	No	Description	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau	Rosa	
												Blanc
1	POMME	Boccal	PSM-S	917		11	INDIEN	Vase satiné	IND-V	559		
2	ARTICHAUT	Boccal	ART-S	848		12	RUSTIQUE TRIPLE	Chape DIN uni	RUS-C	578		
3	PIEDON P	Boccal	PIE-S	941		13	FRIBES	Boccal	FRA-S	287	760	781
4	MORTENSE	Boccal	HOM-S	892		14	RENAISSANCE	Comptoir	REN-C	437	748	748
5	ETOILE	Boccal stoppe	ETO-S	891		15	CHOU	Sucrier	CHO-S	454	754	755
6	VILDON	Vase	VID-V	849		16	RUCHE	Sucrier	RUC-S	288		
7	CYSNE	Boccal	CYS-S	895	857	17	COLONNE	Frambeau 20 cm	COL-F	560		
8	BESONNA	Vase	BEG-V	379		18	VENITEN	Frambeau 18 cm	VEN-F	568	608	609
9	MUSIQUE	Boccal	MUS-S	940		19	FEUILLE	Serie candiers 2 p.	FEU-S	758	759	
10	TORTUE	Boccal	TOR-S	946		20	CARRE	Frambeau 20 cm	CAR-F	566	567	



No	Description	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau	Verre	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau	Verre	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau
1	LOCARNO	Verre Porto n° 3 uni BOOR mat	LOC-V	036								
2	LOCARNO	Verre à vin n° 4 uni BOOR mat	LOC-V	037								
3	LOCARNO	Verre à eau 3 grs. uni BOOR mat	LOC-V	038								
4	LOCARNO	Fûtes Champagne uni BOOR mat	LOC-F	039								
5	MEDICIS	Verre Porto n° 3 uni	MED-V	251								
6	MEDICIS	Verre à eau n° 2 uni	MED-V	330								
7	MEDICIS	Verre à eau n° 3 uni	MED-V	339								
8	MEDICIS	Fûtes Champagne uni	MED-F	332								
9	LATHAM	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	LAT-V	221								
10	TULIFE	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	TUL-V	232								
11	TULIFE	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	TUL-V	082								
12	TULIFE	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	TUL-V	092								
13	LATHAM	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	LAT-V	082								
14	LATHAM	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	LAT-V	092								
15	TULIFE	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	TUL-V	090								
16	LATHAM	Verre 40 cl. Dec. or Louis XV	LAT-V	293								



No	Description	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau	Verre	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau	Verre	Cristal	D'ALME	Eau
1	MIRABEAU Tcd	Verre Porto n° 3	MIR-V	017								
2	MIRABEAU Tcd	Verre Bordeaux n° 4	MIR-V	017								
3	MIRABEAU Tcd	Verre eau n° 3	MIR-V	017								
4	MIRABEAU Tcd	Verre eau n° 2	MIR-V	017								
5	MIRABEAU Tcd	Fûtes Champagne	MIR-F	017								
6	MIRABEAU Tcd	Carafe vin 2	MIR-C	017								
7	MIRABEAU Tcd	Broc eau 2	MIR-B	017								
8	RENAISSANCE T	Verre Porto n° 3	REN-V	314								
9	RENAISSANCE T	Verre vin n° 4	REN-V	314								
10	RENAISSANCE T	Verre eau n° 2	REN-V	314								
11	RENAISSANCE T	Fûtes Champagne	REN-F	314								
12	LOCARNO FR	Verre Porto n° 3	LOC-V	013								
13	LOCARNO FR	Verre vin n° 4	LOC-V	013								
14	LOCARNO FR	Fûtes Champagne	LOC-F	013								
15	LOCARNO FR	Verre eau 3 grs	LOC-V	013								
16	LOCARNO FR	Broc à eau 2	LOC-B	013								

Abb. 2005-2/xxx

Reproductions of old pressed items, transparent blue, Shop in the abandoned glass work Vallérysthal, Photo Christoph



Abb. 2005-2/xxx

Reproductions of old pressed items, Shop in the abandoned glass work Vallérysthal, Photo Geiselberger, October 2002



Abb. 2005-2/xxx

Reproductions of old pressed items, Shop in the abandoned glass work Vallérysthal, Photo Geiselberger, October 2002



Look also for:

PK 2000-3 Haanstra, Vallérysthal 2000

PK 2002-1 Valentin, Bilder von einer Tagesreise nach Portieux und Vallérysthal Ende 2001

PK 2002-5 SG, Die Glasfabriken Vallérysthal und Troisfontaines im Herbst 2002