

## A Bit of Amber

by Joan Doty

What an appropriate name for this carnival color! Amber carnival, identified by its base glass color, can vary from pale yellow to brown—just as real amber does.



Starburst and Diamonds vase by Riihimaki in amber, about ten inches tall.

Old Gold was Imperial's name for its production line amber, usually a deep root-beer amber.

Amber was also a production line color for Westmoreland. Westmoreland's amber is a pale mustard amber. Supposedly, mustard seed was actually one of the colorants used.

Fenton's amber was an accidental color. According to Frank Fenton, Fenton amber is red that didn't strike properly, which explains why Fenton patterns found in red are also found in amber. It also explains the wide range of Fenton amber shades, from pale yellow to deep brown.

Amber carnival was also a production line color for Riihimaki in Sweden, as well as a few other European and South American manufacturers.

Of course, amber comes in shapes other than vases. I just don't happen to have any of them. Do you have a favorite amber piece? Send Beth a photo. Or, do you have any interesting amber pieces? Tell us about them.



Jupiter vase by Riihimaki in amber, just over five inches high.



Amber Imperial vases—a Morning Glory funeral, Beaded Bullseye, and some Ripples.