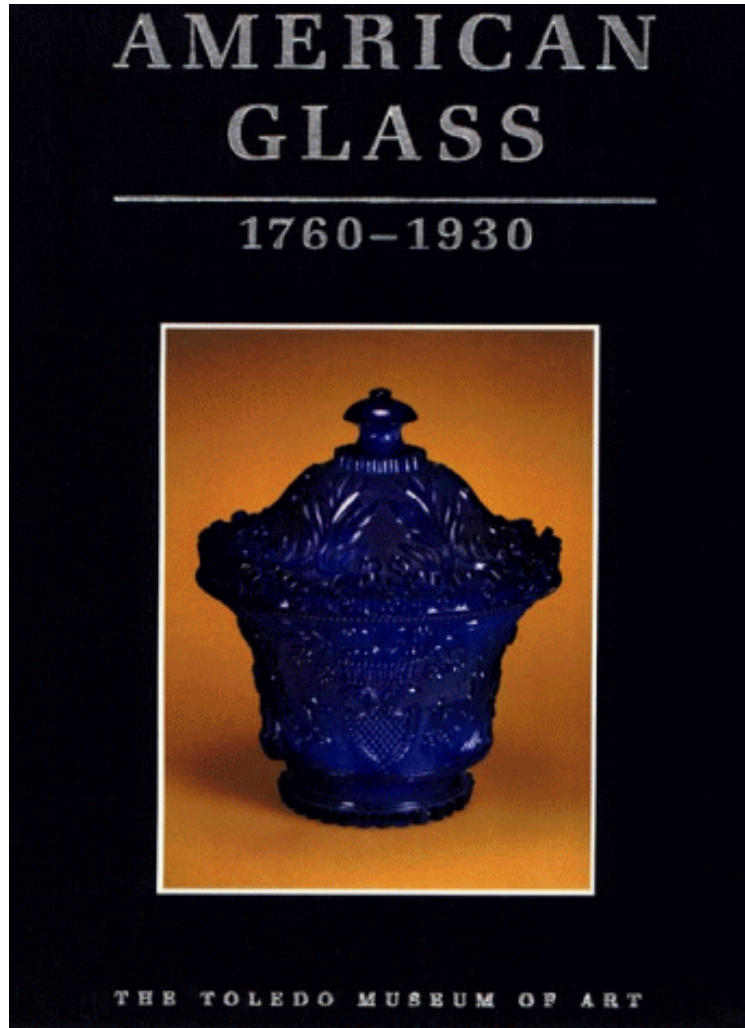


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American Glass, 1760-1930: The Toledo Museum of Art

Kenneth M. Wilson

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Kenneth M. Wilson : American Glass, 1760-1930: The Toledo Museum of Art before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Glass, 1760-1930: The Toledo Museum of Art:

The most comprehensive reference ever published. 2,000 illustrations. A must for collectors! 2 vols., slipcased.

From Publishers Weekly Glassmaking was the American colonies' first manufacturing industry, dating to 1608, when English settlers opened a glassworks near Jamestown, Virginia. Facing European competition, chiefly from Britain,

American glassmakers evolved their own distinctive styles, combining purity and simplicity of design with sophisticated artistry and craftsmanship. Whale-oil and burning-fluid lamps; candlesticks; vases; flasks; fine tableware; Tiffany goblets; a powder horn for hunting; rolling pins and funnels are among the multitude of objects displayed in this extraordinary, beautiful catalogue of the Toledo Museum of Art's glass collection. A monumental work of scholarship, it combines 1,949 illustrations (174 in color), including advertisements and engravings, and an absorbing text on glassmaking history, technology and artistry. Wilson, a curator, glass scholar and glass craftsman, follows developments through the early 1930s, when U.S. glassmakers drew inspiration from European modernism while factory techniques based on handcrafts gave way to industrial processes. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

Enormous as this work is, these two volumes constitute only a partial inventory of one of the finest glass collections in the world, that of the Toledo Museum of Art. They do represent the first comprehensive catalog of any major collection of American glass. Starting with 18th-century glassware and continuing in chronological order, numerous illustrations and brief texts cover more than 1400 pieces. Wilson (*New England Glass and Glassmaking*, 1972) gives dates, dimensions, color, type of glass, condition, provenance, and exhibition history, as well as information on method of construction and manufacturer. A former curator at Old Sturbridge Village and the Corning Museum of Glass, Wilson has done exhaustive research on glass history. He includes, for example, information on forgeries and reproductions, maps showing important glassmaking centers in the United States, an alphabetical list of U.S. glass manufacturers and their years of operation, and an excellent glossary. The only topic not covered is window glass, and Wilson does not give information on prices and limits marks to those of the Libbey glass company. Despite these minor drawbacks, this book would be an invaluable addition to all specialized decorative arts collections. ?Margarete Gross, Chicago P.L. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.