



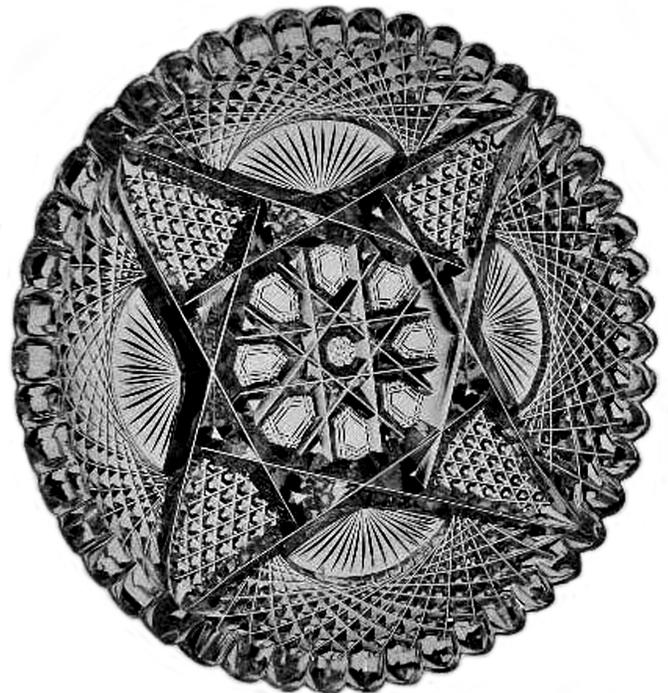
Dorflinger wide mouth jug cut in the **Belmont** pattern.

"**The Horror of the Figured Blank, Discussion of Figured Blanks—Article Four,**" by LindaJo Hare. About 1902, Fry purchased the rights to Michael Owens' patent 628,027 (assigned to the Libbey Glass Co. in 1899) for a method of pressing lead glass into a figured mold and then fire-polishing the interior of the blank to restore the luster where the plunger had come into contact with the glass. The Fry firm quickly put this new technology into full use. By late 1904, a popular trade journal reported that "the patented pressed blanks require three-fourths of Fry's furnace capacity" A 1905 China, Glass & Lamps article, "A Visit to the Fry Plant" states that "In the manufacture of blanks for cutting this company has made great strides in recent years. Every blank made at the Fry plant must be perfect, absolutely flawless, or it goes into the scrap pile." This combination of information illustrates that soon after introduction the Fry products were considered high quality by the industry of the time.

Numerous Fry advertisements promoted the figured blanks: "We own, manufacture and use the patented formed blank, a modern improvement in the making of blanks. Our cut glass is as genuine as any made, and it is better because the blank is better."

Many companies took advantage of the new opportunity to reduce cutting effort. They purchased and used the figured blanks extensively. Other companies, especially Dorflinger and Hawkes, mounted campaigns against figured blanks, stating that because the glass was not cut from the solid blank, that it must be inferior in quality.

In juxtaposition to this idea the Fry marketeers responded, "The blank used by the glass cutter, so long as it is a good blank, containing enough lead to give it brilliancy and substance, and well made, does not enter in to the problem of well or poorly finished cut glass. A blank may be blown as most vases and jugs are, it may be made off hand as most comports are, or it may be pressed as most flat pieces are. The finished quality depends upon the attention and work of the glass cutter, not the manner in which the blank was formed from the molten glass. The largest blank manufacturers make blanks in all three ways, according to the shape desired"



**Hoare pattern No. 932.** This unusual dish has four large partial hobstars with fanned partial buttons surrounding a large four pointed hobstar with hobnail points and a button ringed with double-outlined hexagons.

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